**APCM 2022**

**St Leonard’s Church Hall**

At the beginning of 2021 bookings of the Church Hall were not permitted due to Covid. Now that the Covid restrictions have been lifted the bookings have greatly increased both from regular and individual hirers.

**Use of the hall for Church Activities**

The regular church groups using the hall include Little Fishes, Coffee Mornings and Holiday Club. Other church events that ran in 2021 include: the Jumble Sale in September, the Christmas Bazaar in November and the Christmas Lunch in December. In 2022 there has been a Men’s Breakfast as well as a Valentine Cream Tea in February and the 50/50 Auction in March.

**Regular Hirers**

During term time the hall is booked out every day to regular hirers and on some days it is booked out in the morning, afternoon, early evening and evening. However, the number of hirers reduces during the holidays as many of them run their groups during term time only.

The regular hirers include:

* Little Luvvies Ballet Class
* Step in Time Line Dancing
* Art Class
* Perform Children’s Drama Group
* Zest Pilates
* Jazzercise exercise class
* Leighton Buzzard Drama Society
* Leighton Buzzard Art Society
* Ragdoll Annas
* Sewing Class
* Carers in Bedfordshire
* Rollerdance
* Juke Box Junction
* Mother Nature Pilates

**Individual hirers**

The number of individuals hiring the hall has also improved with people using it for children’s birthday parties, christening parties, wakes, meetings, ballroom dancing and band practice.

The majority of users abide by the Hall’s Terms and Conditions. However there have been several occasions when this has not been the case which has meant additional work for the cleaner. Consequently part of their £100.00 damages deposit has been deducted.

**Maintenance**

New heaters were installed in December by a local electrical firm, Steve McGiff. Many of the regular hirers have said how good it is that the hall is so warm now but some have complained saying that the heating goes off so the hall becomes cold. The hall administrator has had to alter the heating regularly so that it is at the optimum temperature for everyone.

It has been suggested that CCTV cameras are installed inside and outside the hall to monitor hirers and to deter potential intruders. However there may be legal ramifications from doing so therefore this needs to be investigated further.

**Pricing and Marketing**

The hourly price was increased at the beginning of 2022 from £12.50 an hour to £15.00 to keep in line with increased costs and to cover the cost of running the new heaters. This increase does not seem to have deterred many hirers. Regular hirers continue to receive a 10% discount.

The majority of people enquiring about the hall have been using the booking form on the hall website

**Suggestions for the future**

The number of bookings for the hall continues to rise but there is still scope to increase them further by:

* sending flyers to local groups and schools
* advertising in free papers and magazines distributed in Leighton Buzzard and surrounding areas
* putting posters in local shops particularly on the new housing estate.

During 2022 there are also plans for increased usage of the hall by different church groups such as the Seasonal Lunches.