

# Our Hall #4

## St Stephen's Hall and Forecourt Redevelopment Project

### For Community! Now and into the future...

After years of recognising the need, five years of seeking input from parishioners and planning, work is commencing 13th of August on the St Stephen's Hall and Forecourt Redevelopment.

The result will be a hall and forecourt that better serves people in the church and the community.

As a church we want people to come to love God by knowing Jesus Christ. We are to make disciples of Jesus and to help people grow as disciples of Jesus and glorify God.

The desire is that the hall will be able to be used by more church groups more often, as well as being able to be used by groups from the community. This will bring more people onto the church property and allow more contact with non church people.

I thank God for the prayers and work of faithful people so far. I thank God for those who have given and have pledged to give over the next two years to make this a reality.

Taking into account what money the parish has for the building project and what has already been pledged, and the budgeted cost of the project, we require an additional \$90,000. Are you able to give now, or pledge to give over the next two years? Information on how to do this is on Page 4.

Please pray for the people who will in the future use the hall and forecourt: that it will be used to make and grow disciples of Jesus and glorify God.

**Rev. Jeremy Gehrmann**



Our Parish Hall will be a space and place that enables the Parish to thrive in service of one another and the broader community, at every age, into the future.

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## From the Hall Committee

As you pick up this edition of 'Our Hall' you may very well begin to see some changes happening at St Stephen's. The Hall and Forecourt Redevelopment Project is underway and I couldn't be more excited!

This is such an incredibly important, and long overdue, upgrade to the property and buildings on our site and has been a hard-won milestone over many years of prayer, effort and the incredibly generous financial support of you, the Church of St Stephen's. Included below is a over-view of the timeline to get to this point - highs and lows of an emotional rollercoaster for those on the Parish Councils and Hall Redevelopment Committee who have shared this journey.

I'm pleased to introduce to you (opposite) some significant people who have joined us in this effort. Our architect, James, has patiently worked with us over several years now in the development of the project drawings and has done a fantastic job pulling together the various engineering and other inputs. He continues the journey now as our representative in working with the builder to deliver agreed outcomes.

Construction work for the project will be undertaken by inSite Construction Services. During the assessment of tenders, we had an opportunity to meet with inSite Director, Mark Taylor, who has grown his company on the back of happy clients and cost effective, quality work.

With James and Mark, we are in good hands!

For the next stage of work, the Parish Council has asked existing Hall Redevelopment Committee to maintain oversight of the project as well as adding to our numbers. We thank Kate Crouch, Jin Yoshikawa, Marlene Dunning and Cheryl Kotzur for their work to date and formally welcome Juliet Briner to the committee as well as our property and maintenance guru, Peter Waddington.

