



I've already given my thanks to the members of the last PC who have stepped down, but I repeat here my gratitude for the service they have given, and for those who continue in this ministry, and those who have joined us and for whom this is your first meeting.

Conduct at PC

It's important that our PC is a place of safety, where views can be expressed and decisions made pertaining to the life and policy of our community. As such I would ask all members to please defer to the chair in contributing to discussions- and allow her or him to take responses and questions in the order they are offered rather than talking over other members. Discussions may be heated, but please always make them respectful – remembering that we are Christian community, with the privilege of serving our parish in leadership.

Vision and Mission:

I have mentioned a number of times my hope to have a group that create a specific action plan for our ongoing life together – a tangible and concise statement of our vision and mission, with targets, goals and standards attached. I would like to convene such a group, but await offers or suggestions of people to create this task group. It should be a short-term endeavour, I would hope we have some form of Vision Statement and Mission Action Plan by July, or Fall at latest.

Vestry reflections and Financial Group

Thank you to those who contributed to our discussions at Vestry, It is apparent that there is still a fair amount of anxiety and lack of understanding regarding our finances in the parish. The expressions of concern, and frustration, that came out at Vestry are being, and have been addressed, though many of the questions raised were obviously the result of people not being able to engage, for various reasons, with the process of education and sharing that we have intentionally undertaken regarding financial matters over the past years.

As mentioned at Vestry, I hope to put in place as soon as possible a group with the responsibility of overseeing all aspects of finance – supporting the staff and Treasurer, overseeing Investments, budgeting, education and information sharing, and financial planning. This is an important, and somewhat urgent task – and again I would appreciate suggestions and offers of membership on this group. As this is a separate agenda item, I will say no more here, but hope that a brief discussion would begin to move us forward on this.

Church redevelopment:

The work of the Church development group is restarting apace. We still have questions as to how to integrate our looking at the church building itself and the wider 'envelope' of land which is St John's. My hope is that as we consider our mission and vision statements that this work will be part of those considerations, along with drawing in the property committee, and the recommendations of the Church building redevelopment report, and the chapel redevelopment group. With a new property committee chair in place soon, hopefully, and this redevelopment group starting to progress its work, my hope is that we can avoid the 'silos' which so often plague the life of the church institution and work together with some joined up thinking and strategic planning.

Liturgy and Worship

The liturgy and worship group have met once, my hope is that we will meet after Easter and consider a variety of issues which have emerged in the past weeks. These include: Training and supporting Readers, LEMs, Intercessors,

Servers and Sacristans, and those who contribute to our worshipping life. Reflections on trial liturgies and response to the Diocesan Liturgy group, Rostering and leadership of various groups.

Pastoral Ministry

Gillian continues with auditing and responding to comments on our pastoral ministry –working towards a clearer and lay-led pastoral ministry with support by the Clergy. I asked for an update for this report and she helpfully provided this:

We continue to receive good feedback on having the dedicated cell phone and email address, both of which are monitored 24hrs by one of the clergy. There has been a positive response to the questionnaire sent out a couple of weeks ago and it is going to not only give us better information about how to care for each other in our community but inform the structure and work of a pastoral care team. We are waiting for some more questionnaires to come in before beginning to construct any formal structures. A question that has been asked a couple of times is whether a questionnaire should be filled out if the person is in good health. The answer to that is yes! There is more to it than individual personal health and each response will help the future pastoral care team to know how we can best care for each other.

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

Alastair