



FRIENDS OF ST MILDRED'S  
Registered Charity No. 1159264

## **Annual Report and Newsletter 2017**

[www.friendsofstmildredstenterden.com](http://www.friendsofstmildredstenterden.com)

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### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Date:** Friday 13th October 2017

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Venue:** St. Mildred's Church, Tenterden

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting**
3. **Chairman's Report**
4. **Treasurer's Report**
5. **Appointment of Auditor**
6. **Friends of St Mildred's: Bye-Laws and Rules**

#### **Proposed Amendment to Rule 4. OFFICERS (CC17)**

**To the existing wording of part (b):** The Chairman and Officers of the Friends shall hold office until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting next after their election but shall be eligible for re-election PROVIDED THAT no Officer shall hold office for more than 3 consecutive years. On the expiration of such periods, 1 further year must elapse before any former Officer shall be eligible for re-election.

**Add the following paragraph:** In the event of no candidate putting themselves forward to replace an Officer at the completion of their 3 year term, then the term can be extended on an annual basis (subject to the normal vote at the AGM) or until a replacement is co-opted within the year (and then duly elected at the next AGM.)

#### **7. Election of Trustees**

- Nominations:

Tim Monckton   John Coleman   Roy Isworth   Stephanie Marshall

#### **8. Election of Officers**

- Nominations:   Treasurer: John Coleman   Secretary: Stephanie Marshall

#### **9. Election of General Committee Members**

- Nominations:

Roy Isworth   Jane Johnson   Stephanie Marshall   Jan Sienesi

Any further nominations must be in writing and received by **The Secretary, FOSM, Linford, Woodchurch Road, Tenterden, TN30 7AE** on or before Friday 22nd September, 2017

## **Chairman's Report for the Friends of St Mildred's –October 2017**

At our AGM in October last year, I was delighted on behalf of all our Friends to thank Peter Sienesi as he stepped down from being our first chairman of The Friends of St Mildred's. His love of St Mildred's church and his drive and determination to establish The Friends has set us on a path of holding musical and other events which have both given pleasure and helped to raise valuable funds for our beautiful church.

During this last calendar year since our AGM in October 2016, The Friends' principal fund raising activity has been through four concerts performed in St Mildred's.

I am pleased as a result to confirm that the total amount of funds raised since formation by The Friends from all sources of income including the generosity of individual Friends and the recovery of Gift Aid is now approaching £60,000. In October last year, the sum of £4,000 was passed to the PCC for lead work on the tower : just recently the further sum of £37,000 was transferred towards the cost of repairs.

Looking ahead, we are keen to hear from any Friend who may be interested in offering to sponsor the cost of putting on one of our concerts. There is much work still to be done....

We look forward to another year of concerts and Friends events – especially to our hugely enjoyable 'Summer Drinks' gathering!

'Thank-you' to all of you our 'Friends' for your support – and 'Thank-you' also to my fellow-members of our Committee – especially our Treasurer and Secretary - who give so much of their time and energy and resources – and without whom we could not have achieved so much.

Tim Monckton

3 September 2017

## **Trustees' Annual Report 2016-2017**

The fourth year since the formation of The Friends of St. Mildred's (FOSM) has seen a busy twelve months in the organisation of events and the contribution of further funds to important maintenance works to the fabric of the church.

At the start of the year in October, Peter Sienesi the founding Chairman of FOSM stepped down from his position to be succeeded by Tim Monckton who also joined the Committee. At the AGM, tribute was paid to the retiring Chairman for his inspiration and leadership in establishing The Friends and his wealth of experience in setting The Friends on the path to making a significant contribution to the preservation of the most important and historic building in the community of Tenterden.

Events held during the year included principally concerts performed by :

- The Academy of Ancient Music
- The London Adventist Choir
- The pianist Anna Szalucka
- The Primrose Quartet

The members also convened for a summer drinks party and generously donated further to funds raised during the year.

As a result, the total of funds now raised since inception is approaching the sum of £60,000 from which sums paid or promised towards the cost of vital works to the north aisle and the tower of St Mildred's is in excess of £40,000.

