

St Peter's Church  
Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on 28 October 2021 by Zoom

Present: William Zarrett (Chairman), Gill Heard, Janet Rendle, David Ricks, Vicki Stuckey, Helen Wakely.

Apologies: Chris Shields (Treasurer)

1. The chairman opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the meeting held on 26 August 2021

WZ reported that Tim Bayton was very pleased to receive his increase in his hourly rate of pay.

3. Financial Aspects of Heating Repairs and Reordering

a. Heating Repairs

DR updated the Committee on re-ordering with news that the control cables for the new heating control box have had to be redirected. This has meant a little delay and extra expense but was unavoidable. The work will take around three days and will start shortly.

b. Reordering

A structural solution has now been agreed between the architects, archaeologist and contractors to bridge over the vaulting uncovered at the back of the Church. The archaeologist has been on site for almost a month.

There will be a two week break over Christmas and the congregation will be able to use an area of the Church during this time.

An issue with the foundations of the toilet block outside the Church has also been resolved.

DR will request an updated cashflow/works progress schedule from the contractors to aid financial preparations and a spending review.

4. Stewardship and Fundraising Report

HW presented the following report.

The statistics for the first ten months of 2021 (to 6 October) are as follows:

Cumulative totals		2021	2020	Difference
		10 months	10 months	
Parish Giving Scheme	£ NGA	1820	2889	-1068
	£ GA	22315	22302	13
	£ GA tax	5575	5439	136
Average No		48	47	1
One off Gift Aid	£	1284	4678	-3394
Envelopes	£ NGA	0	105	-105
	£ GA	0	327	-327
Standing Orders	£	825	990	-165
Give a little donations	£ excl GA	966	1647	-681
	£ Total	32786	38377	-5592

This was the first report following the autumn concert, produce sale, blanket draw and Seedtime to Harvest appeal. Donations for the Seedtime to Harvest appeal came in by various different means. WZ's list indicated a total of £1610 before Gift Aid. A gift aid submission was made on 24 October of which £299.25 was attributable to Seedtime to Harvest. In addition, £68.75 gift aid came from on line donations through 'Give a little'. This means that the overall total including gift aid is around £2k. Further donations may yet come in. Grateful thanks to all who have contributed their time as well as financial donations.

The total gift aid submission made on 24<sup>th</sup> October was for £1172.06.

The overall picture for stewardship is that donations are down by £5592 on last year. Much of this is the difference between the St Peter's Appeal last year and the Seedtime to Harvest Appeal this year. Our Seedtime collection also came very soon after parishioners had contributed very generously to Robert's leaving gift. It was noted with particular thanks, that St Peter's has previously greatly benefited from Roy Webber's generosity.

As society is in a period of transition and recovery from Lockdown, HW indicated that it is not surprising that our donations and collections are rather unpredictable and

irregular. Hopefully this will settle during the next 12 months and there is reason for optimism.

WZ confirmed that the other events (outside Seedtime to Harvest) have raised around £240 so that the Harvest weekend yielded around £2,200 in total.

GH reported that several orders are now coming in for the Christmas Food Fair.

The Committee agreed that it would be good to plan a celebration and fundraising event around the completion of the re-ordering to coincide with St Peter's Day at the end of June. This could be publicised in the town to include the community.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

### Accounts for the nine months ending 30 September 2021

WZ reported the following on behalf of CS:

Income is higher than budgeted and does not yet include the proceeds of Seedtime to Harvest. Investment income is also above budget partly because of the slight delay in re-ordering payments. WZ and CS realise investments through the CCLA only as finance is needed.

Expenditure is lower than budgeted too although emergency repairs are higher than expected after some vandalism and repair of the church clock.

There have been no music expenses as Graham has not charged for playing the organ.

The Church has a gas contract so has not been affected by the raised prices.

Overall the result is that the Church has a current deficit of £11k when it was expected to be £26k.

Finally, WZ reported that he will soon have a back up from CS of the Finance Coordinator programme.

## 6. Interregnum Progress

The questionnaire to calibrate ideas for the parish profile has been distributed amongst the church membership with the end of October as the deadline. It is anticipated that representatives from each of the three churches will first look at their own responses then meet together to pick out common themes ahead of the Vision evening at the Beale Centre with the Archdeacon scheduled for 29 November. HW will take notes on the evening.

There has been a lot of positive feedback from the congregation from the series of visiting clergy taking services. GH was thanked for making the arrangements for these visitors.

## 7. Any other Business

JR raised the possibility of including the Chaplain from Blundells as part of St Peter's outreach to the community. GH confirmed that the current Chaplain is taking the service on 7<sup>th</sup> November including two baptisms.

VS reported that she had updated the East Devon Choral Society on the re-ordering and the group is keen to be involved in future musical evenings. In addition, Tim Bayton's quartet has offered to return so the musical tradition at St Peter's can continue.

WZ thanked Helen for taking the Finance Committee minutes.

8. Date of Next Meeting

6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30pm by Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.22pm