LOW FURNESS CHURCH PUBLIC MEETING ABOUT DENDRON CHURCH 12/09/22

Agenda Item	Person	Comments	Notes
1.	Revd Lucie Lunn VVR	Welcome and opening prayer including one minuets silence for the Majesty The Queen.	
2.	Venerable Vernon Ross	Introduction of the format for the evening and how it would run.	
	QI report	Timeline and what we have done and what we done see Lucie' note Timeline Mapping process explanation of what it is from her arrival in 2018. 2020 focus for the was building until COVID started then it was delayed. When allowed back in noted that the cracks had joined up and got much worse in the Nave in April and May. When church re-opened in June when the crack had caused a fall arranged the advisory visit from a diocese. They recommended a QI, to assess the full state of the building. In November the Chloe Granger carried out the inspection on the church. The report makes difficult reading, some damage caused over time some by maintenance issues and unauthorized work. To make the building publicly accessible the building needs building £50,000 over first year £250,000 over 5 years. Church does not have substantial reserves and what it does have is reserved for the churchyard. That is a separate issue was made clear.	
	Jim Webster	Looking at the running of the church, you have seen the figures and looking at the running of the church our saving are about £4000 which just over half is to go to the insurance. Small congregation and they are not expected to raise that kind of money. We need to keep an income to keep up the expenses and we need to see what we are going to do, the PCC is not going to be bounced into a decision. The joint PCC will do what they can to help, if the parish can raise the money we can help. At Rampside we took about 8 years to go through the closure process and the church yard and the churchyard are different entities. Rampside talk through.	
	Questions	David Wilton what maintenance have we done over the last 5 years.	

		Answer Lucie Lunn reframed the question and stated that a lot has been done over many years, not much in the last 2 years due to the pandemic and state of the structure. Some of the biggers works have not been done and larger works. She emphasized this was not neglect. Annual reports no maintence in the last 5 years, but it has been done free of charge.	
		Keith Butterfield – barred out from people who have always done work in the church, he clamed he was qualified to do the work. He stated the then Vicar was onboard and when it was done Keith Butterfield then stated that he and Alan Davies deliberately pulled down the porch ceiling to let it air.	
		Jim Webster gave a run down on the on the roof in Rampside which had a similar issue with drainage and how it was solved a low expense by a qualified builder.	
		Alan Davies stated the quinquennial was wrong in say there was no permission for work on the roof. He read out emails he had from the then architect Malcolm Craig saying the lead roof could be replaced with Fiberglass! There was a risk assessment and scaffolding. Emails were quoted from and have not been seen. The Vicar at the time Alec and he was pleased. Scaffold up, full faculty would cause a delay so the work was done and the archdeacon kept in the picture. They said it was authorized in the small works maintenance root. QI report Malcolm Craig was quoted as saying that stripping and recovering with fiberglass covering would cost in region of £500 which would be within small works limits and tower had no historic merit in email of 29 July 2014. Emails, full read out. Alan Davies stated Malcolm Craigwill have a full record of this. VR Explained that was not usual with the guidelines and would not come under small works but he would investigate the Archdeacons (his predecessor) record's, as they would have been kept at the time. Keith Butterfield asked ;- What did he want and do we know what the truth is?! Alen Davies Brought up pictures. Noted, Keith made point that fiberglass is laid as per specifications.	
		Christine Huell who has been in the church and who is checking on the water ingress.	

		Lucie We have been checking and it had dried in the summer. Not running the heating.	
		Keith plasterboard was put up before it was a listed building the plasterboard was pulled down to let the tower air.	
		No name given: - What efforts have been made to raise funds in the last 10 years? PCC explanation from Jim Webster, its not what the vicar has done, its what the PCC have done to fund raise. Rev Lucie Lunn made it clear she wanted to defended the PCC and all the works they do, not profession fundraising bodies, and PCC has changed. The church is seeing a national decline in attendance. No name:- Is this the first meeting to discuss the church? Rev Lucie Lunn stated Yes this is the first meeting and this is the point when we look at what we want, how do you want to use it and what is it for. We also need to look at how do we use and move forward for the building in the future.	
		Keith Butterfield why cant he go in and unblock the drain? Reply by revd lucie Lunn the building was closed on a safety recommendation, the tower has been deemed highly dangerous with lots of rotten wood by the surveyor and she cannot allow no certified and insured people to just go up and work on a building. Question repeated Why cant we get in and unblock the drain? Reply We want to take advise, and need to take safety into account. Keith Butterfield then stated that Alan Davies has been cutting the grass for 40 years and we should all be singing off the same hymn sheet! He also stated they have done “loads of work” on the church over the years.	
		Keith Butterfield, complained about the church wardens meeting that he came came to a meeting, don’t know about it, seem to get ridiculed. People walked off after the last meeting	
		Malcolm Rainer Inconsistencues in the report page 8 section 12 content of page 8, 5 catagories of works. Plater repair. Revd Lucie Lunn explained that was about a previous report and was standard part of the format that perhaps he had not understood.	
		Norrean Simple point regular attender and I love the church and attended regularly. Notices were put in	

