

FRIENDS OF ST MARYS CHURCH, CERNE ABBAS

England & Wales · Charity number 1148416

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2012-08-02

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Salter Road
Salter Road
Poole
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Dorset
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Website www.cernechurchfriends.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE RESTORATION PRESERVATION REPAIR MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION OF THE GRADE 1 LISTED BUILDING BEING ST MARY'S CHURCH IN CERNE ABBAS,DORSET FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

Activities: To help towards the cost of preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement and beautification of the Grade 1 listed building that is St Mary's Church in Cerne Abbas. Over the first 18 months of our existence the emphasis has been on raising awareness of The Friends and fund raising through concerts.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Dorset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£60,455	£5,683	-	-
2024-12-31	£5,994	£606	-	-
2023-12-31	£5,127	£122,847	-	-
2022-12-31	£26,102	£216	-	-
2021-12-31	£89,220	£305	-	-
2020-12-31	£8,549	£20,161	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Caroline Sykes		2019-06-19
JOHN ROBERT WILLIAM CHAMPION		2017-05-17
Jennifer Rosalind Paterson		2022-11-23
Martin Reed		2019-06-19
Piers Alexander Adamson		2023-06-01
Richard Cecil Wilkin LVO MBE DL		2024-09-04
Timothy John Mills		2023-06-01

FRIENDS OF ST MARYS CHURCH, CERNE ABBAS

England & Wales - Charity number 1148416

Accounts

The Friends of St Mary's Church

Cerne Abbas



Inaugurated 2012

Charity No; 1148416

TRUSTEES' REPORT and ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

and

THE AGENDA

For the AGM on Thursday 21st May 2026

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, CERNE ABBAS 2025

Registered Charity no; 1148416

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair : Martin Reed
8 Duck Street
Cerne Abbas
Dorset DT2 7LA

Honorary Treasurer (Acting) &
Membership Secretary:
John Champion
29 Long Street
Cerne Abbas
Dorset DT2 7JG

Honorary Secretary
Jennie Paterson
36 Duck Street
Cerne Abbas
Dorset DT2 7LA

Representative of the PCC
Caroline Sykes*

ELECTED MEMBERS

Piers Adamson
Tim Mills
Richard Wilkin

Ex officio member*

As Head of the PCC's Property Group Duncan Fergusson attends meetings to inform the Trustees of pertinent matters.

**FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, CERNE ABBAS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General meeting of the Friends of St Mary's will take
place on Thursday 21st May 2026
In St Mary's Church starting promptly at 18.00.

PROGRAMME AGENDA

1. Chair's welcoming remarks and report
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last year's AGM
4. Approval of 2025 Report and Accounts
5. Election of Officers and Board Members
 - a. All Trustees are required to stand down under the constitution and they have all indicated their willingness to continue to serve on the Board of Trustees.
 - b. The Secretary should be informed in advance of the AGM of any proposals for new Trustees.
6. Any other business: this will be at the Chair's discretion unless previously raised through the Secretary.
7. Address by Professor Michael Dooley LVO, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset.

At the conclusion of business, wine, soft drinks and nibbles will be available.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome everybody to our 2026 AGM.

A relatively quiet year for the Friends. However, as mentioned in the PCC Property Report, the South Porch Path Project is moving forward and we understand that the Diocesan Advisory Committee, and the Church Consistory Court have indeed recommended that a governing faculty should be granted, and the PCC will be pursuing tenders for the confirmed plans. The wheels grind slowly!

Through the good office of Duncan Fergusson we have been kept in touch with the various problems in the Church fabric as delineated in his detailed report. We have noted in particular the water ingress through the roof and in the ringing chamber and we have agreed in principle that our involvement in the remediation would be considered.

You will see from the accounts that the Friends remain in good financial position, and here I would like to commend our Treasurer, John Champion, for his hard work and dedication in setting our funds in a good position and retrieving past Gift Aid contributions. All this while he has had significant health problems.

I would also like to thank Richard Wilkin, on behalf of the Friends, for his production of last year's Christmas Card which I hope you will have enjoyed.

We look forward to working hand in hand with the PCC as we move ahead into another year.

There is a plaque in the Chancel dedicated to Cyril Vincent Taylor, MA, 1902 - 1991, Vicar of this benefice 1858 - 1968

"Priest, musician, hymn writer, and benefactor. Under his inspired leadership this church was re-roofed, re-ordered, and re-invigorated."

I hope that the work done by the Friends and the PCC would have his approval!

Martin Reed
Chair of Trustees

ST MARY'S PCC PROPERTY GROUP - 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

GENERAL It has been a busy year for the PCC property group.

THE CLOCK. There have been several problems associated with the clock's chiming mechanism and all have now been resolved.

WALL PAINTINGS. Following the 2024 inspection of the wall paintings, and associated concern regarding the condition of the Annunciation depiction, the church architect has inspected the chancel roof and walls. He concluded that whilst there was no single source of damp penetration, there are a number of points of weakness in sections of the adjacent lead roofing and south wall/parapet stonemasonry. Accordingly, he has issued technical repair specifications to address these flaws and they are currently with O'Brien Ltd, Bridport, for quotation action.

QUINQUENNIAL REPAIRS. Elsewhere on the roof area, particularly where the south aisle section joins the tower, there continues to be wind-driven leaks that migrate into the SW corner of the nave and stain the white lime wash. O'Brien Ltd are also quoting to investigate and repair the causes of these points of water penetration.

