



AGM 13th May 2024

Chairman's Report

This is the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2023, the ninth full year since the Friends was launched.

The charity has been established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registration number 1161272, with the following objective: to preserve and protect St James the Less Church for the benefit of the public as a place of worship and such other charitable purposes as the Trustees deem appropriate.

A close working relationship has been established with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to identify improvements and modifications to the church which are beneficial in achieving greater use of the church buildings for both religious and secular purposes. In addition, the Friends are involved in raising funds to finance developments agreed by the PCC.

Membership of the Friends is available to anyone who supports its objectives and is interested in furthering its purposes. General meetings of the Friends are held bi-monthly to which all members are invited. Members are also invited to take part in the work of the various sub-groups. The Secretary of the Friends also maintains a database of supporters who wish to be kept informed of the activities of the Friends but do not wish to play a more active role in the running of the charity. These supporters are welcome to attend all our meetings but do not have voting rights. All databases are maintained in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations.

The three Trustees of the Friends are:

Chairman, Trustee and Treasurer: Paul Whatmough

Trustee: Rita Murphy

Trustee: Mel Winstanley

The contact details of all the Trustees can be found on the Charity Commission website or by contacting the Secretary.

It is the role and responsibility of the Trustees to ensure that the organisation is run in accordance with its constitution and charity law.

Charity No 1161272

Margaret Whatmough resigned as a Trustee at the AGM in 2023 as her period of tenure as a Trustee had expired. Margaret agreed to continue as Secretary to the Friends with the consent of the members.

Financial Review:

A copy of the Financial Statement is attached to this report and will be discussed fully later in this meeting under the item of the Treasurer's Report.

Events:

At the end of April and beginning of May volunteers from the Friends assisted the Parochial Church Council with catering at the Wray Scarecrow Festival and on the church stall at Wray Fair; a lot of baking, soup and sandwich making, washing up and hard work made for enjoyable and rewarding days.

It was agreed that any plans to celebrate the King's Coronation was the responsibility of the parish councils and the Friends would not, on this occasion, be arranging an event.

On 20th May, a concert by the Lancaster Singers was held at the church which was filled with beautiful singing and an atmosphere of community enjoyment. Light refreshments were served after the concert to both the choir and the audience which were greatly appreciated and, after expenses, £525 was added to our funds.

Due to uncertainty regarding the proposed repairs to the church roof and when the work would be starting, it was decided that the Friends would not be able to plan for future events at the church until the PCC was in a position to clarify matters.

As a charity we are indebted to the members of our 100 Club and its administrator, Sue Wood, for ensuring that our funds continue to grow to the tune of over £4,000 during the year and we are very grateful for this continued support.

December 2023 saw members of the Friends enjoying a Christmas meal at The Highwayman.

Outgoings:

It was agreed that the Friends would purchase a pop-up gazebo for use at their outdoor events.

A member of the community kindly donated jars of homemade jam and the Secretary agreed to use her databases to promote the sale of the jam. £122 was subsequently transferred to the church account.

The Friends are aware that the church roof needs repairing and that the PCC is likely to apply for assistance in funding the work.

Paul Whatmough
Chair

Friends of St. James the Less

Registered Charity Number 1161272

**Financial Statement
31st December 2023**

Prepared and presented by:

**Paul Whatmough
Coach House
Wennington**

Treasurer and Trustee

Friends of St. James the Less

9th Annual General Meeting

Treasurer's Report

The Financial Statements relate to the year ending 31st December 2023.

The Financial Statements have not been independently examined because it is not a requirement of the Charities Commission.

Friends of St. James the Less

General Account Income and Expenditure Year to 31st December 2023

	2023	2022
Income		
Open Gardens	0.00	250.00
Sale of Jam	189.00	0.00
Leyland Brass Band	0.00	1299.41
Lancaster Singers	524.73	0.00
Donations	26.50	170.50
Surplus from 100 Club	<u>4137.25</u>	<u>4319.25</u>
Total Income	4877.48	6039.16
Expenditure		
Donations	0.00	1000.00
Secretary expenses	102.24	0.00
Pop up Gazebo	333.99	0.00
Queen's Jubilee Party	0.00	378.39
Leyland Brass Band	0.00	734.00
Tfr to PCC	122.00	0.00
Bunting Fabric and Boxes	<u>0.00</u>	<u>76.72</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>558.23</u>	<u>2189.11</u>
Annual Surplus	<u><u>4319.25</u></u>	<u><u>3850.05</u></u>
Represented by		
Bank balance b/fwd	17753.28	13903.23
Annual surplus	<u>4319.25</u>	<u>3850.05</u>
Bank balance c/fwd	22072.53	17753.28

Friends of St. James the Less

100 Club

Income and Expenditure

Year to 31st December 2023

	2023
Income	
Monthly Membership	6365.00
Expenditure	
Prize Money	<u>2201.25</u>
"Profit" to General A/c	4163.75

Balance Sheet

at 31st December 2023

Bank Balance	1666.00	
Less unpresented cheque (M Jackson)	106.00	
Less Payments in Advance	<u>1560.00</u>	
		0.00