



Christ Church

St Leonards on Sea

**Summary of the decisions of the PCC
meeting on the
Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham
(24.ix.24)**

1 – Parish Table Sales

The PCC thanked the current team of volunteers for all their hard work, and noted the welcome increase in funds raised with the extension to 12.30pm. They noted that it is clear that some volunteers do not wish to either extend hours further or move them later, to take advantage of the greater number of people around on Saturdays from midday onwards. However, there are some who do.

Therefore, the PCC has agreed to issue a fresh call for volunteers, especially with packing away and those who would be interested in working later in the day (post-midday), and encourage those who wish to stay on with additional activities and stalls to do so.

2 – Parish Heating & Energy Costs

Our current energy supplier deal expires this year, and from November we will be hit with an 80% increase in costs. In order to try to mitigate this the PCC has agreed:

- To use the newly-installed thermostat timers to limit heating of the church building to main services & events, rather than the previous constant heating.
- To ensure that external lettings are charged for heating at a rate which reflects our increased costs
- To pursue the offer of a Net Zero Energy Audit by the end of 2024, which will identify additional areas for savings and seed grant money.

3 – Clock Tower

The PCC approved the application for a Faculty for work to

- a) complete important safety works on the inside of the Clock Tower
- b) repair the broken mechanism

Each of these works will cost approximately £25,000 each (c.£50,000) in total: applications have been made to various grant-giving bodies, with decisions due in May 2025. If there is not enough to complete the cosmetic work (b) without needing to use church reserves, then the work will not go ahead.

4 – Church Lettings

A new and updated contract is being prepared for all external users of the church, to ensure that there is clarity on agreed booking start & end times, use of and access to the building, and respect shown for its sacred nature. These will come into force from Advent 2024, based on the Bookings Policy re-approved by the PCC.

5 – October Open Day

The PCC has agreed to support the offering of an Open Day on Saturday 26th October, at the start of the School Half Term which aims

- + To bring more people into Christ Church to see the building and our heritage, and to showcase what we do.
- + To interview attendees for the Community Audit and spread the word
- + To grow our volunteer pool for events

It will ideally include (dependent on volunteers)

- + Refreshments available
- + Heritage Tours
- + Heritage Explorers for children (using trail and packs from Heritage Engagement Project)
- + Organ Recital
- + Community Audit Stand/Display
- + Vesting for Mass demonstration
- + Displays from different Christ Church groups – Scouts, Cosy Crypt, Sunday School, Flower Arrangers, Damascus Runners, Monthly Sales, Wednesday Coffee etc.

6 – Advent Programme

The programme for Advent 2024 was endorsed by the PCC. The full programme will be published and advertised from November, but key dates include:

- **Saturday 7th December**
 - Christmas Sale
 - HPO Messiah
- **Sunday 8th December**
 - 6pm Taizé by Candlelight for the Immaculate Conception
- **Monday 9th December**
 - 7pm Sung Mass for the Immaculate Conception
- **Friday 13th December**
 - Christmas Quiz
- **Sunday 15th December** (Gaudete Sunday)
 - 6pm Carols around the Piano: Community Sing-a-Long
- **Saturday 21st December**
 - Rorate Mass (Dawn Mass)
- **Sunday 22nd December**
 - 6pm Nine Lessons & Carols
- **Tuesday 24th December**
 - Family Nativity & Midnight Mass

Advent Course: The Four Last Things – 12.30pm Sundays (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd)

7 – Finance

The PCC noted the ongoing struggle to increase both our planned giving and income more generally, which is both urgent and worrying.

The next PCC meeting at the end of November will have a focus on finance, considering ways to increase income, cut expenditure and allocate budgets for 2025.