

Vestrylink Number 5 - August/September 2019

Vestry held its regular business meeting on 21 August. Reports on the main items discussed are covered below.

Devotion Study

Denis Packer led us on a study of chapter 5 'Synchronise' of Karl Martin's book LEAD. The chapter focused on team work. To quote Martin '*where there is devotion to one another, where there is a unity of vision and clarity of individual purpose, with each playing their part, you have something that is bigger than the sum of those parts- you have team.*

We looked at the characteristics of unity and how God has a race marked out for each one of us, which we must run. In doing this we become fit for the job, learn to contribute our best to the team and appreciate and encourage our team to be the best we can be.

Service at Bob Scott

Many of you will be aware of the departure over the past few years, of a number of long-term St Alban's parishioners to the Bob Scott Retirement Village in Petone. The Rev'd John advised us of his new initiative to retain contact with these people. On 20 August he held a communion service in their main lounge, with posters put up in the village blocks to advise residents of this event. The service was attended by about 20 people, 12 from Bob Scott and 8 who went from Eastbourne. Attendees had previously also attended parishes of St James', St Augustine's and St Paul's as well as belonging to other denominations. After the service, tea was held in the lounge. Rev'd John advised he and all participants were delighted with the way this first service went. He is planning for this to be at least a quarterly event and is also currently looking for a suitable person to become chaplain at Bob Scott.

Retreat Garden

You'll recall from summer services held in the vicarage garden, how uneven the ground surface was and how much work was required to develop the retreat garden into an attractive space. This work is now underway, thanks to Jeremy and Denis. To date the hut and chicken shed have been removed. The next stages of work involve levelling and harrowing the lawn ready for re-sowing, marking out the paths ready for clearing their borders and laying the surface of crushed shell or sand.

Pohutukawa Trees

These are an ongoing problem to us and our neighbours. Their branches now almost obscure views of the church, never mind the flooding problems the roots are causing. In deciding what to do in the future, we've agreed to get quotes and advice for the cost of options for dealing with the trees. More about this when we have the quotes.

Asbestos within Church Properties

The Diocesan Board of Trustees has advised us they've put in place a plan to meet their legal requirements under the Health and Safety Act in relation to asbestos identification and management. This involves the training of an internal Diocesan team who will be visiting and assessing buildings in each parish. We've been advised they will probably be visiting St Alban's in November.

St Alban's Finances

Treasurer Denis Packer advised our offerings income for the first 7 months to 31 July exceeds budget by \$580, so meeting our increased budget of \$100,000 is still feasible. Well done everyone! The donations of \$2,616 for the Christchurch Muslim community is not included in this total.

We've received a Diocese Grant of \$750 (from a bequest), for Take a Break expenses. A few more tax credits have been received than in previous years, but the overall number is disappointing.

To date there have been no fundraising activities this year. A film evening at the Lighthouse Petone is planned for 8 September and proceeds of just over \$200 from the KnitWits sale of fingerless gloves, will shortly start to fill this gap.

Future meeting with Parish Trust

The Vestry is to meet the Trust to present a request for a repayable loan of up to \$100,000 to enable the first stage St Alban's redevelopment work – geo-tech, engineering and preliminary design concepts, to be undertaken.

The Parish Trust is the legal owner of both the vicarage and hall properties. In addition, the Trust has investments comprising fixed deposits, notes and bonds with a current value of approximately \$735,000.

Currently, and for the past few years, the return on monetary investments of the Trust, has enabled the Trust to make an annual donation of \$15,000 to the parish, as well as covering rates and insurance on its properties. The balance of investment earnings has been added to the capital of the Trust.

The current low interest rate environment, means the Trust must constantly review how it meets the conditions of its Trust Deed.

Re-development Progress

On 22 August, three Vestry members and two members of REDC, met and talked with a director of the architectural firm, teamed with the engineering firm, to carry out the design work on St Alban's church and hall. Vestry has agreed to the appointment of these firms. The firms can be named following discussion with Diocesan property managers and the firms concerned have been advised.

Vestry and REDC are preparing a list of requirements for church and hall use to be provided to the architects.

Special General Meeting (SGM)

The SGM to discuss the financing of the initial geo-tech, engineering and design concepts, will take place after morning service as follows:

Discussion and questions Sunday 22 September

Voting Sunday 29 September.

Helpful information will be circulated to you before 22 September.

Joy Baird
for Vestry