COMMITTEE: at the AGM in October, Martin Vink and Jeremy Cooper and Colin Wyver became members of the Committee but Colin Wyver has since resigned.

SECRETARY : the Chairman is pleased to report the appointment of Stephanie Marshall as Secretary to The Friends whose secretarial ability and skills of organisation are already highly valued.

### **Trustees: 2016 - 2017**

Paul Clokie  
John Coleman  
Roy Isworth  
Tim Monckton  
Stephanie Marshall

### **Officers:**

Chairman: Tim Monckton  
Treasurer: John Coleman  
Secretary: Stephanie Marshall

### **Committee: 2016 -2017**

Paul Clokie  
John Coleman  
Jeremy Cooper  
June Harrison  
Roy Isworth  
Jane Johnson  
Stephanie Marshall  
Tim Monckton  
Jan Sienesi  
Martin Vink  
Colin Wyver (resigned during the year)

## Minutes of the AGM held on 27th October 2016

### **2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016 AT 7:30PM ST MILDRED'S CHURCH TENTERDEN THE FRIENDS OF ST MILDRED'S**

1. **Present:** Peter Sienesi(Chairman), John Coleman (Treasurer), Roy Isworth, Paul Clokie, Jeremy Cooper, Mrs Eileen Dobson, Michael Douglas, Mrs Sandra Douglas, David Eddison, Mrs Gillian Eddison, Brian Guest, Mrs Jean Hunnings, Tim Johnson, Mrs Jane Johnson, Richard Lusty, Tim Monckton, Mrs Mary Monckton, Mrs Janet Osborne, Mrs Jan Sienesi, Mrs Wendy Stevenson, Martin Vink, Colin Wyver
2. **Apologies:** Mr and Mrs Jonathan Harrison, Mrs Linda Guest, Mr Nick Hudd, Mr and Mrs Wilson
3. **Minutes of last year's AGM:** Last year's minutes were circulated with the Annual Report and Newsletter. No matters arose from the floor and they were accepted as read.
4. **Welcome:** The meeting opened at 7:30pm, the attendees having been counted and the quorum reached.
5. **Chairman's Report:** Peter Sienesi presented his report for 2015-16 as written in the Annual Report and Newsletter accompanying the Agenda for this meeting. He reiterated the fact that donations and successful events have enabled us to have £43,000 in the bank for building maintenance and repairs. He announced that the Committee has agreed to contribute £16,000 towards repairs of the water junction box on the North of the Tower and towards repairs of the North aisle roof. The Chairman asked if there were any questions from the floor. There were no questions and he then announced his retirement as Chairman of the Friends' Committee. He thanked members and the committee for their support and efforts over the past years. Peter Sienesi said he was proud to have been Chairman of the Friends and will be proposing Tim Monckton for Chairman at the appropriate time in this meeting.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** John Coleman presented the audited accounts as in the Annual Report. The meeting voted to accept these accounts. He then asked for a vote of thanks for the auditor David Walsh, proposed by Brian Guest and seconded by Colin Wyver. These accounts will be presented to the Charity Commission for 2015-2016. The treasurer said we had a successful year earning over £6000 in events and we are now contributing to the upkeep of the Church building. We receive income from membership, from donations, and so far from limited sponsorship. The Chairman asked supporters to think of the Friends of St Mildred's by leaving bequests in their wills.

The Chairman proposed a vote of sincere thanks to John Coleman for his great care and attention to our finances. Passed by the meeting.

7. **Election of Trustees:** Peter Sienesi and Tara Smith are standing down as trustees and the nominations for 2016-2017 are Paul Clokie, Roy Isworth, and Tim Monckton. The Trustees are proposed en bloc by Brian Guest seconded by Martin Vink and accepted unanimously by the meeting.
8. **Election of Officers:** Chairman – Tim Monckton, proposed by Peter Sienesi, seconded by Paul Clokie, and agreed by the meeting. Treasurer – John Coleman has agreed to stand for re-election and unanimously supported by the meeting. The working committee has no Secretary at the moment and will co-opt a Secretary in the near future.
9. **Election of General Committee Members:** Brian Guest and Tara Smith resigned during the year and are thanked for their support and efforts in establishing the new Friends of St Mildred's. Three new committee members are proposed for election, Professor Jeremy Cooper, Martin Vink and Colin Wyver, all proposed by Peter Sienesi and seconded by John Coleman, unanimously passed by the meeting.

