



There's little I can add here to the discussions we have had and will have at our upcoming PC meeting. I am glad we are progressing with Terms of Reference for our Ministry Fund, and that issues within our community continue to be addressed. To that end a 'Ministry Report' would be relatively redundant this month as we will be addressing the issues within the existing agenda.

As we near the end of the Church (November) and Calendar (December) year, I would like to turn our thoughts towards those things I think that we need to address as a Parish in this coming year. These are where my concerns are: they aren't the entirety of the ongoing activities, issues, concerns that the Parish holds at this time, but areas which I believe we need to devote some time to in the coming year.

***Advent HOPE***

I would like to draw attention to the plan to begin the new Church year publishing a daily Advent reflection from 27<sup>th</sup> November. Details are in our Bulletin. I do need contributors and I would be grateful if PC members could take a lead by offering a thought on 'Advent Hope' which I could post on the website.

***Vision and Mission:***

We need some thinking that builds upon our Quo Vadis report to offer a tangible sense of vision, and clarity to our mission thinking. The Diocese of which we are a part has been in this Visioning process for some time, and has consulted widely – now we are receiving from our Communications Officer and Bishop a challenge to consider how the wider Vision integrates with our own calling as community to faithfully live the values of Christ and move forward to face the wild, unpredictable, dangerous and exciting future the Church is facing.

In order to do this, we need a clarity of identity, purpose and direction. We have consulted, conversed, considered, now it is time to be clear about who we are and where we are going. In 2017 I will convene a Visioning group to do this.

***Reconciliation***

Starting on Advent Sunday (27<sup>th</sup> November) we are being called to observe a year of reconciliation; to consider the calling of the Church to be people of reconciliation and healing. This fits with the national intention to consider reconciliation with the First Peoples of these lands as part of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation Celebrations which Government has announced.

Whilst our relationships with the Indigenous peoples of these islands is the key part of our reconciliation work at this time, we are also being asked to act as people of reconciliation within and beyond our parishes.

- To put in to action the values of love and service to one another in our communities
- To live as parishes where values of humility, healing, and graciousness are at the heart of our interactions.
- To seek to include the disenfranchised and dismissed, including those who have been alienated by the church and its past failures.
- To proclaim justice, healing, reconciliation – even when it is painful, or risky to do so.
- To declare the life of Christ, the reconciler.
- To welcome people into the fullness of faithful living with a God who welcomes all.

As part of discovering and declaring who we are, we will declare our identity as people of reconciliation.

***Communications:***

I am grateful that our communication strategy is repeatedly brought to our attention; we have to find ways in which to make our publicity and information sharing effective, efficient, affordable and clear. 2017 needs to be the year in which our Web Site and web presence are revised and expanded.

***Volunteerism:***

I am very grateful to Wendy Suddaby and Duane for the work they have already undertaken in compiling a database which can inform our volunteer recruitment and support. We will need to continue to address these issues and revisit the work already done by this PC on this issue, with some kind of promotion and invitation for members of our community to take an active part in its life in a way which is useful and rewarding.

***Church re-ordering:***

Improvements are being made to our Church building, sound, light, Chapel re-ordering, etc. I would hope that this project doesn't lose momentum and that we find a group of people willing to make up a development group, coming back with firm proposals using previous reports and the fantastic materials prepared by our Church Redevelopment Group and our Church Building Redevelopment Group. We will consider the makeup of such a group in the next PC year.

***Liturgy and Worship***

It's been a long time coming, but I now have the OK from all those I have asked to go ahead with a the work of a Liturgy and Worship group. This group will exist to support those leading our worshipping life, including our Clergy and Director of Music, it will audit and consider our liturgical expressions of worship, it will engage with our variety of services, and it will take feedback on our worshipping life and address issues that arise. The group consists of Susan McCabe, Pat Ormerod, Bishop Barry Jenks, Terry Needham, David Stratkauskas and Myself. Patrick and/or Gillian may attend meetings as available and there may be additions to this group or changes in the coming months.

Thank you all, for your commitment, and your energy,

Alastair