

Redevelopment of St Alban's Update 3 December 2017

Vestry met twice recently to discuss the report it received in early November from SEAT (St Alban's Earthquake Team).

This stage of the process in discerning how best to proceed with the redevelopment of St Alban's is a crucial one, that will shape the steps to come. For that reason Vestry took time to ensure it did justice to SEAT's work and gathered enough background material to enable it to consider its report with care and diligence. Vestry was very appreciative of the work and commitment of SEAT members, especially Cushla Jamieson and Joy Baird.

Following receipt of the SEAT report, Vestry members individually gave time to reading and praying into the report. Vestry then began its collective discernment of the report on 15 November at its scheduled prayer and Bible study gathering. On 29 November Vestry held an extra meeting to discuss the SEAT report and its proposals in more detail.

Vestry was very aware that our parish, like so many others going through change, sits in the midst of the tension between "treasures old and new" (*Matthew 13:47-53*). There is much to treasure about what has gone before in this parish, yet there is also a very real challenge to look ahead with a sense of vision and confidence to enable the growth of God's kingdom in future generations. In many ways the decision-making responsibility laid on the shoulders of our present faith community is not about what we want, but about what we perceive will best serve the mission and ministry of those who will come after us. Our calling to discern the appropriate redevelopment of St Alban's is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will shape the parish's facilities for the next 50+ years.

After considering all the options developed by SEAT, and spending much time patiently teasing out this tension between "treasures old and new", Vestry agreed that Ngaio Street should remain as the site of St Alban's. Vestry was strongly and unanimously of the view, however, that this should not be a return to "how it all used to be". We have been, are being, and will continue to be blessed by God as we seek to discern the leading of God's Spirit, and any redevelopment on the Ngaio Street site needs to have an eye firmly on the future. Our facilities must help us to grow the kingdom of God in Eastbourne and the bays, bring more people into fellowship with Jesus Christ, and advance the mission and ministry priorities of the parish.

Vestry's decisions are set out overleaf. Vestry envisages that the next step will be for those decisions to be put to a Special General Meeting of the parish sometime in early 2018.

St Alban's Vestry, 3 December 2017

At its meeting on 29 November 2017 St Alban's Vestry:

1. Received the report from the St Alban's Earthquake Action Team (SEAT), acknowledged the work done by SEAT and expressed its appreciation.
2. Noted that the parish goals agreed in August 2017 are to:
 - a. be a community which deepens discipleship and encourages mission and outreach to all;
 - b. offer worship opportunities for everyone;
 - c. strengthen the parish connection with Wellesley College and support its Anglican ethos;
 - d. continue the parish's ministry of contemplative prayer, retreat and hospitality;
 - e. provide facilities to best meet the worship, ministry, and mission priorities of the parish.
3. Noted that Vestry has committed to support the challenge of our Bishops extended at Synod 2017 to grow the parish and to grow the kingdom of God in Eastbourne and the bays.
4. Agreed to continue to strengthen the parish's links and relationship with Wellesley College, giving thanks for their support and hospitality to St Alban's.
5. Agreed to put the following resolutions to a Special General Meeting of the parish in early 2018:
 - a. that Ngaio Street continue to be the site of St Alban's parish;
 - b. that appropriate professional consultants be engaged to provide concept drawings and indicative costings for the redevelopment of the Ngaio Street site, including the following components:
 - i. the strengthening and reroofing of the church, including the re-configuration of the church interior to provide greater flexibility and light;
 - ii. the strengthening of the hall within the existing or similar footprint, continuing to provide for commercial kitchen space and parish office space;
 - iii. provision for a garden as a place of sanctuary, contemplation and gathering;
 - iv. provision for memorial walls;
 - c. that the professional consultants engaged in 5(b) above be invited to identify and provide concept drawings and indicative costings for any other option for the redevelopment of the Ngaio Street site that advances the mission and ministry priorities of the parish;
 - d. that up to \$20,000 be spent on the development of concept drawings and indicative costs;
 - e. that Vestry set up a team to prepare the brief for seeking concept drawings, indicative costs and suitable staging of the development possibilities identified above.