

Covering letter from Vicar and Churchwardens re response from the Diocese

We have received a response from the Diocesan Council via the Diocesan Manager Ben Pringle. The response is attached. It is a setback. We wish to make the following comments:

1. The proposal we put to the Diocese was cautious in suggesting possibilities for change to the church. We were reluctant to clearly committing ourselves to the church changing to meet future missional needs. This we did because we knew that there was a lack of unity in the parish around this; with strong feeling both for the status quo and for change to the church. We were attempting to take people with us without rushing ahead.
2. From the response from the Diocese we must take on board that change to the church is no longer a matter of debate but of necessity for our future.
3. We would also pick up from their response that the vision we presented (for church and hall) did not seem unified (coherent?) enough. Perhaps not sufficiently bold. Do we need to explore an approach that sees the two buildings working together? Is this a call to enlarge our vision?
4. Lastly, we would understand from the response that it is essential that we be united as a parish in what we next present to the Diocese. We think this is going to take time because we need a real and heartfelt unity rather than a pretend unity.
5. Let us be kind to one another. We all need some time and space to take this on board. Remember God is still God and his kingdom will still come.
6. Next steps. On Sunday 29 March we will have a Korero after church starting at 11:30. It will be helpful if we can accept the new baseline and look at creative ways forward.

Vicar and Churchwardens