

Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St James, Bishampton – held at the church on April 16, 2013 at 7pm

Present: Trustees: Martin Dickinson, Pat Smith, Martin Wilkinson, William Dobie, Paddy Hartley, and Eric Carter.

Members: Mary Averis, Sue Ellis, Rev Clive Fairclough, Marion Gough, Peter Jesson, Gordon Kingston Jill Nash, Victoria Poole, Mike and Rosemary Rickard, Geraldine Stapley and Brenda Wilkinson.

Minute No: 1/2013 Apologies

Sally Showell, Thelma Barnet, Pat Burrage, Steve Dowling and Bill Ellis.

Minute No: 2/2013 – Chairman’s Report

Martin Dickinson said that in the 20 months since the Friends were formed, 59 households had become members and he thanked them for their support and donations. New heating had been installed after £4,500 was raised and donated to the church council. Fund raising for 2012 included a folk evening, a quiz night and Christmas celebrations in the church. The Friends he said had also organised a number of weekend cleans in the churchyard and organised the installation of a Christmas tree for the church tower. Thanks went to John Mallins and Linda and Tom Rimmel of Smartcut for their donations and help. Roy Scriven was also thanked for repairs to the wall collection box. This year he said a Poems and Pints evening raised £500, and Worcester Brass Band raised funds for the Friends and the local Air Ambulance. Looking forward, he said he hoped villagers would support an Antiques road show style evening in May. He said the Friends had obtained a grant from the Laslett’s charity for £1,500 for church improvements and has applications pending with the Rowlands Trust and Wychavon for grants to construct the outbuilding and improve the main pathway to the church. He thanked the Trustees for their support and especially the retiring treasurer Martin Wilkinson.

Minute No: 3/2013 – Minutes of a Special General Meeting held on January 24th, 2013.

They were agreed as a correct record by Geraldine Stapley and seconded by Peter Jesson.

Minute No: 4/2013 – Accounts for the period ended December 31st, 2012 and Independent examiner’s report.

Martin Wilkinson presented the accounts, (see attached) Throughout the year, he said, the Friends had raised £7,702. Of that £4,800 had gone to the PCC to help with building maintenance and phase one – heating the church and providing a water supply and refreshment area.

He said on January 1st the Friends had £1,588 in the current account. By March 27th the total had increased to £3,127, following two successful fundraising activities. He pointed out that the Friends had resolved to always keep £1,000 in the bank as a contingency fund.

Bill Dobie proposed the accounts which were seconded by Geraldine Stapley.

Minute No 5/2013 – To reappoint Simon Cosson ACA as Independent Examiner.

This was agreed by those present.

Minute No 6/2013 – Reappointment of Trustees

Martin Dickinson, Pat Smith, William Dobie, Paddy Hartley and Eric Carter were reappointed Trustees after they were proposed and seconded by Victoria Poole and Sue Ellis.

Minute No 7/2013 - Address by Andrew Mottram, Heritage, Buildings and Community Development officer for the Worcester Diocese.

Mr Mottram congratulated the Friends for all the work and fundraising carried out in just over 12 months. He said the new heating system and the refreshments area at the back of the church had made an enormous difference, and he was glad to see the Victorian tiles exposed now the old carpet had been removed. Mr Mottram said he now looked forward to the Friends and PCC holding events which included food and drink, which would have taken place many years ago. Also the installation of a toilet block, which would be a bonus to those booking the church facilities in future. Mr Mottram added that he may use St James Church and the Friends charity as an example to other church communities in the Diocese.

Minute No. 8/2013 – Status of Building Works

Victoria Poole, villager and architect for the church project, said the progress so far was the result of everyone working together. Phase II which would see a new toilet block in the car park, was the next priority. She added that an anonymous donor had granted the Friends £4,000 to carry out urgent electrical repair work. She said she was also trying to get permission from the Faculty to re-decorate the church interior before a wedding was to take place but church leaders were being slow in replying to her request. Mr Mottram advised that Victoria should contact the chancellor directly.

Minute No 9/2013 – Fundraising initiatives and proposals

Peter Jesson said how much he had enjoyed the brass band concert. Sue Ellis suggested a village garage boot sale with residents erecting stalls outside their houses.

Victoria said there were church pews up for sale, and a Festival of Churches and the History Group were holding events in the church later in the year.

Minute No 10/2013 – Any Other Business

Following a series of vandalism in nearby churches, the question of whether CCTV cameras was needed to be installed at St James' as a precaution. Mr Mottram said providing all valuables had been removed there was still a very slim chance of Bishampton 's church being targeted, and less chance of costly repair work if it is kept unlocked.

Victoria announced that Eric Carter had stepped down from the PCC, and thanked him for his enormous contribution to the committee over the years.

There was no further business, and the meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed: