

## Friends of St James the Less Church, Tatham

### Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at St James the Less Church

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| Present:            | Paul Whatmough (Chair & Treasurer), Margaret Whatmough (Secretary), Sue Wood, Rita Murphy, Colin Burford, Sandy Hutchins, Stephen Robson, Margaret Wilson<br>– 8 members   |
| Apologies:          | John Parkinson, Mel Winstanley, Linda Kirkby, Chris Berry  |
| Chair:              | Paul Whatmough chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone back to our first full meeting since August 2021 due to the pandemic.   |
| Minutes:            | The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2021 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Colin Burford and seconded by Rita Murphy.   |
| Matters Arising:    | Margaret advised that she had not pursued the aerial photography of the church during the pandemic months but that she had a friend with a drone who she felt would be happy to do this exercise and she would contact him to put this in motion.  |
| Secretary's Report: | Margaret advised that the Annual Return for the year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020 had been made to the Charities Commission by the deadline of 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2021.   |
| Treasurer's Report: | <p>The current balance in the current account is £14,786.73</p> <p>Since the commencement of the Friends in January 2015 the 100 Club has raised £45,274.50 and paid out £15,457.25 in prize money, leaving £29,817.25 available to put to good use in the church.</p> <p>Grants totalling £27,228.50 have been paid to the PCC for improvements in the church.</p> <p>There is no Work in Progress at the moment.</p> <p>Paul advised that he had received another request to complete a Corporation Tax Return from HMRC for the year ending 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021. He managed to get through to HMRC by phone (quite an achievement!) and it has been agreed that, due to the small revenue of the charity, annual requests for a Corporation Tax Return will be cancelled.</p> <p>In view of the outbreak of war in Ukraine, it was suggested at the meeting that the Friends should support the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal organised by the Disasters Emergency Committee. It was proposed by Margaret Wilson and seconded by Colin Burford that a sum of £1,000 should be sent. The Secretary agreed to write to all members requesting their confirmation that this proposal was acceptable to them and in the event of a majority vote of all the membership, Paul would arrange to transfer the funds.</p> |

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|                     | <p>The Treasurer wished to record the thanks of the Friends to Sue Wood for all the work she carried out administering the 100 Club which had proved to be such a reliable source of income, especially during the pandemic when other means of fundraising had not taken place.</p>   |
| PCC Report:         | No report  |
| Joint Committee:    | No further meeting of the Joint Committee has taken place.   |
| Events:             | <p>Margaret Whatmough briefly outlined the proposals for celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. She explained that ideally an event would have taken on Wennington village green for the parishioners of the village and those of Lower Tatham. However, the Jubilee weekend was the weekend prior to Appleby Fair and, despite consultations with LCC, no assurances could be given that the travellers would not be camping on the green. Mrs Phyllis Holt at The Old Rectory in Tatham had stepped in and offered the use of her garden for the event which had been accepted.</p> <p>It was proposed that the event should take the form of a Jacob's Join with garden games and music entertainment. The PCC were trying to arrange for a service of celebration to take place at the church prior to the commencement of the garden party.</p> <p>Mrs Holt had made three stipulations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The flag had to fly</li> <li>2. A celebration cake had to be baked</li> <li>3. Proper invitations had to be sent to each household in the village and Lower Tatham.</li> </ol> <p>All three were in hand.</p> <p>The invitations had been drafted and examples were passed around the attendees and met with approval. A quote of £90 + VAT had been received from Andrew's printers in Bentham. It was agreed that the Events Committee could have a budget of £400 to cover costs for this community event.</p> <p>Stitch &amp; Chatter had offered to make bunting and if the Friends would pay for the material, the bunting would then be available for future events at the church and in the community. This was agreed.</p> <p>Stephen Robson raised the question of public liability insurance and Paul agreed to raise this with Ecclesiastical, the church insurers.</p> |
| Publicity:          | Chris Berry has confirmed that he is continuing to monitor and post relevant information on the website.   |
| Any Other Business: | None   |

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| Date of Next Meeting: | Monday, 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 which will be the AGM followed by a business meeting |
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