

**Minutes of meeting of the Friends of St. Margaret's
Monday, October 5th, 2009**

The meeting was held at Petal Cottage, starting at 7.45pm.

Present: Loraine Winn, Dave Sweeney (Chairman), Ann Ward, Jean Garner, Cameron Ross, Carole Smith, Dave and Sue Milne and Craig Walford representing the PCC restoration sub-committee.

Apologies: Rosanna Atkins and Edward Green

Minutes of the last meeting: These were agreed and signed as a true record.

English Heritage Inspection: Craig said that this had taken place on September 28th. The architect thought the situation very serious and we had been told that the outcome of our application would be known by Christmas.

As part of the application, all the church's funding had had to be revealed, including the Jack Wills Trust, £87,000. A copy of Jack's will had been sent to English Heritage. This stipulated that the money was to be used "for religious activity". English Heritage regards the definition of this as including activity to maintain church buildings, and therefore requires the money to be given in full towards the total cost. The PCC will be left with £8,000. It is possible that, as well as the work to the tower, we might be able to fund the repairs to the two worst windows.

Dave M said that these windows were to be boarded up shortly, possibly using money from the Jack Wills Trust. This would cost in the region of £3,000. He was also arranging a quote for other necessary work to be done on the roof at the same time, e.g., making good the lead bridging to protect from leaks, replacing mortar flashing and so on. It was important to do as much as possible whilst scaffolding was in place.

Treasurer's report and membership: Dave M. said that our total funds now stood at £52,796.25 in the CCLA account and £5,649.50 in the Nationwide. One more member had renewed following our reminder.

Curry and Casserole Night, Friday, October 16th: There had been a good demand for tickets. Cooks and food were arranged as follows:

Curries: Loraine (chicken) and the Milnes (lamb)

Casseroles: The Milnes (beef) and Carole (chicken)

Jacket potatoes: Ann

Onion Bhajis: Dave S, who could not attend.

Setting up would start at 5pm in the School.

In view of the number coming, Sue would approach Debbie Christie and Felicity White, who had offered help, to see whether they could cook something.

Christmas cards and laser copier: Cameron had researched the options re printing cards ourselves as opposed to having them printed professionally. Bearing in mind the number of cards we were likely to sell and after further discussion, all agreed that we

would buy a laser printer and produce our own cards. Various committee members produced photographs for the sub-committee's consideration.

Christmas Tree Festival: Dave S produced explanatory sheets and application forms for sponsors, together with a timetable for the organisation of the event. He invited members to take a timetable away and volunteer for a job.

He wanted to use Norway Spruce trees, 4 – 5 feet in height, and was still sourcing these. We would need pots for them, which would need to be at least 10" and straight-sided. They would not necessarily have to be identical, as we would cover them. To make the trees more stable, a wooden cross would be placed in the bottom of each pot. Cameron volunteered the wood for these. We would also need soil to fill the pots and a working party was envisaged.

Dave would organise the Light for a Loved One again but this year, instead of having the names in a book, we would place them all tastefully on our own tree. The switch-on would be on the Preview Night, Friday, December 11th. This would be held from 7.30-9.30pm and would include entertainment, which Loraine volunteered to organise.

The entry charge for visitors to the festival was to be £2 per adult, with accompanied children free.

Any Other Business: Cameron expressed an interest in approaching organisations for funding. Craig and Dave S had discussed other fundraising, whilst Sue and Andy Hopkins were about to liaise over who had been approached so far and with what results. Sue would also pass on this information to Cameron.

The committee's best wishes were extended to the Chairman, who had just celebrated his 60th birthday!

Date of Next Meeting: Monday, October 26th. [n.b. may be rearranged]

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm