

Methodist Church Insurance Fund

Earthquake update

8th October 2010



St John's Church Bryndwr

An update this week on the progress of the earthquake recovery work since last Friday.

Phase 1 - Making safe and weather proofing to enable congregations to use buildings as much as possible. This phase is nearing completion, all making safe work is now complete apart from Richmond and Durham St.

Phase 2 - Temporary Propping – propping of more severely damaged buildings to prevent further damage. The good news is that Papanui has had the all clear for access by the engineers and will not require any temporary propping. Temporary waterproofing of Woodend, Richmond and Beckenham are complete.

The designs are now complete for Woodend, Durham St, Bryndwr and Richmond for temporary propping and are being priced. The work will be commenced as soon as possible.

A slate roof specialist has installed a new lead flashing on the roof of St John's Bryndwr to cover the gap where the gable has moved away from the roof.

The temporary propping of Opawa Hall, New Brighton Church and Beckenham Hall are priced and have been given the go ahead and will commence next week, the timeframe is dependent on the steel fabrication. Once the work is complete the New Brighton Church will be safe to use, but the propping for Opawa and Beckenham Halls are to prevent further damage.

Ashburton, we have requested a more detailed engineers report assessing the damage.

Greendale, this is green stickered and able to be used at present and will be assessed when the condition surveys of all the lesser damaged buildings are commenced.

Aldersgate, it is expected that the Mission and Parish will be able to return to this building in the near future. To regain access and use of this building the following three issues are being remedied. The new power supply off Durham Street has been priced and agreed to by Orion and is going ahead. A design is being prepared to protect the access to Aldersgate from the unstable wall of the Church. A new paraplegic toilet is required. This is being costed and once approval is received this will go ahead.

Phase 3 - Condition Surveys of lesser damaged buildings, recording in detail damage to properties and undertaking repairs. The Insurance assessors have advised they do not want to begin the condition surveys while so many aftershocks are still occurring. As soon as the assessors are happy to proceed with this all the parishes concerned will be contacted to confirm when building inspections are to take place.

Phase 4 - Severely Damaged Buildings – This includes Durham St, Richmond and Woodend. Approval for work to these properties will be a long process and will involve Council, Historic Places, the Insurers and the Church. We will be including representatives from each Parish in these discussions, the priority for these buildings is still at present the temporary propping. Designs for Richmond and Woodend are complete and being costed.

Durham St, the stonemasons have now completed removing and storing all loose stonework the temporary propping will now be going ahead to stabilise the walls. The organ has been inspected by the South Island Organ Company and the good news is the organ has sustained no real damage. Arrow has been asked to prepare a plan of action to remove the sheet music and the grand piano from Durham St.

Stewart Stained Glass have inspected the windows and Arrow will be following up on their recommendations for the protection of the stained glass.

We would like to invite representatives of the affected churches and other parishes if they wish to attend, to a meeting at the Connexional Office at 2pm on October 12th, Morley House, 25 Latimer Square.

This will be a chance to update one another on progress to date and discuss plans for going forward.

Please phone Jeaninne Stevenson on 03 364 9420 or email JeaninneS@methodist.org.nz to advise if you will be attending.

Please direct all enquiries regarding Earthquake claims through the Connexional Office to reduce possible confusion. All consultants working on the project have been instructed to only communicate through this office.

We will send another update next Friday to keep all Canterbury Parishes informed of the claim progress and thank you all for your patience as we work through all these issues.