



Friends of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Merrow

Trustees' Annual Report for the period from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Registered name and number with the Charity Commission for England and Wales:

The Friends of the Church of St John the Evangelist, Merrow, hereinafter referred to as FoStJ is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registration number 1189324.

Principal address:

222 Epsom Road,
Merrow,
Guildford,
GU4 7AA

Stated objectives and activities

To advance the Christian religion for the public benefit by the restoration, preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement and beautification of the Parish Church of St. John the Evangelist, Merrow in the diocese of Guildford (hereinafter called 'the Church') and of the monuments, fittings, fixtures, stained glass, furniture, ornaments and chattels in the church, churchyard and church hall belonging to the Church and the Village War Memorial situated in the churchyard, in particular the CIO will make grants of money and gifts of other property to the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist, Merrow, exclusively for the purpose of the said objects, and generally assist those responsible for the care and maintenance of the church.

Achievements over the year

As we look back on this our second year of the charity's activities, the shadow of the pandemic restrictions still seemed to follow us and influence our campaigns. Fund raising began, initially, with a Zoom based online only event, before progressing to embrace more 'normal' in-person fund raising events. The year kicked off with fundraising to support St. John's organ restoration. To celebrate the completion of refurbishment of our 140-year-old William Hill organ an organ recital on the evening of the 14th of April 2021 was arranged. Music was presented and performed by Mark Shepherd, Director of Music at Charterhouse School. The evenings programme included a story of the evolution of this amazing instrument from its original installation in 1881 to the present day and a recital of organ music from Elgar, Bach, Franck and others. Overall, £1,315 net was raised in the year to support the church organ restoration (Net donations including amounts received in the previous financial year totalled £1,376).

It was brought to our attention that the church tower was in need of serious repair. A recent Diocesan Quinquennial inspection report highlighted several areas of urgent concern. The stonework around the belfry louvre openings on the east and west sides of the tower was spalling and flaking off, presenting a real H&S risk. Repairs to the stonework required cutting out old and rusted iron fixings and tie bars and fitting new stainless-steel fixings; the extraction of spalled stonework ready to receive new stonework; and the cutting, carving and fitting of new stonework. Work will be carried out by Anstey and Stone, a well-known local stonemason company of Farnham, at a cost of approximately £5,500. FoStJ agreed to support St. John's in this restoration work and launched our appeal to "Save Our Stones" (SOS). Our fundraising campaign was spearheaded by two highly successful events, the first, a Wine Tasting evening on the 4th December 2021 lead by Shaun Parry-Jones. This evening raised £364.12 net and the second event was a Quiz Night held on the 26th March 2022 with Allan Johnson as quiz master. The quiz raised £537.32 after costs (this amount includes £491.20 of event food costs paid in the next financial year) towards our campaign. A total of £1,392.64 net was recognised in the year as the amount raised to support SOS (before deduction of costs relating to the Quiz Night). In addition, during this increasingly busy year we also raised £140.00 towards the bell tower restoration project.

Throughout the year the management committee constituting the three trustees, PCC nominees and a treasurer continued to meet to oversee fund raising activities. Initially holding meetings via Zoom the committee now also meets at the Church Centre. As we started to grow our 'Friends' membership throughout 2021/2 the committee felt that we needed a strong pair of hands to support the charity and keep track of membership details and subscriptions. As a result, in August 2021 Linda Elliott agreed to join the committee as membership secretary. Her services have been greatly appreciated by the rest of the FoStJ team.

Our overall financial position (see the detail below), I hope you will agree, demonstrates significant growth over our first reported year. Total funds raised amounted to £3,595 in the year and banked funds by the end of the period stood at £2,601 (prior year £524) and this after handing over to St John's PCC a cheque for £1,000 to support the work to restore the church organ.

Financial review

In accordance with Commission regulations and guidelines the financial results for FoStJ for the period from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis (comparative figures for the first reported results for the period from 4th May 2020 to 31st March 2021 are also shown).

