

St James the Less Church, Tatham

Meeting on 14th November 2016

Held at The Bridge Inn, Tatham, at 7.30 pm

Present	Colin Burford (Chair), Liz Quine (Treasurer), Margaret Whatmough (Secretary), Mel Winstanley, Carol Emmett, Paul Whatmough, Linda Kirkby, Rita Murphy, Sue Wood, Barbara Harrison, Sue Marsden, Dorothy Clark, John Holt, John Harrison – 14 members
Apologies	Steve & Lesley Loy, John Parkinson, Mike Winstanley, Chris Berry, Jenny Herd, Richard & Rebecca Sanderson, Sue Dawson
Chair	Colin welcomed the attendees and opened the meeting.
Minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th September 2016 were agreed as a true record.
Matters Arising	Due to the departure of Joe Prendergast as Headmaster of Wennington Hall School, it was agreed that the proposal to donate £50 to the Headmaster's fund as a thank you gesture after the Queen's 90th Birthday Garden Party in the summer should be shelved.
Secretary's Report	<p>Margaret reported that there had been no change in membership since the last meeting.</p> <p>A letter has been received from Linda Kirkby, Chair of the PCC, requesting financial assistance from the Friends for the sanding and sealing of the parquet flooring in the North Aisle prior to the commencement of the work on the proposed brew point and the tall cupboard doors. A quotation has been received from the PCC preferred supplier of £545. It was proposed by Mel Winstanley and seconded by Barbara Harrison that the Friends should agree to giving the PCC £545 for this work to be carried out and all found in favour.</p> <p>Linda advised that the contractor would be on site week commencing Monday, 5th December 2016. It was proposed that the pews, etc., should be cleared from the North Aisle on Sunday, 4th December and that a cleaning work party would be needed on Thursday, 8th December. Any assistance and volunteers would be welcome.</p> <p>Paul Whatmough suggested that, with the approach of winter, it might be sensible to invest in a submersible pump for the boiler room in an attempt to</p>

	<p>prevent the problems of last winter. After discussion Rita Murphy proposed and Mel Winstanley seconded that delegated authority should be given to the Trustees to the tune of £750 to meet any unexpected emergency costs. All found in favour.</p>
Treasurer's Report	<p>The General Account currently stands at £9,754..</p> <p>£1,000 has been given to the PCC for the toilet installation.</p>
PCC Report	<p>Linda Kirkby commenced her report by requesting clarification as to what should happen to the old toilet now that the new one had been installed. The old facility had been donated by the Harrisons and they agreed that the PCC could dispose of it as they see fit.</p> <p>Linda is currently costing a disabled ramp to give access to the new toilet in the vestry. She thanked all the Friends who had contributed to the installation of the toilet and expressed the delight of the PCC and others at this welcome additional facility to the church.</p> <p>The jumble sale held in September had raised £1450 and the date for this event next year was confirmed at 9th September 2017.</p> <p>Linda advised the meeting that there had been a lovely Harvest Festival service at the church, followed by a simple lunch at John & Phyllis Holt's, which had been well attended and enjoyed by everyone.</p> <p>The next event would be the Christmas Eve service to be held at 18:30. Decorating of the church would take place at 9:30 on Wednesday, 21st December. However Linda warned that there would not be many services at St James the Less over the Christmas period this year and, therefore, the intention was not to go overboard with the decorations.</p> <p>John Holt then updated the meeting with progress on Entwistle House which is long and slow! The PCC are engaging solicitors to act on their behalf and have offered to find solicitors to act on behalf of Better Things (formerly Mencap).</p> <p>Sue Marsden reported that 22 pew cushions have now been completed. She is currently holding back from further activity on this matter pending the refurbishment of the North Aisle and the resiting of the pews. However, kneelers for the altar rails are now being done. Also, she has sourced carpet 5m x 1m to go between choir stalls. It was agreed that ideally it would be nice to see this in place for Christmas. Paul Whatmough proposed and Rita Murphy seconded that £500 should be allocated from the Friends for this carpet to be purchased. All found in favour.</p>

<p>Events Sub Group / Fund Raising</p>	<p>The next event will be the concert by the Leyland Brass Band on Saturday, 26th November 2016 at 19:30. John Harrison has agreed to be Master of Ceremonies on the evening. The 100 Club draw and the raffle prize draw will take place during the interval. Ticket sales are going well and it is anticipated that around 100 will have been sold by the evening.</p> <p>The Wenning Voices will be singing around the Christmas tree on Wennington Green at 17:30 on Thursday, 22nd December and it is hoped that members of the Friends will support this event.</p> <p>Levens Choir will be giving a concert at the church in the afternoon of 26th February 2017. They are a 40 strong choir and the concert is titled "Music in Quiet Places". The programme is not yet known but it is anticipated that it will be a concert of sacred music.</p> <p>The 100 Club currently has 104 members. 34 renewals are due this Christmas.</p>
<p>Publicity Sub-Group</p>	<p>Chris Berry is unwell at the moment and Clare Danz has resigned so publicity for events will have to be generated at the moment by the appropriate committee and volunteers.</p> <p>When Chris is better, it was agreed that a small committee should be set up to support him and all the publicity work he currently does single-handed.</p>
<p>AGM 2017</p>	<p>The AGM 2017 will be held in March. In accordance with the Constitution one of the Trustees will be standing down each year and in 2017 this will be the Chairman, Colin. Colin is prepared to stand for re-election but this does not preclude anyone else standing for election and other candidates would be welcomed.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>Colin indicated to the meeting that he would like to see the Friends giving time and thought to discuss the direction the charity should be pursuing in the future. Although fund raising would always be important and the tangible results of past events is now being seen in the church, the use of the church by other community groups should be encouraged. The North Aisle now lent itself as a community space and perhaps thought and discussion could take place over the winter months as to what could be done with this so that promotional activities could take place in the Spring 2017. It was pointed out that in order for the church to be adapted for community use, work still needed to be done to improve the lighting and it was agreed that the support of the Friends allowed the PCC to develop financial planning and improvements for the future.</p> <p>If anyone has any suggestions for community based activities in the church, Colin would welcome an email or a telephone call to discuss them.</p>

	The Plough Sunday service will be held at the church on 26th January 2017 followed by bacon butties.
Date of next meeting	19:30 on Monday, 16th January 2017 at The Bridge Inn, Tatham.