



Minutes of the 10th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St Mildred's Church Held on Sunday 17th November 2024 at 11.15am in the Lady Chapel, St Mildred's Church, Tenterden TN30 6AT

Present: Jeremy Cooper (Chair), Malcolm Kneller (Treasurer), Jill Clark (Secretary), Mike Stephens, Sue Harvey, Linda Guest, Brian Guest, Stephanie Marshall, Nick Marshall, Martin Vink, J. Vink, J. Banbury, Jan Sienesi, Kate Pusey, Clare Picking, Carolyn Wilson, Babsi Frikstad, Tim Monckton, Mary Monckton, Elaine Evans, Tim Lee, Roger Graham, Jane Johnson, Chris Northen, Penny Kneller.

1. Apologies: Rob and Jean Easto; David Barrett; Nick Hudd; Barbara Halstead; Charlie Nicholls

2. Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

These were circulated with the Annual Report. There were no matters raised from the floor and the minutes were accepted and approved as read.

3. Chairman's Report

Jeremy Cooper reported that FOSM has had a good year and after 10 years in existence had raised £200,000 split between events, subscriptions and donations. During the year, most performances have been repeat performances due to their popularity, and FOSM has hosted the London Adventist Chorale, Benenden School Chapel Choir, the Bukolika Polish Piano Duet, the harpist Rosanna Rolton and two jazz groups Benoit Viellefon's Hot Jazz Club and the Kate Daniels Sextet, many playing to a returning audience.

This was Jeremy's final meeting before retiring from the Committee and he thanked Rob Easto (liaison between the PPC and FOSM); the FOSM Committee in which Roger Graham would remain in an assisting role and Malcolm Kneller in a temporary assisting role to the new Treasurer ; Brian Guest for his digital help and Lindsay Hammond for his general support.

4. Treasurer's Report

Malcolm Kneller reported that CC16a form for the Charity Commission was finalised and attached to his Report. Donations had been boosted by a substantial legacy from the Edna Harrison bequest, but beyond that legacy, funds have slightly fallen. Malcolm reported that subscriptions were slightly down. In the current year most of our funds were on 100 day notice deposit with the Charity Bank. Unfortunately, no grants or sponsorship had been received during the year. Over £24,578 was passed to the Church for roof repairs. FOSM made over £14,364 profit for the financial year.

Jeremy Cooper took the opportunity to stress the importance of new members for FOSM, and to discuss methods of enlisting them, bearing in mind FOSM now had a Membership Secretary (Elaine Evans). New ideas came from the floor concerning increasing the membership, which the Membership Secretary will follow up.

Malcolm thanked Brian Guest, for online assistance, Webb's Ironmongers for ticket sales, Frank Port for being the Independent Examiner and the FOSM Committee for their general support.

As Malcolm Kneller was now standing down as Treasurer, Jeremy thanked him for his hard work over the years.

5. Appointment of Examiner

Frank Port was appointed as Examiner, although he was no longer employed by the accountant MMP but had offered to carry out the role for a nominal amount.

6. Appointment of the Examiner in the Future

In response to the proposal to delegate the appointment of the financial examiner the following was decided: 1) The independent examiner will be appointed at the AGM (as before) and 2) if the nominated examiner cannot carry out the task at the end of the financial year, then the Committee have the power to appoint a different examiner to carry out the work. This change should be explained to the membership at the following AGM. Brian Guest proposed; Stephanie Marshall seconded. The vote was unanimous.

7. Election of General Committee Members

Under the constitution, committee members had to seek re-election after 3 years so Tim Lee and Tim Monckton were seeking re-election and were

elected. Mike Stephens, Elaine Evans and Jane Johnson were also elected to the committee. Proposer: Martin Vink, seconder Sue Harvey. Kate Pusey was co-opted onto the Committee. Proposer: Martin Vink, seconder: Mary Monckton. The vote was unanimous.

8. Election of Officers

Mike Stephens introduced himself as the potential new chairman. He was a retired civil engineer who would bring significant public sector and business skills to the role. Proposer: Tim Monckton; Seconder: Nick Marshall. The vote was unanimous. The chair temporarily passed to Brian Guest, and Chris Northen, as an existing member of the Committee introduced himself as the potential new Treasurer. Proposer: Tim Lee; seconder; Jane Johnson. The vote was unanimous.

9. Election of Trustees

The six trustees were voted in together. Proposer: Penny Kneller; seconder Stephanie Mills. The vote was unanimous.

10. AOB

Tim Monckton thanked Jeremy Cooper, the outgoing chairman, by way of an open letter, thanking him for the years of service he had given to FOSM and wishing him success in his future endeavours. Mike Stephens was welcomed as the new chairman.