

**Milly Southworth**

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**From:** Christine <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 13 March 2025 23:45  
**To:** Milly Southworth  
**Subject:** Town Council Meeting 20th March 2025  
**Attachments:** Cornerstone Church Appeal.docx

Dear Mayor Gary Davis and Councillors of Torpoint Town Council,

Attached are details of the problems facing Cornerstone Church.

We would be grateful of your support in any way possible to help us keep this important building, in the middle of Town, in use for the benefit of the people of Torpoint.

Myself, my husband Bob and Claire Briggs (nee Widdicombe) will attend the council meeting as representatives of Cornerstone, there may be others attending, but unfortunately our minister Rev Al Lowe and Steve Martin are unable to attend as they have an important circuit meeting in Plymouth.

Kind regards

Christine Cross

## An appeal on behalf of Cornerstone Church in Fore Street.

Cornerstone Church is a grade 2 listed building in the centre of the Community and Torpoint Town shopping area. It is under threat of closure.

A brief history of the Church. It was built 1795 after John Wesley preached on the banks of the Tamar. Then extended into an adjacent house in 1908. It became Grade 2 Listed in March 1986. It is the oldest Church in Torpoint. The United Reformed Church members and Methodist Church members United and became Cornerstone on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1987 first worshipping together in Rowe street, then choosing to refurbish the Methodist building in Fore street as it was in a better position in the Community.

Methodist Property division have commissioned surveys of all their Churches, called Quinquennial reports. Work needing doing are categorised as Urgent, plus within 12 months, plus within 5 years. We have limited funds and are concentrating on the Urgent items including any items to make sure that our insurance is valid. Most of this has been achieved. One item outstanding is the decorative plasterwork above the Fore Street entrance doors. A crack in one small part needs to be filled. This is difficult as it is very high up. It might be possible to do this with a cherry picker?

Because we are a listed building it means everything costs a lot more, the works needing to be done to the fabric of the building are numerous and would involve scaffolding surrounding the building, which is very expensive.

The building has a lot of good things going for it. We have a sound roof. Recent drone photos show this plus our gutters are clear. There is a shoe caught in gutter on Fore street side! We have a new central heating boiler, disabled access and toilets, plus a new overhead projector and sound system. We are hoping to receive some stacking chairs to use in the main Church, this will make this area more flexible for future use.

The building is available for use by the community. We hold regular coffee mornings on Saturdays with warm space for many people to meet up with friends, encouraging disabled members of the community to join us. We have between 50-60 people attending. This is also used by various organisations to host their coffee mornings. The lady singers and Ferryboat entertainers regularly practice in our building and Carbeile Junior school hold part of their religious education by attending two days in the run up to Easter and usually hold their Nativity Play in Cornerstone at the Switching on of the Christmas Lights. Churches together also provide hot chocolate at the same event using our premises. The closure of this Church would be a great loss to the Community.

A group of us are working together to hopefully get some of this work done. Claire Briggs (nee Widdicombe) is leading the fundraising. Steve Martin is handling the property and work needed and Liz Parker with the aid of Sandra Pratt is applying for Grants.

The estimate of costs we have asked the surveyor to break down for us are as follows.

1. £53,620 plus VAT and fees = £77,856.24. Repair decorative shield over entrance, check slate catch area and replace fascia board on rear separate

elevation.

2. £77,386.50 plus VAT and fees = £112,365.20. Omitting work to lead lights, plus only repairs and decoration to 1<sup>st</sup> floor windows. No wall decoration apart from repaired wall at rear.
3. £125,352.70 plus 1.5% contingency plus VAT and fees. Estimated £170,000.

Item 3 is the total cost if all done at once. The surveyor has told us that doing things piece meal as we are suggesting is more costly in the long term? We don't have any other option as we don't have the money required.

We are asking for the Town Council's support in any way that you can help us. We realise that finances are tight for everyone and you are responsible for tax payers money, but any way you can consider of helping us would be gratefully received. You might have ideas that we haven't thought of?

Kind regards

Christine Cross (Secretary)