

**The Third Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St James, Bishampton
held at the church on Monday, 30th March 2015 at 7:30pm**

Present:

Trustees: Martin Dickinson (Chairman), Ian Hughes, Geraldine Stapley, Lesley Miller, Wendy Wiggett, Howard Morrish, Bill Dobie & Eric Carter (Treasurer)

Members: Jennie Dickinson, Jill Nash, Victoria Poole, Delia Harding, Steve Dowling, Brenda Wilkinson, Martin Wilkinson, Graham Whitehead, Belinda Whitehead, Gordon Kingston, Thelma Barnett, Basil Barnett, Paddy Hartley, David Izod & Mike Rickard.

Guest Speaker: Andrew Mottram - Heritage Buildings and Community Development Officer for the Diocese of Worcester.

Minute No: 16/2015 - Apologies

Rev. Clive Fairclough, Bill Ellis, Sue Ellis, Gill Griffin, Barry Griffin, Marion Gough, Dawn Hubbard, Pat Smith & Diana Sanders

Minute No: 17/2015– Minutes the AGM held on April 8th 2014.

They were proposed as a correct record by Ian Hughes, seconded by Delia Harding and agreed unanimously.

Minute No: 18/2015 – Chairman's Report

The chairman gave a report on the year's events and a copy is attached as Appendix A.

Minute No: 19/2015 – Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented the end of year accounts for 2014 with comments as attached as Appendix B. He also reported that the account currently held £11,848 which included £5,000 of the £10,000 awarded by Welcome to our Future for the facilities building.

Martin Wilkinson asked for clarification on the funding for the facilities building. Eric Carter reported that the Laslett's Charities grant of £2,000 would be paid directly to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and that the PCC would also be drawing down a further £5,000 from the Abberton Spire Fund. This together with the monies held by the Friends, the further £5,000 from Welcome to our Future payable on completion and the £7,030 already paid to the PCC would cover the cost of the work.

Minute No: 20/2015 – Proposed constitution amendment for a membership fee

Eric Carter explained that the prime reason for the proposed introduction of a membership fee was because, currently, the constitution provided anyone over 18 years to become a lifelong member by making a donation. The concern was that the membership list could, in the future, contain a large number of non-participating members whom it could prove difficult to circulate information to and may make it difficult to form a quorum for a general meeting. This was accepted but after some discussion it was felt that introducing a membership fee could increase administration and that there may be better ways to deal with issue which, for the present, was not a significant problem.

Ian Hughes proposed that due to the non-urgency of the situation '*The proposed amendment be withdrawn and that the trustees discuss the issue and report back at the next general meeting*'. This was seconded by Graham Whitehead and agreed by 21 members with 1 abstention.

Minute No: 21/2015 – Approval of the membership fee

This item was no longer relevant as the constitutional amendment was not approved.

Minute No: 22/2015 – Ideas for Fundraising

The chairman asked if there were any future ideas which the Friends might use for fundraising.

Eric Carter said that in the future the Friends hoped to enrol members in a “Give as you Live” scheme whereby on-line purchases attracted a small payment to the charity at no cost to the purchaser.

Victoria Poole reported that the Friends should shortly be receiving some monies from Jelly Pickle Jam as a charitable donation for fruits which she had supplied to them from her garden.

Delia Harding expressed disappointment that the PCC were unable to raise sufficient support to run the Village Fete this year. The chairman acknowledged that it was too late to organise the event this year but that it might be something that the Friends could consider supporting in the future.

Jennie Dickinson suggested that a “Progressive Supper” could be an event which the Friends might like to consider.

Minute No 23/2015 – Election of Trustees

Martin Dickinson proposed that Ian Hughes be elected chairman of the Friends and this was seconded by Bill Dobie and unanimously agreed.

Ian Hughes took the chair and the following trustees were proposed by Delia Harding, seconded by Victoria Poole and agreed unanimously. Ian Hughes, Wendy Wiggett, Geraldine Stapley, Howard Morrish, Lesley Miller and Eric Carter.

Ian Hughes made a vote of thanks and presentation to the departing chairman Martin Dickinson and trustee Bill Dobie.

Eric Carter was proposed as joint treasurer and secretary by Ian Hughes, seconded by Howard Morrish and supported unanimously.

Minute No 24/2015 - Appointment of the independent Examiner of the accounts for 2015.

Eric Carter proposed Simon Cosson who had done an excellent job for the past 3 years without making a charge for his services. This was seconded by Ian Hughes and agreed unanimously with due thanks to Simon.

Minute No. 25/2014 – Other Business

Delia Harding reported that the PCC were very grateful to the Friends for all their work and support over the past year. As a result of the improvements and increased interest in the church numbers were increasing at Church services.

There was no further business, and the formal meeting closed at 8.47.pm and was followed by an interesting talk by Andrew Mottram who reported on the positive impression that Bishampton had created as a village that works together to get things done.

Signed:

Dated:

APPENDIX A

Chairman's Report for Friends of St James - Bishampton 2015

For AGM March 30th 2015

The year has been extremely busy but together with members/trustees and friends who have supported us we have achieved a great deal. Membership a year ago was 80 and has only increased marginally. However, it is our intention to have a further campaign in the village to encourage membership which will guarantee, we can continue to maintain and improve this church building.

