

FRIENDS OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING (FOLLOWING THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING}
HELD ON MONDAY 4TH JUNE, 2018.

Topic	Discussion	Action
Present	Wendy Brunt June Collins Raymond Collins Chris Cook Jane Cook Rev. Stephen Gwilt Ann Judges Mike Meredith Tamsin Stowers Di Welch	
Apologies	Apologies for absence were received from:- Carole Cocup George Crozer	
New Members	The new members were welcomed to the Meeting	
Election of Officers	Mike Meerdith was proposed for the office of Chairman by Ray Collins and seconded by Di Welch. Mike Meredith was duly elected Chairman nem con. There were no other people proposed for the offices of Treasurer and Secretary, therefore :- Raymond Collins was re-elected Treasurer with the help of Jane Cook and Di Welch was re-elected Secretary. The matter of a Vice Chairman was discussed and it was decided to elect a Chairman on the night of a Committee Meeting, if needed.	
Finance	Raymond Collins reported the following:- Tamsin Stowers signed off the Financial Report for the year. Bank signatures were to be reviewed. An Independent Auditor needs to be appointed and Mike Meredith will look into this.	MM
Corrers-pondence	Mike Meredith reported on a letter he had received regarding Data Protection. Mrs. Ann Smith, Margaret Fraser and Ron Fletcher have given up their Membership of the Friends of St. Margaret's.	

<p>Church Fabric</p>	<p>June Collins reported on the state of the fabric of St. Margaret's. The windows were in desperate need of repair and it was suggested that a number of windows each year should be considered as an on-going project.</p> <p>Various fund raising possibilities were considered including:- A percentage of the cost of each window to come from the Friends of St. Margaret's. The cost of the Vestry window will be approximately £9,000 but further surveys need to take place. Of that amount the P.C.C. could pay half.</p> <p>To apply for grants to repair the roof in a suitable material rather than costly lead, which could be stolen.</p> <p>Grant Applications need to be made an Asbestos Survey for the Vestry Window and for the cost of removing the window and for the Scaffolding.</p>	
<p>Priorities</p>	<p>There was much discussion about ways to prioritise the work that needs to be done to preserve the integrity of the building.</p> <p>The Quinquennial Report needs to be explained to the congregation and villagers in order to make them aware of what the needs for the Church are and how to keep the Church available for all the various Services and Community Events in the future. It was suggested that a Sub-Committee was formed to work out the details of ways in which the necessary work could be prioritised and funded. It was noted that the pointing mentioned in the Quinquennial has been carried out.</p> <p>Although not a top priority, but one to be considered is the internal decoration of the Church.</p> <p>The Church Building Fund invested with the Diocese and the Friends of St. Margaret's Fund would both be needed to help pay for he work. In addition some major fund raising would need to be undertaken.</p>	
<p>Publicity</p>	<p>The Chairman's Newsletter, published bi-annually, could be circulated to the Annual General Meeting. Mrs. Judges suggested that the School Parent Mail could also be used as a way of explaining that resources are needed for the upkeep of the Church Building, otherwise it would fall into disrepair. The High Halstow Times would be a good way to raise the profile of the Friends.</p>	
<p>Website</p>	<p>George Crozer's note to the Annual General Meeting is attached to the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, but George indicated that some changes could make the Website more effective. The meeting queried the cost of £50.00 due to the fact that it did not have a direct bearing on the work of the Friends. Other options fcor the Website are to be considered</p>	
<p>i</p>	<p>Tamsin Stowers suggested a "Winter Windowland" theme, along the same lines of the Scarecrow Festival, with families dressing</p>	

	<p>their windows and making a donation to the Friends. The idea of an Honesty Box was discussed. As with the Scarecrow Festival, this idea would need time to build up over the coming years.</p> <p>Christmas Tree Festival to be held on Saturday 8th and Saturday 15th December. The Church will not be open mid-week due to lack of support. The Entertainment and the Opening Times need to be arranged with those taking part having one single session, rather than two throughout the afternoon.</p> <p>Railways on the Peninsula. Ken Reynolds to be asked to give an evening talk, perhaps in February, about the Railways on the Peninsula.</p> <p>Heritage Open Days to take place in September, in conjunction with the Friends of Kent Churches.</p> <p>The Coffee Tree Fund. Jane Cook explained how the initiative for Coffee Mornings works, which could raise up to £100,000. Further details regarding the collection of the £1 paid by everyone who attends was discussed and a small Sub-Committee set up, comprising of Jane Cook, Chris Cook, Tamsin Stowers and Mike Meredith.</p>	
Diocesan Approved Suppliers	It was pointed out to the Meeting that any individual or Company that supplies a service or carries out any work on the Church, has to be on the Diocesan List of Approved Suppliers.	
Jesse Hogben Bequest	June Collins reported on the enquiries that she has made to the Bank regarding this Dormant Account. This account was last used in 1997 and was declared Dormant in 2011. The problem is that the Trustees are no longer in the Parish and the Bank will not give out any information that would help the Church to receive the funds. The Bequest is for the upkeep of the Churchyard. A suggestion was made that a new Account was open and the money transferred from the old Account. June Collins suggested that the first thing to be done when the money is received is to restore Jesse Hogben's Headstone, which is in a very dilapidated state. Rev. Stephen Gwilt suggested that the price of repairs be investigated now. Approximately £2,000 would be available from this Bequest.	
Links with High Halstow Primary School	<p>Mike Meredith reported that he had met with Mrs. Wilson, the Acting Headteacher of the School and had discussed the Scarecrow Festival, the Christmas Tree Festival and the possibility of a Choir singing in the Church. He intimated that Mrs. Wilson was very keen to have good links with the Church and the community. Some of the children are going to King's Kitchen on 12th June to learn about the First World War. John Durling has agreed to speak to the children about the 1940-50s.</p> <p>Ann Judges explained her role as the High Halstow Link Governor</p>	

	for the Williamson Trust and Vice Chairman of the Local Advisory Committee, which aims to encourage School links with the Church and the wider community. Ann Judges also explained that Mrs. Wilson would be moving to Allhallows in September and Mrs. Stangroom would be returning from her Maternity Leave just before the Summer Holiday.	
Any Other Business	Jane Cook reported that all monetary gifts to be Church should be, as far as possible, Gift Aided in order to give the Church an extra 25% from the Her Majesty's Customs and Excise. There were further discussions regarding ring-fenced and specific donations to the Church. A very brief discussion took place regarding the repair of the organ in the future.	
Date of the next Meeting.	With the Church being used for P.C.C. Meetings and the Community Choir, finding suitable dates for Committee Meetings is becoming more difficult. The next Meeting will be held on Monday, 1 st October in St. Margaret's Church. There being no further business, the Meeting was closed at 9.45 p.m.	

Signed as a true record of the Meeting

Michael Meredith

Date