

The Friends of St Mary's

Minutes of the meeting held at St Mary's Church Bacton Thursday 13 June 2024 at 19.00

Present:

David Chambers (Chairman), Diana Chambers, Andy Friend, Philip Jeffries, John Kingsley, Hazel Laflin, Kay Thompson and Paul Wigglesworth.

Apologies:

Gail Wigglesworth

Resignations:

David reported that Vanessa Kingsley had written to resign from the Friends citing her recent election as Chair of Bacton Parish Council along with her other responsibilities. He expressed the thanks of all the Friends to Vanessa for her contribution to their work particularly with the highly successful Prize Draws over the past two years.

When David expressed the hope that John would continue, he said that he too would be resigning at the end of the meeting due to increased work commitments but would be happy to help where he could in the future. John was thanked for his time in supporting the Friends who appreciated that he would still be mowing the churchyard.

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 May were agreed following the amendment of the anticipated interview date for the new Rector which is in July not June.

Matters Arising:

None.

Financial Report:

The report to 31 May 2024 is appended to the minutes, showing a month end balance of £5219, with £5198 in the bank account and £21 in petty cash.

This included £634 in donations following the funerals of Frank Johnson and Tony Finbow. David had written to thank both families for thinking of the Friends as such sad times.

The D-Day events at the Fete and Concert were well supported.

The Fete proceeds were £635 and the Prize Draw raised £1152. Total £1787.

John had written to all the firms and individuals who had donated such a splendid range of prizes.

The Concert ticket sales were £990 with the raffle producing £253 and the bar £69. Total £1312. Philip was thanked for his generosity in once again sponsoring the event's publicity and the fees of the performers.

To raise £3099 over the two events was a tremendous achievement and a credit to all those who worked so hard in the run up to the weekend and at both events.

Membership:

It was suggested that the Friends' website is advertised more widely and Andy would be getting in touch with Ben Moon to include this in future editions of the Parish News. Hazel confirmed that the Friends leaflet was included in the welcome Pack given to each new household in the village.

PCC Report:

The Structural Engineering report by Fran Adnams had now been received by the PCC and Fabric Committee which recommends a significant amount of work to address the movement of the North aisle. This had only been made possible by the recent £4000 grant recently made to the PCC.

The Footbridge work is nearing completion with just the railings to be installed in the next week. It was noted that the PCC may have to pay for some of the cost over and above the £15000 given by the Parish Council.

There will be a Village Lunch in the church on Sunday 21 July at 12 noon for 12.30 with tickets available at £10 and a Harvest Quiz on 20 September.

Future Fundraising:

The previously proposed Christmas Concert in the church on Sunday 8 December 2024 will go ahead and it was suggested that this might be in two parts with one being a choir such as the Aquarius Singers and the other to be determined. David will contact Margaret Bowbrick to see if the choir might be available.

A Friends event using the vacant Bacton Fayre marquee on Sunday 4 August was discussed and it was felt that an afternoon family occasion would have considerable appeal. Philip will explore what options might be possible with David and keep the Friends up to date with progress.

David will approach the Clarinet Choir to see if they might consider a return visit in 2025.

Any Other Business:

It was agreed that the AGM in 2025 should to be in April or May.

Date of Next Meeting:

Annual General Meeting in the Community Room at St Mary's on Thursday 11 July at 19.00.

The meeting closed at 19.49