

The Idsworth Church Friends Trust – 6th AGM, Wed 27 April, 2022

Held at St Hubert's Church

Minutes

1. Welcome and thank you to Rev Vickie Morgan & Mr John Butt, the church warden, for allowing us to host the AGM here at St Hubert's today. It is lovely to be back in St Hubert's for our AGM, after which there will be refreshments before our talk from Wall Paintings Conservator, Mr Peter Martindale.

Apologies: Apologies have been received from Liz Uren, Rev Vickie Morgan, Andrew Fisk and John Bannell. Attendance: 30 people.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the last AGM, 30th June, 2021 at St John's Church Centre (which were published on the Friends website)

Proposed by: Simon Hartley and seconded by: Tracy Eggleston

3. Treasurer's Review of the year:

This year the Trust has switched to a new and more advanced and efficient system of accounting. Any change of format involves a great deal of extra work in the initial stages and I am indebted to Tracy Eggleston for all her tremendous hard work in getting this up and running.

Please access a pdf copy of the Annual Report & Financial Statement for the year ending March 31st 2022 which will be available on our website.

4. In her report, the treasurer made reference to **The Margaret Lyle Legacy.**

At last year's AGM, Simon Hartley, the chairman of the Friends Legacy Sub-committee stated: 'Margaret Lyle was 82 when she died. She was a daughter of a church-going family and had her marriage cut short when her husband was killed in the Second World War. Margaret firmly believed that the establishment would not support small vulnerable churches which convinced her that private endowment was the route to save their futures. Her legacy's sole purpose was to maintain the heritage and fabric of St Hubert's. The Friends Trust was the natural home for the legacy and it matched Margaret's wishes'.

The Margaret Lyle Legacy: At the AGM last year, I was able to report that The Friends Trust was most grateful to be receiving a substantial legacy from the estate of Margaret Lyle, all of which is now in place. The Trust wishes to place on record its thanks to Commander Roger Walker, Executor of the Margaret Lyle Estate, together with the Mr John Bannell and the PCC who facilitated the transfer of this legacy to the Friends Trust. The monies within the 'Discretionary Gift' were invested initially to gain some interest and will be used as

'matched funding' in future grant applications. The balance of the legacy has been invested for the longer term.

I would now like to ask Simon Hartley to come and tell us a little more about our investment policy for the Margaret Lyle Legacy.

The Legacy was donated in two forms:

- i) £100,000 was to be used to support fund raising and would provide the matched funding requirement.
- ii) £200,000 was to be invested in a 'restrictive investment package' to create future capital and income for St Hubert's. This was achieved through Brewin Dolphin Ltd. Brewin Dolphin is now in the process of being acquired by The Royal Bank of Canada, subject to approval. This should strengthen Fund Management in the future.

The legacy has been successfully deposited and invested. The Friends Trust is now in a position to apply for funding using the matched funding facility.

The Friends Trust has now established a policy for future fund raising, namely: a) Grant Applications with matched funding; b) Legacies (thanks to Margaret Lyle); c) Income from events and donations. The policy will go a long way to secure the future of St Hubert's.

5. Chairman's review of the Year: Due to the continued constraints of the Pandemic, events for 2021 were very much reduced.

So what has been achieved over the past year, April 2021-March 2022?

- ***'Touching Out' of the East Window reveals:*** The DAC granted a Faculty for the work in the spring of 2021 so that this project could be carried out by Peter Martindale, Wall paintings Conservator, over 5 days at the end of June. The project was commissioned by the Friends Trust with a supporting grant from Cllr Marge Harvey. I am grateful to Mike Driver who designed and constructed the access platform to the East Window. For those of us who were able to watch the work progress over those five days, it was marvellous to see the increased clarity of the wall paintings being revealed. I am very grateful to Peter Martindale for the expertise and dedication he gave to the project and we look forward to hearing from him later this afternoon.
- ***A gathering to celebrate the conclusion to the Shared Identity Project with the South Downs National Park Authority*** was held in July. Rev Vickie Morgan, John Bannell, Cllr Malcolm Johnson and Friends trustees were also in attendance. The event gave us the opportunity to recognise the work done over the past three years which included the creation and installation of the Interpretation Panel; the adult tour guide of the church, children's adventure trail and walks leaflet; the clearance

of the roadside frontage and erection of the fencing and field gates; the installation of the new pedestrian access gate.