INTERIOR DECORATION Redecorating the interior of the church is long-overdue and remains an ambition of the PCC. Until the damp issues described above are resolved, this work will be kept 'on hold'.

RINGING CHAMBER CEILING In late Jan/early Feb it became apparent that some of the long-established areas of damp in the ringing chamber tongue & groove ceiling, in particular where the margins of the pine boards touched the south and west tower walls, had deteriorated into rot. After rapid investigation by the church architect and consideration by a structural engineer, it was determined that the ceiling structure had dropped slightly in one corner and immediate remedial action would be required before the bells could be rung again. This effort is now underway and involves re-fixing the ceiling structure in its new position through the use of modern materials and techniques. The re-pinning measure will enable the ringing chamber to be brought back into use and in the longer term, to address the persistence of damp, the architect is looking to establish a vertical airflow across the interior of the tower south wall. This aspiration is currently the subject of further professional thought and consideration.

SOUTH PORCH PATH PROJECT (SPPP) This project has gathered significant pace in the past 12 months, and in addition to local authority planning permission having been secured, it is anticipated that on 8th May the Diocesan Advisory Committee will recommend to the Diocesan Chancellor that a governing faculty should be granted. When this process is completed, tendering work will be initiated and it is hoped that the ramp will be finished no later than the end of the summer.

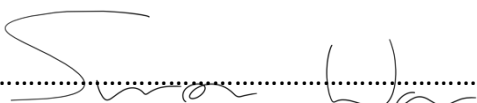
Duncan Fergusson
Chair, St Mary's Property Group, 6 March 26

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2025

Income	£	£	Expenditure	£	£
Subscriptions	4,359.30	4,359.30	AGM Expenses	272.57	
Bank interest			Printing	341.45	
Lloyds 1 year	1,314.15		Christmas tree 2024	120.00	
Shawbrook CAF 4 mths	1,285.65		Stationery	4.50	
CCLA 3 mths	455.62	3,055.42	Postage	30.67	
Gift Aid Reimbursement			Gift Aid admin	180.00	
2021	603.38		Christmas tree 2025	135.00	1084.19
2022	761.78				
2023	775.40		PCC gifts		
2024	899.34	3,039.90	Flag pole repair	2,188.80	
Bequest 2025	50,000.00	50,000.00	Wall paintings survey	1,104.00	
			Church tower clock	1,305.60	4,598.40
TOTAL	60,454.62	60,454.62		5,682.59	5,682.59
Opening Bank Balances			Closing Bank Balances		
			Shawbrook	100,000.00	
			CCLA	110,000.00	
Current Account	16,070.73		Lloyds Current Acc.	411.04	
Deposit Account	164,646.26		Lloyds Deposit Acc.	25,077.98	
TOTAL	180,716.99	180,716.99		235,489.02	235,489.02
TOTAL		241,171.61	TOTAL		241,171.61

We have examined the accounts of the period ended 31st December 2025 and in my opinion all matters have been properly disclosed and the accounts for the period indicate the current position.

No material facts have been revealed which cause concern and, in my opinion, proper books of accounts have been maintained.

Signed  Simon Wall. Dated: 1st April 2026

Our bankers are: Lloyds Bank plc, 92 St Mary's Street, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8PA

THE TRUST'S CUMULATIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE PCC to end 2025.

Since the Trust's inception £170,190 has now been contributed to help the PCC maintain the fabric as outlined below:

2025	Flagpole repair	£2189
	Wall paintings survey	£1104
	Clock repair	£1306
2023	Electrical & Re-wiring Project	£122,415.00
2020	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,992
	Weather vane restoration (C Tisdall sponsored)	£3,856
	Squibb Garden maintenance	£81
	Overhaul of Bells	£13,947
2019	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£2,043
	Squibb Garden maintenance	£79
2018	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£2,006
2017	Tower Clock Refurbishment	£950
	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,933
2016	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,962
	Squibb Garden maintenance	£52
	Contribution to new heating system	£2,000
2015	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,892
2014	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,847
2013	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,636

Grants obtained for the preservation of wall paintings £6,900

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, CERNE ABBAS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at 1800 on Thursday 15th May 2025

1. The meeting began on time with the Chair welcoming a good turnout of 30 Members, and also welcoming one of our new Members, John Smythe.

The Chair noted that since our Secretary, Jennie Paterson, was presently recuperating, he had asked Dee Reed to take notes during the meeting for the Minutes.

He also noted with sadness the passing of our Friends, Michael Fulford-Dobson, Alan Morrell, Clover Hartley-Sharpe, Shirley Francis, Pat Lee, and Ann Robson.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Priscilla Tappenden, Peter and Suzanne Smith, Jennifer Beecham, John and Wendy Charman, Richard Spooner, Jennie and John Paterson, William and Rachel Blackwell, John and Marion Lee, Michael and Anne Lindley, Roy Burnham, Angela Lowe, and Mathilde Edwards.
3. Minutes of the AGM held on the 4th September 2024 were referred to; with no questions or matters arising, the Chair asked for approval. This was proposed by Richard Wilkin and seconded by Lindsay Pedder.
4. As per the Constitution all Trustees are required to step down at the AGM and seek re-election. Peter Smith and Angela Lowe have retired as Trustees. The remaining Trustees are willing to stand for re-election and approval from the floor was sought. Their re-election was proposed by Helen Smith, seconded by Liz Mackenzie and agreed by those present.
5. Due to an administrative error last year, the 2023 Accounts had not been approved at the last AGM. Having been approved by the auditor, these accounts were accepted by the meeting, proposed by George Mortimer and seconded by Nigel de Candole..

