

The second Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St James, Bishampton – held at the church on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 7pm

Present: Trustees: Martin Dickinson, Pat Smith, Paddy Hartley, and Ian Hughes.

Members: Jennie Dickinson, Rev.Clive Fairclough, Marion Gough, Jill Nash, Victoria Poole, Geraldine Stapley, Delia Harding and Lesley Miller.

Minute No: 11/2014 - Apologies

Bill Dobie, Wendy Wiggett, Eric Carter, Mike and Rosemary Rickard, Sally Showell, Thelma Barnet, Steve Dowling, Sue Ellis and Martin and Brenda Wilkinson.

Minute No: 12/2014– Minutes the AGM held on April 16th 2013.

They were agreed as a correct record by Clive Fairclough and seconded Geraldine Stapley.

Minute No: 13/2014 – Chairman's Report

The chairman reported on the years events, all of which had been very successful and particularly thanked Barry Griffin for organising the Christmas Celebration and SmartCut for providing the Christmas tree for the tower. He went on to detail the events planned for this year including the Harvest Supper and a Summer Ball.

Membership had increased from 59 to 80 over the year and Martin welcomed Wendy Wiggett and Ian Hughes who were elected as trustees during the year.

In the last year the Friends had made a donation of £6,000 towards the improved lighting in the church and a further £4,200 together with a £2,000 grant from the Rowlands Charity towards the removal of the electricity pole so that the toilet building could be constructed. A further grant of £10,000 had been obtained from Severn Waste (landfill) through Welcome to Our Future towards the toilet building. Stringent efforts were now under way to raise the rest of the money for the building so that work could commence by the end of the year.

Martin thanked the trustees for their hard work over the year and particularly Pat Smith (secretary) and Paddy Hartley who were standing down.

Minute No: 14/2014 – Treasurer's Report

In his absence the treasurer had submitted a report of the finances until the end of 2013 which had been approved by the independent examiner which was accepted. It was noted that the Friends were holding a donation of £2,500 which had been made towards the North Door project.

Jennie Dickinson queried the difference claimed in non gift aided donations from 2012 to 2013, i.e., £683 in 2012 compared with £264 for this year. Ian Hughes, who was deputising for the treasurer, Eric Carter, said it was most probably because part of the rebate may not have been received for this year yet.

Minute No: 15/2014 – Issues concerning Gift Aided Donations

The treasure had issued a statement by which he drew members attention to the fact that when re-claiming Gift Aid from donations this could only be done on an individual basis. A donation by a member on behalf of a partner is not eligible for gift aid.

Minute No: 16/2014 – Issues regarding Membership

The chairman asked those present whether they thought membership of the Friends should be restricted to only those who made regular annual donations. Victoria thought it was a sensible idea and Martin agreed to put the matter on the agenda for the next meeting of the Friends for further discussion.

Minute No: 17/2014 – Ideas for Fundraising

There were various ideas for fundraising, including the vicar's suggestion of a performance of Murder in the Cathedral. Victoria suggested a pop concert and a monthly soup drop -in for touring cyclists. She emphasised the need for the church to be used for as many different activities and events as possible. The Vicar said "anything goes" as far as the diocese was concerned.

Minute No 18/2014 – Election of Trustees

The following trustees were elected Martin Dickinson, Eric Carter, Wendy Wiggett, Bill Dobie and Ian Hughes. Paddy Hartley and Pat Smith retired and were thanked by the chairman for their efforts over the past two years. He said he was eager to recruit replacements as soon as possible.

Minute No 19/2014 - Appointment of the independent examiner for the accounts for 2014.

It was unanimously agreed to re-appoint Simon Cosson.

Minute No. 20/2014 – Status of Building Works

Victoria Poole, architect in charge of the whole regeneration project, said the telegraph pole in the car park was soon to be removed and the ugly electrical points at the back of the church had gone.

She agreed to get a concrete base laid for the toilet block this month to comply with a major grant application. Victoria also suggested to committee members to investigate equipment grants that may be available for such items as projection screens and audio equipment.

Minute No 21/2014 – Any Other Business

The vicar thanked the Friends for their support once again and said the partnership between church and village had become closer as a result.

There was no further business, and the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed:

Dated: