

Friends of St James the Less Church, Tatham

Meeting on 11th November 2019 at St James the Less Church

Present:	Colin Burford (Chair), Paul Whatmough (Treasurer), Margaret Whatmough (Secretary), Rita Murphy, John Holt, John Parkinson, Richard Sanderson, Rebecca Sanderson, Sue Wood, Barbara Harrison, Chris Berry, Mel Winstanley – 12 members
Apologies:	Jenny Herd, Linda Kirkby
Chair:	Colin Burford welcomed the attendees and opened the meeting at 19:30.
Minutes:	The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 9 th September 2019 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Barbara Harrison, seconded by Rita Murphy. All found in favour.
Matters Arising:	<p>Lights in the window arch in the organ space and over the literature rack have been fitted.</p> <p>The switch for the hot water in the cupboard under the sink at the brew station has been moved to the front of the cupboard and is in a more accessible position.</p>
Secretary's Report:	<p>Margaret reported that she had completed the annual return for the Charities Commission and in accordance with their regulations, the Chairman's Annual Report and the Statement of Account for the year ending 31st December 2018 have been filed and can be viewed online.</p> <p>Four new members have subscribed to the "social" mailing list and emails have been circulated regarding the Bibi concert, the Harvest Festival and the Friends' Christmas Meal.</p>
Treasurer's Report:	<p>Since the last meeting on 9th September 2019:</p> <p>£721.50 relating to the September and October 100 Club draws and £660.71 from the Bibi concert have been paid to General Account.</p> <p>No grants to the PCC have been paid.</p> <p>Current balance in General Account is £12,778.34.</p> <p>Total income to General Account to date is £32,375.74 of which £18,575.75 has been raised from the 100 Club.</p> <p>100 Club prizes totalling £9,957.50 have been paid.</p> <p>Grants totalling £17,816.71 have been paid to the PCC for improvements to the church.</p>

	<p>Paul Whatmough proposed and Mel Winstanley seconded that the Friends should reimburse the PCC for the purchase of the new chairs in the sum of £1,458. All found in favour.</p>
<p>PCC Report:</p>	<p>Linda Kirkby reported as follows:</p> <p>The PCC would like to thank the Friends for the chairs – they are perfect. These are, however, just for church use and not to go outside as we need to look after them but the black ones are still available for outside event.</p> <p>The lighting has been completed and finishes off the literature corner perfectly; I hope the Friends think so too. Thank you.</p> <p>There is nothing further to report on Entwistle House; still ongoing slowly with a view to marketing as soon as all the legal matters are resolved (land, access way, septic tank).</p> <p>The Harvest Festival and Ploughman’s Lunch in the church was delicious and the idea of supporting the Food Bank was a great success and very well received at the Food Bank. This will be repeated next year and maybe Wenning Voices will come along and sing to swell the numbers and enjoy the lunch. Also a big thank you to those who came along to decorate the church – very much appreciated.</p> <p>Christmas: decorating the church will take place on Saturday, 21st December from 10:00; again any help would be welcome. There is an 11:00 service on the 22nd and the Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 18:30.</p> <p>Sarah Rycroft has taken over the role as PCC Secretary following the resignation of Sue Marsden.</p> <p>Work on the roof over the cellar steps is to commence in the New Year.</p> <p>Thank you to Paul for dealing with the boiler repair / service.</p> <p>At our PCC meeting Mark Cannon spoke of Mission and Vision for our church and it was good to hear that this church had been turned around and statistically was “Top of the League” and our thanks must go to you as the Friends of the church for your amazing support and hard work over the last years and hopefully this will continue going forward. What we have at St James the Less is quite unique thanks to both the PCC and the Friends coming together for the church and also our community.</p> <p>John Holt reported that it was now possible to drive up Park Lane towards Entwistle House as Highways have repaired the road.</p>

Joint Committee:	Work in progress as new ideas and suggestions are mulled over. The request for a new organ has been voiced and it was agreed that it should first be discussed by the PCC to establish whether this is one of their priorities.
Events:	<p>The Bibi concert was very successful and it was lovely to see new faces in the audience. It was agreed that there had been no resistance to the increase in the cost of a ticket but that there may have been some hesitation regarding the words "opera" and "soprano". In the end the ticket sales were good, especially thanks to Barbara who sold many to her singing group in Caton.</p> <p>Rita and Margaret had been to 1818 Auctioneers and spoken to Bill Nelson. However they came away with the feeling that Bill had been speaking quite a lot to Probus, WI, etc in the neighbourhood and that it was probably best to drop this idea for 2020 and revisit it at a later date.</p> <p>At the moment the next scheduled event will be the Lancaster Singers in May 2020.</p>
Publicity:	The deadline for the next newsletter is mid-November.
Any Other Business:	<p>Wenning Voices are intending to do their annual Carols on the Green concert on Thursday, 19th October 2019. This will be on a simpler form than previous years with singing around the Xmas tree on the green followed by mulled wine and mince pies served from the garages at the Crazy Cow.</p> <p>An initial exploratory meeting of a proposed new group "Stitch & Chatter" will take place in the church on Friday, 15th November at 10:00. Margaret has emailed Friends and the social mailing list on behalf of the new group.</p>
Date of Next Meeting:	Monday, 13 th January 2020 at 19:30 at the church.