

FRIENDS OF ST.GILES THE ABBOT

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Friends of St. Giles the Abbot held at 308 Tubbenden Lane South on Wednesday 19th October 2016

Welcome to everyone here this evening.

1. APOLOGIES

Chairman, Julia Hoadley opened the AGM with 18 members present and 13 apologies.

2. MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 14th October 2015

The minutes were read, approved and signed.

Proposed by M. Richardson – seconded by J. Bannister.

3. PRESENTATION OF TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS TO 31ST AUGUST 2015

Roger Allard, the Treasurer, asked everybody to refer to the copy of the accounts. He asked for questions as he went along if anyone wished, rather than waiting until the end.

He said there was one very clear headline on the Friends of St Giles 2015/16 accounts and if they could look at the accounts and in particular Folio 4 they would see it.

The total assets had increased by almost £20900 from £129075 at 31 August 2015 to £149940 at 31 August 2016, just £60 short of £150000.

If they turned back to Folio 3 they would see that the increase was accounted for by an excess of income over expenditure of £5199 and an unrealised gain on the investments of £15666.

Total Incoming Resources in the year at £9838 were up by just over £1000 on the 2014/15 figure of £8790. Subscriptions and Gift Aid and Investment income were down on last year but Other Income was up by over £1500. Folio 8 itemised the gross income from the various fund raising activities and the main reason for the increase was two quizzes in the year rather than one and the new initiatives of the Christmas cards and Christmas quiz.

Total Resources Expended in the year at £4639 were up by just under £600 on the 2014/15 figure of £4061. The main reason for the increase was the more successful Italian Evening resulting in a higher 50% profit share of £569 payable to St Nicholas and the cost of the Christmas cards. Folio 9 itemised the income and expenditure from the various fund raising activities.

Turning now to the investments the trustees had continued to be advised by Robert Chuck, an Independent Financial Adviser, and met with him usually four times a year. The trustees had made some changes to the portfolio during the year on his advice and also invested a further £5000 in December 2015 in the Legal & General All Stocks Index linked Gilts. That £5000 investment was worth almost £6300 at 31 August 2016.

Roger said that there had not been a lot of change in the value of the portfolio in the first eight to nine months of the year with early losses recovered by May. Those of them who followed the financial markets would know that there was a great amount of turmoil immediately after the BREXIT vote but the stock market quickly settled and the FTSE had gone ever upwards since and their portfolio with it.

When putting the accounts together Roger said he was somewhat disappointed to find that the total assets had fallen short of the £150000 by just £60, it would have been nice to have made that extra £60. However the good news was they were now well over the £150000 and heading towards the next milestone with new subscriptions and 250 Club payments for the year plus the Charity of the Month at St Giles and a very successful October quiz. The portfolio had continued to perform well and as at 18 October was valued at £134331.83, an increase of £3969.72 over the 31 August figure. That was excellent news but Roger said the future seemed rather uncertain with the likely outcome of the BREXIT negotiations anything but clear.

Roger concluded his report on that cautionary note and said that if there were any further questions he would be very happy to answer them.

Proposed by J. Reber - seconded by J. Haines.

Julia Hoadley proposed a formal vote of thanks to Roger for once again producing an excellent set of accounts for the AGM, and for all his hard work throughout the year, giving the Executive Committee a clear understanding of the accounts.

4. MEMBERSHIP, INCLUDING COVENANTING

We have 120 members (this includes 9 Honorary members) of which 68 Gift Aid.

5. THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman's report:

The Friends exist to help raise the funds necessary to maintain the beauty of St. Giles church for future generations to enjoy and also to provide money in case of emergency. Most recently we have provided funds for the replacement of altar linen. We are still keen to provide funds for a new loo – when needed! This was made clear to the PCC at their last meeting.

The Friends have been the 'Charity in focus' for September and October. We celebrated our patronal festival on 1st September and fund raising has consisted of a coffee morning and two film evenings.

We continue with our fund raising – quiz nights (thanks to Sylvia), Valerie's quiz, a jumble sale and the Italian Evening – a joint event with St. Nicholas. We had great success with our Christmas cards last year – mainly thanks to Sylvia but we decided that cards were not something to be produced every year. We have also decided to have some sort of Easter Fair rather than a Christmas Fair. It was felt that it was time to make a change and we had only had the fair during the time that St. Nicholas had a break from their fair which has now resumed.

A new venture for next year which is in the early stages of planning is a guided tour of Rochester Cathedral followed possibly by a cream tea. This is thanks to John Bailey who has offered his services to the Friends. This will probably take place in April/May and most likely on a Saturday but nothing is decided yet.

Finally I would like to thank Sylvia Addison who is retiring from our committee. She has been the backbone of the Friends for many years – whether it be organizing and running the quizzes or attending all church services and went in November and December last year in order to sell cards. She opened her home to the committee when Chairman and welcomed us all. We thank her wholeheartedly – and look forward to seeing her at our next event – the jumble sale I think!

Flowers were presented to Sylvia as a thank you - Sylvia told those present, that she had enjoyed her time on the Committee.

Our next item is the election of the committee who all work so hard for the well being of the Friends and I thank them all.

6. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN, TREASURER, SECRETARY AND ANY OTHER NOMINATED PERSON TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN - Julia Hoadley .
VICE CHAIRMAN - Christopher Hillier
TREASURER - Roger Allard
SECRETARY - Sue Ellis

Valerie Bailey and Molly Richardson – Executive Committee members.

Nick Wilkins to be elected on to the Executive Committee – (email from Nick was read out by Julia and held on file).

Proposed by A. Bailey and seconded by B. Thompson and carried unanimously.

7. ELECTION OF AUDITOR

Gregg Chapman has agreed to be our Auditor once again.

Proposed by R. Allard and seconded by J. Reber.

8. RECTORS REPORT

I would like to congratulate the Friends on reaching the financial figure where we are at the moment – it is absolutely fantastic. The Italian Evening was a fantastic evening and a brilliant social event.

The Friends have helped with the Fabric side of St. Giles and we are very grateful for the donation towards the new altar linens.

On the issue of the toilets at St. Giles – there was a strong vote at the AGM this year to make a decisive decision to have one in the church yard. An excellent place was found but the Diocese are not in favour of composting toilets and stipulated that we look at building onto the church. There will be a Fabric committee meeting on 3rd November to meet with an architect. I will keep the Executive Committee of the Friends briefed on how things progress. I am grateful that the Friends will assist financially with this project.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next AGM meeting was given as Wednesday 18th October 2017 at 8pm venue TBA.