

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

Minutes of November 2013 Meeting

The meeting was held on Thursday November 14 at August House, Church Rd., Bacton, home of Andy and Angela Friend. It was **attended by** Peggy Boyer, Richard Peaty, Norma Lambert, Rose Graham, Dick Middleton, Sue Middleton (chairman), Andy Friend, Angela Friend, Liz Varley (rector) and Ann Kent (secretary). **Apologies** were received from Janice Shea, Helen Thomson, Simon Holdich, Mike Talbot and Claire Bisset (treasurer).

1. The minutes of the previous meeting on October 10 were agreed as a true record.
2. The accounts were presented by Dick Middleton in the absence of the treasurer. The Friends have £14,809 in various accounts. The new signatories for the Friend's accounts (Sue Middleton and Ann Kent) will visit the bank in Bury St. Edmunds in the next few weeks (as the Lloyds branch in Stowmarket has closed). Meanwhile the original signatories are able to sign any necessary cheques. Dick asked if committee members felt that the metal detecting was too expensive at £20 per head. The event, which was held on a smaller field, was fully subscribed. It was agreed to discuss this again before any future metal detecting events. **Dick suggested that a trustees meeting was held immediately before the January meeting to discuss financial matters.**
3. **Angels and East End Projects.** Faculties have been submitted for both projects and the Diocesan Advisory Committee will be coming to St. Mary's for a site meeting on November 20 to discuss both. Liz Varley explained that the angels, to be installed on the hammerbeams if permission is granted, would all be playing musical instruments. This continues the musical theme in the East window at one end of the church and the newly installed organ in the other. The first two angels, which will play trumpets, will flank the organ and are likely to be the figures donated by the Friends and the Middletons. Liz Varley's angel will probably be the third. If permission is granted then the PCC will need to place a public notice in the local newspaper and paste other notices around the village. Liz Varley explained the East End project will involve moving the screen which was originally part of a chantry chapel and has latterly been installed between the chancel and nave. The proposal is to install the screen, which is possibly Georgian, on the wall above the British Legion flag, allowing a clearer view of the altar and the chancel area. The project involves alterations to make five pews and the radiators which heat them movable. The cost of this is estimated at about **£1200, which will be funded by the Friends.** The project will facilitate the use of the church for concerts and other public performances. The PCC has also applied for permission to install an aumbry (a cupboard for the wafers and wine consecrated at a communion service) and a nine day lamp in one of the sanctuary window embrasures.
4. **Murder mystery evening.** Ann Kent reported that the village hall was booked for Saturday Feb 22. She suggested that as this was the first time such an event had been attempted by the Friends, a package should be purchased which would include the script, first performance rights and notes for the actors at a cost of £65. The play is performed in three

fairly short acts (possibly between courses of a meal to be provided by the Friends) and that people will be invited to guess the murderer at the end. It was agreed to do this.

5. Any other business: **St. Georges Day concert.** If a faculty is granted for the east end project, then the Friends hope to hold another band concert in April. Again, notices would have to be placed around the village about the proposed changes alterations to the church. However planning for this event depends on the decision made by the PCC in December. Liz Varley hopes that information on how to obtain **a key to the church** will soon be placed on a noticeboard installed just outside St. Mary's. Several committee members have expressed a willingness to have a key to the church should one become available. Decisions on this are made by the PCC.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30 p.m. December 12 at Church Cottage, Bacton, home of the Middletons.