



Building Appeal 2020 – 2021

Building for Future Faith

What? Why? Who? How?

Thank you for taking the time to peruse this information. I write to you as the chair of the Building Appeal Committee at St John's. You have received this pack because you have a connection with St John's. Connections are important, especially in this year of 2020 as we deal with lock-down and a change in our 'normal'. One thing that is a certainty is our faith, and this has been shown time and time again over the history of St Johns as you will discover...



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "H Saba".

Heather Saba,

St John's Building Appeal Chair

A bit of history about St John's

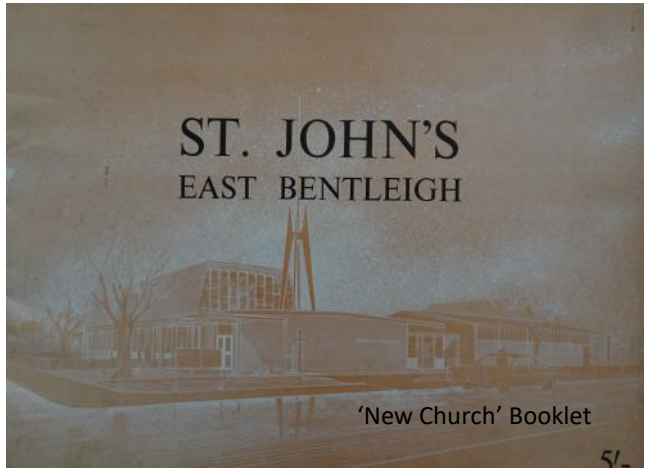
some you may know, some things may surprise you

The first Anglican service in the parish was held around 1852 at the corner of North and East Boundary Roads. The permanent site for future St John's gatherings was given by a local landholder John Smith in 1868, and is said to be part of the reason St John was chosen as our patron saint. A stone country church, which could accommodate 106 people at a squeeze, was completed in 1873, and lasted 87 years. It was then demolished due to failing foundations and the need to cater for a suburb under rapid transformation. In the space of just a decade young couples and



families in triple fronted brick houses quickly displaced remaining market gardens. Residents of the area had been greatly impacted by the Billy Graham Crusades, meaning that hundreds were wanting to come to services, and double that number of children were wanting to come to Sunday School, including its kindergarten section.

All this drove the construction of a new church in 1961-2, to complement a new brick hall erected a few years earlier. St John's Church building as we now know it, was architecturally adventurous, and was financed by innovative lending via an insurance company. The costs ultimately were met entirely by members of St John's, providing wonderful facilities for future generations. The 'new' St John's is now approaching 60 years in age, and is not longer



new. Needs and ideas change. The time has come for the current generation to add to the built heritage we have received, and to make the improvements we need for future decades:

to Build for Future Faith

Our Dreams and Vision

‘For all things are possible with God’

We all have dreams for St John’s. The specifics may be different for us all but ultimately, we want St John’s to be a thriving Christian community. Dreams for the future, building on what we do well. Dreams of increased capacity for hospitality, for more community outreach, for extending a warm welcome to all who come through our doors. Dreams of sharing God’s love with everyone. - *Heather Saba*

Aims of this building appeal

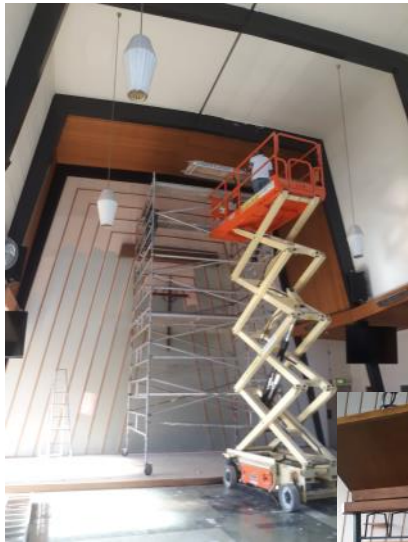
This appeal is partially to finance stage 3 of the renewal of our buildings. The estimated total cost of this stage is \$800,000. The aims of stage 3 are for

- an hospitable, clear and winsome main entrance to the St John’ complex, to hold together the life of St John’s Church and our hospitality to community users.
- visibility for St John’s activities to the wider community and particularly to hall users.
- modern kitchen and bathroom facilities fully accessible from the narthex and the hall.
- the ‘dual purposing’ of the narthex as a facility for community outreach and engagement as well as a place for Sunday fellowship.
- the creation of dedicated hall storage space in the old kitchen area, and a single toilet and tea making facilities off the adjacent meeting room, to complement the renewed hall.

