

## 2022 MARCH

### PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS: – SAFETY – LETTINGS – PROPERTY

#### **Safety:**

Once again, the majority of our involvement on the Safety side has been in connection with Covid. Risk Assessments (RA's) continue to be updated as we try and interpret changes - and this work is and will continue to be ongoing. The latest version is due to be reviewed by 31 October 2022, and a copy is appended. Our general Safety Policy is also due for its 5-year review and this is being undertaken at present and will be forwarded to Church Council at the earliest opportunity,

The new RA for Fire Safety has been well received and seems to cover our needs. Have you seen a copy yet?

#### **Lettings:**

Lettings and the income they generate for the Church were hit very hard during and after the "Lockdown" and "recovery" periods. We are fortunate that most of our previous Hirers have returned although some have reduced their hours. We continue to receive enquiries about new bookings although very few materialise into firm commitments. In common with many venues, we are really struggling to hold on to our existing lettings or to attract new ones. Many are themselves struggling to continue their organisation's activities and as costs unavoidably increase, more are likely to stop their activities. Many of our lettings are charitable groups and they are also struggling to keep afloat in these turbulent times and there is a great temptation not to add to their burden by passing on our increased costs, but we have to be realistic on these matters. These lettings not only help our financial situation, but also provide an invaluable outreach and point of contact into our community. Our Website has a section where potential hirers can see what is available and when and even ask for a provisional booking online.

#### **Property:**

As most of you are aware, we are having more major repairs and improvements done this year.

The windows at the top of the Octagon roof are in the process of being repaired as I write this report, and by the time you are reading it, you will probably be familiar with the scaffolding inside and outside Octagon and the photos on the pre-service notices! Thankyou to all for their forbearance as we undertake these works, especially as many groups are having to use the Sanctuary for their activities giving it quite a different appearance!

We still keep a running list of other repairs that need to be attended to; from leaking and broken eavesgutters, to taps on basins needing repair/replacement, to the "simple" task of replacing light bulbs – not always quite so simple in the sanctuary or Octagon!

Maintenance and repairs aren't going to go away and are even less likely to become cheaper! **We still need a Property Steward to oversee the upkeep of our amazing premises.**

Please ask me about anything you would like to know about in more detail – if I can help. I will.

Michael Porter

