

## FRIENDS OF ST. GILES THE ABBOT

### Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Friends of St. Giles the Abbot Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 2.15pm St. Giles Church, Farnborough

Rev Matthew Hughes welcomed everyone to the AGM and then led us in prayer, remembering past members, George Roth, Yvonne Burr, Joy Robinson, Stan Eperon, all being great supporters of the Friends.

#### 1. APOLOGIES

In the absence of our Chairman, Julia Hoadley, Roger Allard opened the AGM with 12 members present and 7 apologies.

(Julia Hoadley, Nicholas Wilkins, John Scott, Clive Brearley, Pam Stacey, Sue Payne, Andrew Bailey).

#### 2. MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021

The minutes were read and approved.

Proposed by Valerie Bailey - seconded by Tricia Philo and carried unanimously.

#### 3. PRESENTATION OF TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS TO 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2022

Roger Allard, the Treasurer, said his report this year was in complete contrast to last year. Last year he was saying that their total assets had increased by more than £14000. This year they had decreased by more than £9000. That should not come as any surprise however given the state the financial markets had been in for most of the year following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, worldwide inflation and the happenings within their own country.

The income in the year totalled £4311. Subscriptions at £1690, Gift Aid at £393, Donations at £119, 250 Club Subscriptions at £1258, Charity in Focus £260 and Investment Income at £584 made up all but £7 of the total. He said that if anyone was a taxpayer but had not gift aided their subscription or was not a member of the 250 Club, then those were two ways they could help them to increase the income.

The expenditure in the year totalled £4392. 250 Club prizes at £630, Insurance at £493, grants to St Giles church for pew cushions and organ pipes £1950 and Investment Fees of £1246 made up all but £73 of the total.

The excess of expenditure over income amounted to £81.

The other element in the decrease in the total assets was the decrease in the value of the investments by £9270, which together with the excess of expenditure over income gave a total decrease of £9351 to £178042.

As regards the investments they had continued to be advised by Chris Moseley from Ascot Lloyd, a firm of Independent Financial Advisers. His clear advice at the moment was that they just had to sit tight and ride out the market difficulties. Although the market value of the investments had fallen they had not lost any money and would not lose any money unless and until they sold those investments.

Apart from the investments they did have a total of £60910 with banks and building societies so they did have more than enough for current needs without the need to incur losses by selling part of the investments.

Markets had fallen further since 31 August and as at today's date, 27 October, the value of the investments was £111303, down £5829 on the 31 August figure.

Roger sincerely hoped that they would have a much more settled worldwide and financial situation by the time he came to report to the next AGM resulting in positive news to tell them rather than negative and with that thought he concluded his report and said he would be happy to answer any questions.

Approved by Rev Matthew Hughes

Proposed by Eddie Roberts - seconded by Molly Richardson and carried unanimously.

#### **4. MEMBERSHIP, INCLUDING COVENANTING**

We have 101 (which includes 5 Honorary and 9 unpaid)

#### **5. THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

Chairmans report given by Roger Allard

I am sorry not to be with you today but an important non moveable medical appointment has cropped up so I am very grateful to Roger for chairing this meeting.

The Friends have always been supported by loyal, hardworking members. One of these was Yvonne Burr who died recently. Very early on in the foundation of the Friends she volunteered to be the secretary and she was superbly efficient. Once we had set up the twice yearly concerts - New Year's Day and Maytime, Yvonne became the 'box office'. She organised the tickets, fielded phone calls and thanks to her, we filled the church for every concert. Yvonne even made friends with regulars who relied on her to save them some tickets! When she moved to Addiscombe to be nearer her sister she still kept in touch with our activities. She kindly requested that any donations from her funeral be divided between the Friends of St. Giles and her church in Addiscombe. She will be much missed. The Friends have received £255 in memory of Yvonne.

Over the last few years we have delivered Friends leaflets to different parts of the parish. This year we chose Topcliffe Drive and the surrounding roads. We were pleased to get 6 very positive responses to the society and the 250 club (which continues to thrive although it could always do with new members.)

This year we have donated money to new gallery cushions and also to a particular pipe on the organ.

September 1st is the Patronal Festival for St. Giles. The church held a special choral evensong after which the Friends provided the refreshments.

We held a jigsaw puzzle sale in the church although a thunder storm and very heavy rain did not help sales. We made £108-50. Matthew was a huge help with the clearing up though I think he got rather wet! Thank you, Matthew!

We have kept in touch with our professional financial advisor throughout the year and he has joined our meetings via Zoom. We will be meeting him again in person during November. He understands our needs and we thank him for his advice.

Finally, very special thanks to our loyal and hard working committee. We are always so grateful to our treasurer Roger Allard who works so hard and guides us through our finances. Thanks too go to Sue Ellis who is so efficient with all the paperwork involved.

We look forward to continuing to support St. Giles in the coming year.

#### **6. RECTORS REPORT**

St. Giles Church remains in a good place. This year we have put new cushions in the gallery using the Church Cushion Company, thanks to the Friends for their

donation towards the cushions.

**The Organ**, refurbishing cost was £130,000 – pipes that were redundant at another Church were obtained, the fitting of which were what cost the money. Grateful thanks to the Friends for their recent donation.

Tuning of the Organ is 3 times a year and would cost between £300 - £500.

**Stained Glass Windows** – need to be professionally cleaned.

- Not a priority or category A job

**Lighting** – PCC have suggested that a 'Lighting Designer' should come in and look at the lighting.

- Not a priority or category A job

**Carpet in the Gallery** – Money which has been GA to the Church will be used for this.

**Ridge Tiles** on the roof have been replaced.

**Walls in the Choir Vestry** have been cleaned and mould removed, the door is being left open to dry the walls.

**Interior decoration** – this will need to be carried out in 3- 4 years' time.

- The Friends will be asked for help towards this.

**Heating** – There is a possible crisis coming up with increased costs but the Church must be kept warm for the congregation.

Matthew proposed a vote of thanks to Julia, who as you all know has not been well but through it all, she has continued to keep the Friends going.

Proposed by Anne Vincent - seconded by Alison Reynolds and carried unanimously.

## **7. 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

Proposed by Tricia Philo - seconded by Eddie Roberts and carried unanimously.

**Executive Committee members.**

Valerie Bailey, Molly Richardson, Nick Wilkins and Tricia Philo

Proposed by Helen Roberts - seconded by Sylvia Addison and carried unanimously.

## **8. ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

David Herridge has agreed to continue his role as Independent Examiner.

Proposed by Valerie Bailey - seconded by Anne Vincent and carried unanimously.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Revd Matthew Hughes gave his sincere thanks to the Friends for their encouraging support to St Giles Church, a Grade 2 Star Heritage Church. He is most grateful for the Grants and ongoing support that the Friends give.

Sue Ellis wished to formally register her thanks to Liz in the Parish Office, who willingly does all the photocopying needed for all the Friends mailings.

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next AGM meeting 2023 - TBC