

Vestrylink Number 3 - June 2019

This Vestrylink includes information from three meetings; the Parish Korero on 16 June, Vestry business meeting on 19 June, and the Vestry/REDC meeting on 22 June. Many of the items came up at all three meetings, so if something isn't covered where you're expecting to see it, please reflect on the principle being adopted by the author of this newsletter - let's look forward to what's happening next, not backwards to what didn't happen!

Parish Korero -16 June

At the Korero, Vestry apologised to parishioners for the poor recent communication and agreed this needed improvement, both to the parish and between Vestry and REDC.

Parishioners asked a lot of questions relating to the church and hall. The boundary between strengthening and redevelopment, what would be included in the Brief and whether the parish would see it, what the future church building would look like, about the inclusion of reference to retreat, why we weren't using San Antonio more often, who were members of REDC and FUNDC.

Vestry advised the final design would need to meet the Diocesan Property Principles and receive Diocesan approval. In addition, it would need to meet St Alban's Mission Statements and Parish Goals, the recommendations from the Parish Special General Meeting (SGM) and relevant information provided by the parish consultation workshops.

Information on the above already available, would be (was) provided at the service on 23 June. Our Parish Goals, (which will underpin information included in the Brief), are provided below.¹

Rev'd John talked about the need to take this once in a generation opportunity to provide the flexibility to accommodate future change.

The Treasurer provided information about parish finances and Trust resources and responsibilities.

REDC advised development of the Brief was a staged process.

The Korero was advised of the joint Vestry/REDC meeting set for 22 June, at which many of the items raised at the Korero would be further considered. Many items raised would be included in the Brief for the architect, which will be the focus of discussion at this joint meeting.

1

In 2017, we developed these Parish Goals to reflect St Alban's Synod Commitment to growing the Kingdom of God:

- Be a community which deepens discipleship and encourages mission and outreach to all
- Offer worship opportunities to everyone
- Strengthen the parish connection to Wellesley College and support its Anglican ethos
- Continue the parish's ministry of contemplative prayer, retreat and hospitality

Vestry meeting – 19 June

St Alban's Redevelopment

Vestry discussed the outcomes of the Parish Korero on 16 June and the forthcoming joint meeting with REDC on 22 June. This sub-committee is working on finalizing the brief for architects.

Vestry clearly understand the church is its people not its built structures. However, Diocesan representatives and our Bishop have repeatedly reminded us of the need to use this opportunity to 'future proof' our buildings to provide flexible use for worship and our ministries in the decades ahead.

Communications

Vestry talked about several ways to improve communication with parishioners. We've agreed communications need improving and throughout this newsletter you'll find references to ways in which we will achieve this.

We've decided a Vestrylink will be prepared after each monthly Vestry meeting, both business and devotional, not just business meetings. The content may vary, but this will provide a better way of keeping you up to date. An additional Vestrylink could be written following special events. (Due to the three contiguous meetings, one longer newsletter rather than separate newsletters seems to make more sense this time!)

Work on the St Alban's website is being prioritised. If you've looked at it recently, you'll have seen we're not up to date with sermons, pewsheets, events and information. If you are able to offer ongoing website support, the parish office would love to hear from you.

Finances

Our Treasurer advised offerings to date exceed both budget and last year. We can't get too complacent though, as the budgeted income for 2019 increased by \$15,000. There is a clear shift from envelopes to direct giving. To date some tax refunds have been re-gifted, but not as many as hoped. Talk to Denis if information is sought on how to go about this.

Two bequests have been received and it was agreed these should be passed on to the Trust, earmarked for redevelopment purposes.

It was noted there is a major task ahead in funding annual operational costs as well as fundraising for redevelopment.

Vestry talked about fundraising and decided to invite FUNDC to a meeting to discuss future fundraising strategy.

Vicarage Garden

We discussed the first stage of work on the vicarage garden. This will involve removal of the hut and chicken shed, preparing the lawn area for re-sowing grass, plus marking out and developing the path areas. Provision for this work has been made in the 2019 budget. Tasks likely to be affected by on-site work will not be carried out.

Vestry is doing ongoing work on the following:

Updating St Alban's website
Invitation for FUNDC members to attend a future vestry meeting
Obtain staged quotes to remove trees outside church
Meeting with REDC to finalise the Brief for the Ngaio Street site

VESTRY & REDC meeting - 22 June.

The meeting was attended by Chris Burt, John Hosegood and Stuart Mossman for REDC and Rev'd John Hughes, Joy Baird and Heather Molloy for Vestry.

All participants came away from this meeting feeling positive and with a clear sense of the next steps.

Participants gave their perspectives on processes to date, shared information and talked about how communication between them could be improved. It was agreed there would be future joint meetings, REDC members would attend Vestry meetings and there would be joint agreement on the content of the Brief before parish discussion and Vestry sign-off.

The meeting agreed with the list of documents previously noted, which had to be reflected by information in the Brief. There was some discussion and analysis of items included in last year's SGM recommendations and ideas raised in earlier parish consultation which would need to be covered in the Brief.

Participants agreed on the need to both include and explain, items which fulfilled the concepts of 'fixing' and 'future proofing' the St Alban's buildings.

All present agreed on the three stages of Definition, Detailed Design and Construction, identified by REDC for the Brief and added a further stage of Concept at the start. Further discussion revolved around the finalising of the Concept stage of the Brief.

The meeting agreed on the process for finalising this Brief, with a target date in mid-July followed by a further meeting of this joint group. The Brief will then go to a full meeting of REDC and Vestry.

After this, the Brief will be circulated for a parish discussion. Following the parish meeting, it is proposed the Brief be provided to three sets of architects, who would be asked to produce concept drawings, for a total inclusive overall price of \$20,000. Overall budget limitations will be given to the architects.

Concept drawings will be considered by the joint Vestry/REDC group before being submitted to the parish for approval at an SGM.

Joy Baird
for Vestry