Corinna Lines, Jonathan Peacey and Dan Sim gave this notice at the 9am and 10.30 gatherings.

Last year we had three parish consultation sessions, where we considered the options for the brick church. After these, Rev Guy met with representatives from Heritage New Zealand, Wellington City Council and the Diocese to find out what had to happen next.

Because the brick church has a category 2 heritage listing, we have to commission a Conservation Report. This will identify which parts of the church are considered to have heritage value. From this we'll be able to see where we need to factor heritage value into our plans. We may be able to remove items and store them so we can return them after renovations. If heritage aspects are part of the building's structure, that will help us understand our options more clearly.

The Diocese advised that it is up to us to commission the Conservation Report, so we obtained a quote from Studio Pacific Architecture, who the Dio has a long relationship with (we also obtained other quotes). The report is expensive, costing around $30,000. We applied for a grant from WCC for $10,500, which they have approved. We can cover the balance using funds that are earmarked to be used for property costs only.

We don't have a choice about getting this done. The Conservation Report is required whatever we do next. But it should be really helpful in telling us where the heritage value is in the brick church.

We'll be confirming this in the e-news, but we'll be keeping all updates on the same webpage, under What's OnAbout Us | News About the Building. So if anyone asks you what's happening with the brick church, please tell them to check there. We want everyone to be accessing the same information, rather than speculating or relying on hearsay. We guarantee that nothing will happen in secret and that we are committed to being transparent about this process.

Please email the office with any questions so that Parish Council can answer them. And please continue to pray for this to be a process that is only part of our work for the Kingdom.