

**Minutes of meeting of the Friends of St. Margaret's
Monday, September 7th, 2009**

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

Present: Dave Sweeney (Chairman), Ann Ward, Jean Garner, Edward Green, Rosanna Atkins, Cameron Ross, Carole Smith, Dave and Sue Milne and Nigel Howard, representing the PCC restoration sub-committee.

Apologies: Loraine Winn

Minutes of the last meeting: These were agreed, subject to the following amendment: Paragraph 8, last sentence, to read “ A member of the PCC would normally attend our meetings...”, and were signed as a true record.

Update re. Heritage Fund Application: Dave S. said that the PCC had received a letter from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This stated that the application had gone to the next stage for consideration. Whilst carrying no guarantee of success, it was a hopeful sign.

The letter, which was read to the committee, required the PCC to justify the use of their architect/surveyor. The PCC sub-committee had replied to this, giving their reasons for using John Barker. Our committee agreed unanimously that he should be used in view of his wide experience of ancient buildings and his knowledge of St. Margaret's over many years.

Sue pointed out that, as well as our anxieties, the Diocese had written to the Church Wardens expressing their concern regarding the state of the building.

Dave S asked for a volunteer to represent him on the sub-committee should he be unable to attend a meeting. Cameron agreed to do this. Dave said he would be speaking to the PCC at their meeting on Sept. 16th

Dave M said that there was a possibility of other grants but that these would have to be sought by the PCC as some organisations did not deal with “Friends of.. “

Proposed cessation of events in church: Dave S said that the Quinquennial report had stated that two windows were in such a bad state of repair that they should be boarded up forthwith. If we held an event in the church and there was a problem, we could well find ourselves uninsured. He therefore proposed that we should not use the building for any of our functions for the time being. This would be taken forward to the meeting of the PCC, who would have to look at their own insurance. The Old School had already been booked for the Harvest Supper on Sunday, Sept. 20th.

Discussion followed, including the fact that we have a stall at the Village Market, the next of which was scheduled for Sept. 19th.

Cameron suggested that we recommend to the PCC that they make a decision as to whether to cordon off the area around the two windows in question. Dave S said that as this was really outside our remit, he felt that we should simply tell the PCC that we could not hold events safely in the church at present.

It was agreed that no action could be taken regarding the Christmas Tree Festival until the situation was clarified.

Treasurer's report and membership: Dave M. said that our total funds now stood at

£52,493.81 in the CCLA account and £5,219.50 in the Nationwide. The Nationwide balance had been reduced by the payment of John Barker's cheque for £862.50 as agreed with the PCC. This sum would be refunded to us if our Heritage Lottery Fund application were successful

We had been informed that we were to receive £500 from the Hollowell Steam Rally and a letter of thanks had already been sent.

Reminder letters had been sent to those who had not renewed their FOSM membership and 3 more cheques had been received as a result.

Scarecrow Weekend : We had raised £353 net. All agreed that the weekend had gone well and had generated a good spirit and enthusiasm in the village. The Chairman thanked all who had helped. We looked at the possibility of including lunches if the event is repeated, in the form of jacket potatoes and possibly burgers. All agreed that we would not consider "sub-letting" the church or the Old School again.

Harvest Supper: This was to be held on Sunday, September 20th. Dave S volunteered to print tickets and notices, whilst the Milnes would deal with ticket sales. The closing date for tickets would be Wednesday, Sept 16th.

Ann agreed to co-ordinate the catering and the following agreed to provide food:

Selina Sweeney: Quiche and a pudding

Ann: Jacket potatoes

Sue: Quiche, salad and chilli topping

Carole: Apple pie and fruit salad

Jean: Quiche and a pudding

We had ample supplies of tea and coffee and also wine in stock, which we would sell.

Setting up would start at 5pm in the School.

2010 Calendar and Christmas cards: Dave S said that Chris Attridge was doing his own calendar this year and that there had also been talk of a scarecrow calendar. It was agreed that, for this reason, we would not produce a calendar and would not, therefore, take any action on purchasing a binder.

All agreed to Jean's suggestion that we should instead concentrate on good quality cards. A laser printer would be invaluable for this and Dave asked others to research prices. A sub-committee consisting of Cameron, Rosanna, Edward and Ann would choose from photographs, which should be sent to Cameron as soon as possible. Craft Creations and Hobbycraft were named as good sources of card.

Our aim would be to have cards ready for sale at the Village Market on October 17th.

Any Other Business: Sue asked whether there would be any objection to her and Dave going to collect the Hollowell cheque this year. This was agreed.

Dates of the first 2 Curry Nights were fixed for Friday Oct. 16th and Friday Nov. 20th.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday, October 5th.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm