

All Saints Church Guildford - Premises VG.

Notes from the Zoom meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday, 4th February, 2021.

Present RH, TT, PP, SD, DM, CN, PN

1. Update on progress with Reading Room door.

The problem with the door is unchanged with water collecting on the inside sill and seeping onto the door mat. Velfac, the suppliers, have not responded to telephone calls or emails from Dave. Discussion ranged over the available options for addressing the problem but it was agreed that at this stage we do not want to take any action that would invalidate the warranty on the door, so we must try once more to get remedial action by Velfac. Following actions were agreed:

- i. DM would make one further attempt to contact Velfac and follow this up with a further email if the phone call is not answered
- ii. In the event of no progress a formal letter would be sent (PP) and a summary of the situation would be made public, e.g. through a Twitter account (TT).

2. Redistribution of premises-related tasks currently covered by Carolyn

Locking and unlocking the church – the previous rota arrangement for locking and unlocking the church have been disrupted during lock down, tho' this has not affected the arrangements for Fridays and Saturdays. While lockdown continues a new arrangement is needed for Sundays through to Thursdays, mornings and evenings. Dave M will do this.

Waste collection - The red waste bins need to be put out on Sunday evenings ready for the Biffa collection on Monday mornings. The black and green bins need to be put out on Monday evenings ready for the Council collection on Tuesday mornings – and then returned to their normal location. (Dave M).

Contact person accessible to Hall users. This primarily relates to Montessori but applies to all Hall users. The range of requests that arise include (1) the need to top-up supplies of consumables – paper towels, toilet paper, cleaning materials etc, (2) issues over cleanliness of the Hall, (3) replacement light bulbs, items left in the fridge, defrosting of fridge, problems with toilets, etc. (4) dealing with lost property. There is a limited supply of consumables in the cupboard in the Hall vestibule, otherwise the main stock is stored in the cupboard in the church toilet. (5) Maintaining these stocks is another task to be covered. Carolyn is willing to continue to act as the contact person but will disseminate requests for help via a Whats Ap group of individuals willing to provide assistance – the same arrangement to extend to cover such requests relating to the church, the Reading Room or the field with participants not limited to Premises VG membership.

3. Church heating and related grant opportunities

The wide ranging discussion focussed on the following points:

- i. Agreed that it is important to have a clear overview of all the work that is required and how it will be carried out in a way that meets our objectives in relation to the environmental issues, overall costs and the likely time scale.
- ii. The scope of the work is currently understood to include a greater dependence on green energy and much improved insulation (walls and windows in the Hall as well as church), including installation of smart meters.

- iii. Currently there are contracts with different electricity and gas suppliers for the church and Hall. There would be savings in consolidating these but most likely further benefits from joining the Parish Buying scheme available via the Diocese, which ensures a renewable “green” supply.
- iv. The cost of a ground source heating system would be in excess of £250,000 while the cost of a system powered by green electricity has been quoted at £36,000, though there is a debate to be had about the type of heaters that would be suitable for the church. Infrared is unlikely to be the best option, more likely a system with a boiler, pipes and radiators powered by the same source of green electricity. It is understood that the church heating system needs to be effective in heating the space quickly and if necessary flexible enough to cope with overheating via thermostats.
- v. Funding for such changes is understood to be available from Marshall’s charity, but the current deadline for applications is 26th February – and we do not have all the information we require to prepare an application by that date. (There are repeat calls for applications at 6-monthly intervals).
- vi. It is agreed that any upgrade to the church heating needs to be accompanied by improved insulation to the high level windows around the church and the options are now being investigated.
- vii. A similar requirement applies to cavity-wall insulation in church.
- viii. There would be similar additional costs to consider in relation to heating in the Hall.
- ix. Alternative potential sources of funding include Surrey Churches Preservation Trust and others listed on the Marshall’s website.
- x. Agreed that we need to weigh up the pros and cons of each potential project and the available solutions. One of the problems faced is that much of the market is taken up by companies seeking to sell their own products, and not interested in supplying systems tailored to specific needs. We need to identify companies that provide a comprehensive service which identify the specific requirement and then recommend a system tailored to meet that need. (An initial search of the web as the meeting ended identified Mesh Energy in Farnham and a company called Green Energy Consulting UK).
- xi. Final point- emphasises that we need to inform and involve church members throughout the process.

Date for next meeting – 4th March, 8pm start, as requested by Simon.