



**FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH
OF ST MARY, WARWICK
Registered Charity No. 503629**

Minutes of the forty-sixth Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 19th May 2019

Present: Clive Black (**CB**) Chairman; Ian Bayliss (**IB**) Treasurer; Heather Partis (**HP**) Hon. Secretary, **VR** (Rector), **JL** (Church Warden) plus nine members.

1) Apologies for absence were received from:

Gail Guest (Church Warden), Kevin & Jayne McHale, Peter & Elizabeth Briggs, Jill Duffy, Ellie & Mike Miles, Helen Black, Jim Watts, Celia & Michael Sykes.

CB opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and for their continued support.

2) Minutes of 2018 A.G.M

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April 2018 had been circulated in advance and were approved as a true record of proceedings.

Proposed – Godfrey Hill **Seconded** – Noel Reeve

3) Chairman's Report

CB expressed his thanks to Tony King for once again auditing our accounts in a timely and efficient manner. Clive continued by reflecting on events held during the last twelve months:

- a) The Sir Bernard Silverman lecture in September 2018 was stimulating, widely supported and enjoyed by all who were able to attend.
- b) The annual mince pie and mulled wine stall at the Victorian evening in November was again well supported and enjoyed by many.
- c) The "Behind the Scenes" series event in January, with Oliver Hancock (DOM) was well supported and proved to be a very interesting and enjoyable evening. **CB** expressed his thanks to Kevin McHale for:
 - i) his original and inspirational idea for the series and
 - ii) for liaising and organising these very successful events
- d) Unfortunately, due to lack of interest, it was necessary to cancel the planned trip to Coventry Cathedral/The Herbert, and also the lecture about Sir Basil Spence which were due to take place last June.

Thanks to **your** generosity the Friends' were able to fulfil their commitment to contribute £20,000 towards the restoration of the Dean's Chapel and a further £8,150.00 towards the reconfiguration of the reception area. [The original amount designated was £10,000]

4) Election of Chairman

There being no other nominations Clive, again willing to stand, was re-elected.

Proposed: Vaughan Roberts **Seconded:** Heather Partis

5) Election of Hon. Secretary

There being no other nominations Heather, also willing to stand, was re-elected.

Proposed: Jean Liggins **Seconded:** Sheila Freeman

6) Election of Honorary Treasurer

There being no other nominations Ian, willing to stand again, was re-elected.

Proposed: Clive Black **Seconded:** Heather Partis

All three elections were unopposed.

7) Election of Committee

CB asked the meeting if anyone was willing/wished to join the committee. **JM** (Membership secretary) is no longer able to continue in that role but all other members were unanimously re-elected "en bloc".

Proposed: Noel Reeve **Seconded:** Jean Liggins

CB stated that he will take on the role of Membership secretary for the foreseeable future and continued by thanking the committee members for their support and commitment. **VR** echoed **CB's** thanks for all that the committee and Friends' do to enhance the life of St Mary's.

8) Presentation and adoption of annual accounts

IB echoed **CB's** thanks to Tony King for his inspection of the accounts.

The accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018, circulated, showed current assets of £17,234.15.

The accounts for 2018 were duly adopted.

Proposed: John Luxton **Seconded:** Godfrey Hill

9) Appointment of Auditor

Tony King was re-elected as auditor for 2019.

Proposed: Clive Black **Seconded:** John Luxton

10) Membership Report

A full membership report was not available. The accounts showed that the amount received in 2018 was significantly less than for the previous year. **CB** is anxious to look at the membership/financial arrangements and will meet with **IB** and **HP** asap to cross-check current membership arrangements and subscriptions to determine the current position. Most members pay by Standing Order but those who pay by other means do not currently receive reminders that subscriptions are due. This is something which the committee will try and resolve.

Several members felt that we should be more pro-active in promoting the Friends' and **CB** agreed that we would look at ways of achieving this. Application forms are available on the Friends' notice board and the web site but it was generally felt we should promote The Friends' in a more positive way.

Sheila Young queried the different subscription amounts. **CB** explained that for long standing members the suggested annual subscription remains at a suggested minimum rate of £10 per annum per member but for more recent members the suggested minimum rate is £15 per annum per member.

Sheila Freeman asked how decisions were made about which appeal(s) the Friends' support. **JL** responded by saying that some appeals are well supported by outside organisations and their generosity and that SMW PCC is very conscious of, and grateful for the support the Church already receives from The Friends'.

11) Future Programme

CB outlined a series of events planned over the next twelve months. This information will be/has been emailed to all members and will also be displayed on the Friends' notice board at the back of Church. **CB** highlighted the proposed 1950's evening (June 2020) as a **Social event**. This led to comments from some members that they felt that outings/trips were social events and that perhaps we should consider including an opportunity for a group meal. It was appreciated that this would create a challenge to those responsible for organising such an event. **CB** agreed to consult/liaise with committee members.

There being no further business, **CB** once again thanked everyone for attending, and the meeting closed at 12.30pm.