

December 2016

TO THE PARISH COUNCIL ON WHETHER TO KEEP OUR CHURCH AT THE
PRESENT SITE OR MOVE AWAY.

Recently I was browsing through Patricia Brooks' excellent parish history and I came upon an interesting paragraph.

"There was considerable controversy within the parish regarding the building of a new church in the downtown business area when there was land at Greerton and Maungatapu more central to growing residential areas.... At a general meeting of the parish held in 1990 the building project was thoroughly aired and the Finance Committee explained the necessity of selling the land at Maungatapu and Greerton to pay for the building project. After a spirited discussion Don Brebner moved 'That this meeting recommend to the Bishop that we proceed with the proposed extensions to St Mary's Church..' The motion was carried 41-37." This says to me that a little less than half the parish present at the meeting were not in favour of keeping the church on its present site.

It seems to me that the biggest problem with the present church site is the difficulty of parking and I wonder if a different approach to this may be worth a try. Perhaps a bus could run from places like Matua/Otumoetai, Greerton/Pyes Pa, Welcome Bay/Maungatapu and Brookfield/Bethlehem. People could be charged for transport and would be able to leave their cars in a less popular environment. Just a thought!

Peg Cummins