

St James the Less Church, Tatham

Minutes of the 3rd Friends Meeting on 2nd June 2014

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

Present	Colin Burford (Chair) , Linda Kirkby, John Holt, Sue Marsden (Secretary), Liz Quine, Chris Berry, Rita Murphy, Kate McDonald, Sue Wood, John Harrison, Barbara Harrison, Jenny Hird, Mike Winstanley, Mel Winstanley, Carl Hunter, Rebecca Sanderson, Richard Sanderson, Kathy Walker – 18 people
Apologies	Mark Cannon, Sue and Des O'Brien, Melinda Elder
Minutes	The minutes of the previous minutes were agreed as a true record
Matters Arising	The Friends group visited St James the Less church on 6 th May and the discussions were minuted and emailed to all on 9 th May. Kathy Walker and the Sandersons have not been receiving email. Their correct addresses were provided so that this will not happen again. Linda will show Richard Sanderson and Mike Winstanley round the church as they were unable to come on the day
Constitution Sub Group	Colin Burford, John Harrison and Mel Winstanley met to discuss the best constitution for the Friends. They have looked at other constitutions and there are several options. The group will meet again in June. It was suggested that Colin speak to the Charity Commission on the phone and ask their advice
Website Sub Group	The new website is now live, thanks to Chris Berry who has established this very quickly since the last meeting. Emails from it will go directly to Chris and he welcomes feedback to amend or improve the site. Chris was thanked for making such a good job of it and doing it so quickly. The address is www.lowertathamchurch.co.uk Colin suggested that the website group which is currently only Chris, could be expanded to become a marketing and publicity group. Chris is happy to produce a Newsletter for the Church and the Friends which can be sent to those living further afield with news of the new Friends Group. This can be done 4 x year. It was suggested that this can also be an enewsletter to send to others and can also be a pdf on the website for people to download. Barbara offered to help by proof-reading the Newsletter. Mike Winstanley suggested that it can have a link from the Tatham History Society website and we can provide a link to theirs as well. Liz Quine has a list of people who contributed to the 2002 Appeal and live outside the area. The website can also be linked to Wennington Council and Carl can help with this, and Tatham Council which Mel can help with as they are both on these respective Councils.
Project Sub Group	John Harrison, Jim Murphy and Mike Winstanley met to discuss the options and challenges. John produced a report on these options and solutions. They looked at the possible spaces for a wc and kitchen and concluded that a sink could be installed in the Vestry which could be discreetly located and would also be a facility for the minister. The wc would be best sited where the current wc hut is but could have a septic tank and a water supply in it. The water supply is just outside the west wall of the church yard and could be brought along the boundary wall and into the vestry and the suggested wc site. The septic tank could be routed down a diagonal south west path which Edmund has identified, leading to the site where a tree was removed and linking to a surface water drain a little further on.

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	<p>The rough estimate to bring water to the vestry and provide a sink would be around £700 - £1,000, assuming that a Friends team would do the digging. The estimate for a septic tank and wc installed in the existing shed would be £2,500, or £4,000 in a new shed, again with the Friends providing the labour. A quick-fix wc and kitchen could therefore be done for around £3,500 If the PCC would prefer to consider a more permanent building for the wc, perhaps also incorporating a kitchen, then the rough estimate is £40,000 -£50,000.</p> <p>It was suggested that a representative from the Friends Group could present the findings to the PCC meeting and these should be as detailed as possible, with detailed costs, to allow for full consideration and a decision by the PCC.</p> <p>John Holt pointed out that a Faculty will be needed from the Diocese for any work to the Church and churchyard. Rebecca pointed out that we will need to have building regulations and may need planning permission. This will be investigated by John/Colin.</p> <p>Liz Quine said that there may be a case for doing the larger wc and kitchen project as it may be more difficult to get grants from charitable trusts if part of the job was partly done and fully functioning. Also we could not apply for grants until we are a registered charity.</p> <p>The area available at the North West corner outside the church is 25sq.m which should be enough for a disabled wc and a kitchen. The building would be accessed from the North door of the church, via a covered walkway.</p> <p>Rebecca is to join the Projects Sub Group</p>
Events Sub Group	<p>Barbara Harrison, Jenny Hird, Rita Murphy, Sue Wood, Rebecca Harrison, Mel Winstanley and Kate McDonald.</p> <p>Barbara presented a report on their discussions and possible events that could take place in the church or in other venues for the church. They had looked at the cost of hiring a portaloos for an event, which would be £300 a day for a block of 4 wcs. One suggestion was to have a marquee on Wennington Green to celebrate the Church and the village getting the B4RN broadband. The group have been asked to arrange an event for the St Lawrence Choir but are concerned because so many of the Group members will be away on the date they are coming. <i>(17th June– this has now been postponed until next spring)</i> Other events included a brass band carol concert near to Christmas. There is a link with the Black Dyke Brass Band as the founder, a Mr Jordan, donated one of the stained glass windows in St James the Less Church. Open Gardens are already planned for 2015 as it is every third year. Colin asked the group to focus on the St Lawrence Choir event, the B4RN launch for now so that it is not trying to do too much too soon. John Holt pointed out that the church can't sell alcohol without a licence but it can include a drink in the ticket price or ask for donations.</p>
Date of next meeting	Monday 14 th July at the Bridge Inn at 7.30pm