



St. Luke's Church Hall Exeter Street

My name is Revd. Martin Poole and I am writing to let you know of some developments in relation to the church hall in Exeter street. I have been working here for just over a year getting to know the area and understanding all the issues which revolve around the church hall and after many discussions with the parochial church council we have decided to put the hall up for sale. This has been a difficult decision to make because we know that the hall is a greatly valued community resource but we plan to provide better, more appropriate facilities on the church site which I hope the community will grow to love as much as they currently do the hall.

I'm sure you're aware that there has been a lack of investment in the church hall for a number of years and that the building has deteriorated considerably. The hall is the responsibility of the congregation of St. Luke's and we simply do not have enough money to maintain the building properly. We would like to be able to provide the community with a safe, comfortable environment for a wide range of activities and it is not feasible for us to do this in the current building without considerable investment, investment which we cannot afford.

Our ideal is to sell the hall to someone who will keep it in community use and we have been in discussion with a local business to this effect. However, charity law compels us to realise the maximum revenue possible when we dispose of an asset and this means that we have to offer the hall on the open market. We have appointed a sales agent and are taking advice about the best way to structure the sale and will do all we can to ensure that the hall is sold for continued community use but we cannot rule out the possibility that a developer will offer the best price in which case we will have no choice but to sell it for development.

Our aim will be to invest all money from the sale in making the church on Old Shoreham Road a multiuser community building. It already is a flexible space which is used for a number of activities including a very successful mums, babies and toddler group on Thursday mornings and by BHASVIC for various events including exams. I'd like to invite you to come and see it for yourself and to let us know the kinds of facilities you would like to see in a community building in this area. I have started a Vicar's drop-in every Thursday evening from 7pm-8pm in church and am happy to facilitate visits at other times by arrangement. We will aim to provide a range of facilities including disabled toilet access, full kitchen facilities and a range of different sized rooms and workshops as well as a large communal space for youth groups, indoor sports, concerts, parties etc.

We will be holding a public meeting about the hall sale on Friday 23rd September in the hall and will be posting details of that on the hall noticeboard and around the parish. In the meantime please feel free to let me know your thoughts on this by emailing info@stlukesonline.co.uk or phoning the church on 557772.

We hope that this initiative will result in improved community facilities for Prestonville which will benefit all of us and help to foster and encourage an even better community spirit.