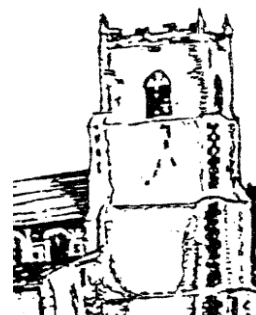


The Friends of St Mary's, Bacton
Thursday, 13th December 2012
at Church Cottage, Bacton

Registered Charity Number 1106579

Minutes



Present:

Simon Holdich (Chairman)
Peggy Boyer (Trustee)
Ann Kent (Trustee)
Sue Middleton (Secretary)
Richard Middleton (Trustee)
Richard Peaty (Trustee)
Helen Thomson
Janice Shea
Pip Wright (Trustee)

Welcome and apologies. Apologies were received from Claire Bissett (Treasurer) Rose Graham (Trustee) Norma Lambert, (Trustee) Andy Friend (Trustee, Membership Secretary) Angela Friend (Trustee) Mike Talbot Penny Harris, Liz Varley, Julia Lall

Minutes of the meeting on November 8th 2012 –all in favour and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Financial Report: Claire's Financial Report had been previously circulated: Summary for the 8 months to end of November 2012
The balance in the accounts stands at **£17,975** at the present date, of which £2,975 is in the current account and £15,000 in the investment account.

The total income for the year to date is £6,940 with expenditure of £842 leading to a **net inflow of £6,098.**

The metal detecting contributed £3,653 to funds (2011 - £3,212). A donation of £1,400 has been received from the Company of Friends from the proceeds of their Pantomime. We have also received £293 from HMRC for Gift Aid tax relief relating to donations in the 2011/12 financial year.

Dick suggested that there was a need to clarify financial needs of St Mary's and the PCC, and that the Treasurer and the Chair of the PCC be invited to the Friends meeting to clarify these, and thus help and enable the Friends to decide their priorities for the use of the Friends' money. Sue to write to Liz Varley in the New Year to suggest this. Sue also suggested that it would be helpful if the Friends and PCC exchanged their minutes. Sue to contact Linda Last so that she could present the idea to the PCC. The Friends were happy to send their minutes to the PCC.

The Angels Project

Ann and Sue had attended the PCC meeting to outline the process of how the carved wood angels, to be replaced in St Marys, would look and how they would be financed. (The report, presented to the PCC is attached to these minutes.)

The PCC agreed unanimously to proceed with the project. It is a requirement of the Diocese to present the joint meeting minutes between representative of the Friends

and The PCC with the faculty. The faculty can now proceed. Notices have to be displayed for 28 days and English Heritage will have to be consulted. Rob Lewis, the sculptor has had a site meeting. Ann and Sue had agreed to remain on a sub committee with Brian Manley and Revd Liz Varley. Simon thanked Sue and Ann for their work towards moving this project forward.

“Thank You” Event 18th May at 6pm

It was suggested that the guests to be asked would include the standing order members; the PCC, the Scouts, the Village Hall Committee, the Company of Friends and local farmers whose land had been used for Metal Detecting. This event will be an agenda item at the next meeting on February 14th 2013, when it was hoped that a full list of those being invited could be finalised, and food and entertainment could be decided upon. It was suggested some background music, maybe a pianist, and also some form of entertainment. There was discussion about food, as to whether a more substantial buffet be served, as it was an evening event. It was hoped that by then, there would be an angel, with a display about the project

Any other Business –

The Village Hall committee were in need of committee members, as they were having difficulties recruiting people to stand.

Next Meeting January 14th 2013 Venue to be decided

Dates for the diary:-

Thank you Party May 18th 2013

THE RETURN OF THE ANGELS?

Hundreds of years ago, the angels of Bacton were torn from the church roof by the image-breakers. Now there is a plan to replace these beautiful and symbolic figures, with each carved wooden angel celebrating the life of a person, or an event in the village.

So what is happening? The parochial church council has applied for permission to instal 18 carved angels high up on St. Mary's historic hammerbeam roof. Each angel will be individually created by a skilled craftsman as the funds become available, and each will be different. The Friends of St. Mary's has already promised to pay for the first of these, but it is expected that any further angels will be donated by individuals. Each angel will carry a dedication (not visible from the ground), and will be recorded in a book on view within the church.

Obviously great care has to be taken with a grade one listed building and English Heritage will need to be consulted about. However, if the PCC's application is successful, the first angels will be ready to fly next year.

We use the words “replace” rather than simply “install” because it is likely that the interior of St. Mary's was once decorated with angels and the carved figures of saints. But if you look up into the roof now, all you can see is the sawn off ends of the hammerbeams – evidence of where the figures were removed. It is not known if this happened during the Reformation or a hundred years later when Cromwell's men set out to destroy “Popish images” from the nation's churches. Some of our neighbouring churches, including Cotton, Woolpit and Haughley managed to retain some angels – although many more were reinstated by the Victorians. However in Bacton there is no sign of what was once there and no record of when the figures were removed .

The aim of the project is simple: to leave the church a little more beautiful than we found it, in a way which involves the entire community. The angel project is currently being steered by a joint Friends and PCC sub committee. If you are interested in donating an angel, and would like to know more please contact Sue Middleton on 781273 or Ann Kent on 781607.