



Grief As 900-Year-Old Village Church Faces Closure

About 30 people turned up for a meeting to discuss the future of St. Paul's Church in Staverton on Tuesday evening.

A proposal was put forward to close the church in June as it is facing mounting maintenance costs combined with a dwindling congregation.

The meeting was chaired by Archdeacon of Wiltshire John Wraw and an outline of the situation at the 900-year-old church was given by the Rev Stephen Ball.

Christine Romano, pastoral and patronage secretary and trusts officer for the Salisbury Diocese, along with Richard Trahair, secretary to the archdeaconry's properties committee, also explained the situation and the possible procedures for closure.

It is now up to the parochial church council to decide what the future of the church is.

Catherine Warr, lay minister at St Paul's, said: "There was grief from the members of the public there that the building might not have any future use and great grief from members of the church who want to see it continue to be used as a place of worship.

"But the immediate and long term costs are daunting, they really are quite tremendous."

She added that any groups wanting to suggest other uses for the building instead of seeing it close, must have a clear business plan.

An 18-month consultation period will now take place before the church would close.

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