

Brief Summary of a Public Meeting held at St. Winifrid's Church .14.03.2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Attendance: Stainton 17. Response Forms returned 13 [76%]
 Tickhill 8 Response Forms returned 0 (by request)

The meeting was called to order at 10.00 a.m. by Canon Paul who welcomed the attendees. The points covered in his introduction were:

- The future of St Winifrid's is a prominent Question Mark – '?'
- There is a need to address the reality here at Stainton.
- Presently worsened by theft of kerosene from storage tank.
- A significant 12th Century Grade 2 Listed Building hosting numerous weddings, Christenings and Funerals over the years
- A church serving a large geographical proportion of the overall parish of 'Tickhill with Stainton.'
- Current Service pattern is 9.15 a.m. on 1st Sunday of the month (possibly not the right one)
- Two Fabric Funds (as Trusts) to help cover repairs to the building.
- Significant regular on costs need to be met, from the local congregation. This income source is almost zero.
- We are meeting in the hope we can give St. Winifrid's a positive future here in Stainton. The opportunity now to hear from the attendees.

Input from those attending the meeting:

- Consideration should be given to the day and time for services which best suits the residents of Stainton.

- Possibility of a 'non-traditional, wedding venue, particularly focussed on the smaller gatherings; this also to include Christenings and 'Naming' events.
- Other possible uses of the building, including a charity donation centre, school visits, book clubs, pop up tea rooms linked to the village hall, choral society rehearsals, murder mystery events, bell ringing, church tower visits.
- A church key needs to be made available to those visiting the site.
- Is Lord Scarbrough aware of the current situation?
- Possibility for linking with the village hall to provide a wider 'community space.
- The Walking Nativity is very well supported 30-40 visitors.
- Sunday mornings for worship may not suit the families with children.
- Should consider diversity, most suited to the local community.
- Contact details are poor for those wanting to make bookings.
- There is no stand-alone website, the existing parish website is more closely focussed on Tickhill.
- Ideal for a 'boutique' wedding venue
- Have we contacted and taken advice from other 'smaller' churches- Loversall St. Katherine's?
- Bell ringing opportunities
- Maintenance of the church grounds has been extremely poor; there is however now a better aspect.
- Central venue for the 'litter picking teams' - venue to store their equipment.
- Facility to accommodate the cyclist visitors.
- Seasonal events should be e.g. Easter Egg/Peg Hunts
- Stainton Memorial Trust and its usage – (misunderstanding's do exist). There is Trustee vacancy which we are anxious to fill, affording valuable input from the local community.

- Large new housing estate within the parish – leaflet all the homes.
- PCC in May; the presence of residents from Stainton on this group would be extremely helpful.
- Is this type of meeting going to be a ‘One off’ or will it become a regular opportunity?
- Approach the Parish Council for support – to include making the churchyard a place to visit which is well planted and includes seats.

Use of ‘post it’ labels.

Canon Paul issued response forms and ‘post it’ labels for those present to adhere notes on the display boards, giving the quieter members of the group an opportunity to contribute to the meeting. Seven labels were completed and which included comments on the following (excluding those issues already debated:

- Good venue for local choir practices
- Efforts to be made to reduce the running cost of the church.
- Focus our attention on Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance Day, Christmas
- The creation of a Floral Team
- Musical interludes
- Inclusion of the elderly, housebound and children in the parish.
- Church connection with the quarries would help.

In closing the event, Canon Paul thanked all those who attended the meeting and provided a valuable input on how we might move forward making changes which will protect the future of St Winifrid’s. The meeting was closed in prayer at 11.00 a.m.

Phil Beavers

PCC Secretary

14.03.2026