

## Wardens' Report

An AGM, like a birthday or New Year, provides an opportunity to look back and reflect on what has passed as we prepare to move forward into the future. This reflection is both healthy and appropriate as it provides an opportunity to critically review the decisions we have made and the things we have done and to give thanks to God for the clear evidence of His sovereign hand in our activities.

So much has changed in the last year (thankfully), with the easing of Covid restrictions as we have come to the current situation where we are as a community, living with Covid, rather than trying to stamp it out. It's great that we can have an in-person AGM this year rather than a "Zoom fest"!

We have got very used to our regular services and meeting in person, but its not so long since we were keeping group sizes under 25 due to Covid challenges. Thank you to the staff who facilitated and enabled our church life and fellowship to continue amid all the challenges of the past year.

There has been a lot happening in the background regarding church property. The Trinity South Christchurch Property Trust has been set up an incorporated, and following a special general meeting, the property at 253 Colombo St has been purchased at cost from the Burrige Family trust. It is right and proper to acknowledge and thank Rich and Claire for their vision and generosity towards Trinity.

After a lot of work by many people, we now have building consent for the strengthening and upgrading of the building. This is a key issue regarding continuance of the project. In order to have a realistic estimate of the development cost of the building, we needed council consent to know the extent and magnitude of the work (and hence cost) that would be required.

While we have needed to spend a significant amount of money to get consent, we now have it and a specification that will enable pricing of the project. Unfortunately, some of the current global supply chain and pricing issues make it difficult to negotiate a fixed price for the construction.

With the time and work involved, achieving consent seemed like a major milestone, however it is just another decision point along the journey.

Ordinarily, once consent is issued, work is expected to start within one year. This has been extended by a further twelve months leaving us with a clear decision to make.

If we are going to proceed and develop 253 Colombo St as our church worship and office space, realistically, we need to approve and start the process this calendar otherwise our consent will lapse.

As already noted, in the current climate, we can only get indicative costs and estimates, however the likely sum that we will need to raise in addition to the funds we already have is in the order of \$1.2m!  
As individuals and as a parish we need to prayerfully consider if we can manage this.

As we approach this issue, we need to be mindful that while buildings are vitally important, they serve to facilitate and enable ministry and this needs to be central to our planning.

Our Vicar Dave Clancey has been exceedingly gracious to us as a fellowship by giving us a year to prepare for his departure. We will greatly miss Dave, Amanda and the boys. The process for appointing a new vicar we will discuss separately at the meeting and we will not mention that here. But we wardens and I am sure you would echo our deep thankfulness to Dave's ministry especially in the last few challenging years. We have a great opportunity to enjoy finishing well together and making the most of every opportunity together this year.

The Wardens would encourage our church taking every opportunity to encourage Dave this year regarding how his ministry has been used by God to lead us to trust our Lord more. We would love to hear how we as a church are thoughtful to the needs that Dave and his family will have as they finish up.

Yours in Christ

Tim Wilson

John Mckie