



Friends of St. Mary's  
Chartham

# Minutes of Annual General Meeting of The Friends of St. Mary's Church, Chartham held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017.

Reg. Charity No. 1168636

The Meeting was held in St. Mary's Church Chartham at 2.30pm.

## **Present**

Yvonne Hill, Sheila Finn, Genny Spencer, Janet Onslow, Tim Kidd, Julia Power, Rev. Phil Brown, Emily Renshaw Kidd, James Spencer, Ken Wilde, Alan & Joan Croucher, Wendy Ralphs, Pat Isard, Jill Hicks, Pippa Kiss, Robin & Bronny Slowe, Muriel Ritchie, Brenda Davies, Jo Groves, Marina Griffin, Ruth & John Harling, Julie Feegan.

## **Apologies**

Andrew Goddard, Tony Frost, Jill Hills, Mary Mason, Dee & Simon Hickman, Margaret Baker, Sue Vernon, Nikko Hicks, Meriel Pickett, Jim & Ann Saunders, Maggie & David Chadwick.

## **Minutes of AGM Oct 2016**

All members agreed that they were a true representation of the matters discussed. Proposed by Muriel Ritchie, seconded by Genny Spencer.

## **Matters Arising from Minutes**

Sheila Finn confirmed that the Constitution had been amended on the recommendation of our accountant on the registration of the Charity Status.

Yvonne confirmed that after a break of several months Jill Hills had agreed to come back on the committee again. Everyone welcomed her back in her absence.

## **Chairman's Report**

We have had another busy year with an interesting programme of events.

Membership has remained fairly constant since September last year and stands at 92 which include joint membership. We have gained some new members and lost some others. In

particular we lost Tim Finn in January who was a staunch supporter of the Friends since its inception in 2013.

Our Website provides up to date news of current and future events. The latest Newsletter has just been published and Facebook provide other avenues for news and advertising our activities.

Our events in the past year included History of St Mary's Church which Gordon Steadman ably lead in October and we all came away much better informed than when we entered the church. The highlight of the year was a Burns Night in late January which was well attended and enjoyed by all. It was great fun except for those slaving in the kitchen! We held a further Wine and Quiche evening and although numbers were down due to late cancellations, it was again a good evening and our quiz master Tim Clark took to the role very well, giving the impression that he knew all the answers (which of course he did because he had been supplied them)

Our regular monthly Saturday Cafe continued through the year and produced a steady flow of income although book sales have reduced significantly. We have reviewed the Saturday Café recently and have decided to reduce the event to four times a year. The cost of the hall and providing monthly cover has partly influenced this decision.

As you have seen the annual financial statement shows funds have continued to grow steadily and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed in whatever way.

Over the past year we have continued to have an amazing amount of support and help. In particular I would like to thank Joan and Alan Croucher, Alan Griffiths, Jo Groves, Val Goddard, Jill and Nikko Hicks, who are always there to offer their time and help, to Tim Clark, to Emily and Tim, Jill & Richard Hills, Ruth Harling, the committee, and to anyone that I have failed to mention.

Our next event is on October 20<sup>th</sup> at the Village Hall. It is another History evening featuring Educating Chartham which should bring back memories for many and provide new comers to the village insight into how Chartham children were educated. It will start at 7 pm and includes a display of artefacts and photos and light refreshments. There will be a variety of speakers and as usual will include some of the social history of schooling in Chartham and the surrounding District.

We are also planning a Burns Night quiz in January and a coach trip in May or June 2018. Watch the website for details.

Finally, our thanks go to all of you who support the Friends of St Mary's Church. Your encouragement and enthusiasm give the committee the motivation to continue to raise funds to ensure that the church is kept in a good state of repair for future generations. As a little thank you we have provided tea after this AGM.

This is my last year as Chairman and Sheila's term as secretary. My particular thanks go to Sheila for keeping the committee on track and her commitment and enthusiasm for the Friends of St Mary's.

## **Treasurers Report**

Yvonne apologised for the absence of the Treasurer and read the report out on his behalf.

This is my very first report to you as the appointed Treasurer of St Marys and I sincerely apologise that I am unable to be at the AGM in person due to family commitments. It has been an involved process taking over the role from Andrew Goddard and organisations such as the HMRC and our Bankers have made the process very slow, and I would like to thank Andrew for all his help, patience, assistance and guidance.

The draft accounts for the end of the year have been provided to this meeting for information only on the basis that there may be a few additional transactions to complete between 23<sup>rd</sup> August and the end of our financial year - and that our Independent Examiner has not seen or checked the accounts.

We have continued to build up funds this year with three major events – House History Talk, Burns Night, and the recent Quiz night - bringing in a net income after expenses of £1235.61. The regular coffee mornings have continued to bring in a regular net income (after hall hire) of £543.71 – that is an average of £54.37 per morning.

Memberships added £849 to our accounts, and donations of £933.00 for the year. Unfortunately bank interest was only £7.49 due to the extremely low interest rates prevailing in the economy at the moment.

Our total expenses for the year were £1161.66 and although there was a small amount if administration costs in terms of our website and public liability insurance costs, the main part was the expenses for putting on our events.

At the end of the year have a surplus **£17201.04**, the vast majority of which is being held in our Savings Accounts with very small amounts in our Current Account and in Petty Cash. We have agreed in principle to provide £5000 to the upcoming church works but this is wholly dependent upon a formal request being received from the Parochial Church Council.

If you have any questions, then please get in touch with me and I'll do my best to answer them or to provide more details on specific points. Once again, please accept my apologies for not being able to attend this afternoon.

## **Report from the President – Rev. Phil Brown**

Phil thanked the Friends Committee on behalf of the PCC, for all the time they give to raising funds in support of St. Marys Church. This was greeted by a round of applause from the members attending the meeting. The chairman thanked Phil for his kind words.

## **Appointments of Independent Examiner for the Accounts**

Yvonne reported that Barry Snashall of BJS Accounting Services was happy to continue auditing the accounts. This had not been completed for this year but would be done within the next two months.

### **Election of Executive Officers**

Chairman – Sheila Finn –proposed by Yvonne Hill, seconded by Andrew Goddard

Honorary Secretary – Julia Power – proposed by Sheila Finn, seconded by Yvonne Hill

Committee Member – Yvonne Hill – proposed by Tony Frost, seconded by Andrew Goddard

Committee Member – Genny Spencer – proposed by Yvonne Hill, seconded by Andrew Goddard

Committee Member – Jill Hills – proposed by Tony Frost, seconded by Andrew Goddard.

### **Any Other Business**

Ruth Harling suggested that to maximise advertising outside the village for the History evening 'Educating Chartham', we could approach The Gazette for space. All agreed this was a good idea, and Sheila asked Tim Kidd if he could manage this in his role as Marketing and Advertising for the Friends. He agreed to do this.

The meeting closed at 3.05pm, followed by a very enjoyable cream tea for everyone attending. This was enjoyed by all, and thanks to all those who baked, poured, cleared and washed during the afternoon.