

## **Post Earthquake Update on Holy Trinity Avonside 12 August 2011**

This is my first update since returning from study leave.

### **Hall Demolition**

The hall demolition is now well under way. The contractor tells me he hopes to have finished the job by the end of the coming week. It will be great to have a long view right through to the Avonside House Trust accommodation units. This will also remove any anxiety about damage being done to the Columbarium plots that are in the vicinity of the hall. It will be essential to lay a firm surface on the site of the former hall, as we will use this area for the parish fair.

### **The Church**

I am told that tenders are now closing for the Church deconstruction. This will be a more complex and difficult demolition as great care will have to be taken regarding the Columbarium plots that lie under the rubble, and the damaged tomb stones in the vicinity. It will be a lengthy and expensive job. There is no word yet on when work will begin.

### **Worship Arrangements**

The St Francis hall is now the location for all our worship Services. There were 40 at the 9.30 am Parish Eucharist last Sunday, a good muster all things considered.

### **The Land**

So far as we understand the Church and hall site are in the green zone. However a geo-technical report will be required to determine the safest place for any potential rebuild.

Of course the red zone runs through a substantial part of the parish boundaries, and if major parts of the orange zone turn red then this will lead to a substantial population loss for the parish. The red zone also includes many parts of Dallington and Avondale, and this has implications for our distance parishioners who come to Sunday worship from outside the parish boundaries. Indications are that those inside the red zone are preparing to leave as soon as they can. The area that curves around the river is the most beautiful part of the parish, and it is a great sadness that this is the area that will now be emptied of human habitation.

### **End Note**

Although there is a general mood of tiredness around, and of glumness about the loss of so much that was familiar and greatly valued, there is also relief that the after shocks have just about died away, and that the many demolitions have removed many of the fractured buildings that were such a depressing part of the urban

landscape. The sunny days of this last week have also been morale raising.

*Hugh Bowron*