

# St. Vigor's PCC Notes

## July 2022

The meeting took place on Tuesday 12th July at 2.30pm and commenced with prayers.

### Reports

#### Rector

The Rector was pleased to see some 30 people at June's open village meeting with regard to the future of St. Vigor's, chaired by The Archdeacon. A similar follow-up meeting is to be arranged. However, the decision on the future of the church as a worshipping community still rests with the PCC.

#### Wardens and Fabric

It is hoped to at long last install handrails on the steps in the near future.

#### Treasurer

As at the end of June, our General Fund stood at £5,418 (against January's opening balance of £3,179) and our Restricted Fund at £1,633. This healthy position is mostly attributable some £850 net Parochial Fees and to having reduced our contribution to the Parish Share from £680pm to £450pm. However, were our Parish Share based on current membership of 7, it would only be £337pm.

#### School

Year 6 have achieved brilliant SATS results, but the expected Ofsted inspection has not yet taken place.

### Churchyard Bench

The broken rail on the current bench has been fixed but in due course it is hoped that it will be replaced with a new one in memory of the late John Padfield, lifetime member of the church and longstanding chair of Stratton Parish Council.

## Opening St. Vigor's on Tuesdays

Now that two of the wall monuments have been reinstated and made safe, it is intended that St. Vigor's will be open to visitors on Tuesday's, following the 9am Morning Prayer service. At other times, we hope to be able to make a key available.

## Discussion – The Way Forward

St. Vigor's congregation is small in number, elderly and no longer able to fulfil the offices needed to run and maintain it. Essential repairs to the roofs and tower and other items have been estimated to cost some £150,000. Not so essential but still to be considered, further work to preserve the other and many monuments has been estimated at some £100,000. However, to make St. Vigor's a viable building, suitable for use far beyond one hour on Sundays only, requires access improvements and the installation of toilet and kitchen facilities, as well as new heating and electrics. In total, well over £1/2Million would be required.

With the congregation often only being three or four on a Sunday, our future as a worshipping community is under active consideration by the PCC. The open village meeting showed there is a desire to keep the building. However, to do so would require a sustained and long-term commitment to make it viable as a community asset.

No decision has been made yet but currently, the PCCs view is that, sadly, St. Vigor's will close as a worshipping community. However, we would look to maintain a Christian presence in the village.

Hopefully, St. Vigor's church will be taken on by another body and be available to visitors and for occasional services. Whatever the outcome, the churchyard will remain open for visitors.