

Friends of St James the Less Church, Tatham

Meeting on 13th November 2017 at The Bridge Inn, Tatham

Present:	Colin Burford (Chair), Margaret Whatmough (Secretary), Paul Whatmough (Treasurer), Mel Winstanley, John Parkinson, Barbara Harrison, Sue Wood, Lesley Loy, Linda Kirkby, Sue Marsden, Dorothy Clark, Chris Berry, Rita Murphy - 13 members
Apologies:	John Holt, Jenny Herd, Mike Winstanley, John Harrison, Steve Loy
Chair:	Colin Burford welcomed the attendees and opened the meeting at 19:30
Minutes:	The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 11th September 2017 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mel Winstanley and seconded by Barbara Harrison.
Matters Arising:	<p>A meeting was held between the Friends and Linda Kirkby, representing the PCC. It was agreed to form a working group to look at publicity, presentation, promotional material. The group would comprise Paul & Margaret Whatmough, Chris Berry, Rita Murphy and Linda. The following discussion points were proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community involvement • Development of the church interior <p>Mike & Mel Winstanley would look at writing up material in a display format as presented by Mike Winstanley at the Tatham History Society winter lecture on "The Fosters of Hornby Castle and Black Dyke Mills and the Rebuilding of Tatham's Churches in the 1880s."</p> <p>Sue Marsden said that she had seen quite a few visitors to the church whilst she was holding her upholstery classes on a Wednesday. It was agreed that the Visitors' Book should be replaced with a more substantial version in an attempt to capture more information about these visitors.</p> <p>It was generally agreed that the lighting improvements made a marvellous difference to the North Aisle and that the new audio system was excellent. Thanks were extended to John Parkinson for his input on both these items.</p>
Secretary's Report:	Margaret reported that the Annual Report had been completed and filed with the Charity Commission in line with their requirements.
Treasurer's Report:	Paul reported that, since the last meeting on 11th September 2017, transfers totalling £669.50 have been made from the 100 Club to the General Account relating to the September and October draws. A further £903.75 has also been credited to General Account being the surplus from the Lancaster Male Voice Choir event.

	<p>A grant of £1612.11 has been paid to the PCC relating to the microphone and speakers, metal handles and the balance due on the oak chairs.</p> <p>The current balance in the General Account is £8,888.65.</p> <p>The total income to the General Account to date is £19,856.28 of which £10,117.25 has been raised from the 100 Club. 100 Club prizes totalling £5,447.25 have been paid out.</p>
PCC Report:	<p>Linda Kirkby reported on behalf of the PCC as follows:</p> <p>Firstly, what a wonderful night we had with the Lancaster Male Voice Choir and, especially, the rousing Last Night of the Proms finale. The teamwork of the Friends made for another successful and enjoyable event. Thank you.</p> <p>Since the last meeting again so much has been achieved and work carried out at the church; the main work being the completion of the new lighting in the North Aisle and Bell Tower which has transformed those areas and, I think, we all especially like the dimmer switches. Also, the outside and porch sensor lights have made a huge difference. John Parkinson has kindly produced and laminated some lighting / audio instructions as the switches, etc., a copy of which is at the brew station and one in the vestry.</p> <p>The splendid new chairs have been used on several occasions and so very comfortable. It was a challenge waiting for delivery but they came good in the end.</p> <p>The rack is now installed in the cupboard for the storing of the black chairs. Again, it took a while to get there but it works.</p> <p>Richard & Rebecca Sanderson have dealt with the vestry gate and it has made a huge difference.</p> <p>Some of you will have seen notices stuck to the metal pull out drawers in the brew station. Unfortunately one of the hinges came loose and Tony Sedgwick had to do a repair job. He thinks that the problem arose due the doors being leant on when the racks are being pulled out so if we could all take heed of Tony's note, there shouldn't be any further problems.</p> <p>Maybe some of you will have noticed that some trees have been removed from the churchyard. This we feel has opened up areas of the churchyard, especially when the time comes to extend it. Tom Hilton, Keith Carroll, Paul and myself plus two grandchildren spent a day dealing with these. Paul is now obtaining a couple of quotes for someone to remove the stumps that remain.</p>

Can you believe that all of the above has been achieved since the last meeting of the Friends and, on behalf of the PCC, we thank the Friends for your hard work and support in making these projects happen. It has been commented that the PCC / Church isn't going to need the Friends in future as all the identified projects are nearing completion. Please may I say on behalf of the PCC that we do need the support of the Friends and the members of the church and yourselves are the future. It may be that all your hard work of fundraising will slow down but there will always be some project ongoing to keep this church alive for our community and we need you to use the church and we need the friendship and support it offers everyone.

That brings us to quote from your Minutes "the next projects the PCC would like to see take place in the church:"

As I have said we are all delighted with the lights in the North Aisle and Bell Tower. We would now like to look at the second stage of upgrading the lights (i.e. new spots) in the main body of the church and chancel area. Originally the PCC weren't sure about this (again, little steps!) but now we feel this would only enhance the church even more, especially with the addition of dimmer switches. I therefore ask if this would be a project that the Friends would be willing to support.