		every house informing people if they did not attend church it would shut three yaers ago but it made no difference to people attending and the PCC had tried but it made no difference.	
		Shiela Thompson - Lived here 44 years	
		Janet Butland – has anyone asked the PCC if anyone from Gleaston has been asked to be on the PCC. Revd Lucie Lunn answered yes we asked for people to ask in the village for PCC members. When George Naismith was leaving he talked to people who might be interested and tried to get people to join but no one would. It was explained that there are legal requirements to be on the PCC. You need to attend church to be on the PCC, we can co-opt people, but the law states you cannot serve on PCC without being a communicant member of the church. Those who have stood down have struggled to replace them. This has been true across most of the churches and has resulted in the legal amalgamation into the bigger parish of Aldingham Dendron and Rampside to make the PCC viable and robust. Stated that the church needs tomove with the times and run more differently.	
		Vince from Aldingham – can we not take an action to clear a drain, seems odd to need £250,000 to keep it running LL We need to raise £500 to make it accessible £50,000 for regular reuse, £35000 within 2 years, some can be qualified Needs a realistic figures Venerable Vernon Ross explained that it was the PCC and Diocese and then the Church Commissioners who chooses to close the church	
		Paul Robley 23 years in parish not religious, it seems to be run like an individual business where do the church of England come into it. Venerable Vernon Ross explained, the Church of England pension fund is a cash rich, grants can be given for diocese but this one is not flush with cash, so it is up to PCC to raise funds for the church. The PCC is an individual charity with responsibility for the church.	
		Shalsbury – is there any update on the Sunday school room We do need to raise funds for the school room it needs maintaining , it is run by the PCC its separate to the church,	
		Malcolm Rainer, There is a safety issue for the parish room, the guttering is falling off, is there an issue and its been asked to be looked at.	

		Vera Wilson would the works be covered by the insurance LL it is not covered by the insurance and a builder has been asked to look at it, it will be followed up at the next PCC.	
		Keith Butterfield – the church has a trust fund with substantial money in it if the church goes, can we put it into the church – all the money was used. VVR and RLL explained that the trust fund was very carefully set up so that the funds could not be accessed for other than the stated aims and it could not be used on the church.	
		What happened with scales school room, VVR called the Barchester fund it cant be used for any other purpose	
		Julie Newman educational fund is it only used in the parish? RLL Its only used for pupils in the parish and those in Low Furness School. Julie Newman Does any one else in the parish benefit from that RLL No but it could be if it was wanted too. No Name-Does the Sunday school qualify for the money? VVR By and large it is only for education, cant draw down on the trust to mend the building. RLL When I saw the Sunday school room it could be a centre, we can look at the start of the possible. We need to bring in reason and purpose for the building.	
		Robert Wheatly restoration funds, say I have worked with Malcolm Craig, total trust for his judgement. If he recommended a solution I would be confident, and no one should question it. It is no use really on the PCC to raise the funds, PCC will never raise the funds, don't be daunted by £50,000 over last 10 years he has raised over £175000 on Aldingham church. Dozen of people you get the support from. Put it to one side and form a committee in conjunction with the PCC, forget about the funds they will be sealed, Lot of effort to do it, it is possible.	
		Joan We have a lot of people struggling to pay there way now it may be more of a problem.	
		VVR -Where do we move forward from here, if there is a will to do this and raise money? RLL Maintenance plan over winter.	
		Alan Davies – Maintenance work in the tower, finds it hard to believe the report. My knowledge if far better than any surveyor. No one asked me.	

		RLL:- Architect was asked if she wanted to talk to anyone and stated she preferred to look at it with her colleague with fresh eyes. It was also what she did in our other churches.	
		Keith Butterfield- We need to go up and do it. RLL Explained again that the PCC needs to look at this and have work done by suitably qualified and insured people.	
		Keith Barrow is full of odd jobbers, people in this room to do it what qualifications do we need?!	
		No Name: -Are there members of the PCC from all the parishs. RLL - Yes	
		VVR closed meeting thanking all for attending and said he would be around for conversations afterwards and then with a prayer for the King.	