

Supporters of St Margaret's Church, Margareting 2019 Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Supporters of St Margaret's Church held on 16 October 2019 in the Chelmer Room at Margareting Village Hall commencing 7:30pm

Attendees: Eleven Supporters of St Margaret's Church.

Executive Committee Members - David Frost, Tim Lee, Penny Savill (secretary), Michael Scott (chairman) and Harold Taylor (treasurer).

Members – Margaret Boxall, Valerie Frost, Angela Marks, Patricia Taylor, Jennie Scott and Angela Smith

Apologies were received from Jean Offord.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The chairman, Michael Scott, opened the fourth Annual General Meeting of the Supporters of St Margaret's Church by welcoming everyone.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2018 AGM

The minutes of the 2018 AGM were received and agreed as a correct record of the meeting with the following amendment. **Members attending the 2018 AGM to include Angela Smith.**

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The chairman introduced his report by explaining as we are a group covering the maintenance of the church building and surrounding churchyard his report would inevitably contain a list of tasks carried out and those planned for the future.

The churchyard plan is still in a process of development. The water drainage and underground pipework have been mapped and the front area designated for extra attention. The churchyard map identifying the graves is now up-to-date. A Gallipoli marker has been installed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission on a first world war grave.

Due to the visual effect and difficulties in converting areas with very strong growing grasses into flower meadows the size of the flower meadows has been reduced. The beetle bank is getting established. It is intended to have wild areas to allow strong grass and nettles to grow for butterflies and song birds. Brambles and dominant weeds have been sprayed and some of the older gravestones have been tidied up by removing weeds and ivy. The south and east facing hedges have been trimmed.

Internally, the water heater in the kitchen area has been renewed, a leak in the main water pipe in the toilet repaired, the sound system has been overhauled.

It was noted the quinquennial inspection was scheduled to take place on 23 October 2019 and no doubt there will be further work to attend to.

He ended his report by thanking everyone for their continued support. A copy of the chairman's report is attached to these minutes.

4. TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The treasurer informed the meeting that after taking membership subscriptions and donations into account funds in the 'Supporters of St Margaret's' bank account totalled £2,053.67. Income for year totalled £1,305. Expenditure totalled £832.60. A copy of the treasurer's receipts and payments summary is attached to these minutes.

The chairman thanked the treasurer for his work during the year.

5. RENEWAL OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

The secretary reported the total number of names on the membership register is fifty-eight. During the year two new members had joined. The number of paid up members as at 16 October 2019 is fifty-three. Subscription renewals (£10 per annum) are due to be collected in February 2020. It was agreed to advertise for new members through the parish newsletter, Margaretting News.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The chairman reminded the meeting that members of the Executive Committee are required to retire at the AGM but may stand for re-election and any member may stand for election to the Executive Committee.

The chairman informed the meeting that the existing committee members - David Frost, Tim Lee, Penny Savill, Michael Scott and Harold Taylor - were willing to stand for re-election. There being no other nominations for election to the committee a proposal by Margaret Boxall that 'the existing committee members be re-elected' was seconded by Angela Smith and unanimously agreed by those present. The existing committee members were therefore formally re-elected en bloc.

7. CARE OF THE CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD

Committee member, David Frost, reported on the maintenance and improvements carried out in the churchyard during 2018 which included the establishment of the new rose bed, ancient grave stones kept clear of ivy and weeds, brambles and self-seeded trees and shrubs removed, gravel paths sprayed with weed killer and boundary hedges trimmed. He also explained the committee's plans to widen the first part of the front path leading to the church; make safe the gravestones which have moved or fallen over, reseed the wildflower sections and install a couple of information notices to let visitors know the area is being developed for wildflowers.

David also reported on the work to the fabric of the church, which included filling in the cracks in the outside gullies; repairing the guttering and sorting out the leaking pipe which had caused the dampness in the W.C. wall.

The church cleaning arrangements were discussed. Margaret Boxall and her daughter were thanked for their help by cleaning the brass earlier in the year. A de-cobwebbing morning has been arranged for Saturday, 26 October 2019.

8. FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES – 2019

The Song Cycle evening was a great success. David's guided tours and Claire Renowden's open Sunday afternoons were successful too. David has made enquiries about having a brown sign installed at the top of Church Lane. The support group's 'church is open' sign had attracted extra visitors to the open Sunday afternoons. Claire was thanked for organising the open Sunday afternoons.

The meeting noted one fundraising event had been booked for 2020 – a Song Cycle concert for Saturday, 11 July. Other fund-raising suggestions (Jazz concert, Strawberry Blonde duo, local school singer contact) will be explored and discussed by the committee.

Angela Smith suggested the area in the church with Miss Baker's books, church notelets and tote bags for sale could be improved by larger signage and prominent racking to display for sale items. It was also suggested a photo of the Jessie window would make an attractive front cover for church notelets.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Wednesday, 14 October 2020 at 7:30pm in the Chelmer Room in the village hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:30pm.