

## Redevelopment Report for Parish Council – October 2016

Alastair, Tony Barlow (chair of the church building development group) and Graeme Brown (chair of the precinct redevelopment committee) met to discuss how we may move forward with both projects. Bringing the two projects together would seem to be a logical step as we look at the future of the property as a whole.

Given that it is over six years ago that we started looking into possible redevelopment of the church grounds, it is felt that we need to go back to the original concepts and terms of reference and see if they are still relevant. In those intervening years, many new members have joined the congregation and the needs of the church and local community may have changed. For instance, neither the church building development group nor the precinct redevelopment committee included the Parish House in their study but today there is mounting awareness that this space does not meet our needs both from accessibility and configuration standpoints.

This process will involve surveying the congregation, church staff and the local community to identify areas where our goals and requirements may have changed. Much useful work was done by the precinct redevelopment committee and it would be hoped that much of that work is still relevant and can be amended and built upon as necessary.

A new committee should be formed drawing on members of the original committees as well as new members. That committee should be charged with developing a plan on engaging the congregation and community. The plan to be presented to Parish Council for approval.

It is also suggested that a small and relatively inexpensive project could be undertaken to try and stimulate the congregation to embrace the change that will be necessary. This project could be the removal of the pews in the chapel to create a multi-use space (as recommended by the church building development group). The space can still be used as a chapel when required but can also be a meeting room, a resource which we are desperately short of at St. John's.