



Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist

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RECTOR'S QUARTERLY LETTER January 2019

Dear Friends,

I hope that this letter finds you well rested after the Christmas and New Year period, and that you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. It is important to let you know about a few things that have happened and are happening in the first quarter of this year.

Office News

Mrs Meg McDonald continues to be looking after the office, and I am very grateful for her expertise. She has been volunteering as she awaits news on her application for Permanent Residency which has been recently granted. We congratulate her on this, and more news about the office will be forthcoming. I do apologise for the lack of Internet since before Christmas, we hope to have that rectified this week.

Organ

I am sure you share my delight with the progress being made by our organ builder, John Hargraves, and his team in the South Island Organ Company's (SIOC) Timaru workshop. As the organ project committee (OPC), led by Bill Killinger AM, has reported already, building of the chancel organ (stage 1 of the project) is 25 percent complete, giving the Wardens confidence that work in the church will begin on schedule next June.

When the Wardens accepted the SIOC proposal, they decided for financial reasons to split the project into two "stages". The first and most urgent need was a chancel organ to replace the failing Rendall. The second stage, installation of a new antiphonal section of the organ in the gallery above the narthex – designed primarily to address acoustic problems that have existed since the building was extended by the addition of two bays to the nave – would be deferred until sufficient funds could be raised.

Latest news from the OPC is that, thanks very largely to the tremendous generosity of parishioners, the Music Association is within sight of reaching full funding for the entire project. OPC has recommended a financial plan and timetable that will enable both sections of the new instrument to be installed and commissioned together. The Wardens recognise that there are cost savings and other tangible benefits in having the project completed without interruption.

It is worth mentioning here that the OPC recommends the positioning of the gallery organ on the north side of the gallery - a most satisfactory solution.

I am concerned that because until now our focus has been on stage 1, parishioners have been given little information about the gallery organ since the fundraising brochure of January 2017 which described the project in full. Now that stage 2 is recommended to proceed, I am taking steps to correct that shortcoming. First, on Sunday, 24th February,

following the 9.30am Service there will be a parishioners' meeting at which OPC will present the project plan, including financials, from now through to completion of the entire project. I shall also reactivate the Organ Q&A page on St John's website that I introduced in the lead-up to stage 1 to give parishioners an additional direct communication channel with me.

It is our intention in early February, well before the planned 24th February meeting, to provide more stage 2 information to all parishioners including its financing.

Replacing the organ is the biggest capital investment undertaken by the parish for many years; the new instrument will be of lasting benefit to the worship life of the parish and to the wider Ku-ring-gai community of which St John's is an enduring part. I do hope that you will be able to attend the Parishioners' meeting on 24th February as part of keeping abreast of this challenging but exciting parish project.

Children's, Youth and Families Ministry

In my Christmas 1 Sermon I made mention that I would like us to concentrate on the families of the parish. This, I believe, is a more suitable way forward to address the various concerns of people re children and youth. While I will certainly concentrate on this area, one of the initiatives we are undertaking this year is a reactivation of the Play Group. This will be a central part of the strategy of ministering to families. Iveng will lead it, but we are looking to make it a cross-cultural ministry as I believe this is the best way forward to integrate all people into the life of the parish. Please keep this in your prayers.

Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy

This time last year I announced that we were changing the way in which Pastoral Care would be delivered in the parish. The first step was to appoint Mrs Cynthia Keithly as the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator and install a new Contact Resource Management Software Package. Both those have now occurred and we are getting better. This month marks the start of Jen Lum on the Pastoral Care Team as well. We welcome her and the insights and talents she will bring to this important part of our care of people in the parish.

Annual Vestry Meeting

Please note the AVM will be on Lent 3 the 24th of March after the 9.30 am service. If you are responsible for a report please make sure that you have them in to the office by 13th of March for promulgation on the 17th of March.

Consecration of Fr. Keith Joseph in Townsville

Fr Rob and I will be in Townsville for the Consecration of Fr. Keith Joseph on Sunday the 31st of March. Some of you have indicated you would like to attend. Please have your name to Cynthia by the end of the month so we can arrange for you to receive an invitation.

WEG's Annual Service

The WEG's annual service will take place on Monday the 11th of Feb at 10am. All ladies welcome.

With every blessing to you all,

Fr. Keith