Your donations and standing orders make a big difference, to have a regular income coming in along with donations we receive from other sources. Eric, our Treasurer, will go into the detail but the charity achieved over £4,200 in donations over the year.

From other charities and trust funds we raised over £18,650 which will go towards the £27,000 for the facilities building that that is nearing completion. This will enable the church building to become not only a place of religion but also also a beautiful building that can be used for concerts, medieval banquets etc.

When this facilities building is completed we have further projects like the path, painting the church inside, improved lighting and ,repairing windows. In addition we will work with the PCC and Villagers to agree a further list of priorities.

During the year our list of trustees has changed and we welcomed Lesley Miller and Howard Morrish to our group. Geraldine Stapley, who has been on our committee since the formation of friends, also became a trustee during 2014 .We would be delighted if any of our members would like to join the committee, they do not need to become a trustee.

We have held several successful fundraising social events that are always well attended. Starting with the Summer Ball which was a great success and we intend repeating on June 20th this year.

Another major success was the idea put forward by Bill Dobie supported by Rob Preston for the Battle of Britain talk in September in the church which was packed for the event . This contributed significantly to our funds. Bill is also planning another talk in September – watch this space.

Our Harvest Supper was a sell out and we used a local group Kings and Folk to entertain us which was well appreciated.

With some difficulty we managed to put up the Christmas tree on the tower which appears to be really appreciated by the village – many thanks to Smart Trees.

At Christmas over 80 people attended our Christmas celebrations in the church with a full choir recruited mostly locally and led by Helen Izod. Thanks also to Barry Griffin who prepared and MC'd the event.

Finally we recently put on our Curry and Quiz night in February with our new professional quizmaster Mark Platts creating a stimulating evening.

Overall a successful social year raising well over £2k after costs.

During the year we have made several donations to St James and the PCC. The major one, just over £7k, for the removal and transfer of the electricity pole in the car park to enable the facilities building to be built.

We were awarded a grant of £10k from Welcome to my Future (Severn Waste) towards the toilet facility plus another grant of £2k. We plan to raise a further £2k in social events during the year.

We are planning to celebrate with a Harvest Festival in October and a "Celebration and Readings" in December.

The really good news is the church is being used for non secular activities such as a private function of a Medieval Banquet, Fashion Show and Little Pippins again had their Christmas party in the church. Recently another Scalextric Day was attended by many villagers. All of which have been really successful. Church attendances for services have continued to improve during the year which is good news.

I cannot finish without thanking the committee and trustees who have worked so hard over the last 12 months on both the social events, and obtaining grants from the various organisations. Particular thanks to Eric for all his hard work as both treasurer and Hon. Sec. After 3 years of great support Bill Dobie has decided to step down as a trustee but continue to support as a member – he has contributed greatly to FOSJ with support setting up the charity and the original quiz night and Battle of Britain these were Bill's ideas – many thanks.

On a personal note I have decided to step down as chairman and a trustee but intend to remain active member supporting FOSJ. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges of setting up the charity with my fellow trustees and creating funds to improve and maintain the building but I am a strong believer that having a new chairman will create fresh ideas, and take FOSJ forward to continue the success we have already achieved.

Finally can I thank all of you for coming tonight and your continued support over the last three years and hopefully in the future.

We are always looking for members to come and join us because we do have fun. Come and join us.

Thank you

Martin Dickinson Chairman

APPENDIX B

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES BISHAMPTON 2014

(Registered charity number: 1149912)

The following served as trustees during the year. All existing trustees were re-appointed at the AGM held on 8th April 2014 with the exception of Mrs Pat Smith and Mr Paddy Hartley who did not wish to continue. Three new trustees were appointed during the year.

Mr Martin Dickinson (Chairman)
Mrs Pat Smith (Secretary until 8th April 2014)
Mr Eric Carter (Treasurer & Secretary from 8th April 2014)
Mr William Dobie
Mr Paddy Hartley (Trustee until 8th April 2014)
Mr Ian Hughes
Mrs Wendy Wiggett
Mr Howard Morrish (Trustee from 28th April 2014)
Mrs Lesley Miller (Trustee from 12th May 2014)
Mrs Geraldine Stapley (Trustee from 6th October 2014)

The objective of the charity is to enable the restoration, preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement and development of St James Church Bishampton.

The charity received £4,218 in donations over the year of which £2,526 were from regular standing orders. A large family donation of £1000 was received towards the Facilities Building but was initially issued from the wrong account and was refunded in exchange for a cheque for the correct account. A donation of £25 was made towards repairing the main pathway to the church. An amount of £1,558 was recovered from HMRC as Gift Aided donations made in 2013.

A number of successful fund raising events generated a further £2,637. The Harvest Supper was a shared activity with the Parochial Church Council who received £248 from the event. The Casino Evening was cancelled due to lack of resources needed to support the event.

