

MINUTES

FOSM MEETING ON AUGUST 15, 2013

Held in the community room of St. Mary's Church, Bacton.

Those attending: Sue Middleton, chair; Dick Middleton; Claire Bissett, treasurer; Liz Varley, Rector; Simon Holdich; Rose Graham; Norma Lambert; Peggy Boyer, Mike Talbot; Richard Peaty; Ann Kent, secretary. Apologies were received from Andy and Angela Friend; Pip Wright; Helen Thomson.

The minutes of the last meeting on June 13 were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising: Angels project. Ann Kent reported that the research requested by the DAC is continuing and a sub committee design meeting will be held on Monday August 19.

Financial report: The treasurer, Claire Bissett reported that the balance was now just over £12,500, although this included bookings for the future metal detecting event on **September 15**. The specialist ecclesiastical insurers have raised premiums by about 20 per cent. The splitting up of Lloyds bank would mean that it was necessary to pay into the Ipswich rather than the Stowmarket branch. It was agreed that the treasurer could look into other, more convenient banking options including TSB.

Meeting with PCC members. Sue Middleton reported a successful meeting that morning with Liz Varley, Claire Bissett, Richard Middleton, David Black and Brian Manley (the last two representing the PCC). The projects agreed were, as a first priority, the roof work. Work on the south porch is particularly urgent. Based on the architect's estimate, the combined roof maintenance and repair work will cost about £23,450 although further estimates will be sought. This was the favoured project of the PCC, but the Friends will be asked to make a grant.

The favoured Friends project discussed was to alter the east end of the church to make the building more suitable for community use. This is likely to become more necessary with the closure of the middle school, and thus the loss of its hall for stage productions and variety shows. The proposed alterations would allow the front three pews to be moved or relocated to create a larger performance area with a quick release connection for the front radiators; suitable stage lighting; roof lighting for the soon-to-be-installed angels; exterior flood lighting to the tower. It will be necessary and desirable to involve the primary school, parish council and other community organisations, and to look for matched funding and donations.

The joint PCC/Friends meeting had felt that the Doom painting should be monitored for changes, as the cost of getting an expert opinion seemed prohibitive at £2,000. However, the Friends committee meeting disagreed, with some members stating it was already apparent that the painting was suffering the ravages of time. Liz Varley said she would seek expert opinion within the diocese to find ways of funding expert and conservation advice. She also reported that she would be applying for permission to display the wooden Pretymann chapel screen (which has latterly been used as a replacement altar screen) against a wall inside the church. This would allow better visibility of the east window and the altar itself.

Finally the joint Friends/PCC meeting had agreed that more effort should be expended on looking at matched funding applications to charities, and possibly the national lottery as well.

World war centenary event This is likely to be a whole-community event and Dick Middleton offered to represent the Friends once planning gets under way.

Metal detection on September 15. Simon Holdich reported that 111 tickets had been sold so far, priced at £20 per head. He felt the increased price, along with another rally on the same day near Colchester, may have deterred some detectorists.

Those available on September 15: Everyone at the meeting was able to help on the day. Claire was able to come for the morning and Liz in the afternoon and others were able to stay for the day. Helpers are expected to be Mike Talbot, Peggy Boyer, Rose Graham, Simon Holdich, Claire Bissett, Dick Middleton, Sue Middleton, Liz Varley, Helen Thomson, Andy Friend, Angela Friend along with Brian Manley, Sue Holdich, Gavin Graham and Gordon Thomson.

Sue Middleton is to be event co-ordinator, with the task of moving people to different jobs as necessary. The car park team will also be responsible for checking progress on the fields (as an anti theft measure) and also for ensuring that cars leave the site safely at the end of the event. Simon Holdich will produce some road signs. Pricing of refreshments will be the same as last year and Helen will be asked to produce a price list. Rose and Helen will be on registration while Claire will provide the floats. Rose offered to buy the prize book and other prizes up to a value of £50. Committee members will also donate prizes. Sue Middleton will carry out the health and safety check, and Simon and Norma offered to find a first aider to cover the event. Helen and Gavin will do the photography together.

Date of next meeting: October 10, 2013.