

St James the Less Church, Tatham

Minutes of the 9th Friends Meeting on 18th March 2015

Held at the Bridge Inn, Tatham, at 7.30pm.

Present	Colin Burford (Chair), Liz Quine (Treasurer), Margaret Whatmough (Secretary), John Holt, Mel Winstanley, Mike Winstanley, Paul Whatmough, Rebecca Sanderson, John Parkinson, Sue Wood, Chris Berry, Kate McDonald, Kathy Walker, John Harrison, Barbara Harrison, Jenny Herd, Sue Dawson, David Lloyd, Ros Lloyd – 19 people
Apologies	Carl Hunter, Rita Murphy, Richard Sanderson, Linda Kirkby, Clare Danz, Sue Marsden
Chair	The meeting was opened by the Chair, Colin Burford
Minutes	The minutes of the previous minutes were agreed as a true record.
Matters Arising	Due to Rita Murphy being indisposed, Margaret had looked at submitting an application to the BBC Songs of Praise. The guidelines issued by the BBC were somewhat daunting as they stipulated, amongst others, a church that must be able to seat over 350 and large musical resources in terms of good choirs and choral societies. Margaret is to bring the criteria for Songs of Praise to the next meeting for further discussion. However it was considered that the principle of a Community Choir was worth investigating further.
Secretary's Report	An email has been received from Carl Hunter, Chair of Wennington Parish Council confirming that the Parish Council has agreed to parking being allowed on the village greens for the Open Gardens event.
Treasurer's Report	The concert by the St Lawrence Singers had raised £1,000. The 100 Club was doing well and so far had made £580 profit. Refund of VAT on the new boiler and heating had been received amounting to £7,000. Paul Whatmough remarked that there had been an item in the Government Budget extending the assistance scheme for church roof repairs. Liz said that she would look into it .
PCC Report	John Holt thanked the attendees for their help with the church rotas for coffee, cleaning and flowers. The next fund raising event for the PCC would be Wray Scarecrow Festival and Fair. On 26th April the PCC would be responsible for catering in the Institute and would be running a stall at Wray Fair on Monday, 4th May. Any help would be gratefully received. The organ survey had been carried out and the report received quoting restoration and repair work amounting to £101k + VAT. This is obviously not realistic for the PCC to pursue and, consequently, reopens the discussions regarding the use of the space within the church for the installation of kitchen and toilet facilities. Sue Dawson pointed out that any potential development of a kitchen and toilet should be viewed as one project as there would be so many hoops to jump through and boxes to be ticked. The decision about the organ is solely one for the PCC and not the Friends and will be discussed at the next PCC meeting at the end of the month.
Projects Sub Group	The main focus of the Projects Group has been to eliminate draughts identified around the entrance doors and the bell tower. Some work has been carried out but some areas will be more difficult to insulate, e.g. the main entrance door area and the second bell loft. Of the £170 allowed by the PCC for draught insulation, £20 has been spent so far. The boiler is working well and the first RHI return was submitted on 27th February. £1547.51 was received on 27 March.

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Constitution Sub Group	A response has been received from the Charities Commission and Colin is in dialogue with them as they are requesting further clarification regarding the aims of the Friends. Membership of the Friends cannot be pursued until Charity Commission status has been received.
Events Sub Group / Fund Raising	<p>Barbara reported on the success of the St Lawrence Singers concert and, as reported by the Treasurer, after costs, £1000 has been raised.</p> <p>Sue Wood reported that the 100 Club now has 71 members.</p> <p>Colin thanked both Barbara and Sue and the Events Committee for their successful fund raising efforts.</p> <p>The Events Committee has many suggestions for further events and will be meeting to discuss these further. As their ideas progress, they will liaise with Linda Kirkby of the PCC to avoid any clash with PCC plans. In the meantime, the next event is the Wennington Open Gardens on Sunday, 5th July 2015 and more details will be forthcoming at the next meeting. Sue O'Brien has kindly agreed that her garden and field can be used again for refreshments and Rebecca, Kathy Walker, John Holt have all volunteered to enter their gardens in the event.</p>
Publicity Sub-Group	The Spring newsletter will be available in the next few weeks. Barbara was asked and agreed to contribute short notices about the St Lawrence Singers, the 100 Club and the Open Gardens.
AOB	<p>The volunteers for church cleaning were seeking new vacuum bags and were asked to speak to Phyllis Holt.</p> <p>The PCC Annual Meeting is scheduled for 30th March 2015 at 19:30 at the home of John Holt. All are welcome to attend and may stand for election as long as they are on the Electoral Register.</p>
Date of next meeting	<p>Wednesday, 11th May 2015 at the Bridge Inn at 7.30pm.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21:05.</p>

Minutes circulated by Margaret Whatmough, 9th April 2015