

Post Earthquake Update on Holy Trinity Avonside

16 September 2011

Church Deconstruction

The deconstruction of the Church began this week, and has proceeded faster than anticipated. The sacristy has been demolished, as has the west entranceway, and the main entrance to the north. The engineer concluded that the west gable was too unsafe to save, and prevented access to the nave for the removal of church furniture. So it had to come down, and regrettably with it the contemporary stained glass windows that were located therein.

Labourers will be engaged to slowly and carefully remove the rubble that has fallen externally on the columbarium to the north and east sides of the church.

We would expect that the nave and the choir vestry would come down in the coming week. This will clear the way for the careful sifting through and removal of the debris that has fallen on the interior of the chancel. It is here that the majority of the heritage items and features that we would wish to reuse in the church rebuild will be found.

Conservation and valuable items removed from the church are being stored in a covered secure storage area that the Church Property Trustees have obtained in Opawa. The pews, rood screen, nave altar and presidential chair that were removed from the church this week have been stored there.

If this rate of progress can be continued there appears to be every prospect that the deconstruction can be completed well before Christmas.