



# from the Rector.

Sunday 15 August, 2021

Dear friends,

We've known for a long time that both St Philip's and the Garrison Church need more space for mission and community, with more accessibility between the buildings. We believe this is especially true, given two gifts from God: a growing kids/youth ministry, and our prayer that God will fill the city with Christ's teaching.

We have done much over the years, and yet the important work for space and mission are ahead of us: the reconfiguration of 3 York Street for ministry, buying a new property for a ministry family, the renovation of the bathrooms and kitchens, connections between the properties, as well as flow and accessibility on both sites. The Diocese has expressed a desire for the parishes to maximise their property developments, and they are helping us to do so.

At the Annual General Meeting in 2021, the Parish Council reported that we are looking at ways to solve these problems. We showed you the type of architectural concepts that might be possible at both St Philip's and the Garrison Church. We invited your feedback, and we thank those who offered it. The Parish Council have been working with the Strategic Development Group and our architects since then. We have had the original concepts costed and the Parish Council considered the development proposed at 3 York Street was not feasible benchmarked against a simpler renovation. We considered the costs for such redevelopment was not viable in terms of potential debt, and also perhaps inappropriate given the mission fields elsewhere in growing Sydney.

The Parish Council are working with our consultants on what building work can be managed with the income from 1 York Street, as well as from regular giving and in increased pledges. Of course, all these plans take time. We need to consider heritage and architectural design concerns for city approvals as well as the Diocesan requirements. In the coming months, we will show the parish the plans and costs of these works, and we hope they will include:

1. The purchase of a new property to house a ministry family.
2. The reconfiguration of 3 York Street with a covered connection to St Philip's Church.
3. New kitchen and bathrooms at the Garrison, increasing the space for meeting in the halls.
4. Free flowing movement and accessibility at both sites.

## What next?

The Church Hill Leasing Ordinance governs the income distribution from 1 York Street. We had planned to make a submission at the June meeting of the Diocesan Standing Committee. For various important reasons (not the least being the process outlined above), both the Diocese and the Parish decided to postpone the ordinance until at least the December meeting. When the Church Hill Leasing Ordinance is renewed by the end of the year, the income held aside from June will be distributed. This seemed wise.

But this means that we need to present the new plans by the December Standing Committee meeting, together with a proposal for the income distribution split of 1 York Street (our primary external source of income).

And so, we are working on it. Plans are being drawn up, and costings determined. We'll know more in a month. Then we will call a meeting of the Parish. Again, when we show you these plans, they will be the kind of plans we think will work. The big decisions are yet to come, and will be brought before the parish at the right time.

We'll keep you in touch.

Justin.