

Friends of St James the Less Church, Tatham

Meeting on 12th November 2018 at St James the Less Church

Present:	Paul Whatmough (Chair & Treasurer), Margaret Whatmough (Secretary), Rita Murphy, John Holt, Mel Winstanley, Richard & Rebecca Sanderson, John Parkinson, Barbara Harrison, Sue Marsden, Linda Kirkby, Chris Berry – 12 members
Apologies:	Colin Burford, Jenny Herd, Mike Winstanley, John Harrison, Sue Wood, Kathy Walker.
Chair:	Paul Whatmough welcomed the attendees and opened the meeting at 19:30
Minutes:	The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 10 th September 2018 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Barbara Harrison, seconded by Mel Winstanley.
Matters Arising:	All matters arising will be dealt with in the reports of the committees.
Secretary's Report:	<p>Margaret reported that the Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2017 had been filed with the Charity Commission within their timeframe, thus fulfilling the CC's requirements.</p> <p>The Autumn Newsletter has been sent by post to those members of the Friends who live outside the circulation area and / or do not have email.</p>
Treasurer's Report:	<p>Since the last meeting on 10th September 2018:</p> <p>£689.00 from 100 Club, relating to the September and October draws, and £806.60 surplus from the Leyland Brass Band concert have been paid to General Account.</p> <p>A final Grant of £867.19 has been paid to PCC to balance all works to date.</p> <p>Current balance in General account is £9,100.03</p> <p>Total income to General Account to date is £26,364.05, of which £14,228.50 has been raised from the 100 Club.</p> <p>100 Club prizes totalling £7,661.00 have been paid.</p>
PCC Report:	<p>Linda Kirkby reported on behalf of the PCC as follows:</p> <p>Firstly, thank you for helping with decorating the Church for the Harvest Festival. The service was well attended with the usual delicious soup and ploughman's lunch at The Rectory.</p> <p>Then the Leyland Brass Band just about lifted the roof off. What a splendid evening, run like clockwork by the Events Team. I think a</p>

return visit would again be supported.

The Quinquennial Report has been received and digested and the roof is fit for another 5 – 10 years. Some “fettling” work will have to be carried out particularly and the PCC has asked Graham Sykes to deal with this and I believe he has been seen on the roof. Otherwise the report didn’t reveal anything that can’t be worked through; the boiler house flooding being one item. Members of the DAC (Diocese Advisory Committee) visited the church and we have told them about the problems we were having. They advised several things to solve the issue to which we answered that we had already tried them so we are now at the stage that our proposals for a roof/porch over the boiler house steps will go before a DAC meeting to be discussed. This meeting was last Friday and we await their comments. We are hoping they will be favourable but, in the meantime, they have given us permission to erect a temporary build over the steps which will be done as soon as possible.

Whilst at the church the DAC Bell Inspector went up the tower to check out our bells. We also await his written report but I understand that there are some works to be carried out which Mark Rowlands, assisted by Paul, are able to attend to.

The bells rang out for the Remembrance Service at St James the Less, again thanks to Mark, Paul and Steve Loy. They have now mastered the challenge of the long drop ropes and what an achievement and delight for all to hear. The Remembrance Service had the biggest attendance we have ever had (head count of 90). Lucy Leather and the Wenning Voices contributed to the service beautifully and we didn’t quite run out of cups!

As usual the PCC and I would like to thank Paul for being on hand to do those jobs: re-seeding, leaf collection, heating and all the other things he does behind the scenes. We are most grateful.

Mel Winstanley has been instructing (and disciplining!) two volunteers on cleaning and treating the wooden top of the font and we are delighted to see the results of our labours. This is still more worthwhile work to be done.

Our thanks are also due to John Parkinson for liaising with the Council and persuading them to replace / improve the street lighting near the car park. The new light will henceforth be referred to as “John’s halo”!

The new vacuum cleaner has not yet been purchased but will be once we have found a secure place for it.

Finally, Christmas is looming and if anyone is available to help decorate the church on the 22nd December at 10:00 a.m., you would be most welcome. Christmas begins with the Crib Service on 24th December at 18:30.

Thank you Friends for your continued support.

After discussion, Linda advised that she had spent some time with Sue Dawson regarding the application for a roof over the boiler house steps and Sue had confirmed that she is willing to support the application. Sue

	<p>also believes that there is no reason for the application to be turned down.</p> <p>John Holt reported that there had been no progress on Entwistle House. He also advised that St James the Less had not won the competition run by Ecclesiastical Insurance.</p>
Joint Committee:	No report
Events:	<p>It was reported that the Leyland Brass Band concert had been very successful and enjoyable. It was agreed that the Friends would purchase a dozen new wine glasses for the church to replace breakages. A discussion then ensued regarding the necessity of purchasing some more chairs. Linda Kirkby agreed to take this suggestion back to the PCC meeting for discussion although it was generally accepted that the storage of more chairs could be a problem. Margaret argued that attendance at a concert should be limited to 100 people as trying to cram more than that number into the church risked making the event an uncomfortable experience for people who had paid their ticket money. There had been complaints about restricted views at the brass band concert due to squeezing as many people as we could into the church.</p> <p>Another comment that had been received was that the slit in the donations box at the rear of the church was too small to take the notes currently in circulation and Richard Sanderson agreed to have a look and see what could be done.</p> <p>Forthcoming events are a "thank you" tea party for Friends and members of the 100 Club on 17th March 2019. It was agreed to invite the Leyland Brass Band back in 2020 but a concert was being planned for the autumn with either an opera singer or inviting Brewers' Apron choir back. It was decided that a meeting should be arranged between the Events Committee and the PCC to reconcile the social calendar for 2019 so there is no conflict of dates and event.</p>
Publicity:	The next newsletter is planned for the end of January 2019. Please let Chris Berry have copy as soon as possible after Christmas.
Any Other Business:	<p>The next dates for Movies in the Pews are 7th December 2018 and 11th January 2019.</p> <p>Any money left over after the purchase of the new vacuum cleaner will go to the purchase of a new kettle.</p> <p>The Plough Sunday service, followed by bacon butties, will be held on 13th January 2019</p>
Date of Next Meeting:	Monday, 14 th January 2019 at 19:30 at the church.