



Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist

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ORGAN UPDATE

Dear Friends,

As you would recall earlier in the year I paused the organ project for various reasons and committed to recommence the project after my Long Service Leave.

When the project was paused, it was because I felt that the way we had gone about the project was not yielding the best results. By this I mean that we were not working towards the project together. Upon reflection I believe that there were three main reasons;

1. Lack of consultation with respect to the organ and finance plan
2. Lack of clarity on the place of music in the parish
3. Lack of clarity on the parish finances.

Since returning I have consulted with several people, both internally with the Wardens and some of you and externally with people whose counsel I value. With this help I believe that I have found a way forward for us that will see the issues above addressed and see the question of the organ and its funding resolved in a timely manner.

The first step, I believe, is to have a discussion about the role of music at St John's. To that end, on Saturday the 17th of Feb 2018 there will be an opportunity for you to have input into the Music Plan. We will have a two-hour session from 10-12 on the day and details will follow shortly. Please set aside this date in your diary. The Wardens and I feel it is important to have good representation of the parish, and not a small group. Ideally, I would like to see at least 30 people attending.

Before this session, information, including details of the Finance proposals and the rationale behind the organ selection itself and its connection to the outcomes of the music planning session will be provided. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions and gather the information you need to feel fully informed on the organ project. I ask that you send me your questions in writing. I will respond to these questions directly and also place the questions and answers on our website. The name of the person asking the question will remain anonymous, unless they specifically request otherwise.

This process is designed to ensure that at the AVM, which at this stage will be March 25th we as a parish will be able to move the project forward by collectively answering three or four questions. Whilst we are still formulating the exact wording, the topics will focus on the following three areas:

1. The vision for music at St John's
2. The choice of organ
3. How the Foundation Trust Monies will be used (may be two questions)

To help us achieve the March 25th deadline, we propose the following timetable of activity.

- From now to 10th of Feb: Preparation of Music Consultation Day and 2 Funding Proposals
- 11Feb until AVM: Information provided on Music program, organ choice and finances. Opportunity to submit written questions
- 17 Feb 2018: Music at St Johns Consultation 10-12 (Public forum, minimum 30 people)
- AVM: The questions identified above asked and decision made (Public meeting)

I am confident that the process I have outlined above will enable us to make a final decision so that we can move forward together into 2018 with a firm mandate to implement whichever decision(s) are made.

More information will be provided about how to sign up for the Music forum and submit your questions. In the meantime, please join with me in praying that we will work together to achieve the outcome that is best for St John's now and into the future.

Thank you for your patience with this project and for the passion many of you demonstrate both with respect to the organ project and our Church in general.

With every blessing to you all,

Fr. Keith