

St Lawrence Church, West Wycombe: Public Meeting – Monday 11 October 2021

Question and Answers

1. Who owns the St Lawrence Church building at present?
 - a. *When there is a vicar in place, the vicar is the freeholder of the vicarage and the church building. This is held in a corporate capacity in trust. During the current vacancy period, the churchwardens and area dean who hold the building during sequestration.*
2. Have there been any discussions with the National Trust or opportunity for any in the future about being part of managing St Lawrence Church?
 - a. *There hasn't been contact with the National Trust but options for all potential partnerships will be explored. At present the National Trust has not suggested that they are in a position to take on responsibility of the church.*
3. If a decision is made to close the church, will it be possible for the belfry to remain open as it has its own separate entrance?
 - a. *The church as a whole would be legally closed. It is permitted to close sections of a church building but it is not sustainable to keep a belfry open.*
4. Is the St Lawrence's Trust still in operation?
 - a. *The Trust has been dissolved and there are no funds left from this.*
5. What protection is there for the church if it is closed to protect from and prevent fire?
 - a. *The church has the appropriate comprehensive insurance policy with Trinitas including a policy to insure lead in the event of theft.*
6. Does the church meet the fire safety regulations for holding events?
 - a. *The church meets all fire safety regulations and is checked for compliance on a regular basis.*
7. If a decision is made to close the church building, will it still be possible to use the church yard for funerals?
 - a. *The church yard is a closed church yard so only ashes can be impaired there, this would not change if a decision was made to close the church building.*
8. If a decision is made for the church to become a festival church, would funerals for non-Christians be able to take place?
 - a. *The Church of England can offer a range of tones of funeral services to meet the needs of different people, but the church would still be a Church of England church, therefore any religious/worship service including a funeral would need to be identifiable as a Church of England service.*
9. Can the St Lawrence Trust be reactivated to provide a way for people to donate to support the church?
 - a. *The reestablishment of the ring-fenced fund is possible and will be explored as an option.*