6. The 2024 Financial Report and Accounts were tabled and discussed. It was queried why such a large amount of money was deposited in a bank account with such a poor rate of return when it could be placed in investments with much higher interest rates. It was explained that due to illness and other problems this had not been done, but that the acting Treasurer was actively pursuing this. He did remark that it was difficult to find Banks who would accept new Charity business accounts. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Lindsay Pedder and seconded by Jill Warren.
7. The Chair then asked for any nominations for new Trustees, but none were forthcoming.
8. The Chair then referred the meeting to his report contained in the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts. He also noted that the new Friends Leaflet had been agreed and printed and he hoped that the assembled members would approve.

Additionally since the report was written, the Trustees had received four applications from the PCC for financial assistance. He was pleased to say that the first three, repairing the flagpole, financing the wall painting report, and repairing the church clock, have all been passed by the Trustees for a total contribution of £4597.80. The fourth application is an outline request for assistance to the capital project for constructing an access ramp to the South Porch. As yet there is no cost estimate for this application, so the Trustees are hanging fire until full details are available.

The Chair also noted the lay and religious use of their lovely church during the four recent weeks of the Giant Festival culminating in the previous Sunday's remarkable concert by the Anglo-Chilean band Quimantu and the Cloud 9 Choir. An outstanding example on the widespread use of the historic building.

9. Under any other business, the Membership Secretary reported 4 new members had joined in 2025 adding to the 9 new members from 2024. He also reported having received an anonymous gift of £30.00 He went on to thank his fellow Trustees for their help and confidence in his assumption of the role as acting Treasurer.
10. There being no other business from the floor, the Chair introduced the Bishop of Sherborne, the Right Reverend Karen Gorham and invited her to address the assembled Friends.

Right Rev Karen began with a history of churches since the 1960's with slides of uninviting buildings which left little to the imagination; they were built with pews and car parks and no space to welcome the community indoors for anything other than services. At first there was much controversy over changing pews to chairs and using the church space for anything else.

The aim of the church in the 21st Century must take the good news out into the community and bring the community inside. Churches now have to keep up with changes and be multipurpose to meet the needs of the community; this may mean coffee after church, accessibility, toilets and many other facilities which the church provides in exceptional ways. Sadly opportunities for funding were missed to provide water supply, and installing toilets in the millennium and they now have to apply to all the charities for funding.

If you don't agree the church can make these changes, it will never happen! We need to be progressive i.e. architects have learnt to move with the times, designers are designing light weight furniture, changing wooden doors into glass ones. Small editions such as cafes are being set up in churches and the Church is moving to an Eco environment.

Over the last thirty years there has been a congregational vision which makes change possible, we have become more welcoming, so that the buildings can bring care and love to the community. The formation of Friends groups also sustains a lasting legacy in the building allowing the community in and the church out. And here in Cerne Abbas the Bishop said the Friends are doing a wonderful job of just that. She thanked all those who are committed to using their gifts of time, talents, and money, here where we have a vibrant church, committed to the service and worship of God; which always means having open doors to the community, as all are welcome! She then quoted the hymn, All are Welcome, one verse being:

“Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine, and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground,
Where peace and justice meet.
All are welcome, all are welcome!”

She concluded by saying: “Thank you for all you do as the Friends of St Mary's Church, it has been good to be here today; and keep up the good work!”

Refreshments were then served and the meeting closed at 1930.

CODICIL

I (full name of Testator/Testatrix*) _____

Of (Address) _____

_____ DECLARE THIS to

be a (First) Codicil to my Will dated

The _____ day of _____ 20

I GIVE to the Association known as FRIENDS OF St MARY’S CHURCH, CERNE ABBAS of Cerne Abbas, Dorset (Registered Charity Number 1148416) for its general purposes the sum of POUNDS (£) and I declare that the Treasurer or other proper Officer for the time being of the said Charity shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my Executors and Trustees for the same in all respects:-

IN ALL other respects I CONFIRM my said will :-

IN WITNESS I have hereto set my hand this day of 20

SIGNED by the above named)

Testator/Testatrix* in our presence)

And attested by us in the presence)

Of the above named Testator/Testatrix*)

And of each other:-)

