

St John the Divine – Property Committee Report – September 8, 2017

Report to the Parish Council

The first item of business, following the adoption of our June 9, 2017 minutes, was the Financial Report. With our Secretary/Treasurer away, we had no financial report, however, a lively discussion ensued reference the allocation of the budget set aside for the Committee's use. The suggestion from our treasurer that the budget be broken down into categories (major property expenses and recurrent contracts, minor repairs and maintenance items, organ maintenance and music expenses, a contingency fund, project funds) so that the Committee can better track expenses was hotly debated. The opinion being that the Property Committee didn't need to worry about budgets that the Parish Council will fund the Committee's expenses was not shared by all members. The majority would like to responsibly plan and live within a budget. Incidentally, the categories were not approved, more work will be required.

Reviewing summer projects saw the completion of the painting of the Lytch Gate, removal of the squirrel infestation, repair of water leak, and a number of small repairs. To date the signage on the Quadra Street side of the Church is underway, the solution to the redesign of the area around the garden gate is not in hand, a work day (for committee members) is to be arranged to reinstall storm windows, and the Lighting Committee is making good progress.

Concern was raised about the security of the property and persons who live or visit the property. The suggestion from Penny Holt reference a conversation around security issues was strongly supported by the Committee.

In order to present a preliminary estimate of projects supported by the Committee for the 2018 fiscal year a general discussion ensued around what is and what is not the remit of the Property Committee. We were informed that the Parish Council has considered making the toilets on the main floor of the Parish House non-gender specific and that the PC has considered the placing of a ramp to the crypt. We had no specifics reference the toilets (which if we did we could implement), and considered the ramp to be a matter for the Redevelopment Committee. The projects we support are as follows:

- House lighting in nave, side isles and choir along with the necessary electrical up-grades.
- Pointing of exterior masonry, particularly on the south side of the church.
- Replacement of temporary staging in the Choir of the church with a permanent structure.
- In order to conserve water, the replacement of all toilets with low flush models.
- New appropriate exterior signage that reflects the current vision of St John's.
- Open a discussion around the imminent problem of what to do when the boiler fails and how this is funded.
- As the pest control expenditure is relatively high, look for alternative (s).
- Organ repair and restoration.
- In consultation with the Redevelopment Committee redevelop area around the garden gate, refurbishment of the crypt including washrooms and kitchen, access to Church basement and upper floor of Parish House.

Respectfully submitted: Andrew Gates, Chair