An extract from plans prepared by our architects, Atelier Wagner, which are still under discussion, is printed on page 6. This should assist with understanding the stage 3 aims. The proposed new facilities are highlighted in lemon.

What we have achieved so far

What was initially regarded as a single project has been broken into three parts. Wonderfully, using existing funds, two of these parts should be nearly complete by the end of 2020, at a cost of nearly \$300,000. These stages involved the renewal and refreshment of the inside of the worship area and the narthex (stage 1), and works on the hall to make the old stage area useful, free up space at the other end of the hall for stage 3 works, and completely repair and renew the hall (stage 2). This progress, as at the time of printing, is recorded in photos over the page.



Stage 1 →

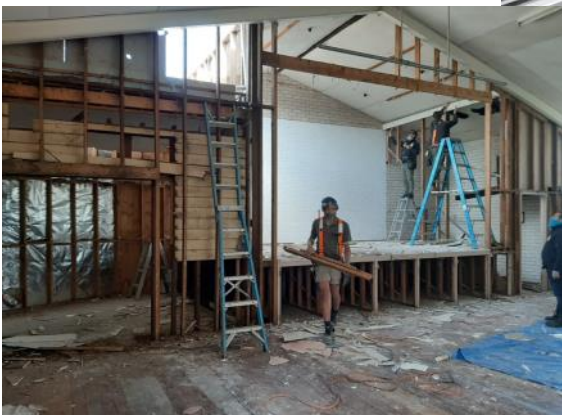
Stage 2 ↓



STAGE 1

Church

Narthex





STAGE 2

STAGE 3

Hall

Entrance

Preparatory work

Kitchen

for stage 3

Toilets



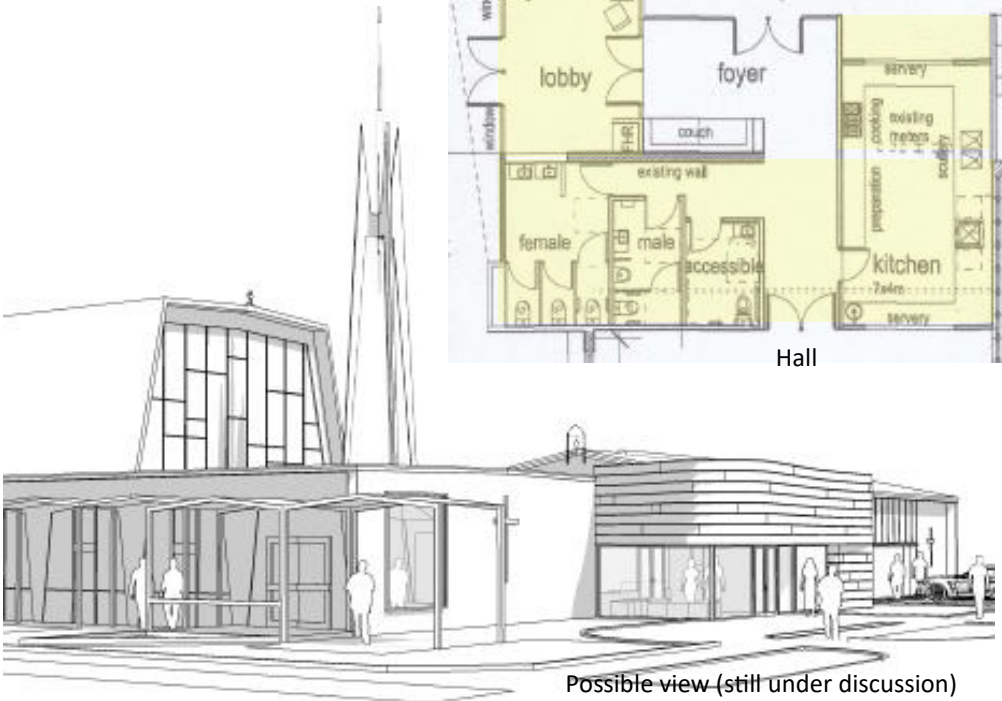
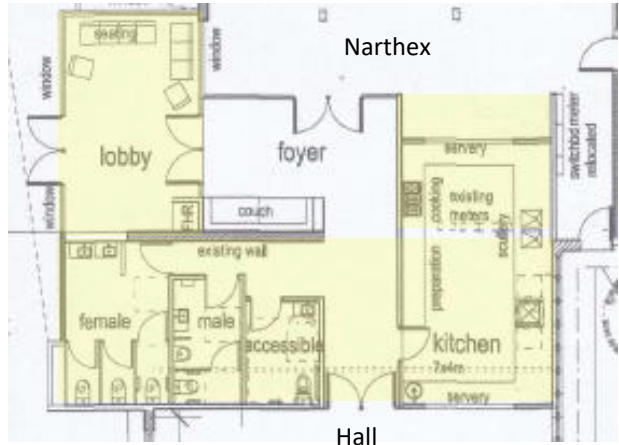
Stage 2 continuing
at time of printing