WITNESS _____

WITNESS _____

ADDRESS _____

ADDRESS _____

OCCUPATION

OCCUPATION

FRIENDS' MEMBERSHIP LIST as at December 2025

Piers ADAMSON	Anthony GARVEY	Jennie PATERSON
Adam ANDERSON	Jeanette GUETERBOCK	John PATERSON
Eugene BALBINSKI	Richard HARTLEY-SHARPE	Lindsay PEDDER
Janet BARTLET	Helen HEWITT	Rosalyn RAWSON
Gordon BARTLET	Marcus HUNT	Martin REED
Jennifer BEECHAM	Pamela HUNT	Denise REED
Gordon BISHOP	Caroline JONES	Peter SMITH
Elizabeth BISHOP	Diana KIMBER	Suzanne SMITH
Rachael BLACKWELL	David KIRKPATRICK	John SMYTHE
William BLACKWELL	Jan KIRKPATRICK	Richard SPOONER
Roy BURNHAM	Marion LEE	Philip SPRAY
Nigel de CANDOLE	John LEE	Cheryl SPRAY
John CHALKER	Elisabeth LINDLEY	Judith STEVEN
Prue CHALKER	Michael LINDLEY	Jane STILL
John CHAMPION	Angela LOWE	Lucy SUTHERLAND
Valerie CHAMPION	Richard MAISEY	Caroline SYKES
Jane CLARK	Doreen MAISEY	Priscilla TAPPENDEN
Mike CLARK	Elizabeth MACKENZIE	Caroline TISDALL
Isabelle COGHILL	Aphra MACLAREN	Deborah WHITE
Val CONSTABLE	Michael McCARTHY	Jill WARREN
Noreen DARBOURNE	Dr R MILES	Richard WILKIN
David DILLISTONE	Tim MILLS	Sally WILKIN
Roger DOOR	Jenny MORTIMER	Willy WILLIAMSON
Mathilde EDWARD	George MORTIMER	Arabella WILLIAMSON
Mary EVANS	Jane O'RIORDAN	James WILSON
Ghislaine GARVEY	Paddy O'RIORDAN	Myra WILSON

5 members wish to remain anonymous

COMMERCIAL:
Annette BEARDSMORE, Julian DOVE, THE NEW INN
Simon HUDSON, THE GIANT INN

We would also like to thank those who have kindly donated memorial gifts to the Trust:

K Griffin (2022 bequest)	James & Priscilla Robinson (2017 legacy)
George Trim (2021, 2022 legacy)	Gordon Proud (2016 Memorial collection)
Clive Fox (2021, 2022 legacy)	June Proud (2015 Memorial collection)
Margaret Mann (2020 legacy)	Joan Holmes (2015 Memorial Collection)
Peter Powell (2018 Memorial collection)	Shirley Francis (2025 legacy)

FRIENDS OF ST MARYS CHURCH, CERNE ABBAS

England & Wales - Charity number 1148416

Accounts

***The Friends of St Mary's Church
Cerne Abbas - 10th Anniversary***



Inaugurated 2012

Charity No; 1148416

TRUSTEES' REPORT and ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 December 2022

and

THE AGENDA

For the AGM on Wednesday 10th May 2023

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, CERNE ABBAS 2022

Registered Charity no; 1148416

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair : Martin Reed

Honorary Treasurer:

Angela Lowe
6 Duck Street
Cerne Abbas
Dorset DT2 7LA

Hon Membership Secretary:

John Champion
29 Long Street
Cerne Abbas
Dorset DT2 7JG

Honorary Secretary

Jennie Paterson
36 Duck Street
Cerne Abbas
Dorset DT2 7LA

Representative of the PCC

Caroline Sykes*

ELECTED MEMBERS

Michael Fulford Dobson

Peter Smith

Ex officio member*

AS Head of the PCC's Property Group Duncan Ferguson attends meetings to inform the Trustees of pertinent matters.

**FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, CERNE ABBAS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023**

The 10th Annual General meeting of the Friends of St Mary's will take
Place on Wednesday 10th May, 2023
In St Mary's Church starting promptly at 18.00.

PROGRAMME AGENDA

1. Chair's welcoming remarks and report
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 9th AGM and matters arising
4. Election of Officers and Board Members
 - a. All Trustees are required to stand down under the constitution. Alan Morrell has retired as had the late Richard Warren .
The remaining Trustees have all indicated their willingness to continue to serve on the Board of Trustees;
 - b. John Champion to replace the late Richard Warren as Membership Secretary. AGM approval is required.
 - c. The Secretary should be informed in advance of the AGM of any proposals for new Trustees.
5. Any other business: this will be at the Chairs discretion unless previously raised through the Secretary.

At the conclusion of business, wine, soft drinks and nibbles will be available for members.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

I would like to start with repeating the Objects of our Trust:- “The restoration, preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement and beautification of the Grade 1 listed building being St Mary’s Church in Cerne Abbas for the public benefit.” Those last two objects, improvement and beautification, came very much to the fore on the evening of Sunday 26th March when the Vicar quoted from the pulpit “Let there be Light”, and Simon Jenkins, the lighting designer, used his phone to flood the church with the new lighting system, funded by the Friends together with re-wiring the entire building. Specifically designed to be used not only for the various forms of worship but for the continued communal use of the building, the various lighting programmes are remarkably flexible and show the off the beauty of the building to great effect. There is even light in the Vestry for the Vicar after some four years of gloom!

We were delighted to receive the following message from the PCC:

“On behalf of the PCC of St Mary the Virgin, and the entire Cerne Abbas community, I should like to express our thanks for your Trustees’ extremely generous support for this project, which has transformed the Church for the benefit of all residents and visitors for decades to come.”

