

20 08 25 Extraordinary meeting of PCC by Zoom.

This meeting was called at short notice and therefore required a quorum of 9 members.

Present

1 Rosemary Bolton (Chair) 2 Colin Bird (Churchwarden) 3 Julia Gough (Churchwarden)

4 Mary Penny (Sec) 5 Ann Stephens-Jones 6 Nerine Chalmers 7 Shanti Gordon

8 Martin Penny (Director of Music) 9 Wendell Newbold

Proxy voters; Fiona Earle, Andrew Povey-Richards, Dorothy Toyn and Janet Bird.

Apologies; Rev Jo Loveridge Andrew Belfield and Cheryl Massey.

The meeting was opened with prayer, led by Mary Penny.

Rosemary thanked PCC for attending the meeting at short notice.

Colin explained that, although the General Reserves at All Saints have fallen from £28,000 at the start of the year to £10,000 because there has been no fundraising due to the enforced closure of churches, we had received a legacy whose use is restricted. This legacy of £23,000 is currently in the Music Development Fund awaiting appropriate use as it is restricted to the benefit of the Choir.

Martin then outlined the opportunity that had arisen. Churches as large as All Saints often own a box organ which is used as a flexible support/accompaniment as required around the building by the choir. As our choir has not worked during the months of silence while the church was closed and singing was forbidden, this subtle supporting sound would be well used as the choir rebuilds its stamina. These instruments are often seen at concerts and have been hired by users of All Saints at choral concerts. Martin had learned that Mander Organs, a long-standing firm of organ builders has closed and their box organs for hire were to be auctioned on Aug 26 2020. He suggested that this auction offered a suitable way of using some of the restricted legacy. In view of the short notice, Martin contacted Peter de Vile, our organ tuner who cares for the Willis at All Saints to ask advice. Peter informed Martin that he had been restoring a small box organ during the Lockdown and it was now for sale. Martin examined and played this instrument today and offered photographs and a recording of it. Being aware that lively interest in the former hire organs is evident, shown by the auction bids already climbing, he recommended to the PCC that if they wish to use some of the restricted legacy for a box organ then the small, newly restored one from our own builder might be the way forward. The price was fixed at £6,000 including delivery and fine tuning and a stool. We would thus pay no VAT or auction fees.

PCC asked questions regarding provenance and the quality of the box organ, and after a short discussion it voted unanimously to buy the instrument for All Saints.

There was a short prayer in conclusion of the meeting at 7.35.