

St Peter's Church
Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on 6 January 2022 by Zoom

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

Apologies: None

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

2. Matters arising from the meeting held on 28 October 2021

These were all covered in items for this meeting.

3. Fundraising: Christmas Fair Results

WZ reported that the virtual Christmas Fair had been a great success with many items prepared and sold. Not only had £890 been raised but it had been an uplifting event with many offers of help and donations beyond the cost of the items, showing the spirit of the Interregnum and an appreciation of all the work that went into the fair.

4. Treasurer's Report

Accounts for the 12 months ending 31 December 2021

CS reported back to the Committee:

A Vat claim had been submitted along with the required Specification of Works. CS had had an indication that around 95% of the VAT paid will be eligible for reclaim.

Income for 2021 had slightly exceeded budget.

The actual twelve month income was £60,895 (it currently shows £88,206 but £27,311 of that is from a Listed Places of Worship Vat claim on Re-ordering which will be moved to set against the matching expenditure). The budgeted amount was £58,101 so income is £2,794 over budget.

Expenses came in at £79,358 against the budgeted £95,109 so we underspent by £15,751. Emergency maintenance contains the replacement of the central heating controls (not part of re-ordering). There had also been the purchase of a new security gate to the heating room.

The trees in the Churchyard had also been trimmed this year.

The overall result is a loss of £19k which is a bigger loss than in 2020. This was largely a result of several maintenance projects being deferred from 2020 which could then be undertaken in 2021.

5. Update on Financial Aspects of Re-ordering and Fabric Repairs

CS reported that six invoices totalling £205k had been paid to the builders for Re-ordering. A CCLA statement just received indicated that the Church's investments still totalled £1.48 million. DR explained that expenditure was behind the scheduled programme after the delay in completing the floor.

The flooring at the east end and in the library is still to be explored.

Fabric repairs included the control system on the heating and the heating room gate. Final adjustments were to be made to the heating system itself.

Plans were still being made to repair the water damage to the south east end of the Church. Originally it had been anticipated that re-pointing would be needed but in fact it may mean just repairing the rain water hopper and downpipes.

6. Stewardship and Fundraising Report

HW presented the following report.

The statistics for the twelve months of 2021 are as follows:

Cumulative totals		2021	2020	Difference
		12	12	
		months	months	
Parish Giving Scheme	£ NGA	2199	3214	-1015
	£ GA	26530	26799	-269
	£ GA tax	6629	6572	57
Average No		48	47	1
One off Gift Aid	£	1391	8682	-7291
Envelopes	£ NGA	0	105	-105
	£ GA	0	402	-402
Standing Orders	£	954	1119	-165

Give a little donations	£ excl GA	966	1745	-779
	£ Total	38669	48639	-9970

The differences are principally due to the one off gift aid donations and the St Peter's Day collection in 2020. In 2021, the biggest collection was to be able to give a significant gift to Robert as his leaving gift.

In the last six years, the trends have clearly been downward:

		2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
						£	£
Parish Giving Scheme		35358	36586	36586	33067	31961	29822
OOGA		1391	8682	8682	3321	4152	4544
Envelopes	Non Gift Aid	0	105	105	804	1438	1944
	Gift Aid	0	402	402	1484	1527	2218
Standing Orders		954	1119	1119	1314	1469	3179
Give a little donations		966	1745	0	0	0	0
Total		38669	48639	46894	39990	40547	41707

The downward trend reflects the decline in the congregation and of course, the hope is that our new incumbent will be able to address this fall.

The really positive news is that the numbers in the Parish Giving Scheme have remained stable throughout the two years of pandemic, with changes only because of deaths or leaving the area. There are still some regular attendees who do not belong to the scheme and most have been approached to join. Any encouragement to our fellow members of the congregation or PCC to join, would be appreciated. Membership forms are in the Church.

The Committee discussed the plan to have a card reader available in the Church once it is re-opened after Re-ordering. It is hoped that advertising boards with photos of each stage of the Re-ordering can be displayed in the Church as part of the publicity after its completion.

7. Interregnum Progress

WZ had been supplied with eight parish profiles to help the Church to draw up its own profile. Two of these in particular were appropriate to serve as models for St Peter's and have been distributed to the PCCs of our three churches. WZ has asked for volunteers to come forward to help in its composition – probably in groups of one/two before a final edit. VS offered to be involved.

It is hoped that it can be drafted by the middle of February before being sent to the Archdeacon for the addition of a forward. Following this, the job will be advertised on the Diocesan and Church of England websites with interviews in May and installation hopefully in July.

8. Any other Business

The BWG (WZ, CS, DR and HW) agreed to meet virtually on 13th January at 7.30pm.

9. Date of Next Meeting

3rd March 2022 at 7.30pm by Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm