Vestrylink Number 2 - April 2019

St Alban’s Vestry met on 17 April. This Vestrylink focuses on discussion and decisions from that meeting.

**Vestry Processes**

The plan for monthly Vestry meetings alternating between a business focus and a discipleship focus is continuing under Rev’d John. The April meeting focussed on business issues, though commencing with a devotion based on the book **lead** by Karl Martin. (Yes it is lower case.) We are considering what it means to Abide with Jesus.

Technology now enables most urgent business issues arising between business meetings, to be dealt with through email

**Governance Matters**

Following the recent AGM, governance decisions confirmed were;

Vestry secretary Patsy Jorgensen

Parish Nominators Peter Baldock, Libby Bloomfield, Jutta Chisholm, Philip Plimmer

Parish Treasurer Denis Packer

**Parish Communications**

Rev’d John shared with Vestry, correspondence he had recently received from Mike Parker, seeking positive changes to the way we communicate with our parishioners. Vestry discussed this at length and thank Mike sincerely for his challenges. Yes, we can and must do better! Initial responses were agreed as follows;

* A regular Vestrylink will be reintroduced and circulated through both Pew Sheet and website.
* Vestry meeting dates will be promulgated. All dates for 2019 will be posted on the noticeboard outside the parish office. Scheduled meetings are on 15 May, 19 June, 17 July, 21 August,18 September,16 October and 20 November. Vestry meetings are usually on the third Wednesday of the month.
* An opportunity will be made for parishioners to bring items on their hearts or uppermost in their minds, directly to Vestry in a 15minute session at business meetings. (The next two business meetings are on 19 June and 21 August.) Items won’t be debated here, but where an answer is required, this will be provided as soon as possible. Parishioners wanting to use this time are asked to advise the parish office before the meeting of the nature of their item, to ensure the time available runs smoothly.
* We’ll have a Parish Korero (Catch-up) in June and again in September if this proves successful. The June Korero is programmed for immediately after the service on 16 June. (Date to be confirmed.) Parishioners are invited to advise of issues they would like to raise. Please send issues to the parish office – preferably by email, so you can explain the exact nature of your concern and in good time so answers and information can be prepared. [office@stalbanschurch.nz](mailto:office@stalbanschurch.nz)
* Better use is to be made of our website. http:www.stalbanschurch.nz Vestrylinks, sermons and other important information is or will be posted here and kept up to date. Have you used the website?
* Vestry will monitor these changes, decide how well they are working and whether any further changes are necessary.

Please note all the above communication channels will be kept separate from details of the redevelopment of St Alban’s. Communication, information, notice of Special General Meetings etc regarding redevelopment will be provided separately.

**Offerings**

Have you noticed at any recent service, how the offerings plate passes through row after row and remains empty or near empty when it reaches you? What a bad signal this must give to people who are new or don’t often attend. The reason is, of course, that now so many of us contribute by direct credit, with few using cash or envelopes. Vestry is considering the idea of providing some sort of token, reusable and available at the door, for direct givers to obtain a sense of physically giving and for other givers to be reassured. What do you think?

**Trees**

Once again we’ve been approached by neighbours in Ngaio Street about the negative impact of our large trees. Both roots lifting paths and significant winter shading of their properties. We will be talking to arborists about what can be done.

**Visit to the Home of Compassion**

Rev’d John and available Vestry members recently visited the Home of Compassion in Island Bay. Although this is a much larger development than anything St Alban’s is considering, we were all most impressed with the use of natural materials, modern glass and native planting to achieve a light, welcoming gathering place. The exhibition of the life and work of Suzanne Aubert is also worth a visit.

**The Lenten Studies Course**

Rev’d John advised the Lenten Course on ‘Grace’ is now completed. About 22 people attended it over the 6 weeks, averaging around 18 each time. We sincerely thank Patsy Jorgensen for the use of her home.

Joy Baird

for Vestry