*Imagine what lies ahead!*

**Graeme Smyth**

On behalf of the Hall Redevelopment Committee



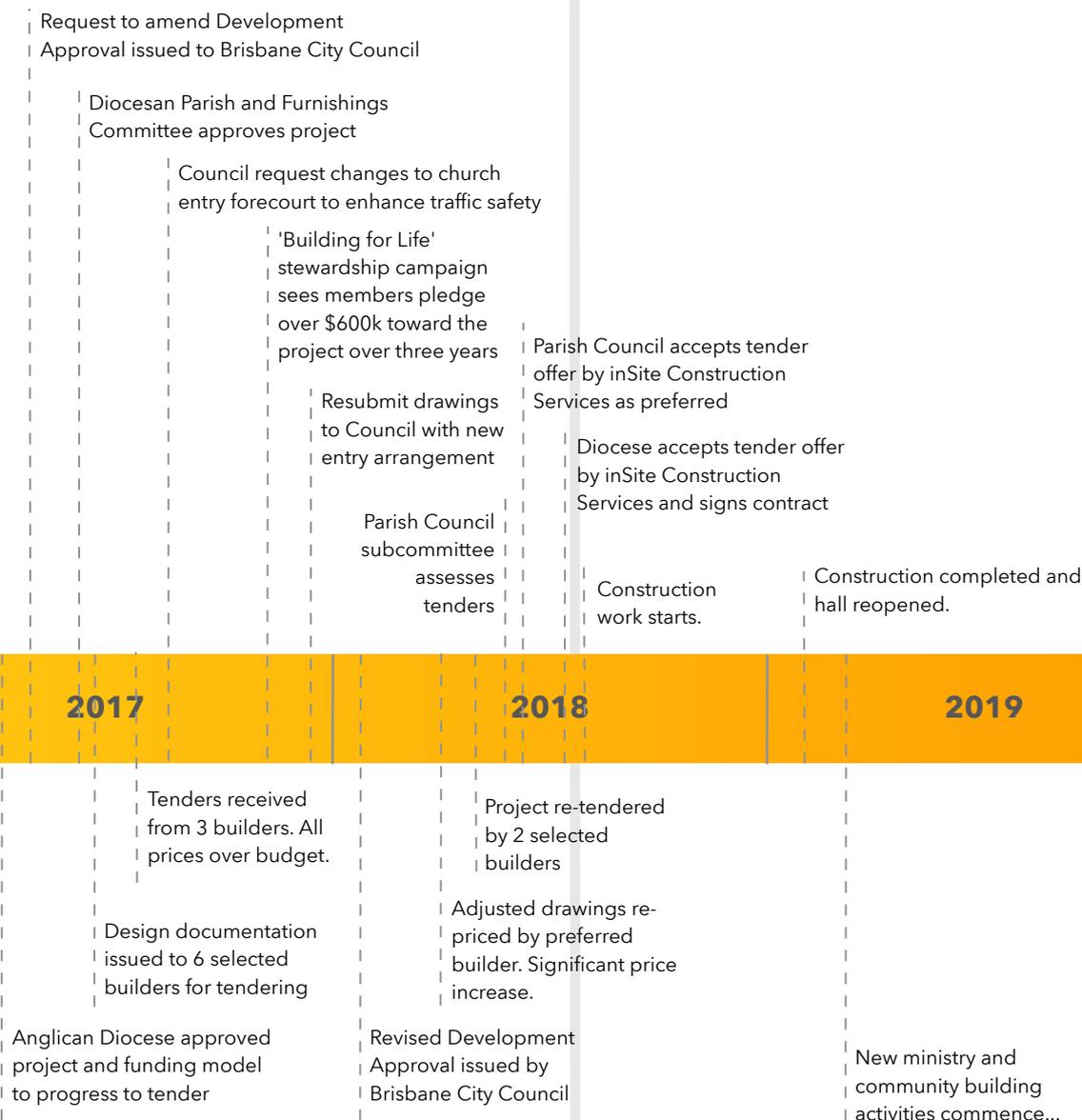


## JAMES HOLLANBY | ARCHITECT | WSP

James has ~8 years experience in the design, documentation and contract administration of building works and has ably led the multi-disciplinary design effort for the Hall Redevelopment Project since mid 2016. During construction, James will take on the contract administration role on behalf of the Diocese and Parish and will be our primary point of contact with the builder.

## MARK TAYLOR | DIRECTOR | INSITE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Mark is an experienced Project Manager who has delivered a wide range of complex refurbishment projects where construction activities were successfully interfaced with operational service environments. During the tender assessment, the Parish Council were particularly impressed by recent work undertaken by inSite to renovate the State Heritage listed Mount Carmel Centre, Wynnum and accessibility upgrade at the Catholic Parish of Sts Peter and Paul, Bulimba.



## Seeing Double: Our Hall has a Twin!

Recently, I stumbled upon a newspaper article on the National Library of Australia's "Trove" website from the time of construction of the St Stephen's Parish Hall. The article, "Anglican Stump Capping at Coorparoo", featured in The Telegraph on March 20, 1937, describes celebration of the commencement of construction of the building and includes the following paragraph:

*"The hall, which will be a replica of the parish hall of Booval, through the courtesy of Mr. G. Brockwell Gill, architect, of Ipswich, who made the plans available, will be 60 feet wide by 30 feet with 9 ft. verandahs running the whole length of the building."*

'Wow!' I thought. 'Our Hall has a twin!'

