

Minutes of a meeting of The Friends of St Mary's, Bacton
Held on Thursday 15th January 2004
At The Bull, Bacton
At 7.30pm

Present: Dick Middleton (Chairman)
David Black
Robert Black
Rosemary Black
Peggy Boyer
Simon Holdich
Ann James
Janice Shea
Helen Thomson
Pip Wright
Joy Wright
Sue Middleton (Secretary)

Welcome and apologies

Dick Middleton welcomed those present at the meeting, and noted that the following had offered their apologies:

Robin Jack
Rose Graham

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

Matters arising

Constitution and Status had been dealt with at the previous meeting and agreed. The PCC was to meet shortly, and it was hoped that the Friends would be empowered by that meeting. The Chairman had written to the both Chairs of the Cotton and Wyverston Friends, recognising the need to exchange information and to avoid any sort of mutual interference.

Plan of action

Research

Rose Graham and David Black had offered to research the history of the building.

**Action: David Black
Rose Graham**

Simon Holdich produced a first draft copy of a proposed document, which explains the importance of the church in the community.

Major fundraising

It was agreed that the more importance and use that could be found for the building, the more likely it would be to get heritage funding and grants.

Community Fundraising

Proof that the community were raising money would help when applying for grants. Ann James said that community fund raising would raise the profile of the Friends. Rosie Black said that the PCC needed to raise £11.0000 for the quota. It was agreed that existing fund raising events would continue to be for the quota. It was suggested that some events could be activities shared between the PCC and the Friends. It was noted that the Friends are a secular organisation, and that money raised by the Friends would not contribute to the diocesan quota

It was hoped that two concerts could take place in the church later this year.

**Action: Peggy Boyer/Helen Thomson
Rosie Black/Sue Middleton**

Kevin, the Chef at the Bull had agreed to cook for a dinner party.

Action: ?

Community activity

Community activity and use of the church was important for both the involvement of people and the money it brings. A long term view of about activities was needed. Some would gather pace, and we would look to see what develops and build on that success.

Action: ?

In order to become an attractive venue for community activity, it was agreed that the church needed to become more "user friendly". Such changes would necessarily be gradual, but mention was made of the inadequate heating and the uncomfortable seating.

Education

Pip Wright suggested an historical evening, showing different aspects of the church and parish, using photographs anecdotes, parish papers etc. He suggested that Roy Tricker be contacted to see if he would give a talk. He also suggested making a CD about the church. St Mary's, Bury St Edmunds had made a CD for insurance documentation, The reduction of their insurance had paid for the production of the CD. The Chairman said that this would tie in with using the church as an educational resource, and he would look into acquiring a lottery grant to fund this.

Action: Pip Wright

Membership & newsletter

Simon Holdich had a draft of a proposed newsletter (see above - Research), which he hoped to develop. It was suggested that for a fee of about £20 the Scouts would deliver door to door. The Chairman said that there was a fund called Community Champions which gave grants of up to £2000 start up money to new projects/groups. He volunteered to investigate this further.

Action: Chairman

Members thought that quite few people in the village would be prepared to give maybe £25 per year by direct Debit.

Any other business

There being no other business, the meeting closed

Dates of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 23rd February at The Bull at 7.30pm.

(It would be helpful if any matter to be brought under "Any other business" could be notified in advance)