- Our major 'event' of the year was the **Musical Picnic**. Originally to be held in July, this was postponed until August but we picked arguably the best summer's evening of the year. 175 people brought their picnics which they set up in the field adjacent to the south side of the church, and listened to folk music from the Driftwood Troubadours and some jazz from Colin Berry. It was a wonderful occasion and the audience was appreciative of the opportunity to be entertained once again, whilst safely socially distanced.
- **Appointment of Project Architect:** Chaired by Mr John Bannell, PCC Buildings Officer, and attended by Rev Vickie Morgan, Mr John Bates and myself, the interview was held in August for the appointment of a Project Architect in order to conduct an 'Enhanced Quinquennial Report' on the church building. Mr Simon Goddard of the Goddard Partnership, Bishops Waltham, was appointed to carry out the work which is being commissioned by the Friends Trust. The findings from this report will inform the Trust regarding the range and scope of the repair work required to be undertaken together with the necessary grant applications

6. Forthcoming Events: the Trust has planned three events for 2022, as follows:

- **Friends AGM with talk by Peter Martindale** on Wed 27th April. AGM at 2.15pm at St Hubert's followed by refreshments and then the talk on the Wall Paintings.
- **Teas and Refreshments Afternoon** on Saturday, 21st May, 2.00-5.00pm. The occasion will also provide an opportunity for some music making, including an organ concert, to celebrate the refurbishment of the 1913 organ. The Driftwood Troubadours will be giving us some of their lovely folk songs, and The Hampshire Society will be in attendance
- **Another Musical Picnic** on Saturday, 23rd July, 5.30pm. We welcome back Katie's Crooked Swing Band. This 6-piece jazz band will perform 'Jubilee Swing for a Summer's Evening'. (There's even a wet weather programme to ensure the event goes ahead!) And the good news is that tickets will be on sale this afternoon during the refreshment break!
- No review of the year could be complete without mention of my very loyal and hard-working board of trustees. Despite the challenges of this past year, they have continued to give tremendous advice, guidance and support in so many different ways. In particular, I would like to thank our treasurer, Mrs Tracy Eggleston, who together with Mr Simon Hartley, have put in an enormous amount of work concerning the setting up of Margartet Lyle Legacy. Thank you.

7. Future Plans:

i) Only recently, the first draft of the **Enhanced Quinquennial Report** has been submitted by the Goddard Partnership, together with a Structural Engineer's Survey. This a vital stepping stone in the whole process of understanding the church building and what repair programme will need to be put in place over the next 5-10 years and beyond. At this stage, there is still some work to be done before we have the full picture, together with the costings, but we are closing in on the final detailed report. I know that the trustees, led by Liz Uren, are looking forward to this next challenging phase.

I must also place on record our grateful thanks to John Bannell, PCC building Officer, for his continued hard work towards achieving an Enhanced Quinquennial Report.

ii) **Fund Raising** - Liz Uren, Chairman of the Friends Grants Committee, cannot be with us today but writes: 'As you know, the application process for large grants has been on hold for two years. This has given us time to review in detail the various grants available and to have in place an accurate report on the fabric of the church, with priorities, listed and costed. A number of the grants available require a Faculty for the work to have been obtained before applying and this will be the first task. The Friends will work closely with the architect and the PCC Buildings Officer to ensure that all information is ready for the applications.

Funding bodies on our initial list are: The National Churches Trust, The Pilgrims Trust, Garfield and Weston and Headley. We'll also look again at the Heritage Lottery Fund. We shall look at any opportunities for development funding available through Section 106 procedure.

Overall, we are looking forward to getting going again. One caveat is that building costs, both materials and labour, have significantly increased in the last year and this will affect just how far the money will stretch.'

iii) Many of you will remember the two very successful Art Exhibitions that have been staged in the church in the past led by Deborah Richards. We looked very closely at the possibility of putting on another Art Exhibition this year but, so soon after the Covid restrictions, had to conclude that it was best to delay this until 2023.

8. Closing remarks: at the last AGM I said: 'there is no doubt in my mind that the Margaret Lyle Legacy has given the Trust a confidence and an optimism to allow the board of trustees to navigate the way forward in safeguarding the church building for future generations to enjoy'. Once we are armed with an in-depth and detailed 'Enhanced Quinquennial Report' on the condition of the building, together with a prioritised and costed list of repair works, I am sure that significant progress can be made over the next twelve months and we look for

to working closely with Mr John Bannell, PCC Buildings Officer and Mr Simon Goddard of the Goddard Partnership.

No matters were raised under AoB

The meeting finished at 2.35pm in time for refreshments before a talk by Peter Martindale, Wall Paintings Conservator.