

**The Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St James, Bishampton
held at the church on Monday, 11th April 2016 at 7:30pm**

Present:

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

Members: Steve Dowling, Delia Harding, Gordon Kingston, Jill Nash, Mike Rickard, Belinda Whitehead, Graham Whitehead, Brenda Wilkinson and Martin Wilkinson

Guest Speaker: Rev Garry Noyes

Minute No: 23/2016 - Apologies

Rev. Janice Ward, David Ward, Bill Ellis, Sue Ellis, Marion Gough, Basil Barnett, Thelma Barnett and Bill Dobie

Minute No: 24/2016– Minutes the AGM held on March 30th 2015

They were proposed as a correct record by Geraldine Stapley, seconded by Lesley Miller and agreed unanimously.

Minute No: 25/2016 – Matters Arising

The chairman reviewed the issue of maintaining a membership list of members who were seen as currently active in supporting the Friends and of having a mechanism for removing members who no longer interested. He stated that the trustees were suggesting that they would write to anyone who had not made a donation to the Friends over a period of three years and ask them if they wished to remain on the membership list. In the event of a none response they would cease to be members.

This would require a constitutional amendment which would be brought forward at the next General Meeting. This action was supported by a proposal from Martin Dickinson, seconded by Howard Morrish and unanimously supported.

Minute No: 26/2016 – Chairman's Report

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

Mike Rickard wished to extend thanks on behalf of the Bishampton History Society for the support offered by the Friends at the Heritage Open Day last September.

Minute No: 27/2016 – Treasurer’s Report

The treasurer presented the end of year accounts for 2015 with comments as attached as Appendix B.

It was noted that there is a slight rounding error on the non-restricted funds held at the end of year in that the “Surplus of receipts over Payments” was actually £2091.66, the “Bank current account and cash at 1st January 2015” was actually £5681.44 resulting in a “Bank current account and cash at current” of £7773.10 (not £7774 as shown on the sheet). The restricted funds for “Bank current account and cash at current” are in fact £978.80 so the “Total Bank Account and Cash” is £8751.90 (ie. correct at £8752).

The treasurer stated that at the last bank statement on 2nd March 2016 the Friends held £10,437 of which £979 was in restricted funds. He went on to point out that the Friends had promised the Parochial Church Council sums of £2,880 towards the car park improvement, £1,500 towards refurbishment of the bells and £250 for a security camera. Added to which the Friends were putting forward £6,500 as match funding towards applying for a grant of £10,000 from Welcome to Our Future for repair work to the church pathways. The net result is that the Friends are running close to their limit on available funds and assuming the grant is approved will need to take steps to build up reserve funds again.

Delia Harding pointed out that the Parochial Church Council had an outstanding commitment towards Victoria Poole for architectural works. The chairman stated that Friends were aware of the issue of the deferment of payment of fees that had arisen historically. As far as Friends of St James were concerned they had made all of the payments agreed in the original project plan submitted by the PCC which was used to obtain grants and this had included the element of architect’s fees and contingency for the facilities building. The chairman and chairman of the Parochial Church Council, Martin Dickinson, agreed to review the situation as appropriate outside of the AGM.

Minute No: 28/2016 – Election of Trustees

The following trustees were proposed by Martin Dickinson, seconded by Delia Harding and agreed unanimously

- Ian Hughes
- Wendy Wiggett
- Geraldine Stapley
- Howard Morrish
- Lesley Miller
- Eric Carter

Ian Hughes was proposed as chairman by Eric Carter, seconded by Lesley Miller and unanimously elected.

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

The chairman reminded the meeting that the Friends were anxious to recruit new trustees who could promote fresh ideas and help to ensure and guarantee the ongoing success of the charity.

Minute No: 29/2016 - Appointment of independent Examiner of the accounts for 2016

Eric Carter proposed Simon Cosson as independent examiner following the excellent work he had carried out for the last 4 years without making a charge for his services. This was seconded by Marin Dickinson and agreed unanimously with due thanks to Simon.

Minute No: 30/2016 – Other Business

- Delia Harding wished to extend thanks on behalf of the Parochial Church Council for the work carried out by the Friends over the past year.
- Rev Noyes said that he was very impressed with the way Bishampton worked to get things completed but wondered if there was some more formal avenue, possibly through the Villages Hall, for overseeing the totality of activities with a view to improving overall synergy.

There was some discussion from which the following points emerged

- Ian Hughes felt there was a risk of 'event fatigue' due to the number of events taking place in what is a relatively small village although Delia Harding now keeps an overall calendar so that organisations can avoid clashing on dates.
- Geraldine Stapley felt it would be useful to know what sort of events the villagers wanted and were most willing to support and attend.
- Mike Rickard thought that most organisations in the village managed to work together very amicably even where there was a potential overlap in activities.
- Gordon Kingston thought it would be useful to try and forestall any problems that might arise and also wished that there was some way of getting younger people involved in the village events.
- It was agreed that the Friends would discuss this issue at their next meeting.
- Belinda Whitehead suggested that the Friends should look at promoting activities through the Bishampton website with its potential link to Facebook since this was more likely to appeal to the younger generation.

