

## **Holy Trinity Avonside News Update 13 October 2011**

**Deconstruction of the Church** – It is expected that the Choir Vestry, the last standing structure, will be brought down today. The Church has now been virtually levelled. The blue stone is being temporarily stored in the yard, the site of the former parish hall. Work will begin on removing the foundations in two to three weeks.

**Revealing the Columbarium** – The debris covering the Columbarium on the north and east sides of the Church is now being slowly and carefully removed by hand. A small area of the Columbarium has been uncovered so far, and appears to be undamaged. However, it is early days yet, and we can only hope for the best. From now on relatives who have contacted us about family plots will receive a weekly update on progress and findings. The security fences remain in place around the Church, so it is not yet possible for visitors to get close enough to view the Columbarium.

**Move south** – The Vicar made the following announcement at last Sunday's Parish Eucharist:

I have been offered, and have accepted, the position of Vicar of the parish of St Peter's, Caversham in the diocese of Dunedin.

Accordingly I have tendered my resignation as Vicar of this parish effective as of the last Sunday in January. This four-month notice period will enable me to oversee the deconstruction of the church, to deal with much of the follow on pastoral consequences of dealing with the damaged columbarium, and to give the Avonside lectures to a diocesan audience at Avonhead.

I have been interested in the parish of Caversham for quite some time, and have worshipped there often and stayed in the Vicarage as the former Vicar is a friend of mine. His sudden and unexpected early retirement last year persuaded me to put my name forward for this position.

The parish is decidedly Anglo Catholic, with an outlook on the Anglican world at national and diocesan level that resonates with mine. Its close proximity to the best theological faculty and the best theological library in the country is a major draw card. I also anticipate developing opportunities to teach theology at a variety of venues.

I am 59, and with 6 years to go of active ministry if I was going to move it would need to be now. This is one of the few parishes where I think I could be happy and useful.

Come this November I will have been here 6 years. Thank you for the opportunity to minister to you and to share your lives over this period. Let us enjoy one another's company with an added and poignant quality to our association over the next four months.