The donation from the Friends has only been made possible by the extraordinarily generous legacies willed to the Charity for which we will be eternally grateful. One person missing from the dedication was the late Richard Warren. Richard having been one of the original Trustees, was also a key person in the long process of getting the new plans in place. Jonathan paid a handsome tribute to him at the service and I can do no more than to re-iterate, assisted by Duncan Ferguson, how much Richard’s dedication and hard work helped this project succeed. As a member of the St Mary’s Lighting Working Group on behalf of the Music Festival and the FoSM Richard visited other churches as part of the exploratory work and provided valuable knowledge and advice with respect to dealing with major works on historic church buildings. With a visionary approach, he worked with the Property Group and the PCC every step of the way of the 5 years it took to deliver the project, from the selection of the lighting designer to promoting the need for major investment to deliver a wiring and lighting installation that would serve the forecast requirements of the church building for the next 40 years. With his engineering background, extensive knowledge of church-related matters, energetic commitment to the Friend’s *raison d’etre* and unwavering resolve in the face of frequent unfavourable headwinds, he provided a unique and pivotal contribution to enabling St Mary’s to serve the needs of the church and wider Cerne community for generations to come. He will be sadly missed throughout the village but especially by his fellow Trustees.

With the years gradually returning to normality we look forward to the Village utilising this wonderful building to its fullest capacity and we would welcome anyone who would like to become involved in caring for its future to join the Friends. The subscription is very modest, so please if you think you can help

contact the Membership Secretary or any of the Trustees listed for further information.

Martin Reed, Chair

ST MARY'S PCC PROPERTY GROUP (PG) REPORT 2023 AGM

GENERAL

With the lighting and rewiring project planned to be completed on 8 March 23, the focus of the PG has shifted to west door improvements. Meanwhile, on the occasion of David Johnstone's retirement from the north door project, the leadership of this initiative has been assumed, pro tem, by the vicar and one of the church wardens - the PG works in support of this undertaking. The quinquennial inspection of the church fabric will be conducted by St Mary's architect (Mr T. Griffin) on 23 Feb 23 and a comprehensive report will follow.

NORTH DOOR

The current North Door Project plan comprises the creation of a doorway in the north wall, access groundworks in the Squibb Garden, and the building of a storeroom and lavatory in the garden. The proposal is still subject of consideration by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and statutory bodies.

WEST DOOR

A faculty for work to install handrails on either side of the west door steps, refit the outer oak doors, repair a broken flagstone in the west door porch and glaze the inner pine doors was granted on 9 Feb 23. The first element to be addressed is the fitting of the handrails for which local authority planning permission is being sought. Ongoing discussions with the church architect will determine the order in which the other work will be undertaken and at the time of writing it is likely to be: outer doors, inner doors and finally the flagstone.

SOUTH AISLE ROOF LEAKS

A further attempt is underway to identify and seal the points of failure in the south aisle roof lead work that admit occasional minor, but nevertheless significant, leaks into the south aisle. In the next month lead work specialists will be investigating the integrity of sections of the roof flashing in an effort to determine the areas requiring repair.

Duncan Fergusson, Chair, St Mary's Property Group
21 February 2023

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2022

Opening Balances 01-01-2022	£	£		£	£
Lloyds Bank Current a/c	53,830.59				
Lloyds Bank Deposit a/c	213,332.56				
		267,163.15			
Income 2022			Expenditure 2022		
Subscriptions	3,771.00		AGM expenses	27.00	
Deposit A/c Interest	118.84		Printing	169.00	
Legacies (2)	20,192.22		Deposit for Xmas Tree	20.00	
Requests (1)	2,000.00				
Cash Refund from Xmas Tree	20.00				
		26,102.06			216.00
			Closing Balance 31/12/2022		
			Lloyds current a/c	59,405.59	
			Lloyds deposit a/c	233,643.62	
					293,049.21
		293,265.21			293,265.21

2020	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,992
	Weather vane restoration (C Tisdall sponsored)	£3,856
	Squibb Garden maintenance	£81
	Overhaul of Bells	£13,947
2019	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£2,043
	Squibb Garden maintenance	£79
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	Contribution to new heating system	£2,000
2015	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,892
2014	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,847
2013	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,636

Grants obtained for the preservation of wall paintings £6,900

Angela Lowe, Treasurer

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, CERNE ABBAS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, St Mary's Church.

Held at 18.00 on Wednesday 21st September 2022

1. The meeting began on time with the Chairman welcoming a good turnout of members (some 38 attendees) and referring them to what he had said in the Annual Report of which additional copies were available. He welcomed the Vicar Jonathan Still and thanked him for agreeing to attend and give an update on the upcoming works on the wiring project in church.
2. Apologies for absence were received by the Secretary from Gordon & Janet Bartlet, Roy Burnham, Mike & Jane Clark, Elizabeth Mackenzie, Jennie & John Paterson, Ann Robson and Richard Warren.
3. Minutes of the last AGM on 22nd September 2021 were referenced and in the absence of any questions a call to approve them was proposed by Dee Reed and seconded by Paddy O'Riordan and carried without dissent.
4. Similarly the accounts as presented and approved by the independent examiner in the Annual Report attracted no questions. Approval was requested from the members and duly proposed by Dee Reed, seconded by George Mortimer, and carried without dissent.
5. As per the Constitution all Trustees are required to step down and seek re-election at the AGM. All the present Trustees were willing to continue and when approval was sought for the full re-election the motion was proposed by Lindsay Pedder, seconded by Paddy O'Riordan and carried without dissent.
6. The meeting was also asked to approve the recommendation that Jennie Paterson become Secretary to replace Peter Smith who will be stepping down after 10 years. The motion to approve

was proposed by Aphra Maclaren and seconded by Helen Hewitt and carried without dissent.