Endorsement by the Archbishop of Melbourne

Congratulations to St John’s Bentleigh for all that has already been achieved under God in 2020, a difficult year by any standards. So far you have renewed and refreshed the interiors of St John’s church and narthex, and completed the majority of restoring the St John’s hall for renewed usage, and of preparing it for the final stage of your buildings renewal. The remaining works, involving the improvement of the main entrance to the complex, and the relocation of the kitchen and bathrooms to adjacent spaces convenient to all users, will well serve ministry and community needs in the coming decades. I most warmly commend this Building Appeal to the people of St John’s and to the friends of St John’s, so that, in the fine past tradition of St John’s Bentleigh, you will ‘Build for Future Faith’.



Philip Melbourne



Message from the Vicar

Churches each have seasons. St John's is now smaller than in past decades, partly because those who with such vision **built for future faith** in the 1950s and 1960s are now with us in greatly diminished numbers, and they have been only partially replaced by members of younger generations. Decline is not inevitable. We have entered Spring 2020, and as the followers of Jesus we believe keenly in new life. Further, Benteigh (including much of East Benteigh, for which we now have full geographical responsibility) is growing in numbers and diversity. To prosper rather than to fade, to serve rather than to retreat, St John's will have to prepare for missional ministry that will be different from the past. This will need to reach out from building and facilities which 'say' that we are people of today rather than yesterday, and that we are people living our faith courageously today. This building appeal is chiefly about others and the future of St John's. My prayer is that we in our generation might bless those who come after us, as we have been blessed by provision made by those who went before us.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'David Powys'.

David Powys



Appeal Prayer

Faithful God, you are steadfast and true. Thank you for the faith and facilities passed to us by previous generations at St John's. Be with us all as we commit to building our faith and service as a church, and to building facilities to enable and encourage this growth now and into the future.

Amen.

How may I respond?

After prayerful consideration of the above, please use this page to indicate how you believe you should respond.

- I will give \$ _____ immediately to the St John's Building Appeal. Donations can be by cheque (St John's Bentleigh Building Fund), or BSB 083337 A/C No 515354967.

- I will give \$ _____ in total, spread over three years, in the amounts of \$ _____ in 2020, \$ _____ in 2021 and \$ _____ in 2022.

- I would like to make a weekly contribution of \$ _____ per week for 104 weeks commencing on Advent Sunday (30 Nov) 2020: please contact me to make arrangements.

- I would like to give as follows _____

- I would like assistance in making a provision to leave a bequest in my will: please contact me to help me make arrangements.

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone Contact: _____

Email contact: _____

Please complete and return in the attached addressed envelope to

The Treasurer

St John's Bentleigh Building Appeal

624 Centre Rd Bentleigh 3204

or

The Treasurer, c/- bentleighanglican@bigpond.com

