

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2013 MEETING OF FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, BACTON

The meeting was held on Thursday December 12, at Church Cottage, Bacton, home of Richard and Sue Middleton and was followed by wine and mince pies.

It was attended by Sue Middleton (chair); Janice Shea; Sue Holdich; Helen Thomson; Simon Holdich; Peggy Boyer; Norma Lambert; Pip Wright; Richard Middleton; Michael Talbot; Angela Friend; Andy Friend; Richard Peaty; Ann Kent (secretary). Apologies were received from Rose Graham, Penny Harris; Claire Bisset (treasurer) and Liz Varley (rector).

Matters arising: Sue Middleton reported that she and Ann Kent had been to Lloyds bank at Bury St. Edmunds to hand in the necessary paperwork so they could now be signatories on the Friends' accounts. The Friends are still waiting to hear whether the PCC is prepared to allow one of the committee members to have a key to the church.

4. The financial report showed that the balance in the accounts stood at £14,966 at the end of October. Sue Middleton reminded Friends of an earlier plan to write to people living in the vicinity of the church, enclosing an s.a.e. and inviting them to make a regular standing order. She has drafted a letter which would be sent out at the beginning of February.

Demands on the Friends' fund raising are likely to increase in view of the latest quinquennial report which finds that £46,000 worth of work will need to be undertaken in the next five years – as a minimum. These items include repairs to the roof and porch. Brian Manley, treasurer of the PCC has suggested that the PCC and Friends get together to explore ways of finding matched funding and that a small sub committee should seek grants for building preservation projects. Richard Middleton offered to join the sub committee as an individual.

A trustees meeting will be held on January 9 2014 in the community room at 7 p.m immediately before the Friends' committee meeting at 7. 30.

5. Ann Kent reported on a meeting held by the Angels Steering Committee (with membership made up of the Friends and the PCC) and the Diocesan Advisory Council on November 20. The meeting, held in the community room, was arranged to present the plan to other interested organisations, such as English Heritage and the Church Buildings Council.

However it turned out that several of the DAC members attending had strong but divergent ideas about how the project should proceed. David Jenkins, the archdeacon, who chaired the meeting concluded that the roof at Bacton was of such importance that several more meetings would be needed before the project could go ahead.

6. The November 20 meeting also gave the DAC time to consider the faculty for the East End changes. These include making five pews at the front of the church movable and relocating the parclose screen from the chancel to the north wall, above the British Legion flag.

The changes would provide more space for musical performances and are essential if a band is to play in the church.

7. The St. George's Day concert, which the Friends are keen to put on, is dependent a Faculty for the East End. Helen Thomson reported that the work would take five days, although some voluntary help would be needed. It was agreed that if and when the faculty is granted, then the work, estimated to cost about £1200, could begin without the need to wait for a further meeting. St. George's Day, April 23, falls on a Wednesday so the preceding or following weekends could be chosen.

8. Murder mystery evening: For the meal Ann Kent suggested nibbles on the tables, followed by goulash, rice and salad, with apple crumble for dessert. French bread/and or garlic

bread. There would be water jugs on the table. People cooking goulash to receive £10 towards the cost of ingredients for each pot (containing enough food for eight people). This would not fully cover the cost but would be a contribution and also help to give a more realistic idea of how effective a fund raiser this was. Ann K suggested that the same recipe should be followed so that different batches could be reheated together if necessary. Two vegetarian flans would be on offer for those not wishing to eat beef goulash. Sue Holdich has offered to cook a chicken casserole. Committee members will also be asked to make an apple crumble at their own expense. Helen offered to source the custard from the cash and carry. The ticket price could be £12.50 to cover the cost of the first drink and it would be necessary to arrange a drinks licence. Drinks served would be wine, beer, cider and orange juice. It was agreed that the serving dishes should be on each table, rather than people being asked to queue for their food. This would give a more civilised, “family” feel to the meal. Helen thought table cloths could be borrowed from Wyverstone, and Sue Holdich offered to launder them afterwards. Janice felt an alternative dessert such as fruit salad should be on offer. Ann was concerned that this could increase the costs and wondered if a small quantity might be available for anyone expressing a dislike of crumble. As far as the play itself was concerned, casting is still under way and the first rehearsal will be in January. Peggy offered to run a raffle.

9. Nothing was raised in any other business.

10. Dates for your diary:

Trustees meeting 7.00 p.m.; committee meeting 7.30; community room, Bacton on January 9.

Rehearsal for murder mystery – date to be confirmed early in January.

Murder mystery evening, Feb 22, Bacton Village Hall, 7.30 p.m. All hands needed on deck!