

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

Minutes of meeting held on 12.02.2015 in St. Mary's community room

1. Richard Peaty was chosen as the temporary chairman in the absence of Sue Middleton (proposed Helen Thomson, seconded Simon Holdich). Apologies were received from Peggy Boyer, Janice Shea, Pip Wright, Andy Friend, Sue Middleton, Richard Middleton, Norma Lambert. Those attending: Helen Thomson, Simon Holdich, Claire Bisset (treasurer), Mike Talbot, Canon Barbara Bilston, Ann Kent (secretary), Richard Peaty.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.
3. The treasurer's report was agreed and accepted. It showed the balance in the accounts stood at **£13,869** at the end of January, of which £4,795 is in the current account, £9,000 in the investment account and £74 in petty cash.
4. Fund raising, metal detecting: Simon Holdich reported that arrangements were going ahead for the metal detecting event, which was likely to be on Sunday September 6. He was awaiting final confirmation from the landowner. Helen Thomson reminded the committee that the barbecue generally used at the event was no longer functioning, and it was agreed that there were probably enough available gas barbecues among committee members.
5. Fund raising, murder mystery: Ann Kent reported that arrangements were under way for the murder mystery and asked committee members to **save the date (May 16)** as help would be needed on the night. Helen Thomson had kindly offered to print the tickets and programmes. After some discussion it was felt that £15 was an appropriate ticket price to charge, although Claire Bisset wondered if some families might be put off by the expense. The food would include bread, cheese, pate, salads and desserts prepared by committee members.
6. Trustees report: The Friends were told that the trustees had agreed to release £8,000 from the bank account for the fabric fund (items in quinquennial report which are necessary for the maintenance of the church building). In addition to the items listed in the quinquennial report, the PCC wish **to repair and re-roof the top of the tower** and it was anticipated that this might cost about £6,000.
7. East end: The Doom. Barbara Bilston reported that a grant was available for the assessment of the Doom which was due to take place the next day (Feb 13) and that it was likely that grants would also be available for the restoration. The general state of the church electrical supply would also need to be considered but as far as the Doom was concerned, the electrical cable running near the painting could probably be relocated to the floor of the choir. The staging. Richard Peaty reported that he and Richard Middleton believed that staging could be provided for future concerts at a cost of about £1200. However as the next concert is not scheduled until late in 2016 it was agreed to delay further action or discussion until the future of the middle school buildings was known. (Proposed Simon Holdich, seconded Mike Talbot).
8. West end: The Angels. Barbara Bilston said that this was moving towards resolution, with a meeting of the commissioning panel scheduled for March 13. The panel was designed to give the project a fresh start with a new group of people considering the proposal. Ann Kent said she hoped to persuade the panel of the value of the project as planned. The trustees had decided that the local nature of the angels fund was an essential part of the plan; they agreed to continue to support the project on this basis but would not be happy to grant money if the panel insisted on a competition. Time is now of the essence as the middle school is scheduled to close in the summer and it would be easier to find funding for a

children's angel while the pupils are still there. Barbara Bilston suggested that the pupils might be encouraged to arrange a sponsored event.

9. The trustees reported that a change to the quorum arrangement was proposed by the chairman, Sue Middleton, who felt that the current quorum of three was inadequate. This will involve a constitutional change which will be put to the AGM. A quorum would need to consist of half the trustees or in the case of an odd number to be rounded up e.g. nine trustees would require a quorum of five. At present the quorum consists of only three trustees.
10. The next meeting will be held on April 9 in the community room. (Subsequently amended to April 23)

Dates for diary: May 16, murder mystery (please help sell tickets); provisional date for metal detecting, September 6.