A summary of these results is shown below:

	Restricted Funds		Unrestricted Funds		Total	
	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts	3,274.70	63.41	319.96	465.00	3,594.66	528.41
Payments	(1,426.69)	(2.97)	(91.38)	(0.81)	(1,518.07)	(3.78)
Net	1,848.01	60.44	228.58	464.19	2,076.59	524.63

Total receipts comprised charitable donations, payments for events and membership subscriptions. An analysis of receipts for the year is as follows:

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Membership fees (Unrestricted)	204.96	85.00
General donations (Unrestricted)	115.00	380.00
Church Organ Appeal (Restricted)	1,358.69	63.41
Save our Stones (Restricted)	1,771.01	
Church Bell Tower Restoration (Restricted)	145.00	
Total	3,594.66	528.41

Membership fees represents the payment of 38 members.

The total payment of £1,518.07 comprised a charitable donation of £1,000 paid to St. John's PCC, transaction charges of £134.47 paid to Stripe, the charity's online payments platform, refunds of membership subscription overpayments of £10.00, wine tasting event costs of £206.73 and marketing signage costs of £166.87. Stripe charges amounted to 4.8% of total payments received via their platform over the financial year.

The FoStJ bank account balance at 31st March 2022 was £2,601.22 (£524.63 at 31st March 2021). There were no uncleared banking receipts on this date. The mechanism for claiming gift aid on donations was still to be agreed with HMRC at the end of the financial year. There were no transfers between funds during the period to 31st March 2022. The banking services of Metro Bank, Guildford continued to be used by FoStJ for its day-to-day financial business throughout the year.

No capital expenditure was committed to or incurred during the reporting period. The charity does not own any assets other than cash held in its current account with Metro Bank. The charity gave no guarantees in the year and thus no related potential liabilities are outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities. There are no debts which are secured by an express charge on the assets of the charity.

Governance and management of the charity

FoStJ is administered in accordance with a written constitution by its trustees, comprising 2 nominated by the PCC and 3 elected by the members. The charity is managed by a committee which meets monthly to plan and oversee day to day activities. The trustees appoint committee members and Officers.

One third of the elected trustees must retire annually, but maybe re-elected. At the first FoStJ AGM, it was decided that members should have the opportunity to re-elect all the elected Trustees. All standing Trustees were duly re-elected. This practice will not be applied this year (2022)

The charity's trustees and members of the management committee during the year are shown below:

Name	Office	Status	Date of appointment
Christopher Shorter	Chairman	Trustee & Member	30 th January 2020
Gordon Farquharson	Secretary	Trustee & Member	30 th January 2020
Mark Butcher	Treasurer	Member	26 th July 2020
Robert Avis	PCC nominee	Member	30 th January 2020
Peter Tappin	PCC nominee	Member	30 th January 2020
Mark Stuart-Bourne		Trustee & Member	30 th January 2020



Since the end of this reporting period Ms. Annabel Stuart-Bourne has agreed, as a PCC nominee, to become a Trustee and will also join the management committee. Mark Stuart-Bourne has recently announced that he will be resigning as both a Trustee and management committee member. The Trustees would like to thank Mark for his contribution to the charity.

The trustees do not hold title to property belonging to the charity and there are no funds held and managed by the trustees as custodian on behalf of other charities.

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature:		
Full name:	Christopher Shorter	Gordon Farquharson
Position:	Chairman	Secretary
Date:	1 st November 2022	1 st November 2022

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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Friends of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Merrow

1189324

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

1st April 2021

To

31st March 2022



Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Members' subscriptions	205	-	-	205	85
Donations	115	3,275	-	3,390	443
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	320	3,275	-	3,595	528
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	320	3,275	-	3,595	528
A3 Payments					
Transaction charges	17	127	-	144	4
Cost of fund raising events	-	207	-	207	-
Donations	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
Printing, postage, stationery and computer supplies	74	93	-	167	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	91	1,427	-	1,518	4
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	91	1,427	-	1,518	4
Net of receipts/(payments)	229	1,848	-	2,077	524
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	464	60	-	524	-
Cash funds this year end	693	1,908	-	2,601	524

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		693	1,908	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	693	1,908	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets				
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities				
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Gordon Farquharson	14th October 2022:
	Christopher Shorter	15th October 2022: