

Friends of St. Peter's



Friends of St Peters Annual General Meeting Thursday 26 April 2012 at Westholme, Redlap

MINUTES

1. Present:

John Harrow (Chairman), Anne Bailey, Peter Bailey, Caroline Bailey, Robin Shiffner, Rokie Shiffner, Mary Sloman,

2. Welcome

Rokie opened the meeting by welcoming those attending and introducing John as Chairman. As this was the first AGM she reaffirmed that the Friends of St. Peter's was a secular organisation, set up to help maintain the fabric of the church. It was immaterial whether or not Friends actually attended church services – but it was hoped that members would appreciate, through their financial support, having a say in how they would like the sums raised to be spent.

3. Chairman's Report

John explained the background to the formation of Friends. It had been agreed that the principle should be to involve as many people in the Village as possible with the aim of providing a steady source of income in small amounts, rather than larger donations from fewer people. He had approached people individually, writing to names taken from the Electoral Roll in the first instance and following up with a personal visit. Although labour-intensive, this method has proved successful and about 50% of those approached either signed up or made a single donation. John recommended that this approach be continued but regretted that due to family commitments he is no longer able to devote the necessary time to the exercise.

John reported that he had set up a Lloyds TSB bank account, the bank being chosen because it could be used in the Village Post Office. John and Rokie are cheque signatories, cheques have to carry both signatures. John has also registered the Friends with HMRC so the 20% Gift Aid tax rebate can be claimed and although not a Charity, the Friends has Charitable status.

4. Treasurer's Report/Membership Report

Rokie reported that she has not yet completed the accounts. The current balance stands at £627.67. When Gift Aid is collected this will add about £120 to the total. No expenditure has been made as yet. She will produce a statement of accounts in due course.

The current membership stands at 14, of whom 10 are regular contributors and 4 have made single donations.

5. Retirement of Chairman

John explained that, owing to family commitments, he was no longer able to undertake recruitment, but he was content to continue as Chairman for the time being, if so elected.

6. Committee Nominations/Election

The following were nominated for Committee position and were duly elected unopposed:

Chairman	John Harrow
Treasurer	Rokie Shiffner
Secretary/membership	Anne Bailey

Others attending expressed their willingness to help with specific projects as required.

7. Funds – Objectives

Rokie explained that the Fund is independent of the Church, and funds raised can therefore be spent as determined by the members (subject to agreement by the PCC'). She asked for ideas for spending the current sum of about £600 and the following were put forward:

- a. A donation to the current Refurbishment Fund
- b. A "top-up" for the Refurbishment Fund if it is running short at the end of the project
- c. A contribution towards under-pew heating – say 3 specific pews at about £185 each
- d. A professionally produced Service Board for the Church gate

After some discussion it was agreed that option b. should be adopted for this year, with option d. in reserve for next time. Anne will draft a notice for the Stoke Fleming Magazine. **Sec**

8. Funds – Developments

It was agreed that renewed effort was required on recruitment, with more publicity and continuing personal approaches. Anne undertook to use the results of the Survey carried out in 2009 as the basis of a "target" list. **Sec**

9. Moving Forward

Suggestions for additional fundraising activities were discussed, in particular evenings in the form of "Desert Island Discs" with local personalities. Rokie has already made some preparatory moves in this direction and has approached Nick Teage to act as presenter. The following possible candidates were suggested:

Mary Newman	Chairman of Parish Council
Eric Pengelly	Long-standing local resident, local historian
Peter Crowther	Single-handed yachtsman, landlord of the Green Dragon
Joan Mason	Editor of SF Magazine, Sec of FS Hort & Sport
Martin Johnson	International rugby player/coach
Adrian Lloyd-Edwards	Rugby player
Geoffrey Newman	
John Hannah	Actor

Suggestions included staging these events in the Village Hall, Brill Plaice or Stoke Lodge Hotel to include a supper.

All present said they would be willing to help with such events if they were available.

There was general agreement with the concept but further planning needs to be done.

10. Any Other Business

John said he might be able to send out more recruiting letters if others were willing to help with this work.

Mary suggested that publicity material should be displayed in the Library.

Rokie asked for e-mail addresses, then closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Anne Bailey
26 Apr 12