



**Friends of St Mary's Church  
Stansted Mountfitchet**

**Minutes Of Annual General Meeting  
11am. 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023, St Mary's Church**

#	Item	Action
1	<p><b>Welcome</b> Lynda Dale, Chairman of the Friends of St Mary's Committee opened the meeting and welcomed those present.</p>	
2	<p><b>Apologies for absence from:</b> Michael Dodwell, Ray Rogers, Malcolm Treacher, Edmund Wilkinson, Carol Wylde, John Wrentmore.</p>	
3	<p><b>Previous Minutes</b> The minutes from 2022 were accepted with no amendments. Proposed Audrey Rogers, accepted unanimously.</p>	
4	<p><b>Chairman's Report</b> See separate report by Lynda Dale. Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes at the CCT. Henry Moore, our volunteer officer has left. We now have Dean Wigzell.</li> <li>• A funeral ban has been imposed by St. John's PCC. We are awaiting further clarification on this from St John's PCC.</li> <li>• In the year April 2022 to April 2023, we recorded 3,339 people coming into the church. That equates to 23,373 people because we multiply signings by 7 since not everyone signs-in. It is so important that you all sign in every time you visit, please!</li> <li>• We are now in our sixth season of Champing (camping in church) and still a very popular venue, with guests coming from all over the world. The governor of Mauritius stayed here last year, and we get both locals and international visitors' bookings right up until October this year.</li> <li>• Anglia in bloom. This will be a second entry having been awarded a Certificate of Merit last year. We have addressed many of the points we lost marks on last year and hope for bigger and better this year. We are entered into two categories this time; 'Virtual', 80 words and 8 photos plus a visit on judging day.</li> <li>• Donations of plants always welcome and volunteers to help would be especially welcome. There are currently only three of us who</li> </ul>	



**Friends of St Mary's Church  
Stansted Mountfitchet**

	<p>work in the churchyard. Help from the Scouts also, when they are available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have made an application to the Stansted Airport Community Fund for £7000.00 to contribute towards the cost of a replacement boiler. This amount to be topped up from our accounts to meet the final cost. Our current heating, an oil-fired boiler has been condemned after 35 years of use and is predicted to fail completely within the next 12 months. We hope to hear from the Fund by the end of May 2023.</li> <li>• Thank you to the Scouts for their recent donation of £100</li> <li>• Thank you to the Friends Committee and to all the Friends of St Mary's Stansted Mountfitchet.</li> </ul> <p>The Friends Committee thanked Lynda for all she has does and continues to do in raising the profile of St Mary's Church and making it a safe &amp; welcoming place for the community.</p> <p><b>Points raised by attendees:</b> What is the financial contribution from the CCT to St Mary's Church? What do their accounts show?</p> <p>The CCT accounts are published at: <a href="https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/annual-report-accounts.html">https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/annual-report-accounts.html</a></p> <p>There was some discussion about whether the CCT was providing adequate support to St Mary's, with evidence of some structural issues having been ignored for several years. Lynda has a meeting planned with Simon Wiles from the CCT and will raise these points.</p>	LD
5	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b> See separate Financial Report.</p> <p>The Current balance at end of year 2022 was £10,536.24</p> <p>The accounts were received by those present with one objection who questioned why the accounts had not been independently audited. This point to be clarified by John Wrentmore. Our current understanding is that an independent audit is only required for Registered Charities.</p>	JW



**Friends of St Mary's Church  
Stansted Mountfitchet**

	<p>NB. Post meeting note. John has approached several people to audit the accounts without success. If there is anyone with the relevant knowledge willing to help, please get in touch. In the meantime, the Committee are welcome to inspect the supporting detail.</p> <p>The Committee thanks John for his expertise and diligence in managing our accounts.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Membership Report</b></p> <p>Steve Dale assumed responsibility for Friends Membership in 2021/2. He reported that membership had not been properly maintained for several years, and that some members had not paid any subscriptions for 5 years or more. Membership is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> April each year. All members were contacted, by email (three reminders) letter or telephone throughout March and April. Any members with outstanding subscriptions of 5 years or more who have not paid by end of May 2023 will be removed from the Members List. Members who have not renewed their membership for 2023/4 but have paid within the past two years will be retained on the Members List and decision made in 2024 on whether to remove them.</p> <p>It was decided at the 2022 AGM that the £5 membership fee will remain for 2023/4 but will be reviewed prior to the 2024/5 period.</p> <p>Some members gave more than the standard £5 renewal fee, and a total of £35 in donations was received, for which the Committee would like to express a sincere thanks to those members.</p> <p>A separate report on previous and current membership was distributed, details as follows:</p> <p>Total Members 2021/2 = 141 Members not paid for 5 years or more = 71</p> <p>Members 2023/4 = 70 (assuming removal of 71 noted above) Paid up members 2023/4 = 51 Members in default 2023/4 = 26</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p><b>Election of Committee</b></p> <p>The following were re-elected to the Friends of St Mary's Committee:</p>	



**Friends of St Mary's Church  
Stansted Mountfitchet**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carol Clements</li> <li>• Lynda Dale (Chairman)</li> <li>• Steve Dale (Secretary)</li> <li>• Ros Francis</li> <li>• Peter Merton</li> <li>• Sue Merton</li> <li>• Valerie Reavell</li> <li>• Ray Rogers</li> <li>• John Wrentmore (Treasurer)</li> </ul> <p>Patrick Hearn was elected to the Friends Committee for 2023/4. We welcome Patrick to the Committee.</p>	
8	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Janet Hollis asked whether the prior agreement that the CCT could hold six services a year at St Mary's is still in effect, given the recent ruling by St John's PCC that no religious service may be held at St Mary's. Lynda will get clarification from the Revd. Colin Fairweather.</p> <p>Patrick Hearn asked how often the Friends Committee met. Lynda advised meetings take place for planning purposes prior to significant events, but on average it was about every 2 months.</p>	LD
9	<p><b>The meeting was closed at 12.05pm</b></p>	

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