

**Minutes of the Meeting of
The Friends of St Mary's, Bacton**

**Thursday 10th March 2016 in St Mary's Church
Community Room**

(Registered' Charity No.1106579)

Present: Ann Kent (Chair, Trustee)
Simon Holdich (Trustee)
Canon Barbara Bilston
Claire Bisset (Chair, Treasurer)
Janice Shea,
Helen Thomson,
Sarah Spink
Gary Spink
Sue Middleton (Trustee, secretary)
Dick Middleton (Trustee)
Peggy Boyer (Trustee)

1. Welcome and apologies. Ann welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the following had offered their apologies: Richard Peaty, Pip Wright, Norma Lambert, Andy Friend, Mike Talbot, Keith Parsons

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

The Minutes of the previous meeting January 14th. Helen proposed as a true copy, seconded by Simon, and were accepted unanimously.

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising

4. Financial Report Claire had circulated the Financial Report to members. Since the last report, the Wine Tasting Quiz had raised £469. A grant of £9,250 was given to the PCC towards the roof alarm and dry rot eradication. The balance in the accounts stood at £12,465 at the end of February 2016.

5. Wine Tasting Quiz

There was discussion regarding the great success of the event. Ann felt that more help was required in the kitchen, and it may be worth considering paying someone to help at a large event. Rosie Black to be contacted regarding this. About 60 people had attended and there had been a good atmosphere. The food had been purchased from Bookers at a good price. Ann wished to record her thanks to everyone who helped, including Helen, Keith Parsons, Gary and David and Nicola, her family members and all those providing crumbles. This event had been primarily advertised as a fund raiser for the Doom painting and Ann hoped that events such as this would get the wider village community to understand the importance of their church.

6. Murder Mystery

As yet no date has been set. Cath Lockwood was still looking for a suitable play and was hoping to recruit one or two younger cast members.

7. Thank you Event

Sue had offered to organize this event. Sue to circulate the list of guests and ask that everyone check it, see if there are people on it who no longer should be, and anyone else who should be. The list should include Standing Order members, Committee, representatives of the Church and PCC, landowners, helpers at the metal detecting day and other events over the last three years (the last party was in 2013) Simple finger food and wine would be provided. Gary offered to do sale of return for the wine. (the list will follow later this week) Helen has offered to do the invitations, Simon suggested that the Chair give a short address regarding the work that had been carried out because of the guests generosity of their time or money.

8. Recruitment and AGM

The date for the AGM has been set as June 30th 2016.

Ann stressed the need for Friends to try to recruit more members, particularly younger people. It was agreed that this was a difficult task. She also said that she would be standing down as chair and trustee in June and will no longer attend meetings, but she is very willing to help at future Friends' events.

9. Doom painting

Helen gave a progress report for the Doom.

Progress Report on Doom Project

A subcommittee of Friends & PCC has been set up and we have had 3 or 4 meetings. This consists of Rev Cannon Barbara Bilston, David Black, Brian Manley and Helen Thomson.

In May last year Andrea Kirkham (Conservationist) delivered her Condition Report on the Doom Painting with a quote for £23,060 for the conservation work. However, for her to be able to do this work she said that the outside gable would need to be repaired so that water damage would be eliminated and that the electrical conduit (that crosses the Doom) would need to be removed. Both of these are sensible requests. We now have quotes for outside work and for the internal scaffolding.

The cabling that crosses the Doom (used for the lighting) is 1950s (and perhaps earlier) so for the conduit to come down the lighting will need to be rewired as well as the cable repositioned. At the moment we are discussing this with the Diocesan electrical expert and Paul Howlett, and the DAC expert has visited the church once and will visit again this week. The PCC agreed to the work necessary to progress the Doom restoration in June last year and have confirmed that rewiring can happen in a meeting on Sunday 6th March.

We have submitted a Doom Faculty to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) on Tuesday 2nd March in the hope that they would consider it at their pre-meeting on Wednesday 9th March and then at their full meeting on Friday 18th March.

As we were absorbing the complications that were unfolding on the lighting side we were made aware of the Church Building Council's Grant for Doom restoration, the closing date for applications being 8th March. We have rushed to complete the online application and have made the deadline for this.

For some time now we have been pursuing a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and this is awaiting the last piece of paper (from our Architect). This will be submitted for a pre-assessment.

The costs for the Doom Project have mounted up and in February stood at:-
15/2/16 Doom Painting Estimated cost including 20% VAT Internal Scaffolding £1290 Conservation £27671 External works £18290 Electrical Work £2400
We have been advised that the Architect Fees £6600 Electrical work is underestimated Insurance £150 Total £56401 . Grants applied for so far:-
Church Building Council Doom Painting Grant £8,000 Heritage Lottery Fund £47,000 (We are looking at other grant providers as well.)

Some members queried the high cost of the Architect's fees and Helen said she would look in to this. One of the conditions of some grants is that the church be left unlocked at least three days a week during daylight hours. The Friends agreed unanimously that it was desirable. The Heritage Lottery Fund require that some money has been raised locally. The Friends have pledged £3,000 and the PCC have £9,500 available. The electricity work is much more extensive than first thought and is an opportunity to do more extensive work to improve the overall lighting in the church. Now that the angels project had failed, there was a short discussion on the possibility of raising some money through sponsorship for some wrought iron fittings. There was a requirement to have an architect to oversee a project such as this but day to day supervision would be undertaken by Helen, David Black, Revd Barbara Bilston and Ray Bartum.

11. Lighting Outside the Church

This is now working. Paul Howlett (electrician) suggested that downlighting on the path may be considered at some stage.

12. Any Other Business

Simon had discovered a wind band (Ipswich Community Windband) who were very good, and wondered if it would be worth considering for a Christmas Concert. Dates would have to be clarified to avoid other Christmas events in the area.

Revd Val Wright has been chosen as priest in in charge. Everyone is invited to attend the licensing service on the 4th May.

The next meeting of the Friends will be on Thursday 7th April at 7.30in the Community Room

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**The date of the next meeting will July 30th at 7.30
in the Community Room**