When I shared this historical curiosity with a few people, I discovered that the hall is not the only thing St Stephen's and All Saints' have in common as some of our long-serving and prominent parishioners shared with me their own personal connections with Booval Parish.

- Graeme

### Alan and Beth Woolard

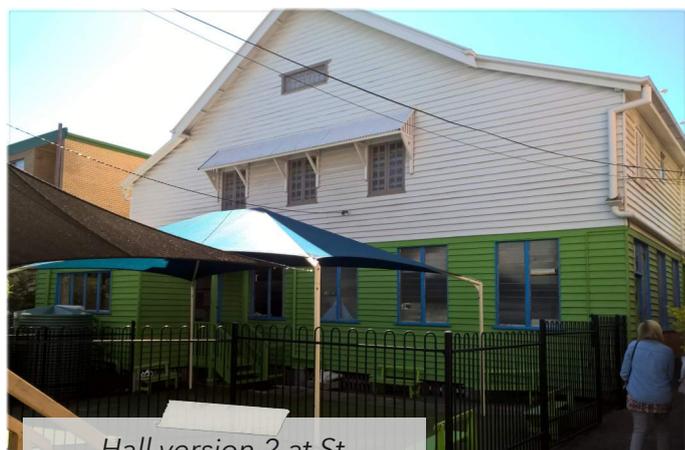
*Both Alan and I were brought up attending All Saints' through childhood, youth and as young adults and were married in the old church building before leaving for mission in Africa.*

*The hall at Booval was used much like ours here for Sunday School; GFS (Girls' Friendly Society); CEBS (Church of England Boys' Society); Youth Group; Mother's Union including luncheons, etc; Parish Council & AGM meetings; morning teas etc for funerals; hired out for social events (including Beth's sister's 21st birthday bush dance); parish concerts, etc. When the new church was being constructed, church services were temporarily held in the hall (c. 1983).*

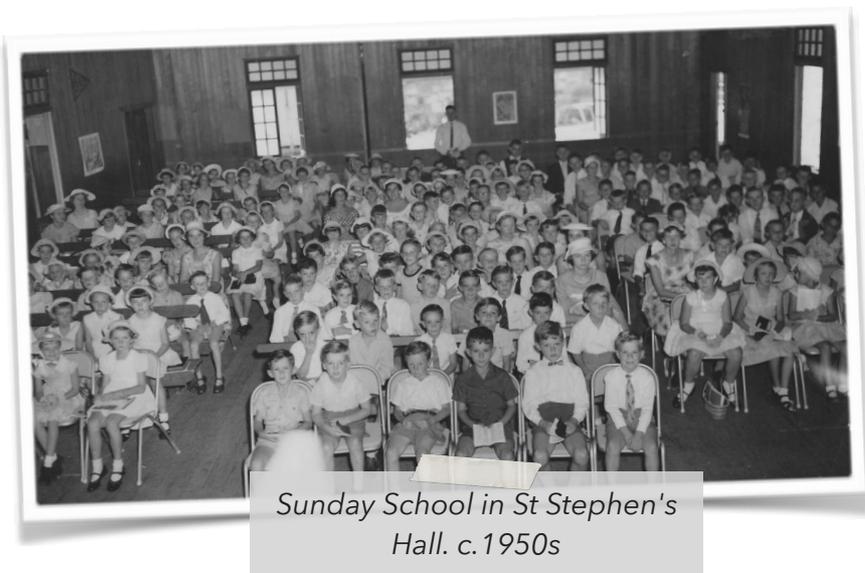
*Alan and I both have vivid memories of attending, & later teaching, Sunday School in the hall as well as youth group activities & conferences, Beth attending GFS & MU luncheons with her mum and later undertaking Parish Council work there.*



Hall version 1 at All Saints' Anglican Church, Booval.



Hall version 2 at St Stephen's, Coorparoo.