The remaining standing committee members have a further 2 years in post in the three year cycle.

10. **Any Other Business:** No business arose from the floor. Tim Monckton took the opportunity to thank Peter Sienesi for his great contribution in establishing the Friends of St Mildred's and guiding us in both financially and happily in our first years of work together.
11. **Close:** With thanks to all members for their support in the past year, the meeting closed at 7:50.

### **Treasurer's Report**

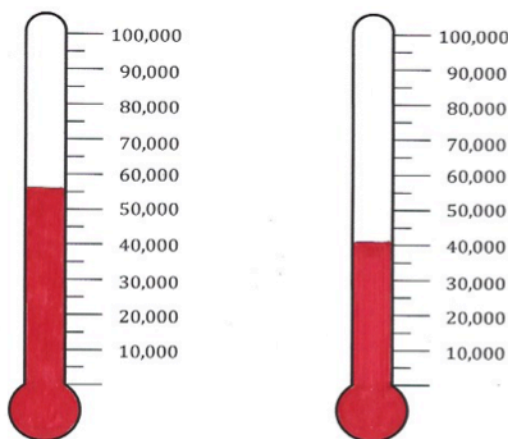
1. The FOSM annual accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were kindly audited by David Walshe once again and will be reported to the Charity Commission following the AGM in October. It has been a successful year producing a surplus of nearly £9000.
2. Key figures for the last 12 months are:
  - Subscription income improved in 2017 however increased membership remains a target.
  - Events conducted during the year raised over £3000 after expenses.
  - Generous donations of over £5000 were received, largely from our share of collections at thanksgiving services held in St. Mildred's.
  - Gift Aid receipts of £1000 from HMRC were received again this year.
  - A grant of £4000 was paid to the Church in October 2016 as a contribution towards the cost of maintenance of the church tower.
  - A further grant of £37,000 was made to the PCC to help with the high cost of roof repairs.
  - Funds remaining in our bank account stand at approx. £18,000.

### **The Friends of St. Mildred's Tenterden**

Net Funds Raised  
Since April 2014

Funds Passed and  
Pledged to the PC

August 2017



3. Starting in January 2017 Webb's Ironmongers took over sale of tickets for our events. This has been highly successful and the Friends are most grateful to Webb's for the enthusiastic and efficient way they voluntarily operate our Box Office. Tickets may also be ordered online using a link on the Friends website TicketSource.

4. Giving money to the Friends is now made easier by using **MyDonate** online through a link on the Friends website.

FRIENDS OF ST.MILDRED'S TENTERDEN  
 PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT  
 FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH APRIL 2017

|   | 12 Months<br>30-Apr-17 | 12 Months<br>30-Apr-16 |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| £   |                        |                        |
| <b>INCOME</b>                                 |                        |                        |
| Subscriptions                                 | 2755.00                | 2505.00                |
| Donations                                     | 5401.63                | 2827.50                |
| Sponsorship                                   | 1560.00                | 1000.00                |
| Gift Aid                                      | 1008.88                | 1001.74                |
| Bank Interest                                 | 0.00                   | 0.00                   |
| Legacies                                      | 0.00                   | 0.00                   |
| Events  | 11320.19               | 16644.76               |
| Miscellaneous                                 | <u>322.00</u>          | <u>0.00</u>            |
|   | 22367.70               | <u>23979.00</u>        |
| £   |                        |                        |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                            |                        |                        |
| Printing, Postage and Stationery              | 1119.29                | 101.64                 |
| Publicity + website                           | 193.93                 | 1270.75                |
| Insurance/licenses                            | 411.75                 | 238.50                 |
| Donations to PLC                              | 4000.00                | 0.00                   |
| Costs of Concerts/Events                      | 7022.13                | 7965.62                |
| Refreshments                                  | 714.60                 | 361.85                 |
| Flowers for Church & Performers               | 0.00                   | 1247.68                |
| Floats for Concerts                           | 0.00                   | 0.00                   |
| Postage                                       | 0.00                   | 50.00                  |
|   | <u>13461.70</u>        | <u>11236.04</u>        |
| Net Operating Surplus for 12 months           | £ 8,906.00             | £ 12,742.96            |
| Net Operating Surplus Since Formation of FOSM | £ 48,593.53            | £ 39,687.53            |

