

St. Peter's Church Finance Committee meeting 26th October 2023

Meeting was held on Zoom at 7.00pm

Present: Rev. Christian Hill, William Zarrett (Chair), John Brewster, Janet Rendle, David Ricks and Gill Heard.

Apologies: Helen Wakely, Heather Vincent

1. Welcome: Following the welcome Bill Zarrett asked the Committee to spend time remembering our former Treasurer, Chris Shields, who has sadly passed away.
2. Review of Minutes. The minutes of the last meeting have been accepted by the PCC and thus were confirmed as correct, with no matters arising.
3. Treasurer's Report: The following highlights were noted regarding Helen's report to this Committee.

The negative variance from the budget is due mainly to the unanticipated fabric expenditure, namely the bell tower mesh repair and the elimination of dry rot in the vestry.

Communication between funeral directors and the Treasurer regarding fees for bell ringers, choir etc. needs to be clarified.

£17000 of VAT has been recovered by the Treasurer, as shown in her report.

Currently she is working from Australia and is able to carry on her duties due to the recent upgrade of our financial software.

A high electricity invoice had been received and, as no in-person meter reading has been taken since 2019, a request has been made to obtain a new reading. Plus, a smart meter will be installed for gas and electricity.

Through Fresh Expressions we have £1217 available, which is restricted to use with trying new Church programmes.

The Bell Restoration Fund has reached approximately £12000 of the £25000 to complete the project. Additional grants will be sought and fundraising activities are planned.

The Charity Commission listings has been updated for the current PCC membership.

4. Fabric and Reordering:

David Ricks reported that the dry rot repair will be more expensive than previously estimated, as the damage is more extensive. It is now estimated to be in the region of 25 to 30 thousand pounds.

The Fire Officer recommended fire alarm and heat detectors at the bottom of the tower, regarding the safety of the bell ringers. Quotes for this work have been received from Crowstep.

The Quinquennial inspection is due soon. No major issues are anticipated.

5. Live-streaming camera equipment has been chosen hopefully for installation prior to the Christmas season. Training will be necessary.

6. Stewardship: Christian Hill and Helen Wakely will organise a Giving service on February 18th to promote parish giving.

7. A.O.B.

- John Brewster suggested the Church have a cleaner.
- Bill Zarrett and David Ricks will organise a cleaner for the carpets.
- Christian suggested a wild flower space in the churchyard that would include involvement from the primary schools.

Date of the next meeting: 4 January 2024

The meeting ended with the Grace.