The chairman thanked those members attending for their time and input and the meeting was formally closed.

Signed:

Dated:

APPENDIX A

Chairman's Report - Friends of St James - Bishampton Annual General Meeting - 11th April 2016

The year has again been extremely busy but by working together the Friends who have supported us and the trustees have achieved a great deal in terms of helping to maintain and improve the fabric of this wonderful building.

Membership has increased a little throughout the year with a few leaving being more than balanced by others who have joined us. Current membership stands at 87. As ever, we are keen to encourage more to join us by making a donation and to share in some of our fundraising events – either in their preparation or just by coming along!

Your donations and standing orders make a huge difference to our funds, and enable us to apply for a variety of grants and hence leverage additional monies for our cause. Eric, our Treasurer, will go into the detail but the charity achieved over £4,600 in donations in the past year which represents an increase of about 10% on the previous year. Thank you all for your generosity!

We also raise monies by organising a variety of fundraising events and this past year we held a Curry and Quiz night, ran a great Summer Ball, packed the Church for a really entertaining talk on Magna Carta, organised the Harvest Supper and held our annual Christmas Celebration at St James. These events, after costs, raised an additional £3,300 representing an increase of nearly 40% on the previous year. Our thanks go to everyone who helped to prepare or present these events and to everyone who bought tickets and, we hope!, enjoyed themselves – certainly the feedback from our events remains very positive!

As I mentioned before, we also use our monies to leverage grants from other sources. This past year has seen us finalise the Facilities Building project and we were delighted to see that officially blessed in August by the Arch Deacon of Worcester. That project drew upon some £16,000 that we had secured from grant giving organisations. This year, while we have not yet secured any additional grants, we have applied for a further £10,000 from Welcome to Our Future to support our current project aimed at upgrading and improving the Church paths. We should know the outcome of that application in the next couple of months but are hopeful that we should receive at least a proportion of what we have applied for.

During the year, as well as finalising the Facilities Building project, we have supported the fabric of the building by making grants to the PCC in order to allow the repainting of the inside of the Church and we have allocated funds towards the final surfacing of the car park area, maintaining the bells and providing a recording security camera system for St James.

Our main project going forward is to see the Church Paths improved and then turn our attention to the ever growing list of on-going maintenance issues.

You will recall that at the AGM last year, we saw Martin Dickinson and Bill Dobie stand down as trustees – I'm very pleased to say both have retained an active interest throughout the year and have continued to support us in many ways. We would, however, really like to take on board one or two new trustees and would welcome anyone who would like to sit in on our meetings to get a feel for what we do. We think that it is important to the charity to have

fresh ideas coming through. Consequently, we would be delighted to welcome any members onto our committee. Sometimes, we have a bit of fun along the way as well!

Our fundraising social events have again been well attended this year. The Summer Ball last June was a great success and we will be holding another this year with a Royal theme to coincide with The Queens 90th birthday celebrations. Tickets will be on sale to Friends shortly but please put 11th June in your diaries – we suspect it will be the event of the year!

September saw a highly entertaining talk on King John and Magna Carta from Howard Robinson and great thanks must go to Bill Dobie for finding such hugely entertaining speakers – a number of people from outside the village have commented on just how excellent it was. We are encouraging Bill to find us another superb speaker for a similar event this autumn.

The Harvest Supper was again organised by the Friends and the profits shared with the PCC. We are pleased that in the coming year, the re-vitalised PCC will take a lead role in this annual event although the Friends will still provide ongoing support.

With some considerable difficulty, we managed to put up the Christmas tree on the tower again this year and, despite the storms and some rather jaunty angles at times, both the tower and the tree survived! However, the tree does seem to be getting bigger and we are certainly getting older so we will be looking at other ways in which we can mark the Christmas season in the coming winter. Our thanks do go to Smart Trees – I think their donations have been appreciated by the whole village.

At Christmas, we again held our Christmas celebrations in the church with a great performance by the choir (recruited mostly locally and led by Helen Izod) and by the assembled throng. Thanks also to Barry Griffin who again prepared and ran the event.

Finally, we recently put on our 2nd Curry and Quiz night in March with our Quizmeister Mark virtually putting on a one man show for us. Excellent fun, great food and at the same time raising money for a good cause. I suspect this will become an annual event.

The church continues to be used for a variety of non secular activities including another Scalextric Day, Hats and Fascinators and the Heritage Open Day to name but a few. All of these will no doubt have benefited from the projects that FoSJ has supported. We also understand that attendances for Church services have continued their upward trend. All of this is good news and leads to more folk appreciating this great building.

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 in preparing the applications for grants. Particular thanks have to go to Eric for the amazing amount of hard work that he does as both treasurer and Hon. Sec. to the Friends.

Finally, can I thank all of you for coming tonight and for your continued support over the last year and going forward in the future. That completes my report but I would be happy to take any questions. Thank you.

