

**Minutes of the inaugural open meeting
of
The Friends of St Mary's Thursday June 10th
held in St Mary's at 7.30pm**

Welcome and apologies

Dick Middleton welcomed those present at the meeting, and noted that the following had offered their apologies: Rosy Black, Robert Black, Pip and Joy Wright

Dick Middleton welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the Friends of St Mary's, and explained the purpose of the Friends, and where they had got to over the last eight months. He asked for approval from those present to continue with the Friends. This was unanimously agreed.

He defined the meaning of 'Friend' as someone who demonstrates an interest in which ever way they wish, be it financial, practical, or taking the church in to community use. The more the church was used for the whole community the better chance there was of attracting large grants.

It had been agreed to start as an informal association, and to start with;

- Research (the more important the building, the more likely grants are accessible)
- Looking for opportunities, community use, education
- Extending ownership of the building
- Community fund raising
- Seeking major funding

Simon Holdich had been successful in getting a start-up grant of £250 from the Community Champions Fund.

The Friends first fundraising event with the Cotton and district local history society had been a great success.

A talent show is planned for the autumn

There will be a stand at the Bacton Flower Show, promoting the Friends, and their aims.

Dick Middleton said that he had been asked to chair the Friends until the first public meeting, and felt that he could not devote enough time to work effectively. Having fulfilled his obligation, he was therefore standing down.

Simon Holdich agreed to become chair.

Election of officers and management committee members;

Simon Holdich	Chair
Rose Graham	Membership secretary
Sue Middleton	Secretary
Dick Middleton	Treasurer
Events Co-ordinator	Peggy Boyer

The management committee:

Ann Kent Richard Peaty Brenda Dunn

Helen Hansen

Simon Holdich took over as chairman of the meeting.

He thanked Dick Middleton for getting the Friends off the ground.

He said that the more everyone talked about the Friends, the more people would be willing to help.

It was agreed that by asking people to give money by monthly standing order, it was more likely that giving just a few pounds a week would be more acceptable.

Grants would be available once it was seen that the Friends were raising money, and using the building for the whole community.

It was suggested that a Christmas card be printed. A suitable photo or painting of the church was to be found. Simon also suggested that pictures of the doom painting could be sold. Rose Graham said that there was photo available.

A cheque for £5.000 was donated at the meeting, for which the chairman gave grateful thanks.

It was agreed to hold the meetings in the Bull on the second Thursday of each month

Any other business

It was agreed that the relationship between the PCC and the Friends would remain informal but be in communication all the time. Simon Holdich said that PCC members and any Friends would always be welcome at the meetings.

The PPC were in the reprocess of talking to the Diocese about installing an organ loft. It was agreed that continuing to explore the possibilities of extending the church the provide kitchen and toilet facilities was needed as this would make the church more 'user friendly' for other activities.

Janice Shea suggested that by having relatively small projects that were attainable to start with would be helpful as people would not be so daunted. It was agreed that this was a good way forward.

It was suggested that having the church open would encourage more people to use it, but David Black pointed out that because of a spate of vandalism and anti social behaviour the church had to be locked.

It was suggested that the PCC draw up a 'wish list' so the Friends could have an aim on which to focus. It was agreed that it was easier to raise money for specific things than just 'for the church'.

David Black suggested that the committee look at the last two quinquennials which would help to understand the needs of the fabric of the church.

Date of next meeting: July 8th at 7.30 at The Bull

Simon Holdich
8/7/04