



Friends of St Laurence Church, Blackmore

Preserving our ancient church

M I N U T E S

15th Annual General Meeting of Friends of St Laurence

Held at the Priory Church of St Laurence, Church Street,
Blackmore,

On 28th October 2021 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome by the Chairman

Marion Wollaston chaired the meeting and welcomed all members. There were 20 members in attendance.

A copy of the accounts for the year was distributed to those present. The agenda and minutes of the last AGM had been distributed to all members with notice of the meeting.

2. Apologies

The Secretary read out the apologies received: Kevin and Sandra Wood, Sue and Andrew Watley, Jane Marr, John and Carol Riley, Pam Slow and Charles Hiron, Lillian Haward, Terry and Eileen Smith, Reverend Sam Brazier-Gibbs, Eileen Hopton, Joan Westover, Elaine and Andrew Smith, John and Helen Cannon, Mike Jefferyes, Stuart and Kim Lucas, Judi Wood, Terry and Elaine Smith, Kay Doyle and Bill Parkinson.

3 Chairman's Report

Membership

The Chairman first thanked all members for their support throughout the year.

She confirmed that at 30th April 2021 our membership was 143 versus 149 last year with 2 new members and 8 leaving due to moving away or passing away. The breakdown of our membership types are 12 life memberships, 31 adult memberships, 74 concession memberships and 10 family memberships. It is satisfying to see that our core membership is stable and continuing actively to participate in events and contribute gifts in addition to their annual membership subscriptions.

However given the need for substantive repairs to the tower and lychgate we will need to make efforts to increase our membership income and gift income to supplement our fund-raising.

Fundraising

Again the year to 30th April 2021 was an extraordinary one with restrictions placed on us due to the on-going coronavirus pandemic. As a result we could not hold any major events. In early December we invited villagers to enter a Christmas Tree decorating competition, but perhaps we were late in advertising this and we raised just under £100 which we shared with the Church PCC.

On the plus side, we were fortunate recipients of a substantial legacy which was most gratefully received.

Media

Our Friends website, www.fosblackmore.org continues to receive viewings. Details of forthcoming events are posted on it along with a brief history of the Friends, photos of the church and our past events. We also have a Facebook page.

Spending

During the year we made a grant to the PCC towards the regular churchyard grass cutting.

Our vice Chairman Richard Thwaite was invited to join the PCC Fabric Committee which has been discussing various projects including of course the church tower and lychgate.

Members will know that we set aside a percentage of our funds raised specifically for repairs to the tower, which is expected to be a considerable sum. Richard will be elaborating further on this after this meeting.

Future Events

Despite the cancellation of most of our events of this year, we have boldly planned our future fundraising calendar. Our 3 events are the Caribbean Evening, a New Year Quiz and a concert by David Pickthall and his Big Band which will be held on Saturday 19th March 2022.

Public Benefit Report and Data Protection Review

In accordance with the Charities Act 2008, we are required to make this report as a condition of maintaining our charitable status. Without reading the whole statement, I confirm we have complied with the Charity Commission's requirements and have not had any conflicts of interest. In addition, we have reviewed our General Data Protection Regulations and I again confirm we are compliant in this respect.

Administration

The minutes of the last AGM were approved by the committee at their meeting on 23rd February 2021 and have been circulated to members along with the notice of this meeting.

Also at that meeting the various officers of the Friends were appointed and other roles assigned. The present Committee which is limited to nine members comprises:

Chairman and Media Officer – Marion Wollaston

Vice Chairman and Membership Secretary – Richard Thwaite

Hon. Treasurer – John Caton

Hon. Secretary – Carol Moulder

PCC Representative – Peter Mason

Committee – Brenda Flack

Committee – Kay Doyle

Committee – Bill Parkinson

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their on-going hard work and support for FoSL throughout the year.

She concluded by thanking the Reverend Sam Brazier Gibbs and the PCC for their support of FoSL and all the willing volunteers who regularly help with our work and events throughout the year.

Following the Chairman's Report questions were invited from the floor.

4. Treasurer's Report

The accounts showed an excess of receipts over payments of £28806.55 for the year to 30 April 2021. Net funds held in total including the legacy now stand at £61517.43. Of this amount £45727 is set-aside for the tower.

The Treasurer reported on monies raised over the 15 year history of Friends of St Laurence:

Membership and donations £32341

Fundraising £25933

Legacies £29456

A total of £87730

Our operating expenses have totalled £2990, most of which is for public liability insurance.

Donations to the PCC for various fabric and churchyard projects total £23583.

There were no questions concerning this report.

5. Election of Members to the Executive Committee

The Constitution requires members of the Committee to retire by rotation after serving a three year period. This happens at the AGM. This year it was Chairman Marion Wollaston and Vice Chairman Richard Thwaite who were due to retire. Being eligible they stood for re-election.

With John Laing's retirement last year there is a further vacancy on the committee and the Chairman invited any other nominees to come forward.
There were no other nominations.

John Caton proposed both Marion Wollaston and Richard Thwaite to the committee and Jill Griffiths seconded these. Both were unanimously elected after a show of hands.

6. Appointment of the Independent Examiner

The Chairman thanked Andrew Smith for undertaking the role of Independent Examiner of the accounts. Fortunately for FoSL, Andrew has kindly agreed to offer himself as a candidate for reappointment. There were no other nominations from the floor. Andrew's appointment was proposed by Debbie Thwaite and seconded by Jill Griffiths. He was unanimously elected.

7. Any Other Business

Stuart Jennings proposed a vote of thanks to the FoSL committee for their hard work and support of the PCC.

There was no other business and the meeting was closed at approximately 7.50pm.

The meeting was followed by a presentation from Richard Thwaite on the Tower and Lychgate. Following this tea and coffee was served.

FRIENDS OF ST. LAURENCE CHURCH BLACKMORE
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1113888

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR END 30TH APRIL 2021

2020

£

RECEIPTS

1220 MEMBERSHIP
536 DONATIONS
328 GIFT AID TAX CLAIMED
18 SALE OF GOODS - Profit

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

1374 Christmas Tree Competition

0 LEGACY

66 Bank Deposit interest

3542 **Totals**

Less:-

PAYMENTS

219	Insurance	£231.64
5	Postage, stationery and Membership expenses	£0.00
33	Miscellaneous	£0.00
<u>1332</u>	Donations to St. Laurence PCC Fabric Fund (net)	<u>£843.00</u>

<u>1589</u>		<u>£1,074.64</u>
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<u>1953</u>	<u>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS FOR YEAR</u>
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FUNDS HELD

32,482 Bank Balances
100 Cash
129 Sundries

32,711

FUNDS ACCUMULATED

30758 Balance at 1 May 2020
1953 Excess of receipts above
32711 Balance at 30th April, 2021

J.A. CATON
HON. TREASURER

M WOLLASTON
CHAIRMAN

2021

£ p

1282.00

379.50

667.80

0.00

86.00

27455.81

10.09

29881.20

1074.64

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61267.96

120.08

129.39

61517.43

£ 32,710.87

£ 28,806.56

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**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRIENDS OF ST LAURENCE
CHURCH BLACKMORE
YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2021**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 30 April 2021 which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiners Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act;
Or
- To prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting records have not been met:
Or
- To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  A Smith

Date: 21 AUGUST 2021

A SMITH

White House, Blackmore Rd Blackmore CM4 0QX