7. There being no other business the Vicar was invited to give his update on the church building projects. Jonathan expanded in detail on the research that had been undertaken on the lighting project covering all the different types of lighting for different occasions and including visits to churches like Hinton St George where modern lighting had been installed. He referred to the slowness of the process where so many levels of church hierarchy need to be consulted and from whom approval is required that matters had dragged on longer than he had hoped or anticipated. All clearances have now been obtained and the church will be closed from 10 October for the work to start, with a period of 7 weeks allowed for the completion in time for Advent Sunday. Jonathan indicated he would be surprised and delighted if that timetable were adhered to!
8. On the other two projects on the books he confirmed that the proposed improvements to the West Door are going through the approvals process. The Dorset Council are also involved because repairs to the flagstones and the sinking of support posts for the planned handrails into the flagstones come under the Council who of course own the road and pavement in Abbey Street. The project is nevertheless on track and could be underway sooner rather than later.
9. This is not the case with the project to provide access to the Squibb Garden and the provision of store room and toilet outside the footprint of the church is being stalled by objections to any breaching of the north wall. This would be a long term process of seeking approval and may even be unsuccessful in the end. Jonathan added that the PCC has already spent some £21,000 on submitting plans and applications and has the project on hold for the time being.
10. The Chairman thanked the Vicar for his informative and comprehensive briefing on these developments and in the absence of any further questions closed the formal part the proceedings at 18.35 and invited all present to partake of the wine and nibbles on offer.

And of each other:-

)

WITNESS _____

WITNESS _____

ADDRESS _____

ADDRESS _____

OCCUPATION

OCCUPATION

FRIENDS' MEMBERSHIP LIST as at April 2023

Eugene BALBINSKI	Helen HEWITT	Rosalyn RAWSON
Gordon BARTLET	Maureen HITT	Martin REED
Janet BARTLET	Pamela HUNT	Denise REED
Jennifer BEECHAM	Marcus HUNT	Ann ROBSON
Gordon BISHOP	Caroline JONES	Peter SMITH
Elizabeth BISHOP	Diana KIMBER	Suzanne SMITH
Roy BURNHAM	John LEE	Philip SPRAY
John CHAMPION	Marion LEE	Cheryl SPRAY
Mike CLARK	Angela LOWE	Judith STEVEN
Jane CLARK	Elizabeth MACKENZIE	Jane STILL
Noreen DARBOURNE	Aphra MACLAREN	Lucy SUTHERLAND
Nigel de CANDOLE	Richard MAISEY	Priscilla TAPPENDEN
David DILLISTONE	Doreen MAISEY	Caroline TISDALL
Roger DOOR	Tim MILLS	Gen. Richard VICKERS
Mathilde EDWARD	Alan MORRELL	Madeline ELLIS
Jenny MORTIMER	Luke WEST	Mary EVANS
George MORTIMER	Richard WILKIN	Shirley FRANCIS
Paddy O'RIORDAN	Willy WILLIAMSON	Michael FULFORD DOBSON
Jane O'RIORDAN	Arabella WILLIAMSON	Anthony GARVEY
John PATERSON	James WILSON	Ghislaine GARVEY
Jennie PATERSON	Myra WILSON	Richard HARTLEY- SHARPE
Lindsay PEDDER	Clover HARTLEY- SHARPE	

+ Those 9 Friends who wish to remain anonymous

We would also like to thank those who have kindly donated memorial gifts to the Trust:

S. Griffin (2022 request)

George Trim (2021, 2022 legacy)

Clive Fox (2021, 2022 legacy)

Peter Powell (2018 memorial collection)

James & Priscilla Robinson (2017 legacy)

Gordon Proud (2016 memorial collection)

June Proud (2015 Memorial collection)

Joan Holmes (2015 Memorial collection)

FRIENDS OF ST MARYS CHURCH, CERNE ABBAS

England & Wales - Charity number 1148416

Accounts

Friends of St Mary's Church

Cerne Abbas



Inaugurated 2012

Charity No 1148416

TRUSTEES' REPORT and ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 December 2021

and

THE AGENDA

For the AGM on Wednesday 21st September 2022

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, CERNE ABBAS 2021

Registered Charity no. 1148416

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman: Martin Reed

Honorary Treasurer:

Angela Lowe
6 Duck Street
Cerne Abbas, Dorset DT2 7JQ

Hon Membership Secretary:

Richard Warren
Dairy Cottage, 7 Barton Farm
Cerne Abbas, Dorset DT2 7LF

Honorary Secretary:

Peter J Smith
24 Barton Farm
Cerne Abbas, Dorset DT2 7LF

Representative of the PCC:

*Caroline Sykes

ELECTED MEMBERS

Alan Morrell
Michael Fulford-Dobson
John Champion

*Ex officio member

As Head of the PCC's Property Group Duncan Ferguson attends meetings to inform Trustees on pertinent matters.

www.cernechurchfriends.org.uk

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, CERNE ABBAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

The 9th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St Mary's will take place on **Wednesday, 21st September 2022** in St Mary's Church starting promptly at **1800hrs**.

