

Post Earthquake Update on Holy Trinity Avonside 9 September 2011

Hall

The demolition of the hall has been completed thus freeing up the parish car parks in the vicinity of the St Francis hall.

Church Deconstruction

The Church Property Trustees have accepted a tender to deconstruct the Church, and the contractors are expected to start work within a week or two. It is anticipated that they will have the Church down by Christmas.

This is good news as rubberneckers have been penetrating the security fences to remove bits and pieces from the Church at considerable risk to themselves. The biggest gain is that we will be able to engage with the issue of damage to the columbarium and the gravestones early in the New Year. We have received many phone calls from concerned relatives on this score.

Another piece of good news is that the contractors will not need to temporarily remove any gravestones in order to approach the church from the west with their machinery, as the path that runs from the hall site is wide enough to accommodate their machines.

A decision will be made as deconstruction gets under way as to whether it be possible to save the west windows as the engineer and contractors assess the financial and safety considerations in bringing down the now very unstable west gable.

Parish Fair

A consequence of this unexpected development is that the Parish Fair on Saturday 22 October will have to be in the parish car park, rather than on the site of the former hall. This is because the contractors will base their machinery there.

The Fair will in any case be of a different and more community fun day nature due to our lack of storage facilities.