Ian Hughes Chairman

APPENDIX B

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES BISHAMPTON 2015

(Registered charity number: 1149912)

The following served as trustees during the year. All existing trustees were re-appointed at the AGM held on 30th March 2015 with the exception of Mr. William Dobie and Mr Martin Dickinson who did not wish to continue. No new trustees were appointed during the year.

Mr Martin Dickinson (Chairman and trustee until 30th March 2015)
Mr Eric Carter (Treasurer & Secretary)
Mr William Dobie (Until 30th March 2015)
Mr Ian Hughes (Chairman from 30th March 2015)
Mrs Wendy Wiggett
Mr Howard Morrish
Mrs Lesley Miller
Mrs Geraldine Stapley

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

The charity received £4,618 in donations over the year of which £2,847 were from regular standing orders. A sum of £954 was raised in memory of Mr Geoff Day which is to be used in improving the church grounds. £930 was recovered from HMRC as Gift Aided donations made in 2014.

A number of successful fund raising events generated a further £3,368; one invoice for about £72 withstanding. The Harvest Supper was a shared activity with the Parochial Church Council who received £141 from the event.

During the year the charity registered with Give as You Live, a scheme by which on line vendors pay a small percentage of enrolled customer purchases to the charity. To date this has raised £58 but has the potential to raise significant amounts if more members join.

This year has seen the completion of facilities building towards which Friends of St. James contributed £20,125. This included grants from Welcome to Our Future for £10,000 plus grants awarded in 2014 towards the project by the Allchurches Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation and Edward Cadbury Trust. A further £2,000 was awarded directly to the Parochial Church Council by Lasletts Charities following an application by Friends of St.James in 2014.

Another £1,000 was paid to the Parochial Church Council to enable repainting of the chancel and nave following insurance repairs to the plasterwork.

At 31 December £8,752 was held in the bank and as cash (with allowance made for unrepresented cheques totalling £150) of which £979 is restricted and from which £1,000 will be held as a reserve to cover the organisation of events etc.

Eric Carter Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 2015
 THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES BISHAMPTON
 (Registered charity number:1148812)

Receipts and Payments Account

	20 15				20 14			
	Non- Restricted		Restricted		Non- Restricted		Restricted	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Receipts to								
<i>Donations</i>								
Gift Aided Donations	2,307		0		2,355		1024	
Gift Aid recovered from previous year	530				1,595			
Non-Gift Aided Donations	331		554		489		1000	
Total		4,513		554		4,751	2024	
Grants								
Welcome to our Future (Rowlands Charity)			10,000				2000	
(Allchurches Trust)							650	
(Garfield Weston Foundation)							3000	
(Edward Cadbury Trust)			0				1000	
Total		0	0	10,000		0	6650	
Fund Raising								
<i>General</i>								
Curry Quiz Night	1,237				0			
Summer Ball (Summer Ball)	3,254				3,173			
Magna Carta Talk	333				1,237			
Harvest Supper (Harvest Supper)	544				1,183			
Xmas Celebration (Xmas Celebration)	32				75			
Total		5,474		0		5,672	0	
Receipts from Investments								
Bank Interest	0				0			
Total		0		0		0	0	
Other Incoming Resources								
Redrain VAT	0				0			
Give as You Live	53							
Total		53		0		0	0	
Total Receipts		11,450		10,554		10,424	2674	
Payments								
<i>Grants - PCC</i>								
(Architects Fees)					763			
Building maintenance	1,000		0		0		0	
(Anonymous Donation North Door)					0		2500	
(Replacement of Electricity Pole)					5,521		2000	
Total		4,475		15,549		0	4500	
Cost of Fund Raising								
AGM Hospitality (Grant admin fee)	19				312			
Curry Quiz Night	309				26			
Summer Ball (Summer Ball)	1,954				1,701			
Magna Carta Talk	115				519			
Harvest Supper (Harvest Supper)	539				633			
Xmas Celebration (Xmas Celebration)	110				101			
Total		3,105		0		3,347	0	
Other Outgoings								
Insurance	244				237			
Harvest Supper to PCC (Harvest Supper to PCC)	141				248			
Admin Expenses	53				49			
Gratuities	33				75			
(Refunded donation)							1000	
Total		475		0		608	0	
Total Payments		9,055		15,549		10,244	5500	
Surplus of Receipts over Payments		2,052		-4,995		180	3174	
Bank current account and cash at 1 January		5,632		5,674		5,502	2500	
Bank current account and cash at CURRENT		7,774		579		5,682	5674	

TOTAL BANK ACCOUNT & CASH £38,752

Note:
 Gift Aid recoverable - to be claimed 702
 Gift Aid recoverable - claimed and unpaid

The available Bank & Cash funds include two debts for £141.35 and £3.54 and which have not yet been presented (Cheques 032 & 033)

E.D. Carter – Treasurer

S.Cosson ACA – Independent Examiner