Grants were obtained from the Rowlands Charity for £2,000, Allchurches Trust for £650, Garfield Weston Foundation for £3,000 and Edward Cadbury Trust for £1,000 all for assistance in developing the facilities building. In addition Severn Waste, through Welcome to Our Future, have promised £10,000 and Lasletts Charities a further £2,000 which will be paid directly to the Parochial Church Council.

Throughout the year, the charity has paid a grant of £7,521 to the Parochial Church Council to enable removal of the electricity pole so that the facilities building can be constructed. It also contributed £768 towards architects fees associate with this and previous electrical work. A further £2,500 was paid to the Parochial Church Council towards the reinstatement of the north door from restricted funds in Friends of St.James accounts specifically donated for this project.

At 31 December £11,356 was held in the bank and as cash of which £5,674 is restricted and from which £1,000 will be held as a reserve to cover the organisation of events etc.

The target figure for constructing the Facilities Building was reached in November and work should commence early in 2015. Costs have risen slightly and the Friends will be working in 2015 to assist the Parochial Church Council in covering the small deficit.

Eric Carter, Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 2014
THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES BISHAMPTON
(Registered charity number:1149912)

Receipts and Payments Account

| | 2014 | | | | 2013 | |
|--|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|---------------|
| | Non-Restricted | | Restricted | | £ | £ |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | | |
| Receipts | | | | | | |
| <i>Donations</i> | | | | | | |
| Gift Aided Donations | 2,695 | | 1,024 | | 6,727 | |
| Gift Aid recovered from previous year | 1,558 | | | | 264 | |
| Non Gift Aided Donations | 499 | | 1,000 | | 3,126 | |
| Total | 4,751 | | 2,024 | | | 10,116 |
| <i>Grants</i> | | | | | | |
| Grant 1 Rowlands Charity | | | 2,000 | | | |
| Grant 2 Allchurches Trust | | | 650 | | | |
| Grant 3 Garfield Weston Foundation | | | 3,000 | | | |
| Grant 4 Edward Cadbury Trust | | | 1,000 | | | |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 6,650 | | | 0 |
| <i>Fund Raising</i> | | | | | | |
| General | 0 | | | | 66 | |
| Casino Night (Poems and Pints) | 0 | | | | 650 | |
| Summer Ball (Brass Band Concert) | 3,173 | | | | 502 | |
| BofB Talk (Antiques Quiz) | 1,237 | | | | 1,147 | |
| Harvest Supper(Harvest Supper) | 1,183 | | | | 1,030 | |
| Xmas Celebration (Xmas Celebration) | 79 | | | | 159 | |
| Total | 5,672 | | 0 | | | 3,553 |
| <i>Receipts from Investments</i> | | | | | | |
| Bank and other Interest | 0 | | | | 0 | |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Other incoming Resources</i> | | | | | | |
| Reclaim VAT | 0 | | | | | |
| Insurance claim | | | | | | |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 0 |
| Total Receipts | 10,424 | | 8,674 | | | 13,669 |
| Payments | | | | | | |
| <i>Grants - PCC</i> | | | | | | |
| Architects Fees | 768 | | | | 800 | |
| Building maintenance | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| North Door (Anonymous Donation) | 0 | | 2,500 | | 0 | |
| Movement of Electricity Pole | 5,521 | | 2,000 | | 0 | |
| Toilet (Church Lighting) | 0 | | 0 | | 4,500 | |
| Total | 6,289 | | 4,500 | | | 5,300 |
| <i>Cost of Fund Raising</i> | | | | | | |
| General – grant admin fee | 312 | | | | 10 | |
| Casino Night – Cancelled (Poems and Pints) | 26 | | | | 111 | |
| Summer Ball (Brass Band Concert) | 1,701 | | | | 229 | |
| BoB Talk (Antiques Quiz) | 519 | | | | 466 | |
| Harvest Supper (Harvest Supper) | 688 | | | | 438 | |
| Xmas Celebration (Xmas Celebration) | 101 | | | | 71 | |
| Total | 3,347 | | 0 | | | 1,325 |
| <i>Other Outgoings</i> | | | | | | |
| Insurance | 237 | | | | 233 | |
| Harvest Supper to PCC (Harvest Supper to PCC) | 248 | | | | 296 | |
| Admin Expenses | 49 | | | | 83 | |
| Gratuities | 75 | | | | | |
| Refunded donation (donor paid from wrong account)) | | | 1,000 | | | |
| Total | 608 | | 1,000 | | | 612 |
| Total Payments | 10,244 | | 5,500 | | | 7,237 |
| Surplus of Receipts over Payments | | 180 | | 3,174 | | 6,433 |
| Bank current account and cash at 1 January | | 5,502 | | 2,500 | | 1,569 |
| Bank current account and cash at CURRENT | | 5,682 | | 5,674 | | 8,002 |

TOTAL BANK ACCOUNT & CASH **£11,356**

Note:

Gift Aid recoverable - to be claimed 930
Gift Aid recoverable - claimed and unpaid
The available Bank & Cash funds include one debit for £108 which has not yet been presented (Cheque 057)
A donation of £1,000 was paid and banked from an account in error and refunded to the donor

E.D.Carter -Treasurer