

## **Views from the Pews**

By now, many of you will be aware that we need to raise funds to earthquake strengthen and to improve the functionality of our beautiful and precious Cathedral. This will be a significant appeal, totalling \$22 million, and it will take place over several years. The first step is to raise \$5m to support the first stage of the planned work, the Music Centre.

The Music Centre will be built against the west wall of the Cathedral. At the same time, work will strengthen the west side of the building and part of the north wall of the Baptistry. Our professional advisers have confirmed that this earthquake strengthening work is required regardless of any possible changes to earthquake regulations.

We have already made an encouraging start. To date, \$1.2 million has been raised, including an incredibly generous gift of \$1 million from a parish family. We are also hopeful of significant support from Trust Waikato and WEL Energy Trust, and approaches to other organisations will continue. If you would like to learn more about what is planned, there is a display board in the Lounge, information in the new Saving Waikato Cathedral fundraising brochure, and a Lego model of the project on display in the Cathedral.

As with any project of this scale, the fundraising process involves several key steps. One of the first was updating the Parish Roll, which has now been completed. A next step is to engage members of our congregation who are willing, after receiving some training and support, to approach fellow parishioners and invite them to support the appeal.

If you would be willing to help, or if you would be happy to receive a visit and hear more about the appeal, please give your name to Dean Julian, one of the Wardens, a Vestry member, or a member of the Fundraising Committee. Contributions may be made in a variety of ways, including a direct gift or through a bequest in your will.

Ultimately, this Cathedral belongs to all of us. It has been a place of worship, music, celebration, and remembrance for generations. Now it is our turn to help care for it so that it can remain safe and open for those who come after us. Together, we can help ensure that The Waikato Cathedral Church of St Peter continues to serve our community for many generations to come.

For further information, please visit [stpeter.org.nz/fundraising](http://stpeter.org.nz/fundraising), where you can also complete a form to receive ongoing updates about the appeal.

*WACRA Fundraising Committee*