

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BACTON

MINUTES OF MEETING ON APRIL 9, 2015.

1. The chairman Sue Middleton welcomed those attending the meeting in the community room: Keith Parsons, Simon Holdich, Richard Peaty, Mike Talbot, Canon Barbara Bilston, Janice Shea, Andy Friend (membership secretary), Peggy Boyer, Ann Kent (secretary), Norma Lambert, Dick Middleton, Sue Middleton. Apologies were received from Pip Wright, Helen Thomson, Peter Gipson and Claire Bisset (treasurer).
2. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.
3. Matters arising: Proposed staging for the east End of the church. This involves out from the chancel to the first row of pews to extend the performance area. Dick Middleton reported that he was in touch with a local stage set builder and hoped he would be able to advise. The next scheduled concert is not until November 2016 (see item 7).
4. Dick presented the treasurers report which showed the balance of the accounts stood at £14,331 at the end of March. The income for the year was lower than in previous years because no metal detecting day was organised in that financial year (the next one is in September). Expenditure for the year of £9,786 included a grant to the PCC fabric fund of £9,000.
5. Simon Holdich reported that plans were going well for the next metal detecting event at Cow Green on Sunday September 6. Portable loos would be needed. He asked all committee members to keep that day free as up to 30 helpers are need for this, our largest fundraising event.
6. Ann Kent reported that arrangements were going well for the murder mystery event on April 16. The food was to be French bread/pate, salad followed by desserts (fruit crumbles or similar) made by any committee members happy to do this. It was agreed that these would be served with cream. The first glass of wine, or unlimited soft drinks for non-alcohol drinkers would be included in the ticket price. Dick offered to run the bar with help from a Peaty family member.
7. 2016 Trianon concert – request from PCC. The PCC has asked that this November concert is a shared event with proceeds shared between the PCC and the Friends.
8. Barbara Bilston reported it was not yet possible to get an estimate for the cost of restoring the fading Doom painting. This is because the conservator, Andrea Kirkham, is waiting for the result of the paint analysis. Barbara said she believed it should be possible for the PCC to get conservation grant funding for the restoration, but it is impossible to start this process without an estimate.
9. The angels project. Sue Middleton reminded the Friends that £3,500 had been put aside to place two angels on the hammerbeams over the organ loft as an enhancement to the west end of the church. The local nature of the project, with children's ideas being incorporated into the design and the use of a well regarded Haughley sculptor were an important part of its rationale. However the commissioning panel which met recently seemed to want to start the scheme from scratch suggesting a 21st century artwork (not necessarily an angel, or in wood, or on the hammer beams) chosen after a competition which the DAC panel members would help to judge. Sue felt that she could not ask the Friends to continue to fund an angel under these conditions – a decision already made by the trustees. She regretted that “all the joy” had gone from the project, which had been met with so much enthusiasm from the congregation and parishioners. Canon Bilston said that she felt that the intentions of the meeting had been misunderstood, and offered to continue to see if she could find a solution. Ann Kent said that the problem was that the community had already chosen what it wanted

and would not want a further dilution of a project which had originally envisaged 18 angels. Several other committee members expressed regret that the project had stalled.

10. The Friends were reminded to send nominations for officers to the secretary, or to bring them to the AGM on June 4.
11. Any other business: Sue Middleton said she felt the chairs piled round the church walls were an eyesore and suggesting that an attractive wooden screen might be constructed of similar materials to the organ loft. It was agreed to pursue this, although the chairs might need to be moved in order to avoid blocking wheelchair access to the lavatory.

Diary dates: May 16, murder mystery (a few tickets are still available; AGM Community Room, 7.30 p.m. June 4; metal detecting, September 6; Trianon concert November 19, 2016.