

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BACTON

Minutes of meeting held on 11.09.2014

1. The chairman, Sue Middleton welcomed those attending: Mike Talbot, Peggy Boyer, Simon Holdich, Helen Thomson, Richard Peaty, Claire Bisset (treasurer), Ann Kent (secretary). Apologies were received from Liz Varley (rector), Dick Middleton, Pip Wright, Janice Shea, Norma Lambert and Andy Friend.
2. The chairman asked for a note to be made of the current trustees of FOSM. These are Peggy Boyer, Simon Holdich, Sue Middleton, Dick Middleton, Claire Bisset, Norma Lambert, Andy Friend, Pip Wright, Richard Peaty and Ann Kent.
The minutes were then approved (proposed Helen Thomson, seconded Simon Holdich).
3. Matters arising were dealt with on the agenda so the financial report was delivered and approved. *
4. The Friends are part of the co-ordinating committee for the WW1 concert on October 11 and have agreed to advance £400 (to be repaid from proceeds) to cover expenses. Sue Middleton reported that plans were going well but that the sound equipment originally offered by the John Peel centre was no longer available because the centre itself is having an event that day. In addition to hiring sound equipment, the 1914 committee will also need to finance fabric for a screen, a staging platform, script royalty charge, drinks licence and printing and tickets programme. Owing to increasing costs it is now planned to charge £1 per programme. Ann Kent asked if programme and draw sales could be made from within the church rather than as people enter the building, as this creates a more welcoming impression.
Helen Thomson wondered if some snacks should be available along with the wine, but was informed this is not planned at present. The bar is to be set up by Helen and a glass of wine will cost £2 or £2.50 tba; floats for the raffle and bar will be provided; Friends members will be needed to set out chairs (Simon and Dick volunteered for this) and help seat people as they enter the church as space will be at a premium ; **raffle prizes are requested**; Sue Middleton will carry out a health and safety assessment. The church and war memorial will be illuminated and toilet facilities will be available at the village hall.
5. The East End Project. Helen reported that she was going to let this rest for the moment. The intention had been to make four children's choir pews and five nave pews freestanding as well as remove the parclose screen. At present the pews are anchored in place by their radiators. This proposal would not have changed their outward appearance but would have meant a larger space could have been created for community events. Although the PCC had originally agreed to the faculty and the Archdeacon had granted a special licence for all the work in the original faculty, on further consideration the PCC decided that only three nave pews should be freestanding and that the screen could be removed.

At the June 12 meeting, the Friends committee decided to approach the PCC again to ask that the original request go ahead, as none of us would wish to do anything to interfere with the religious function of St. Mary's or spoil its appearance.

This request was discussed at the PCC meeting on June 23. Another consideration was that our plumber felt that the radiators could not be removed and reattached reliably with non-return valves as originally planned. Helen put a revised plan to the PCC which involved using electric heaters similar to those used successfully in Old Newton and Gipping Churches. The PCC agreed that the more controllable and economical heaters could be attached to the pews and Helen & David Black should obtain quotes for this work. The initial quote is for about £5,000 which includes considerable

rewiring as well as the new heaters. . However, installing electric heaters is not covered by the Archdeacon's special licence. Our plumber had stated that the radiators attached to the children's choir pews did not work so these could be removed resulting in free-standing pews. The Archdeacon gave approval for this, but the PCC felt unable to agree to the proposal. Without the agreement of the PCC we can't go ahead. Sue Middleton commented that the project had uncovered deficiencies in the church electrical wiring which would need to be addressed by the PCC in future. She thanked Helen for all her hard work, good humour and persistence.

6. Ann Kent reported on the revised angels project in which the DAC is to be asked to approve the installation of two angels in the organ loft area. One angel would be to celebrate the thousands of children who have passed through Bacton Community Middle School (scheduled for closure next summer). The other would be the Friends angel as originally planned. Amanda Manley and the sculptor, Rob Lewis, had worked together on some initial designs for each angel which were shown to the committee. The intention is to apply for a new faculty in October.
7. Future fund raising events: Ann Kent outlined the arrangements for the wine tasting event in the village hall on November 29. It will be compered by David Hammond, who has run similar events for Stowmarket Lions. Helen Thomson offered to design and print the tickets which will cost £15 a head to include all the wine, the quiz, bread, cheese, pate, crackers and desserts (to be made by committee members).
Simon Holdich reported that he had a field in mind for a March metal detecting event, but it was too soon to finalise details.
Diary dates: WW1 event Oct 11; FOSM committee Nov 13; wine tasting Nov 29.