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14 January 2011

Dear Friends

I wrote a letter to you all on 1 December outlining the three proposals that would be before the PCC at their meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January as to how to take forward the potential redevelopment of St Philip's Church and Church Hall on Manor Road.

I, along with the Churchwardens and all members of the PCC, am most grateful to all Church members who took the trouble to respond, comment and feedback to us; every contribution was a great help in our deliberations and in our decision making. Inevitably there is a great diversity of opinion within the Church family as to the way forward with the redevelopment; the PCC has heard, recognises, and acknowledges this.

At the PCC meeting Peter Fowles was in attendance, and along with Nigel Boyce and Richard Arbutnot made us aware of the years of thinking and planning that has already been put into the St Philip's redevelopment project, and especially how the three proposals that were before us had come about.

Following a lengthy discussion surrounding the three proposals and the comments and feedback we had received the PCC took a secret vote, the outcome of which was a two thirds majority\* in favour of recommending to the Church Proposal 3 to completely demolish and rebuild the Church and Church Hall and using the Design/Build model of building project management. Overall this proposal appears to offer us good stewardship of both material and financial resources, and gives us greater freedom to get the Church and Church Hall facilities we need.

I would like to invite every member of St Philip's and St James' to attend a meeting at St Philip's Church on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm for the Clergy, Churchwardens and the PCC members to present and recommend our proposal and its implications for the redevelopment of St Philip's Church. This meeting will take place within the context of Evening Worship, I would encourage you to make this evening a priority.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported the PCC in prayer throughout this process. The PCC is called by God and elected by the congregation to lead the Church here in partnership with the Clergy and Churchwardens, and because of the support of the Church we have been able to take a courageous decision inspired by God. We need to continue to seek God's inspiration and wisdom to lead the Church into the future God has for us, building on the strong foundations which have been laid down by those who have worshipped, served, and prayed in this place before us. We are clear that God's call to us at this time is to put all our energy and effort into growing and building his church in this community as expressed in our mission and vision statements; as together we focus on this as our goal we will get the church buildings we need.

Yours sincerely

Duncan

**\*vote result:**

Proposal 1: The Plan put before the APCM 2007

Proposal 2: The Plan in response to feedback to keep the Chancel 2010

Proposal 3: Demolish and rebuild; design/build method

2 votes;

2 votes;

12 votes;

2 abstentions