

THE FRIENDS OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST ANDREW

DONHEAD ST ANDREW

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 20TH MARCH 2021

10.00 AM

BY ZOOM

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Mr Michael Hockney, Chairman
Mrs Danuta Tagg FCA, Hon Treasurer
Mr David Hammersley.
Mr George Lisle

Members of the Friends, the Church Electoral Roll and village community

Lady Cooper - Church Warden
Mrs Elizabeth Campbell
Major General Sir Simon Cooper
Mrs Jenny Hammersley
Colonel and Mrs John Hill
Dr Elizabeth Hockney
Dr Jenny Lisle
Mr Alistair Stoker
Mr Gerald Tagg

1. Welcome

The Chairman, Michael Hockney, welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting and invited questions and comments at any stage during the proceedings.

2. Notice Convening the Annual General Meeting

It was confirmed that a notice had been circulated to all members of the Friends during the month of January 2021, inviting them to attend the 2021 AGM of the Friends of St Andrew's Church on Saturday 20th March 2021, at 10.00 am by Zoom. The Friends Committee had also decided to invite those on the Electoral Roll to join the meeting on this occasion, as well as other members of the village community.

3. Apologies for Absence

The Chairman confirmed that there were fourteen apologies for absence received before the meeting:

Mrs Lynda Appleby
Mrs Alexandra Boyle
Miss Diana Burnett
Mrs Janet Elson
Mr & Mrs Michael Farewell
Mrs Zillah Gillespie
Mrs Ann Henderson
Mr Michael Jodrell
Miss Shena Kozubska
Mr & Mrs Roly Shaw
Mr & Mrs Keith Walters

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th March 2020, were approved without further amendment.

5. Matters arising not covered later in the Agenda

There were none.

6. Report on the Friends 'Committee Meetings in 2020

In 2020 the Committee met only once, because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Friends' ability to run activities and events in St Andrew's Church.

The signed Minutes of all Committee meetings are available for members of the Friends to view.

7. Financial Report by the Hon Treasurer

The Hon Treasurer, Mrs Danuta Tagg FCA, presented the financial summary on slides for January to December 2020 and showed the sources of funds raised in that year.

Further slides compared the amount and sources of funds raised each year since 2012 and the amount and sources of the total funds raised to date.

The Hon Treasurer also reported on the Chair Appeal. In 2020 individual chairs, eight in number, had been sponsored by village families and people who had previously lived in the village.

The total income within the main Development Appeal and the Chair Appeal for the year to 31st December 2020 was £35,377, and total funds raised to that date amounted to £837,195.

Mr George Lisle proposed acceptance of the Financial Summary for the year and this was seconded by Mr David Hammersley. This will now be signed by the Chairman and Hon Treasurer and will go forward to the Church APCM.

The Hon Treasurer's slides will be placed on the St Andrew's Church Community website (www.sacda.uk) by the end of March 2021.

The Hon Treasurer reported that the Chair Appeal will remain open until such time as all 124 chairs are funded.

Mrs Tagg was thanked for her work in managing the Friends' finances so efficiently.

8. Report by the Chairman of the Development Committee

Mr George Lisle, Chairman of the Development Committee reported that, apart from a very small list of outstanding items, the Development Project had been completed.

He was pleased to report that the Development Appeal had covered the entire cost of the Development project and that a small surplus remained. The Friends Committee had agreed to forward that sum to the Church's Fabric Fund to cover future maintenance and repairs.

Mr Lisle was thanked for his report and his work as Development Committee Chairman.

Mr Lisle's Report will be placed on the St Andrew's Church website by the end of March 2021.

9. Chairman's Report

The Chairman wished to record the community's thanks to all the Trusts and Foundations that had made possible the realisation of the PCC's Vision for the future of our church serving its rural community. They had contributed over 60% of the money raised. Particular thanks were due to the charitable trusts that had made two or even, in one case, three grants to our Appeal. The third grant from the Pelham Court Trust had made possible, amongst other important things, the funding of the work in the churchyard.

The rest was from our own efforts - events and activities, an appeal to current and former villagers and the PCC's contribution from the sale of a painting, a small share of the Church Fete proceeds, and the rest from Fabric Reserves.

The Chairman thanked all those who had been involved from the village community and paid tribute to the late Peter Campbell and to John Hill for their leadership and vision.

The Chairman reported that back in March 2020 we had enjoyed over five months of the use of the church for religious and secular activities. By common consent, the building was regarded as warm, welcoming, flexible and with every necessary facility and resource. We were then hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and our implementation of the Vision & Mission was halted.

It was hoped that St Andrew's Church's programme of services and activities would be fully 'up and running' again by August of this year.

The Chairman's Report will be placed on the St Andrew's Church website by the end of March 2021.

10. Discussion on the Future of the Friends

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee of the Friends, made a short presentation on 'Whither The Friends', which included the following bullet points:

- Set up 2003 to 'help raise funds for the maintenance of the church fabric including the churchyard and to contribute to such improvements for facilities as may be required'
- Development Project now completed and fully funded
- Fabric of the church should only require modest maintenance for many years to come
- Sum of not less than £10,000 has been retained by the PCC in the church's Fabric Fund
- Chair Appeal will continue until such time as all 124 chairs are sponsored
- Project to restore and plant out the graveyard well under way and fully funded
- Church income cut dramatically (no Sunday collections, no Church Fete, no lettings)
- Annual expenditure broadly the same (Diocesan clergy remuneration and pension contribution, Benefice expenses, insurance, heating)
- Regular Giving Appeal in 2020 produced some additional income. Will be given a second run this year

- Friends Committee believes focus needs to be on maximising the use of the church for the widest possible community benefit
- In a small village don't see the point of the Friends duplicating the PCC's future role

The Committee's recommendation was that the Friends should cease to exist and that villagers who wish to support the use of their village church as a centre of the community should focus any financial contribution on the Regular Giving Scheme.

- Funds will be used to maintain the church and its resources in first-class condition so that the planned programme of volunteer-led community talks, live music, coffee mornings and exhibitions, as well as regular worship can start again.

A discussion ensued. Mr David Hammersley expressed his support for the proposal, as did Mr Alistair Stoker who advised the meeting that the Parish Council was very supportive of St Andrew's Church as a community resource and hub, in the absence of any other large and public buildings in the village.

The Chairman then proposed the motion, which was seconded by Mr David Hammersley. The motion was carried unanimously.

The full text of the now-approved Recommendation will be placed on the St Andrew's Church website by the end of March 2021.

12. Any Other Business

Mr George Lisle wished to thank the Chairman for his efforts with fundraising and chairing the Friends Committee.

13. Concluding remarks - the Church Wardens

Lady Cooper thanked all the present and past members of the Committee for their service over many years. She thanked the Chairman of the Development Committee for bringing his professional skills to bear on the Project. Finally, she thanked the Chairman of the Friends for his work since 2012 in masterminding the fundraising and for his vision and leadership.

The meeting closed with *The Grace* at 11.30 am.