

**The Friends of St Andrew's Church Alfriston**

**Charity registration number: 1199268**

**Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts**

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

## **The Friends of St Andrew's Church Alfriston**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the period 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The object of the charity is to assist in preserving and protecting for public benefit the fabric of the Grade 1 listed St Andrew's Church Alfriston including the fixtures, fittings, monuments and chattels contained therein and in the churchyard areas belonging to the church.

The focus of this first operating period has been to complete the administration of registering the charity with the Charity Commission and HM Revenue & Customs to formalise the constitution of the previous community group. Plans to recruit new trustees and organise fundraising events have been seriously impacted by the actions of the Charity's bank, whose processes appear to have failed to acknowledge the creation of the charity and resulted in access to the account and funds being blocked to all mandated trustees. Despite repeated unsuccessful attempts by trustees to communicate with the bank and submission of all requested information the matter remains to be resolved at the time of writing. The trustees continue in their efforts to obtain explanations from the bank so that the funds held can be utilised to meet the charity's objects and further fund raising can be organised.

The trustees have had due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant. Since formation of the Charity the trustees have communicated the change of constitution to the existing supporters and collected their donations. Further activity is being planned to liaise with the benefice team and involve the wider community to identify which projects approved by the Diocese will be supported.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

'The Friends' previously operated for several years as an informal local supporter group with little accountability. The trustees have successfully formalised the constitution of the organisation and completed the charity registrations to provide an structure with robust governance and transparency for fundraising to support the enhancement of St Andrew's Church. The intention is to encourage the involvement of the wider community and visitors who benefit from having St Andrew's Church physically at the heart of the Cuckmere Valley.

The trustees have continued to collect donations from regular donors. However, the trustees have been disappointed not to progress the launch of activity and engagement of potential supporters due to the actions of the charity's bank which unilaterally, and without warning or explanation, rendered the charity's current account inoperable. The trustees have provided all the information requested by the bank to no avail and spent considerable time trying to communicate with the bank to resolve the situation. The bank has provided no support or co-operation so the issue remains unresolved. The trustees have been prevented from carrying out fully their responsibilities due the actions and inaction of the bank so they propose to submit formal complaints to the bank's senior management and the appropriate regulatory authorities. The trustees intend to engage an alternative bank and will continue to seek the release of the reserve funds frozen by Barclays.

## **The Friends of St Andrew's Church Alfriston**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the period 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

#### **Financial Review**

The previous Friends group gifted their cash funds of £7,846 to the new charity and £730 was received from existing donors. The charity's cash reserve as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 was £8,576. As explained above these funds are frozen by Barclays Bank but the trustees have confidence that they will be released in the foreseeable future.

#### **Reserves policy**

The trustees have not adopted a formal reserves policy as the charity is formed solely to receive and hold voluntary donations and make grants to enhance St Andrew's Church. All individuals involved provide their support voluntarily without financial remuneration and the charity has no operating costs and a low risk profile.

#### **Donations policy**

The trustees have adopted a policy for the accepting and refusing of donations to ensure their source is identified and appropriate.

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The charity is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) under a governing document last amended and approved by the trustees dated 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022. A copy of this is available on the [charity's website](#).

The charity was [registered](#) by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The charity has been [accepted](#) by HM Revenue & Customs as a charity for tax purposes and is able to claim Gift Aid on valid donations from 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The governing document provides that there should be not less than one or more than 10 appointed trustees: one ex officio trustee; and no more than two nominated trustees.

The ex-officio trustee shall be the Incumbent of the ecclesiastical benefice in which the parish church of St Andrews Alfriston is situated automatically, for as long as he or she holds that office, unless he or she indicate an unwillingness to be appointed under paragraph 10(2) of the governing document.

There are 4 founding trustees and they will be actively seeking to recruit additional trustees to represent the demographic of the wider community, not just the religious congregation. In particular the founding trustees would like to hear from persons who are willing to contribute to fund raising and organising community events. Application is open to anyone over 16 years of age.

#### **Trustees**

Anthony Davy (Chair)  
Carol Hodson  
Geoff Ellis  
Revd. Prebendary Stephen Stuckes (ex-officio)



## The Friends of St Andrew's Church Alfriston

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

### Reference and Administrative details

The Friends of St Andrew's Church Alfriston

Registered charity no. 1199268

Registered address:

Parish Office  
St Andrew's Church  
The Tye  
Alfriston BN26 5TL

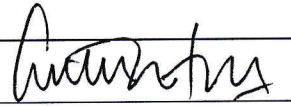
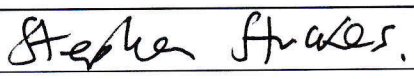
Email: [info@friendsalfriston.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsalfriston.org.uk)

Website: [www.friendsalfriston.org.uk](http://www.friendsalfriston.org.uk)

### Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	ANTHONY DAW	STEPHEN STUCKES
Position	CHAIRMAN	TRUSTEE
Date	24 <sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023	

The Friends of St Andrew's Church Alfriston

1199268

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

For the period  
from

13th June 2022

To

31st December  
2022

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Friends of St Andrews	£7,846	-	-	£7,846	
Public donations	£730	-	-	£730	
<b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR)	£8,576	-	-	£8,576	
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	£8,576	-	-	£8,576	-

**A3 Payments**

	-	-	-	-	
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	

**A4 Asset and investment purchases**

	-	-	-	-	
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	

**Total payments**

-	-	-	-	
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**Net of receipts/(payments)**

£8,576	-	-	£8,576	
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**A5 Transfers between funds**

-	-	-	-	
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**A6 Cash funds last year end**

-	-	-	-	
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**Cash funds this period end**

£8,576	-	-	£8,576	
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## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
B1 Cash funds	Barclays Bank	£8,576	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	£8,576	-	-
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	-
Signed on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Anthony Davy	ANTHONY DAVY	24/10/23	
	Stephen Stokes	STEPHEN STOKES	24/10/23	