PROGRAMME AGENDA

1. Chairman's welcoming remarks and report
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 8th AGM as in this report & matters arising.
4. Election of Officers and Council members
 - a) all Trustees are required to stand down under the Constitutional review but all have indicated their willingness to continue on the Board of Trustees;
 - b) the Secretary will stand down from his office but is willing to continue on the Board of Trustees;
 - c) Jenny Paterson has been endorsed by the Board to become a Trustee and to become Secretary. AGM approval is required.
 - d) the Secretary should be informed in advance of the AGM of any proposals for new Trustees.
5. Any other business: this will be at the Chairman's discretion unless previously raised through the Secretary

**At the conclusion of business, wine and nibbles
will be available for members**



THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Last year 2021 was the year of slowly coming out of the COVID pandemic and returning towards a more normal situation. What this meant for The Friends, as for so many charities, was that it was a year of consolidation rather than project work. All was quiet on that front.

The accounts show there were only three items of expenditure in 2021: the cost of our first AGM for two years including refreshments for our loyal members in attendance; our traditional gift to the village of a Christmas tree in front of St Mary's Church; and banking charges. The next project in which we are concerned is the long delayed lighting upgrade. The detailed and complicated plan is progressing well although the concern about possible light damage to the wall paintings expressed by the Church Buildings Council has now been satisfied. The PCC can now make formal application for faculty permission and it will go out for comment from the heritage protection organisations who will have a set time to respond. It is still hoped that work can start later this year.

In the meantime our accounts are in good order helped by the two generous and unexpected bequests received in 2021 totalling £85,000. No further fundraising events are scheduled for this year but 2023 sees our 10th anniversary and I hope we can celebrate this milestone and thank our members at the same time in an appropriate manner.

The continuing presence of COVID meant that, apart from the AGM the minutes of which are included in this annual report as usual, the Trustees were only able to meet on two occasions last year (one a virtual meeting via Zoom). We were therefore extremely grateful to our Vicar, Jonathan Still, for attending the AGM and giving an important update on the progress of the PCC's re-ordering project. To replace Bob Foulser (resigned) and Helen Hewitt (retired) we welcomed Angela Lowe as Treasurer and are particularly delighted that Jenny Paterson has agreed to rejoin the Board, having been one of the original Trustees in 2013 as the representative of the PCC.

Martin Reed, Chairman

ST MARY'S PCC PROPERTY GROUP (PG) REPORT

On 15 June a delegation from the Salisbury Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and representatives from the Church Buildings Council (CBC), Historic England (HE) and the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) visited the church to review the 'North Door', 'West Door' and 'Lighting/Rewiring' projects. The 3 projects are at different stages of development and the visit made a positive contribution to the progress of each.

NORTH DOOR The current plans comprising the creation of a doorway in the north wall, access groundworks in the Squibb Garden, and the building of a storeroom and lavatory in the garden have been sent to statutory bodies for comment in accordance with the faculty application. The timeframe for public consultation is unknown as it will depend on responses from the statutory bodies.

WEST DOOR This project embraces the fitting of handrails either side of the west door steps, repairing a broken flagstone, unwarping the outer oak doors, and glazing the inner doors. The plans should complete their formal statutory consultation on 10 Aug after which the DAC may decide on further consultation or approve submission to the local planning authority for its consideration (the latter because the bottom posts of the handrails will be sunk into the pavement).

LIGHTING/REWIRING The 28 day public notice petition will expire on 17 Aug and, depending if any objections are received by the Diocesan Registrar in Salisbury, the petition for award of a faculty may be forwarded to the Chancellor of the Consistory Court for her decision/judgement. Meanwhile the tendering for the installation work is being progressed and, at the time of writing, cost and church closure details are not yet known.

Duncan Fergusson Chairman, St Mary's Property Group

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2021

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2021

Opening Balance 1.1.2021					
Lloyds current a/c	172.81				
Lloyds deposit a/c	128,316.57				
CAF a/c	49,713.05				
Sundry (wine)	92.70				
		178,295.13			
Income 2021			Expenditure 2021		
Subscriptions	3443.63		AGM expenses	93.58	
Gift Aid refund	740.93		Xmas tree (ch 6)	150.00	
Deposit a/c int'st	15.99		CAF a/c closure	61.69	
Legacies (2)	85,300.00				
Cash refund for Xmas tree	20.00				
		89,220.55			305.27
			Closing balance 31.12.21		
			Lloyds current a/c	53,830.59	
			Lloyds deposit a/c	213,332.56	
			Cash in hand	20.00	
			Wine (5 btls)	27.26	
					267,210.41
		267,515.68			267,515.68

We have examined the accounts of the above for the period ended 31st December 2021 and in my opinion all matters have been properly disclosed and accounts for the period indicate the current position.

No material facts have been revealed which cause concern and, in my opinion, proper books of account have been maintained.

Sgn'd

Sue Wan

date

24th July 2022

Our bankers are: Lloyds Bank plc, 1-2 High West Street,
Dorchester DT1 1UG

The Trust's Cumulative Contributions to PCC

Since the Trust's inception £43,176 has now been contributed to help the PCC maintain the church fabric as outlined below:

2021		
2020	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,992
	Weather vane restoration (C Tisdall sponsored)	£3,856
	Squibb Garden maintenance	£81
	Overhaul of Bells	£13,947
2019	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£2,043
	Squibb Garden maintenance	£79
2018	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£2,006
2017	Tower Clock Refurbishment	£950
	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,933
2016	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,962
	Squibb Garden maintenance	£52
	Contribution to new heating system	£2,000
2015	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,892
2014	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,847
2013	Fabric Insurance Contribution	£1,636
	Grants obtained for the preservation of wall paintings	£6,900

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, CERNE ABBAS

Annual General Meeting, St Mary's Church, 1800hrs Wednesday

22nd September 2021

1. The meeting started promptly with the Chairman extending a welcome to the 26 Members in attendance. He briefly explained that during these past months since the previous AGM, the Friends had helped the Church by providing funds for the renovation of the bells and the annual contribution of the Christmas tree. These were paid in full. (Also, our thanks to a personal donation from a Friend, a full repair was made to the weather vane.)

2. Apologies for absence were received from; Peter & Suzanne Smith, Richard & Jill Warren, Eugene & June Balbinski, Janet Bartlet, Marcus & Pamela Hunt, Ros Rawson, Richard Wilkin, Mike & Jane Clark, Elizabeth Mackenzie, Pauline Adams, Phillip Spray, Roy Burnham, Denise Reed.

3. The accounts were presented and in the absence of a verbal presentation from the retiring Treasurer, the Chairman asked if there were any questions arising from the printed accounts in the programme. As there were no questions the Chairman asked the Members present to approve the accounts and they were accepted.

4. The Chairman stated that the Trustees had agreed that the Constitution of the Friends needed changing/updating. To that end there needed to be a change from the existing policy of Trustees service (5 years & then 1 year out) which had proven difficult to operate. The recommendation from the Trustees, is, that Trustees are to be elected at the AGM for 1 year, retiring at the following AGM but, if they wish to, remaining eligible for re-

election at the same AGM. The second recommendation is that the term Council throughout the Constitution be reached by the more explicit "Trustees" or "Board of Trustees". The amendments were accepted and carried forward.

5. The Chairman moved on to the question of the existing Board of Trustees. He informed the meeting that Helen Hewitt wished to retire from the Board and that the Treasurer had resigned since the last AGM. He confirmed that the remaining members on the board wished to continue. He asked for Members approval for the re-election of the board including the appointment Angela Lowe's appointment as Treasurer. The meeting duly gave their approval. The board would actively try to fill these two vacancies.

6. The Chairman then introduced the Vicar, the Rev Jonathan Still, inviting him to address the meeting and give an update on the proposed reordering the PCC are pursuing for St Mary's. Jonathan outlined the proposals which currently include creating a new entrance to the Church by way of the existing boiler room and a new door through the North wall, this primarily to give a suitable access for the disabled. Also in the plan is a proposal to put a purpose built unit near to the existing shed in the Squibb garden to possibly facilitate a toilet, kitchen, flower room and general storage area. To a question on funding Jonathan was positive in his response that the Church through the PCC could presently meet the anticipated cost of this project from its funds. There was no further discussion on the scheme.

7. The Chairman asked those present if there was AOB and as there were none he closed the meeting at 6.42pm and invited those present to join the Trustees for a glass of wine and some nibbles.

John Champion, Acting Secretary

15 October 2021

CODICIL

I (full name of Testator/Testatrix*) _____

Of (Address) _____

DECLARE THIS to be a (First) Codicil to my Will dated
The _____ day of _____ 20

I GIVE to the Association known as FRIENDS OF St MARY'S CHURCH, CERNE ABBAS of Cerne Abbas, Dorset (Registered Charity Number 1148416) for its general purposes the sum of POUNDS (£) and I declare that the Treasurer or other proper Officer for the time being of the said Charity shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my Executors and Trustees for the same in all respects:-

IN ALL other respects I CONFIRM my said will :-

IN WITNESS I have hereto set my hand this _____ day of _____ 20
SIGNED by the above named _____)
Testator/Testatrix* in our presence _____)
And attested by us in the presence _____)
Of the above named Testator/Testatrix* _____)
And of each other:- _____)

WITNESS _____ WITNESS _____

ADDRESS _____ ADDRESS _____

OCCUPATION _____ OCCUPATION _____

FRIENDS' MEMBERSHIP LIST

As at July 2022

Eugene BALBINSKI	Helen HEWITT	Rosalyn RAWSON
Gordon BARTLET	Maureen HITT	Martin REED
Janet BARTLET	Pamela HUNT	Denise REED
Jennifer BEECHAM	Marcus HUNT	Ann ROBSON
Gordon BISHOP	Caroline JONES	Peter SMITH
Elizabeth BISHOP	Diana KIMBER	Suzanne SMITH
Roy BURNHAM	John LEE	Philip, SPRAY
John CHAMPION	Marion LEE	Cheryl SPRAY
Mike CLARK	Angela LOWE	Judith STEVEN
Jane CLARK	Elizabeth MACKENZIE	Jane STILL
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Mary EVANS	George MORTIMER	Richard WILKIN
Shirley FRANCIS	Paddy O'RIORDAN	Willy WILLIAMSON
Michael FULFORD DOBSON	Jane O'RIORDAN	Arabella WILLIAMSON
Anthony GARVEY	John PATERSON	James WILSON
Ghislaine GARVEY	Jennifer PATERSON	Myra WILSON
Richard HARTLEY-SHARPE	Lindsay PEDDER	
Clover HARTLEY-SHARPE		

+ Those 9 Friends who wish to remain anonymous

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