

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF ST. MARGARET'S
CHURCH HELD ON MONDAY 14TH JANUARY, 2019 AT 7.00 P.M. IN ST.
MARGARET'S CHURCH, HIGH HALSTOW.**

ATTENDANCE: Carole Cocup
June Collins
Raymond Collins (Treasurer)
Ann Judges
Michael Meredith (Chairman)
Tamsin Stowers
Diane Welch (Secretary)

APOLOGIES: Wendy Brunt
Chris and Jane Cook

NOT PRESENT: George Crozer
Rev. Stephen Gwilt

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 1ST OCTOBER, 2018:
Having been circulated, these Minutes were taken as read and signed and dated by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Data Protection

The Committee has made a valid attempt to comply with the Guidelines and to ensure that no Third Party information is stored. Regarding all the other compliances needed, it was proposed that:

Further discussion on this matter would be deferred to a later Meeting of the Committee.

This was proposed by Raymond Collins and seconded by Carole Cocup and passed nem con.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was sent to Alan and Doreen West thanking them for their generous donation to the Friends of St. Margaret's.

Welcome Letters to be sent to Margot Sturt and Mr. and Mrs. Hales.

The Friends of St. Margaret's Newsletter was delivered to all members of the Friends.

A former Committee Member of the Friends of St. Margaret's has written to the Chairman regarding the voting for Committee Members at the last Annual General Meeting. This matter was debated and it was decided to take no further action.

FINANCE:

The Treasurer's Report to date is attached to these Minutes. The Bank Balance, at present, stands at over £20,000. Special thanks was given to Tamsin Stowers for the vision that she had to sell Christmas Trees and the Committee was pleased to note that this venture was very successful and hoped that it would be repeated next year.

The Coffee Tree Initiative still continues but it is difficult to keep track of the generous giving, because many people were using the Just Giving pages on line. Tamsin said that she would keep an eye on the Just Giving page and explained that a box had to be ticked if Gift Aid was to be applied. £425 has been given on line. It was proposed that there would be three signatories to the Friends' Bank Account and that Ray Collins would be the third signatory.

Proposed Mike Meredith and seconded by Ann Judges. The motion was passed nem con.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS:

Committee Members were concerned that any application for a Grant would need to be matched by an equivalent amount from the Parochial Church Council. In addition, the same conditions would apply if a grant application was made on behalf of the Friends of St. Margaret's.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been drawn up between the P.C.C. and the Friends and signed by Rector and the Chairman of the Friends. This Document delegates the Friends to work on behalf of the P.C.C. and is kept in a secure place. An application for a grant has been made to the Friends of Kent Churches. The High Halstow Lottery Fund has awarded the Church a gift of £1,000 towards the cost of repairing the windows.

An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund is to be left as an Agenda item for future meetings.

MEMBERSHIP:

Two people signed up as Members as a result of the Focus on Medway Event and Two people signed up as Members following the Armistice Concert and Remembrance Day Service.

There was a great deal of discussion about a Family Membership Subscription and Lifetime Membership Subscription. It was reiterated that to be a Committee Member of the Friends, it is necessary to be an individual member of the Friends in the first instance. It was agreed that this rule should stand and that a minimum contribution of £2 is required to be a Member of the Friends of St. Margaret's. The Committee agreed to accept the payment of an Advanced Membership Subscription for 20 years from one individual.

FABRIC OF ST. MARGARET'S

A Faculty for the removal of asbestos and the renovation of 2 windows in the vestry is in the pipeline.

This amounts to:

£9,000 for the renovation of 2 windows

£1,000 for the removal of the asbestos

Regarding the Jesse Hogben Bequest, further documentation is required by the Bank before the money can be released.

REVIEW OF EVENTS:

The Financial Report gives the breakdown of the monies collected from each event.

The Chairman emphasised that every event has been worthwhile.

The Scarecrow Festival Trail was enjoyed by those who took part, but it needs to be refined for next year.

There were a disappointing number of entries for the Christmas Tree Festival in the Church but it was felt that the School Choir helped to publicise this event and bring more people into the Church.

Christmas Cards were on sale at the Taste of Christmas and a good number of purchases were made.

The Sunflower Growing Competition caused some competition between families and even those who did not participate in the competition bought plants to grow in their gardens.

Heritage Open Days did not go ahead as the Church was open for the 2 weekends prior to Armistice Day, so that people could see the display of poppies and other WW 1 memorabilia.

The Armistice Concert was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

COMMUNITY LINKS:

Links have been made with High Halstow Primary School and details of all forthcoming events will be advertised in the High Halstow Times. It is necessary for the Committee to advertise further afield in order to attract more visitors to the events which take place. It is imperative that the link with the School is strengthened, so that the children can participate more fully in all the activities that the Friends offer to the community.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Scarecrow Festival. Tamsin Stowers, Ann Judges, June Collins and Mike Meredith will be the Sub-Committee to plan for the 2019 Scarcrow Festival. This group will meet in May to get everything finalised, so that children and staff from the school are involved.

OTHER EVENTS:

A Spring or Summer Concert to commemorate the D-Day Landings of WW2. A suitable date will be arranged with Ken Reynolds.

Another "Hits from the Blitz" evening.

Coffee Tree to continue.

The sale of Christmas Trees

Craft and or Art Fair or Exhibition

The Friends of St. Margaret's Website needs to be updated and promoted.

The Church Garden Party on 6th July, 2019.

Spectacular Sunflowers Competition

Christmas Tree Festival

Talks on Local History

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The Annual General Meeting and the first Committee Meeting of the new Committee will be held on Monday 13th May in St. Margaret's Church at 7.00 p.m.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

The Committee of the Friends of St. Margaret's will meet on Monday, 18th March at 7.00 p.m. in St. Margaret's Church.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Signed as a true record

Michael Meredith (Chairman)

Date