



*Friends of St Mary's Church
Stansted Mountfitchet*

Minutes Of Annual General Meeting 3pm. 1st May 2022, St Mary's Church

#	Item	Action
1	<p>Welcome Lynda Dale, Chairman of the Friends of St Mary's Committee opened the meeting and welcomed those present.</p>	
2	<p>Apologies for absence from: Janet Hollis, Ros Francis, Keith Ayres, Mark Gerber, Malcolm Treacher.</p>	
3	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the previous AGM (3 years ago, Covid intervened), the Organ Project has been completed and the Fund closed. • The Boiler Fund has been initiated. The CCT will undertake an energy survey and recommend heating options, which might rule out carbon fuels such as oil. Lynda mentioned a church of larger dimensions in Norfolk she had visited which relied solely on wall-mounted electric heaters. If this was a viable option, we would need to have an inspection of our electrical supply. • £700 has been received from two Stansted Parish Councillors for churchyard work and facilities. A picnic bench is planned and purchase of a lawn mower. • Platinum Jubilee rose bushes have been ordered and plaque. • There has been a lot of work in the churchyard, tidying, weeding, discovering and cleaning previously hidden graves. A special mention to Susan and Peter Merton for their considerable help and support. Also to Mark Gerber, Mike Byrne and Mark Presland for getting the 1st Stansted Scouts involved. • The Parish Council have agreed to remove two fallen trees. • CCT Membership. Annual membership is currently £42 and members can now allocate a proportion of their membership fee to fund their choice of church. Membership funds go into the CCT 'Restricted Fund'. The benefits of CCT membership also include regular Pinnacle magazines; invitations to join church tours and events and online Thursday lunchtime lectures. • The majority of the current membership have not paid fees for this year (due on 1st April 2022) and many have not paid the 	



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	<p>annual £5 fee for the previous five or six years. Steve Dale will now take ownership of Friends membership. An email reminder will be sent out to members in arrears and if no response they will be considered lapsed and removed from the membership list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Theatre: Alice's Adventure in Wonderland on 14th May. ○ Open Sunday's the 1st Sunday of the month. ○ Platinum Jubilee celebrations on Sunday 5th June. Bell ringers 2- 3pm, Stansted U3A singers 3-4pm, refreshments. ○ Richard Carr and friends Saturday 11th June 4pm, organ concert and choir. ○ Theatre: The Railway Children on Saturday 13th August at 1pm. 	Steve
4	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>3 year's accounts presented by John Wrentmore.</p> <p>Net assets are currently £9,365.66, which is after the general fund has contributed £2,662.28 to the Organ Restoration Project, to make up the shortfall and also after taking into account we have a creditor of just over £1,500 (money owed to John Wrentmore for toilet hire, TENS licences and other sundry items in recent years). Having just over £9k to play with at present is a good starting point, as we now turn our attention to the boiler project.</p> <p>See separate report for details.</p> <p>The Committee thanks John for his expertise and diligence in managing our accounts.</p> <p><i>NB: The financial report was not formally proposed and accepted during the meeting. If Committee members require any clarification of the accounts, please contact John.</i></p>	
5	<p>Election of Committee</p> <p>The following were re-elected to the Friends of St Mary's Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Clements • Lynda Dale (Chairman) • Ros Francis 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Janet Hollis• Valerie Reavell• Ray Rogers• John Wrentmore (Treasurer) <p>Steve Dale was nominated for the role of Secretary by Lynda Dale, seconded by John Wrentmore.</p>	
6	<p>AOB</p> <p>Carol Clements asked how Champing was going.</p> <p><i>Lynda reported that Champing is going very well, and we have bookings until the end of October this year.</i></p> <p>Susan Merton questioned why we were only charging £5 membership, given this fee has not been increased since 2011.</p> <p><i>The consensus was that we should review an increase in the fees at some point in the future, but given the present inflationary pressures and the climate of uncertainty, we need to be sensitive about the timing of any increase.</i></p> <p>Lynda has received an email from CCT about setting up a TikTok account for the church regarding the churchyard work. This is currently being considered and no decision has yet been made.</p> <p>Subsequent to the meeting, Lynda was visited by Trevor from Stansted/Anglia in bloom regarding the inclusion of the churchyard in the judging tour. Lynda pointed out that we do not have an abundance of flowers but we are a quintessential English country churchyard but we do have our St Mary's rose, specially cultivated for us by the Horner family. Trevor advised that it was to do with the community and all of the work we have been doing in the churchyard.</p>	

The meeting was closed at: 15.45

These minutes and the Financial Report will be made available on the St Marys website:
<http://stmarysstansted.org.uk/>