



Minutes of Extraordinary Parochial Church Council meeting

held in Rothley Parish Church 11th January 2020

Present:

Serena Cook, Mike Ferguson, Wendy Ferguson, Revd. Rob Gladstone, Alison Godfrey, Angela Neill, Margaret Offley, Jenny Pilbeam, Jonty Pilbeam, Linda Poole, Ray Prince, David Salt, Ros Taylor, David Wilson, Sue Wilson

Apologies:

Clive Jackson, Susan Pinkus

In attendance:

Ken Arkley (Church Buildings Improvements group), Dave Sharp (Novum Audio-Visual Ltd)

Rob welcomed everyone to the meeting and began with a prayer.

The purpose of the meeting was to further consider audio-visual equipment in order to address the issues raised by the congregation during the trial in September.

Mike introduced Dave Sharp before giving a brief reminder of the equipment used during the trial. 2x 65" LED screens were used; one placed on a stand to the north side of the dais and the other on a stand in the pulpit. 'Dummy' screens were also placed where smaller screens would be situated.

Dave bought 60", 55" and 42" screens to try – all were connected to laptops to display words of hymns. The 60" and 55" screens were both demonstrated on both sides of the dais. Different sizes of font were demonstrated on the 60" and 55" screens whilst making sure the words filled the screen.

PCC members spent a few minutes commenting on the trial equipment. Comments included;

- The church is not a concert hall so screens should be as unobtrusive as possible when they are being used. Possibly more screens but smaller would be better. Sheer size of trial screens may have frightened some people.
- Screens do need to be big enough.
- The main screens fold back against the wall when not in use.
- Size will determine the number of screens – if we go for smaller screens then more screens will be needed.
- Font size important – this needs to be big enough but we don't want to be displaying the next screen too often e.g. in middle of a hymn verse. This is awkward for the person controlling the system and distracting for the congregation.
- It is easier if screen changes occur verse by verse.
- Service leader shouldn't be controlling it.
- Need to work on a minimum of 8 lines of text; however 10 sometimes needed.
- Picture in trial didn't fill the whole screen – important to use whole screen.
- Some people will always prefer paper service sheets – we should retain that option.
- Rob commented that singing is significantly louder when hymn words are displayed on the screen because people's heads are up.
- Screen on the pulpit side will be positioned so the pulpit can still be used.

The PCC then spent some time walking around the church to view the three different sized screens from different places before coming back together for discussion.

Most discussion centred on size of the big screens and over the balance between the impact on aesthetics and the improved functionality which the system will give. It was questioned whether the 55" screen is big enough for an adequate font size to enable text to be seen comfortably. 8 lines of bold 44 point font size looks crowded so is at the limit of what can be achieved. There is not much difference aesthetically between 60" and 55" but 60" screen would add leeway and greater flexibility over font size.

There was some discussion with the PCC members who are also in the choir over whether it is necessary to have screens in the chancel. It was felt there would be good visibility of the 32" screens situated on the front pillars for the service leaders so chancel screens do not need to be installed at the beginning. However the faculty will include the chancel screens and the wiring put in place so they can be added in the future if necessary.

All screens will be hard-wired with cabling to follow existing cabling runs where possible. A small, black grapefruit-sized video camera with pre-set positions is also proposed.

David Wilson asked us all to think and pray very carefully about the trade-off between aesthetics and functionality. £25,000 is a lot of money and we need to trust that the Holy Spirit will guide us in our decision making.

Actions:

The PCC is asked:

1. To approve the installation of a multiple-screen solution to improve the audiovisual system.
To include up to seven screens;
 1. Two 60" LED screens, mounted on the pillars either side of the dais, with hinged brackets towards outer walls which will allow them to be pushed more out of sight when not in use.
 2. One 32" LED screen, mounted on the pillar on the south side of the cross aisle, under existing speaker to improve visibility for those of the congregation west of the cross aisle
 3. Two 32" LED screens visible to the service leaders and facing the chancel.
 4. Two 32" LED screens, one each side behind the chancel screen visible to the choir (initially wiring only)

Also to include a small controllable video camera.

2. To approve the cost of the installation, estimated to be under £25,000.
Updated quotes will be obtained from Novum (AV system) and Pratt (electrical wiring).
3. To approve funding from the legacy given by Pat Foulds.