Approved:

Chairman IC. Masekka

Date 21-09-2017

Treasurer J. Kolesian

Date 23-07-2017

Independent Examiner P. Webb

Date 12-7-2017

FRIENDS OF ST.MILDRED'S TENTERDEN

BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 30TH APRIL 2017

|                                       | 30th April 2017  | 30th April 2016  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS                        |                  |                  |
| Bank account                          | 47,498.44        | 39,622.87        |
| Postage stamps and<br>Petty Cash      | 94.00            | 52.50            |
| Payments in advance -<br>Insurance    | <u>72.34</u>     | <u>99.00</u>     |
|                                       | 47,664.78        | 39,774.37        |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES                   | Nil              | Nil              |
| Subscriptions in advance<br>2016/2017 | <u>775.00</u>    | <u>767.00</u>    |
|                                       | 775.00           | 767.00           |
| Carried Forward                       | <u>46,889.78</u> | <u>39,007.37</u> |



# *Fabric Report*

## **Comments from the Church Warden on the physical state of the Church**

It has been a busy year, with the first major event occurring just before Christmas last year. As you may recall our heating system sprung a major leak just before Christmas and we were immensely grateful to Plumblime of Rye for getting it going for us again just in time for the major Christmas services and at an incredibly reasonable price.

We then started this year by upgrading the flower arrangers' corner so that it could be used as a tea and coffee servery for refreshments after the 9.30 service on a Sunday and at other events such as the wonderful concerts organised by FOSM.

Soon after that we installed a further CCTV camera to give greater security to lone workers in the church and to help secure us against possible theft or damage to church property.

And in the middle of a cold winter Ashford Borough Council's contractors came and made a good job of re-pointing the path between the South Door and the steps to Church Road.

But the major work this year has concentrated on the North Aisle roof and the West Face of the tower. Scaffolding, including a temporary corrugated iron roof, was erected to cover the whole of the North Aisle roof, and to rise to an impressive 12 stages to the top of the West Face of the tower.

The work to the North Aisle roof was work that had been identified in the 2012 Quinquennial report. This comprised the removal of all the existing lead, the clearing out of the gully, the back-filling of a large part of the parapet with several layers of lime mortar, a significant amount of re-boardings, and then the complete replacement of the lead covering with over 80 separate sheets of lead. Finally new hoppers and down pipes were fitted, and everything was then protected with Smart Water to deter any would-be thieves. The PCC is most grateful for a generous contribution from FOSM to the cost of this work. We also received grants from the Weston Foundation, the Marshalls Charity and the Friends of Kent Churches.

The scaffolding was erected to the West Face of the tower to allow our architect to undertake a close survey of the stonework as pieces were falling off into an area of public access. He identified a significant number of stones towards the very top of the tower that needed replacing, others that needed to be pinned and work that was needed to the louvres. This work should be complete by the end of September. The whole cost has been generously covered by FOSM.

Further down the tower, work will be needed at some time in the future to the stonework around the lovely West Window. Our architect is drawing accurate plans of exactly what will be required so that we can get accurate estimates of the potential cost of this work which will need to be included in our next Quinquennial programme of work.

The Quinquennial is a survey carried out by our architect every 5 years which includes recommendations for work that needs to be carried out in the next 5 year period. This year sees the end of the current 5 year period and we have done well in carrying out most of the recommendations. The major items we have not completed from the 2012 Quinquennial are the work identified as necessary to protect and maintain our beautiful stained glass and further work necessary to the external stonework at various points around the church. These works were put off to allow us to concentrate on the work in the North Aisle Roof and the West Face of the tower.

