

St Peter's Church  
Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on 26 August 2021 by Zoom

Present: William Zarrett (Chairman), Chris Shields (Treasurer), Gill Heard, David Ricks, Vicki Stuckey, Helen Wakely.

Apologies: Janet Rendle

1. The chairman opened the meeting with a request for prayer especially for all of those in Afghanistan, both military and civilian, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Remembering Roy Webber

WZ led the tributes to Roy for his many years of kindness, generosity, enthusiasm and financial assistance to St Peter's Church. He will be much missed.

3. Matters arising from the meeting held on 1 July 2021

VS will inform the East Devon Choral Society of the progress of reordering and the hope that the Society will be able to practice and present concerts at St Peter's in the future. It is hoped that all works will be completed by Easter 2022 and that the church will be able to accommodate a choir of up to 100 and an orchestra of up to 30.

4. Treasurer's Report

Accounts for the seven months ending 31 July 2021

CS reported the following:

Income – planned giving through the Parish Giving Scheme is continuing to sustain the church's finances. The overall income is £780 below budgeted partly because of the later start to church services, which has meant that the general collection income is below anticipated.

Expenditure – much expenditure is below expected after the lockdown. Many of the maintenance projects will take place in the second half of the year.

Overall result – this is currently a lower deficit by £10,908 than anticipated.

5. Financial Aspects of Reordering

CS reported that the first invoice of £30k had been paid of which £5k was VAT, which will be reclaimed. The expected pattern of future expenditure will be £75k in August, £100k in both September and October then £30k per month from November to

February. Invoices have to be paid within seven days; DR will check this against the signed contract with the contractors.

In addition, a further £6k has been paid to the architects this month.

CS requested that DR obtain a cash flow of anticipated amounts due to the architects so that the extraction of investment capital can be properly managed.

#### 6. Proposal of Pay increase for Tim Bayton

WZ indicated that Tim started on an hourly rate of £10/hour for 10 hours/week. His work has been of a very high standard since his arrival, achieving many efficiencies and WZ proposed that as from 1 October, Tim's hourly rate be raised to £11/hour (following the successful completion of his first six months). This will cost the church an additional £480 annually. All agreed that this proposal should be recommended to the PCC.

#### 7. Stewardship Report

HW presented the following report.

The statistics for the first seven months of 2021 are as follows:

Cumulative totals		2021	2020	Difference
		7 months	7 months	
Parish Giving				
Scheme	£ NGA	1269	2044	-775
	£ GA	15749	14678	1071
	£ GA tax	3938	3670	268
Average No		49	47	2
One off Gift Aid	£	87	4653	-4566
Envelopes	£ NGA	0	105	-105
	£ GA	0	177	-177

Standing Orders	£	452	617	-165
Give a little donations	£ excl GA	539	1392	-853
	£ Total	22034	27336	-5302

This is the first report to incorporate the donations made on line through 'Give a little'. This facility was instigated last year ahead of our St Peter's Day appeal. The donations included in this table are net of Give a little fees and before the addition of gift aid which Sum-up claim on our behalf. They do not include the amounts raised for Robert's gift.

The difference between 2020 and 2021 is mostly attributable to the success of the St Peter's Patronal Day appeal last year, and which has not been held this year. However, it would have been quite a big request to our church membership to make contributions to Robert's leaving gift and a further appeal.

It is a great tribute to our congregation at St Peter's that despite the challenges of the past year, we have been able to maintain our finances through their regular giving.

HW suggested that a further appeal might be made to the congregation for a Seedtime to Harvest collection in honour of Roy Webber this year, who was particularly enthusiastic about it. All of the Committee were supportive of this idea.

#### 8. Fundraising possibilities

WZ reported that Wi-Fi has now been extended into the Church so it would be possible to install a card reader for donations. It was agreed that this should be delayed until the work around the entrance is completed so that the reader can be secured in a wooden base. A default amount of donation will be then set up. The four 'Amazon wink' cameras currently being used by the contractors to protect the site could provide additional security.

Plans were in hand for a Harvest weekend 2/3 October. Tim Bayton is arranging a musical evening on 2 October at 7pm with the request for donations rather than tickets. If a Seedtime to Harvest appeal goes ahead, this can go live after the PCC if approval is secured.

#### 9. Interregnum Progress

WZ and GH are to meet with Rev Mike Clarke, a member of the Archdeacon's staff on 6<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the idea of a 'vision evening' for the Parish to talk about the future direction of the church.

A questionnaire has been prepared by the Interregnum Working Group and Standing Committee - an updated version of the 2004 edition, which will be distributed among the congregation and the answers analysed for the preparation of the parish profile.

Currently, the proposal is to advertise the post in March with a view to a new Vicar starting in July 2022. Timing of the steps in the process will be clarified with Rev Clarke.

10. Any other Business

DR reported that two quotations are being secured for the installation of a new heating control system for the church. It is anticipated that this will cost around £3,500. This will be a stopgap ahead of a new system being installed when grants are available in the future, giving time for further advances in eco-friendly technology.

11. Date of Next Meeting

28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30pm by Zoom.