

Supporters of St Margaret's Church, Margaretting 2018 Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Supporters of St Margaret's Church held on 17 October 2018 in the Chelmer Room at Margaretting Village Hall commencing 7:30pm

Attendees: Nine Supporters of St Margaret's Church and two members of the local community.

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

Members – Bev Keeble, Margaret Boxall, Valerie Frost, Patricia Taylor and Jennie Scott

Local Community – Maddy and Maurice Wright

Apologies were received from Susan Keeble, Angela Marks, Jean Offord, Jean Rogers and Anthony Smith.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

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

2. MINUTES OF THE 2017 AGM

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were received and agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The chairman introduced his report by thanking everyone for their continued support. He reminded those present that last year he had reported on the extensive work carried out to the church fabric and the churchyard. This year he was pleased to report a system that sustains the maintenance of the church had been established and how volunteers had carried out all the basic tasks. His report outlined the Support Group's plans for managing the whole area of the churchyard, which included the development a special wild flower area, and the Support Group's application to the EALC Community Fund for financial support. Comments on the plans for the churchyard plans were welcomed.

During the year there were two fund raising events – an Art Demonstration afternoon and a Song Cycle music evening. Although the Art Demonstration did not attract many people, those attending appreciated the afternoon. The Song Cycle music evening was a success and the group has been booked to perform again in 2019. Other suggestions for fund raising events were in the process of being followed up.

Recognition was given to the support received from local farmer Gary Sharp for the continued use of the parking area on his land. A copy of the chairman's report is attached to these minutes.

4. TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The treasurer informed the meeting that funds in the 'Supporters of St Margaret's' bank account totalled £1,581.27. Income for year totalled £1,458.50. Expenditure totalled £3,029.31.

A statement of the receipts and payments for the year had been examined and signed by Caroline Kochan, Clerk to the Parish Council. A copy of the signed statement had been sent to the EALC in support of our application for funding towards the churchyard plan.

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 four new members had joined. However, the number of paid up members as at 17 October 2018 was forty-two. Subscription renewals are due to be collected in February 2019. It was agreed to keep to the current subscription rate of £10. It was agreed also to advertise for new members through the village 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, 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 Bev Keeble that 'the existing committee members be re-elected' was seconded by Margaret Boxall 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 all the improvements accomplished to date in the churchyard and explained how the churchyard is divided into three sections. Pathways between the three sections had been levelled out, trees had been pruned, hedges trimmed, and many ancient grave stones had been exposed. MDL, the parish council's grass cutting contractor, had been employed to cut the grassed area to the front and side of the church. Future plans for the front of the church included improvements to the rose bed. Volunteers, committee members and Chris Elphick, who cuts the grass to the rear of the church, were thanked for their time and work.

David also reported on the work to the fabric of the church, which included repairs to the arch over the Jesse window and subsequent exposure of several Victorian stencils. The steps to the altar, vestry and kitchen area had also been repaired and painted as had the porch. There is still lots of work: filling in the cracks in the outside gullies; the repairs to the guttering (this will need professional attention); the dampness in the toilet walls is being dealt with.

The church cleaning arrangements were discussed. Margaret Boxall volunteered to help by cleaning the brass.

8. FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES – 2018

The Song Cycle evening was a great success. The art demonstration afternoon did not attract many people and it was felt advertising church events could be improved. It was agreed to investigate making use of Essex Radio and Nextdoor Margaretting. The committee is due to meet on Monday, 5 November and fundraising will be an agenda item.

The meeting noted one fundraising event had been booked for 2019 – A Song Cycle concert on Saturday, 6 July.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Small Yew Tree. Maurice Wright's offer of a small yew tree was accepted.
- (ii) Vestry Desk Lamp. Maurice Wright agreed to rewire the lamp.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

Wednesday, 16 October 2019 at 7:30pm in the Chelmer Room in the village hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:25pm.