Also, again, the audio system (once we had remembered to turn it on!) is such a success and the feedback from members of the congregation is wonderful - those hard of hearing can now hear everything and the system really proved its worth at the Remembrance Service when music was played through it and, coupled with the acoustics in church, it was just wonderful to listen to. We would, therefore, like to add to it with a microphone in the pulpit (like the lectern) and a freestanding microphone. We feel that these would benefit both church and event use. We apologise that it is an "add on" but better to do it in little steps again rather than outlay a lot of hard earned money and not get it right.

The final request at this stage requires man (or woman) power rather than funds - many hands make light work. Following on from Richard Sanderson re-plastering the wall above the brew station, this and other areas now need painting and I wondered if anyone would come along to a "Painting Party" armed with brushes, etc., to brighten up the walls in the North Aisle and the ceiling in the porch. The paint, of course, will be provided as will tea and coffee. I was thinking a day or two half days would do it depending on how many people turn up.

I have the following dates for your diary:

Thursday, 21st December 10:00: all welcome for decorating the church

	<p>for Christmas Sunday, 14th January 11:00: Plough Sunday Service followed by scrumptious bacon butties Provisional date of Saturday, 14th July, 18:00: Jazz & Fizz Night at Station Farm, Wennington.</p> <p>Finally, if anyone is interested in learning to bell ring, Mark Rowlands has kindly offered to run a course on either a Monday or Wednesday evening 19:00 - 20:00. He would initially ask if it was possible for the first 2 - 3 weeks that you start at Hornby church on a Thursday at 19:00 - 20:00 to get to grips with their ropes before continuing at Tatham church.</p> <p>The meeting raised the issue of the ongoing problem of a draught around the main door and it was queried whether an electric heater above the door might resolve the problem. Linda will revert to the PCC to discuss this matter further.</p> <p>Barbara Harrison stated that the Wenning Voices had surplus funds and would like to buy an urn for use in the church. Quooker and zip tap alternatives were discussed but concerns were raised regarding health and safety issues with constant boiling water. This will be discussed at the next PCC meeting.</p> <p>Also, the question of whether it would be possible to install lighting on the main path to the church was raised. This will be discussed when the lighting advisor is on site looking at the lighting for the main body of the church.</p> <p>The Friends agreed in principle to allocate £4,000 for the projects outlined above. Proposed by Barbara Harrison and seconded by Lesley Loy.</p> <p>As John Holt was absent, Linda advised that a valuation of £260K has been received in respect of Entwistle House. It is now being registered with the Land Registry.</p> <p>The church has received a legacy of £10k out of the blue.</p>
<p>Events:</p>	<p>As already stated the Lancaster Male Voice Choir concert had been a great success.</p> <p>The next event will be a concert by the Levens Choir on Sunday, 25th February at 14:30 - 16:00. The choir will be making a charge of £150 and tickets will be on sale at £10 each including tea and cake. Sue Wood and Rita Murphy will be responsible for ticket sales.</p> <p>On Sunday 22nd April, an art curator will be coming to the church to talk about the artist J M W Turner and his painting of "Hornby Castle from</p>

	<p>Tatham Church" in particular. It was generally agreed that this could prove to be a very popular talk and discussion ensued about the best use of technology to ensure that everybody in the church could see the speaker and any presentation she made.</p> <p>Rita and Paul are meeting with Carl Hunter from Wennington on Wednesday to look at what technology is available.</p> <p>Sue Wood reported that there are currently 105 members in the 100 Club and that she would shortly be contacting the members regarding renewal of their subscription. Paul pointed out that there had been a couple of occasions when the banks had not actioned Standing Order requests sent to them by people wishing to subscribe to the 100 Club. As much as possible he asked that people be encouraged to renew their subscription online.</p>
Publicity:	<p>Chris Berry reported that the deadline for the Winter Newsletter is approaching. Contributions to the newsletter would be appreciated as would a diary of forthcoming events. Copy is required in the first couple of weeks in December.</p>
Any Other Business:	<p>Colin reported at on Saturday, 17th March 2018 an exhibition on the Great War would take place in the church from midday to approximately 16:30. This would be a joint effort with Mike Winstanley of the Tatham History Society, Stephen Roberts from Wennington, a retired history teacher with a special interest in the Great War and tracing family histories and the Friends. Special emphasis will be made on the individuals listed on the Roll of Honour in the church and the impact of the war in the greater Tatham area.</p> <p>Margaret agreed to circulate an email advising all the Friends on the bell ringing course and the proposed "painting party".</p> <p>John Parkinson agreed to look into the question of window cleaning and discuss what happens at Wray church with the appropriate people.</p>
Date of Next Meeting:	<p>Monday, 8th January 2018 at 19:30 at the church.</p>