The next Quinquennial report is due at the end of this year. In addition to the items carried over from the last report we are aware of certain other items that are likely to be included, but we are hopeful there won't be any nasty surprises. We know, for example, that our lighting system is nearing the end of its life. We are currently taking professional advice on possible modern, flexible, low running cost options to replace our current fittings which are failing and which are hideously expensive to run.

But to finish, I would quote how our architect always prefixes any report on work needed, with the statement that, for a church of its age, St Mildred's is in a remarkably sound structural condition.

Rob Easto      September 2017

## *Membership Secretary's Report*

For the last few years, when writing this report I have been very up-beat about raising our membership by approximately 50 new members each year. But not this year! We are creeping up but – sadly – we have yet to break the 150 barrier. This is very disappointing – as the town has a population of approximately 10,000 people – and I would expect a membership after this time of around 600

So, once again, I am pleading with you to help me to increase this number. Please could you draw attention to what we are doing – raising money to repair the roof, the stonework, the west face of the tower and the stained glass windows to keep this iconic building in reasonable condition. Please talk to people – neighbours and friends about St Mildred's – it is not just about the religious side of the church. This is arguably one of if not the most impressive building in Tenterden and it deserves help – and it needs practical support from all of us in the community of Tenterden.

In early July we had a delightful evening at a drinks party where all our Friends were invited. We had around 90 people there – the weather was beautiful, the garden was glorious – the ambience was lovely. This was a “thank you” for your support but it signified the community spirit that is building up in Tenterden that we are raising money for a very worthy and rewarding cause. Thank you to everyone who was involved





If you are not a “Friend” but would like to become one please contact us as below. We would really like to hear from you. We would also like to hear from you if you would like to come on the committee to help organise and run events in our effort to raise money.

Please help us to help St Mildred’s keep towering over us and shining brightly for future generations

Name.....

Tel.No..... e-mail.....

And send it to  
June Harrison  
The Old Tannery  
3 Smallhythe Road  
Tenterden TN30 7LH  
Or e-mail - [jaharrison@btinternet.com](mailto:jaharrison@btinternet.com)

## ***Forthcoming Events***

**November 4<sup>th</sup> 2017,** A Tea Concert from 3:00 – 5:00

Dame Jane Whiteley, a local friend and neighbour, has kindly offered to give a piano recital for the Friends of St Mildred's in November of this year. We are very grateful to Jane who, although not a professional musician, has studied with Albert Ferber and has given many recitals in aid of charity. We are very grateful to have such a talented, experienced friend play for us.

**Keep your diaries clear for the exciting events in 2018.**

**February 25<sup>th</sup> 2018:** The Merry Opera Company presents "The Marriage of Figaro"

The Merry opera visits us once again, this time with an enhanced music section and a bigger cast. Can opera and marriage be a romp? It will be, with Mozart, beautiful music and a special Merry Opera production at St Mildred's.

**May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>:** Primrose Piano Quartet at St Mildred's

We welcome the Primrose piano quartet back in May, to play popular classics on Saturday night. On Sunday afternoon the quartet play a special programme for children. Their past performance produced an instant reaction of delight as the violin opened with the Harry Potter theme

**July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018:** Kent Police Choir

Ever popular the Kent Police choir thrill us with talents not immediately evident in our local "Bobbies".

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018** London Adventist Chorale

By popular demand this choir returns to St Mildred's in December with their newly arranged Christmas programme of music. We know they will be wonderful and it will be a special way to begin December.

### **And Next...**

There are other exciting events being planned for 2018, both musical and social. You will be informed as soon as the dates are set.

We can only put on concerts with the help and support of our sponsors.

