

The Friends of St Andrew's Church Alfriston

Charity registration number: 1199268

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

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 the year had been to recruit new trustees and organise fundraising events but they have been seriously impacted by the actions of the Charity's bank, whose processes continued to fail to acknowledge the creation of the charity and resulted in access to the account and funds being blocked to all mandated trustees. It was only in November 2023 that the new bank account was established and even then it took until early 2024 to transfer monies from the old bank account to the new bank account.

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. Further activity is being planned to liaise with the benefice team and involve the wider community to identify which projects approved by the Diocese can 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 a structure with robust governance and transparency for fundraising to support the enhancement of St Andrew's Church. The intention now 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 rendered the charity's current account inoperable until late 2023. The trustees have been prevented from carrying out fully their responsibilities due to the actions and inaction of the bank.

Financial Review

During the year £1,237 was received from existing donors. The charity's cash reserve as at 31st December 2023 was £9,813. As explained above, these funds were frozen by Barclays Bank until late 2023 but the trustees now have the ability to release funds to projects that meet the charity's objectives.

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, Alfriston. 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 7th 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 13th June 2022.

The charity has been accepted by HMRC as a charity for tax purposes and is able to claim Gift Aid on valid donations from 13th 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.

Reference and Administrative details:

The Friends of St Andrew's Church Alfriston -Registered charity no. 1199268

Registered address: The Chaise House, West Street, Alfriston, Polegate, Surrey BN26 5UX

Trustees:-

Anthony Davy (Chair)

Carol Hodson

Geoff Ellis

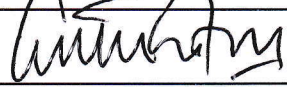

Revd. Prebendary Stephen Stuckes (ex-officio)

Bankers: Barclays Bank, Leicester LE87 2BB

Email: info@friendsalfriston.org.uk

Website: www.friendsalfriston.org.uk

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report and accounts as detailed on pages 1 to 5 at a meeting of the trustees dated 28th March 2024

Signature		
Full name	Anthony Davy	Geoff Ellis
Position	Trustee	Trustee
Date	28th March 2024	28th March 2024

Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Year ended 31.12.23	Period 13.06.22 to 31.12.22
	£`	£
Income		
Unrestricted donations	1,237	730
Unrestricted – other income- transfer from previous Friends of St Andrews group		7,846
Total Unrestricted income	1,237	8,576
Expenditure		
Fundraising costs	0	0
Charitable activity	0	0
Governance	0	0
Total expenditure	0	0
Surplus for year ended 31.12.23	1,237	8,576
Surplus brought forward as at 01.01.23	8,576	
Surplus as at 31.12.23	9,813	

Balance Sheet as at 31.12.23

Current Assets		
Barclays Bank account	9,813	8,576
Current Liabilities	0	0
Net Current Assets	9,813	8,576
Reserves as at 31.12.23	9,813	8,576