

Friends of St James the Less Church, Tatham

Meeting on 9th March 2020 at St James the Less Church

Present:	Colin Burford (Chair), Paul Whatmough (Treasurer), Margaret Whatmough (Secretary), John Holt, John Parkinson, Rebecca Sanderson, Sue Wood, Chris Berry, Mel Winstanley, Ged Kelbrick – 10 members
Apologies:	Jenny Herd, Linda Kirkby, Rita Murphy
Chair:	Colin Burford welcomed the attendees and opened the meeting at 19:30. Colin welcomed and introduced Ged Kelbrick, a newly joined member of the Friends, to the meeting.
Minutes:	The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 13 th January 2020 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mel Winstanley, seconded by Sue Wood. All found in favour.
Matters Arising:	No matters arising.
Secretary's Report:	<p>Margaret reported that since the last meeting she had added three people to the Register of Members and that mailings sent out on behalf of the Friends are now reaching approximately 88 recipients.</p> <p>Margaret had organised two trips to Vue Cinema to see live screenings. 12 people went to see Kinky Boots – The Musical which was an enjoyable way of spending a Sunday afternoon whilst Storm Ciara raged outside. Eight people went to see The Cellist / Dances from a Gathering screened at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and performed by the Royal Ballet Company – another very successful outing.</p> <p>Since the last meeting emails have been sent regarding Plough Sunday, the live screening cinema trips and the upcoming Afternoon Tea event.</p>
Treasurer's Report:	<p>Since the last meeting on 13th January 2020:</p> <p>£351.00 relating to the February 100 Club draw has been paid to the General Account.</p> <p>No grants to the PCC have been paid. The current balance in the General Account is £12,249.80</p> <p>Total income to the General Account to date is £33,823.99 of which £20,009.00 has been raised by the 100 Club.</p> <p>100 Club prizes totalling £10,729.25 have been paid.</p> <p>Grants totalling £19,274.71 have been paid to the PCC for improvements to the church. The only remaining Work in Progress is the roof over the boiler room.</p>

PCC Report:	<p>Linda Kirkby sent the following report to the meeting which was read by Margaret in Linda's absence:</p> <p>Firstly thank you for the grants you have provided for the literature racks and lighting, the easel and the finishing off of the window lights and the few electrical odds and ends. The PCC very much appreciates this.</p> <p>You may have noticed that work on the cellar steps has commenced. The wall has been extended and pointed. The timberwork is ordered and is being weathered and we hope the work will be completed at the end of March / beginning of April.</p> <p>The rotten wood fascia has been replaced on the back of the church and some cast iron guttering also along with some deeper flashing which we hope will solve the damp problem in the organ corner.</p> <p>Entwistle House: the PCC have accepted an offer of £150,000. This then had to be sent to the Diocese which has been accepted in principle. We now have to provide a signing off report to comply with the Charities Act Regulations. This is expected any day and if this is acceptable, we hope to be provided with Custodian Trustee approval for the proposed sale to go ahead.</p> <p>The PCC have supported the proposed defibrillator in Wennington with the sum of £500. There was discussion about a defibrillator at the church but it was felt that a more central point would be suitable and accessible to all the community.</p> <p>The 2020 rota for flowers and cleaning is now available for volunteers. It is commented by visitors that our church is always beautifully kept and welcoming and this is as a result of all the volunteers who work hard to keep it that way. Your help and support is very much appreciated.</p> <p>Unfortunately, however, our 9 a.m. Holy Communion service has had to be cancelled for the foreseeable future mainly due to the vicar having to do a juggling act and dwindling numbers.</p> <p>The PCC wish to thank you for your continued support.</p>
Joint Committee:	<p>No further meeting of the Joint Committee has taken place.</p> <p>Ged Kelbrick suggested that he had a neighbour who is very enthusiastic about doing aerial photography using his drone. He has done photos of Melling Church and Ged felt that he would be prepared to do the same for St James the Less. It was agreed that this was an excellent idea and Margaret said she would contact Linda Kirkby to obtain PCC consent to pursue this idea.</p>
Events:	<p>Discussion took place regarding holding the Afternoon Tea on Sunday, 15th March bearing in mind the current public health scare with</p>

	<p>the coronavirus, Covid19. Rebecca Sanderson proposed that this event should be postponed until later in the year and Sue Wood seconded. Everyone agreed and Margaret, Sue and Mel agreed to ensure that all ticket holders were informed and offered a full refund.</p> <p>Sue Wood agreed to speak to Lancaster Singers to ascertain their views about the concert planned for May. This too has now been postponed until a later date.</p>
Publicity:	<p>Margaret read an email from Sue Marsden requesting articles, notices and photos for inclusion by Friday, 20th March. She aims to have the Spring newsletter printed and ready for circulation by 1st April.</p> <p>Sue also wrote that she and Helen Bramley are standing in for the Spring newsletter following the resignation of Chris Berry but should be grateful if another volunteer(s) could step forward to assume responsibility for this going forward.</p>
AGM 2020	<p>The AGM will be held on Monday, 11th May 2020 at 19:00 at the church.</p> <p>Margaret read out a letter from Colin Burford tendering his resignation as Trustee and Chair of the Friends with effect at the AGM on 11th May. Margaret emphasised to the meeting that it was imperative that someone should step into these roles, especially that of Trustee. Three trustees as a minimum are required by our constitution and both she and Paul are uncomfortable at proceeding with their existing roles without the presence of a unrelated third party.</p>
Any Other Business:	<p>The meeting was advised that the PCC were required to appoint a safeguarding officer and publish details on the website.</p>
Date of Next Meeting:	<p>Monday, 11th May 2020 at 19:00 at the church.</p>