

## St Peter's Tiverton

### Reordering Report to the PCC August 2020

The completed design for the reordering project was submitted to the DAC in late January 2020 for their February meeting.

Two members of the committee re-visited the church after this meeting and published their comments to us by letter on 13<sup>th</sup> February. On the whole their comments were very favourable but they presented a list of 10 observations for our consideration. Most were of a minor nature and agreement was reached easily and amicably with all but one. We are required to move a narrow block of pews to a location immediately to the east of the new south porch, to frame the open area of the new font location, in front of the Greenway chapel and to help retain the “collegiate” feel of the corporation seating in the south aisle.

These pews will actually be replacing those removed previously (in the 1960's?) where half the reading desk now stands just inside the south porch.

They also required us to commission an additional specialist academic study into the provenance of our pews, before any are removed, for historical record purposes. This study has now been completed by Jo Cox of Keystone Historic Buildings Consultants and the study has been submitted to the DAC.

With these matters agreed, the DAC gave us their approval, on 14<sup>th</sup> May, to proceed to petition the Diocese for a formal Faculty. Having to work within the restrictions of lockdown, this process was more complicated than usual as design documents could not be displayed in church but had to be available on our parish website. The statutory period for advertising our proposals ended on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

During this period we received three letters of complaint, via the Diocesan Registrar, all concerning the future of the Newte library. In short, our response was that unless a suitable alternative location was found for the library, and the DAC approved the removal of the books from the church, the conversion of the library space into an office/meeting room could not go ahead.

The Newte library is an unused resource. We believe that in the last eight years only one person has made use of the library, an Exeter University PhD student. Her research was into literacy in Devon in the past and she made reference to examples of old parish libraries in her studies, without making use of the actual information contained in the library.

We are also concerned with the storage of the book in church as condensation has been found on the bindings in winter and a better stable environment for their storage would be more suitable, in a proper archive.

We still await the outcome of Diocesan Registrar's deliberations but our architect is certain that, at worst, our faculty may be qualified regarding the re-use of the library space.

The architect will complete his working drawings during September. This will allow an application for building regulations approval to be made and documents will be sent out to obtain construction tenders from a selection of approved contractors. This process has

been slightly delayed by the groundworks investigations and structural engineers' final designs taking longer under lockdown restrictions. All necessary information is now to hand and the final drawings are being revised and completed.

A Project Management Group meeting with the architect has been arranged for Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August to look at material samples and alternative finishes, especially the new stone flooring.

DWR

August 2020