

**All Saints Church, Guildford - Premises VG.**  
**Notes from the Zoom meeting on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

**Present: RH, PP, DM, TT, ON, CN. Apologies SD**

- **Matters arising since last meeting**
- Reading Room door. The new external door is due for installation on 27<sup>th</sup> January.
- Hall heating. Agreed to fit draft excluder around the main entrance door (PN) and to check out heaters in men's loo and foyer reported as not working (DM).
- The new Montessori Shed is now in use. Agreed to place concrete gravel boards and pea shingle to keep soil away from the shed sides (Working party, 29<sup>th</sup> Jan).
- The Orchard Project now falls under the remit of the Premises VG. Detailed plans and costings will be prepared when those currently involved meet on 18<sup>th</sup> January. Some residents with neighbouring or nearby properties are already involved, there is also interest from OV Garden Club members. Involving school students working towards DoE awards has also been suggested, though this does raise issues of supervision, safeguarding and health and safety. Involving students from Merrist Wood College may be another option. Courses on offer at the College include arboriculture, horticulture and wildlife and conservation.
- A policy of a No Mow May has been adopted by PCC.
  
- **The remainder of the meeting was given over to discussion of longer term proposals and projects**
- **Storage arrangements for the Hall.** Robin has contacted the architect and discussed options. The architect is now looking at the original plans and will prepare drawings and costings for a new storage area to be constructed and attached to the rear of the Hall with direct access via a new door in the rear wall of the Hall.
- **High level windows in church.** The architect also looked at the options for replacement of the high level windows around the church and considers that replacement with double glazing is an option. Replacement units could be much larger and therefore fewer in number than the present arrangement. However, a proposal based on a larger number of smaller replacement units would mean less change to the external view of the church and therefore less likely to raise objections. Adding secondary glazing may be an alternative to installing double glazing units. It was noted that along each of the four sides of the roof there are structural supports. The wooden shutters inside the church are of minimal benefit and could possibly be removed. An alternative method to reduce the glare from the sun will be needed. An outline for the project is being prepared and potential suppliers have been identified (PP).
- **Church heating.** Parish Buying offers advice to churches, charging £2,200 for their services which includes assessing current usage as well as proposing solutions. It is noted that £2,000 has been set aside in the current budget for this purpose. Community as well as Church funding is likely to be available for upgrading the heating system. Green Square is another option identified by the Eco Group. A quote in excess of £30,000 has been received for replacing the present gas-based system with a system based of electric radiators. TT will approach Bramley-based Green Square for more information and advice about infra-red heating.
- **Subsidence.** The engineer will visit in the coming week to update digital Tell-Tale readings. Carolyn has up to date information from other Tell-Tales installed around the church, details to be forwarded to Simon for analysis and reporting (Action SD). Impressions from recent

visual inspections is that little has changed over recent months. This may be weather-related, or possibly reflect the repair made to the blocked drain.

- **Addressing issues caused by subsidence.** Cracks in flat roofs may need some more work in order to ensure adequate drainage of rain water and prevent further ingress of rain water. Because of movement in the side wall a wooden fence post is in place inside the Chapel to support a ceiling joist that may no longer be resting on the external wall. Also in the Chapel the movement of the walls has opened substantial gaps between the edge of the large window and surrounding brickwork. As a temporary measure the gaps have been filled with expanding foam.
- **Bell Tower.** There is evidence of recent ingress of rain water. The poor condition of the slats is the primary cause for concern. Replacing the wood slats with plastic would be an option but access is a problem as the uneven ground means that it is not straight forward to locate a cherry picker used to give access to the highest levels of the tower. An alternative may be on each side of the tower to replace the slats with a single triangular-shaped metal plate, either steel or aluminium. A quote is to be obtained from a potential supplier (TT).
- **Fire precautions.** Several tasks need to be completed in order to become compliant with fire regulations, including installation of fire-proof doors and carrying out a fire practice. The relevant document to be circulated (RH)
- **Status, access and use of Chapel.** The Chapel is currently used as a storage area. Ideally it would be returned for the purposes for which it was intended. This raises questions about the need for more storage in or around the church. Ideally the Chapel could be used independently from the church, with access via an external door in the wall of the Resource area.
- Date of next Workdays: January 29<sup>th</sup> and February 19<sup>th</sup>
- Date of next meeting. March 3<sup>rd</sup>. However, it was noted that a problem has arisen with the dates proposed for meetings in 2022. These do not take into account the need for occasional choir practices in weeks when the choir would not normally be singing at the following Sunday morning service. It was decided to continue with the dates as circulated while PN will liaise with Jeremy on future meeting dates that may be affected.