

FRIENDS OF SAFFRON WALDEN PARISH CHURCH

Minutes of the 86th Annual General Meeting

Held in the Parish Rooms on 8th September 2019 commencing 11.45am

The Chairman asked us all to pause and remember five of our members who have died during 2018/19, Cherry Bryant, Stan Bradley, Yvonne Dix, Margaret Helmore and Brian Newman and in this year Edward O'Connor who died at the age of 102. The Rector then offered prayers for these late members and for the continued work of the Friends.

1. **Attendance:** 27 members were present including the Rector (President) and with the Chairman of the Friends, Mr Lawrence Gooderham in the Chair. Apologies for absence were received from Christine Lawrence, Mary Hay, Janet Damary, Dorothy Bishop, Denis Tindley, Paula Griffiths, Pam Russell, Jack Golding, Diana Golding, Pauline Hordern and Anne Rhodes
2. **The Minutes of the 85th AGM** held on 14th October 2018 had been previously circulated and were unanimously approved as a correct record and signed off by the Chairman.
3. **The Secretaries Report.** The report for the year 2018/19 had been previously circulated with the agenda for the meeting. The secretary ran through the various items from the report as follows. Current projects: A re-print took place this year of the History of St Mary's book following excellent sales. The third Friends Newsletter was distributed to members in March and was well received. Copies are still available on the Friends Stand. The secretary encouraged members to continue with the invitation to join especially with new members to the Church. A new oak bench has been installed outside the West Door of the Church at a cost of £1200. The new banner stand has been commissioned and was dedicated at the service. This now stands in the South Chapel area and cost £150. The secretary expressed thanks to the blacksmith for his excellent workmanship. The new carpets, requested by the Rector at the 2018 AGM were put in place in April at a cost of £360. Thanks to Gill and Pam for making this happen so promptly. Future projects: We are still holding funds for the moving of the Audley tomb, the refurbishment of the Muniments room and the lighting project, all to be at a later date yet to be given. The Friends continue to support the excellent work of the Sewing Circle to whom we all offer our grateful thanks. The Friends Trip to Peterborough Cathedral in May was an enjoyable day and it has been decided to go to Lincoln around the same time in 2020. A vote of thanks was offered to the secretary for the organisation of the trip. The Chairman thanked the Secretary for her work during the year.
4. **The Treasurers Report.** A set of accounts was circulated at the meeting which have been subject to Independent Examination. The treasurer reported that the accounts were prepared on a strict receipts and payments basis; the timing of a receipt or payment may therefore not be recorded in the period in which the money was raised or expenditure incurred, Gift Aid being a case in point. The accounts show assets at 31st March 2019 at £62617 compared to £59898 in the previous year end. Total receipts were higher than in 2017/18 due to an increase in subscriptions and new members. Most income changes, new members, sales of the History Book £473 and cards and prints £261. Main expenditure in 2019 was for the bench. The income and costs for the kneelers fluctuates from year to

year. The current membership is 75 of which 6 were new members during the year. The accounting records and the accounts have been examined by an independent examiner, David Birchall for which thanks were given . The accounts were adopted by the floor, proposed by Kathryn Fiddock and seconded by Noel Starr.

5. **Election of officers and Council members.** The President expressed thanks to the 2018/19 council members. As the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer had agreed to stand for a further year this was proposed by Tessa Hawkes, seconded by Kathryn Fiddock and approved unanimously. John Read and Denis Tindley were eligible for immediate re-election and no other nominations being forthcoming Robin Betser ,who like the others was willing to stand, were re-elected unanimously. Roseanne Kirkpatrick has stood down due to ill health and sent a letter to the Chairman expressing her feelings about the Friends and stating that she will watch the progress on the Audley Tomb with interest as she has been showing that to visitors since 1985 as a blue badge guide. The Chairman expressed his thanks to her for all her work over the years.
6. **Consider Future Projects.** The Audley Tomb project continues under discussion with particular reference to the railings. Once this has all been agreed then it will go ahead and the Friends will pay for an element at or around £5,000. The Muniments Room and the Lighting projects will hopefully go ahead at some point in the future and we hold funds to assist in both of these areas. Members were asked to consider any other requirement requests and to contact a Council member with their thoughts which will be put forward to the following meeting.
7. **Any other business.** The Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to David as this will be his last meeting with the Friends before moving to Birmingham. He noted all the work David has been involved with during his term of office and the very fitting legacy left in the form of the furniture in the west end of the Church to which we were able to contribute in 2018. The Friends members stood to applaud David and show their gratitude and good wishes. David responded saying how happy he has been at St Mary's and that the legacy was a team effort.
8. **Date for 2020 AGM.** It was hoped that the Friends service would continue as part of the Patronal Service and we await the appointment of the new incumbent to make formal arrangements in due course but David pointed out that the Patronal Festival always falls on the second Sunday of September which next year will be 13th. Friends members will be notified in due course.
9. The meeting closed with a prayer.