**If anyone would like to help support future events or knows of any businesses or local contacts who might be willing to support in either small or big ways then please contact Tim Monckton.**

## ***Event News 2016-2017***

### **The Academy of Ancient Music**

The Academy of Ancient Music returned to St Mildred's in October 2016 with a quartet led by Pablo Beznosiuk on violin accompanied by Bojan Čičić also on violin, Joseph Crouch, Cello and Ricardo Cuende Isuskiza, Viola. As expected, it was a spectacular performance and comprised a challenging potpourri of pieces beginning with Mozart - String Quartet in B-Flat K458 "The Hunt", then Mendelssohn - String Quartet Op.13 in A and Schubert - String Trio in B-Flat D.471. The finale was the Beethoven - Quartet in C Op.59 no.3, which was quite spectacular and brought the audience to its feet.

### **London Adventist Choir**

The Friends of St Mildred's were proud to bring a leading Gospel Choir to St Mildred's on Saturday 25th February 2017. The event was a 'sell-out' huge success. An audience of more than 300 people filled the pews. The Accapella music they sang includes works sung in close harmony, African-American Spirituals, and western choral music from the Renaissance through to new commissions. The concert was "An inspiring and moving occasion" which culminated with a standing ovation.

We were pleased the Choir came to us to open our 2017 season of concerts, and will be with us again in December 2018.

### **ANNA SZALUCKA**

In April 2017, the audience was entertained by the brilliant young Polish pianist Anna Szalucka, who started her musical education at the age of seven and is now a regular performer on the international stage. A multiple prize winner, Anna's performance blended power and delicacy in equal measure. Her programme had something for all tastes with pieces by Bach, Ravel, Haydn and Chopin mixed with works by less well known modern Polish composers. The St Mildred's concert piano has rarely sounded so majestic!

### **Primrose Piano Quartet 6 May 2017**

This internationally renowned Quartet surprised many in the audience of about 150 with the quality of their playing and their friendliness.

Starting with a Mozart Piano quartet they followed this with a String Trio by Schubert and a Strauss Waltz arranged for the Quartet by their cello player. In the second half of the concert they dazzled the audience with their dexterity as well as the warmth of their playing in the Brahms Piano Quartet in G Minor. Described by their pianist as a roller coaster of a piece, for those who attended it will live long in the memory. The quartet were delighted by the acoustic in the church and by the reception they received from the Friends. They hope that we will be able to invite them back in the future.

### **Animals Family Concert**

Children with parents, grandparents, Bears (and other soft toys) hugely enjoyed the Primrose Piano Quartet's Animals family concert. Children brought their bears and approximately 50 older children (grown-ups) with them to enjoy a mixture of music from film – 'Hedwig's Theme' from Harry Potter; classical – excerpts from Saint-Saens Carnival of the Animals including the Elephant played on a cello instead of the double bass and the lyrical Swan. We also sang along to Flanders and Swann's the Hippo with all that "glorious mud" whilst Andrew, the cellist, donned a large animal head whilst sing the Gnu. There were nursery rhymes (the Teddy Bears' Picnic) as well as music for a Tortoise doing the can can(!) and the whirling music for the Tarantella – the dance you have to do when stung by the Tarantula which was on stage were. Andrew, Dot, John and Susanne also interspersed the music with poems and jokes which with their amazing playing of their instruments thoroughly entertained a young (and not so young) audience through a very happy hour on Sunday afternoon.

### **Vivamus London Choir**

The highly praised London choir Vivamus are came to St Mildred's on 16 September for a concert sponsored by Dandara New Homes.

The concert included a wide ranging musical styles with a movement from a Mozart symphony sung rather than played plus pieces by Eric Whitacre, Morten Lauridsen, Vaughan Williams, John Rutter and George Gershwin. This talented choir has regularly sung at St Martin's in the Fields and other major London venues as well as recently singing at York Minster, Selby Abbey and Southwark Cathedral. Having heard them sing they are definitely not a choir to be missed.



### **Mission Statement**

**“The purpose of the Friends of St Mildred’s is to raise funds to assist in the maintenance of the fabric of the Grade 1 listed parish church of St. Mildred in Tenterden..**

**The Friends will seek to utilise the wonderful space the Church building provides in order to involve all the people of Tenterden & District, regardless of any religious affiliation, in the various activities and events the Friends may organise.”**