Sunday School in St Stephen's Hall. c. 1950s

## Rev. Jim Stonier

*My first ministry position after graduation from Ridley College was as a Curate at All Saints' Anglican Church in Booval - their first curate as it happens - where I served between 1963 and 1965.*

*During my time at All Saints', we relied heavily on the space afforded by the Parish Hall for many youth group games and other Parish and ministry activities.*

*The Sunday School met in the hall with an attendance around 300.*

*One verandah of the hall was converted into a youth coffee shop, I think we called it 'Drop Inn.' After Sunday night church, youth sat on the floor around small tables for Bible Study. Every Friday night, youth met in the hall for an activity finishing with a devotional. Attendance usually around forty, once, I think, up to eighty.*

*A parish evangelistic mission met nightly in the hall for a week. A drain pipe was mounted near the door for people to write out their personal sins and throw them down the drain. The mission leader was Bishop Clive Kearle, then Bishop of the Diocese of Armidale. Among those who turned to Christ was a man who had spent about a year reading books on atheism, he became a very devout Christian.*

*We saw great blessing with over twenty entering ministry or going as missionaries or marrying same.*

*After Booval, I served as Rector at All Saints', Monto.*



All Saints' Hall is currently leased full time by Anglicare.

## Finances

The Hall and Forecourt Redevelopment Project is funded through the generosity of the people of St Stephen's, Coorparoo via money given or pledged at the 2017 'Building for Life' Thanksgiving Service offering. Financial co-contribution is also made by Brisbane City Council and the Australian Federal Government (sponsored by Terri Butler MP) through eligible community grants.

A loan facility, through ANFIN, is being utilised to support cash flow, in the short term, whilst pledged money continues to be received over the next two and a half years. In order to realise the desire of the Parish Council to complete this project debt-free, we are seeking the continued commitment and financial support of you, the people of St Stephen's.

If you are new to St Stephen's and wish to know more about how you can contribute, please see Jeremy, one of the wardens or our treasurer, Coleen.

### How can you help?

First of all **Pray** – This is about Jesus and His Church. It is not about glorifying ourselves with material excesses. Pray for the Parish Council, Church Wardens, Hall Committee members and staff as they seek God's guidance in leading this Project and in being stewards of the gifts He has provided. Thank God for His goodness to us, for the heritage of His presence and work already done in Coorparoo and for the ministry to be done through these buildings in the future.

Second, **Give** - Our Parish has a tremendous history of faithful, generous and sacrificial giving and it is, again, that the church family is asked to prayerfully consider giving specifically to this project over and above your general giving to the ministry of St Stephen's. There will be opportunities to give in small and large ways according to means, through regular offerings or one-off social and other fundraising events.

Financial gifts or pledges to the Building Fund can be made through the use of specially marked envelopes to the offertory box or else electronically: **BSB 704 901 Building Fund Account 0001 4591**.

Third **Get involved** – The Hall Committee will be announcing various events and activities over the coming months to involve members of the Parish. Every one of us has a role to play in Christ's ministry to this part of Brisbane – please speak to the Rector or one of the staff about how you can be involved in ministry and small groups in the Parish.

## Any questions?

- **This says Newsletter #4. How can I get a copy of issues 1, 2 and 3?**

Back issues of this prestigious publication can be found on the church website. Use the navigation menu at the top to find content related to the "Hall Project".

- **I'm a member of Mothers Union / Little Lambs / organ roster / [insert your ministry], how will this affect me?**

We will be working with the builder over the next few weeks, and ongoing, to coordinate where they will be working on a week to week basis so we can communicate how you might be impacted. If you lead a ministry area, please send a note to the office to make sure we can keep you informed.

**Please email your questions to [office@ststephenscoorparoo.org.au](mailto:office@ststephenscoorparoo.org.au)**



The St Stephen's Hall and Forecourt Redevelopment project is proudly supported by funding from Brisbane City Council under the Access and Inclusion Community Partnership Programme and Heritage Incentive Scheme as well as from the Australian Government under the Stronger Communities Program.