

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE FRIENDS OF ST WENEFREDE'S CHURCH, BICKLEY**

FRIDAY 23 MAY 2014 AT 7PM AT THE CORONATION HALL

Chair	John Bailey
Treasurer	Ann Bailey
Secretary	Dilys Willis

PRESENT

Jill Wyndham Lewis, David Wyndham Lewis, Pauline Williams, June Wakeley, Mr & Mrs B Orme, Mr & Mrs T Parker, Fred Taylor, Betty Taylor, Joan Ackerley, Joyce Stockton, John Stockton, Constance Mellor, Peter Johnson, Geoff Willis, Rev. Richard Diggle

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

VICAR'S WELCOME AND REPORT

Reverend Richard Diggle opened his report with a short prayer and thanked the outgoing Trustees, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer for their hard work in setting up the Friends, the sponsors for covering expenses to date and Cholmondeley Castle and the Estate Office their administrative assistance.

He outlined the ethos of the Friends of St Wenefrede's Church as an organisation dedicated to raising funds for the maintenance and improvement of the fabric of the Church and the surrounding churchyard areas. The founding committee were to retire at this meeting, to be replaced by a newly elected committee. He suggested a committee of 5 members with the ability to co-opt as necessary, these being a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, plus 2 trustees, one of whom must represent the parochial church council ("PCC") of St Wenefrede's Church. The committee must be re-elected annually but there would be no limit to the length of term of office.

He explained that while the PCC runs the Church on behalf of the local community it belongs to the Church of England. Lord Cholmondeley and the Dowager Marchioness of Cholmondeley, with the Bishop's assistance, are joint Patrons and appoint the clergy. Chattels belong to the Church Wardens. The day-to-day running of the Church is the responsibility of the PCC, for which costs are very high and for which funds are raised separately by the PCC. In setting up the Friends he hoped to increase support and awareness across the whole community, not just amongst those who attend church regularly, and he stressed that funds raised by the Friends would not be used to cover day to day running costs but for the maintenance or improvement of the fabric of the Church.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the bank account is now operational. The account stood at £2138.60. It was noted that as there were no outgoing costs no audit of the Charity accounts for the preceding year was necessary. Forty seven households have joined.

She noted that appeals carried out by the PCC in the past had been very successful in raising funds for new electrics, roof repairs and path extensions for which the community responded generously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes were accepted as an accurate report of proceedings of the previous annual general meeting.

ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE AND AUDITOR

Nominations were requested for the following positions on the Friends of Saint Wenefrede's Church committee:

Chair

Sole nomination for David Wyndham Lewis. (Proposed: Jill Wyndham Lewis, seconded: June Wakeley.)

Secretary

Sole nomination for Jill Wyndham Lewis. (Proposed: Herbert Ackerley, seconded: June Wakeley.)

Treasurer

Sole nomination for Elizabeth Orme. (Proposed: Geoff Willis, seconded: Ann Bailey.)

Trustees

Nomination for Mrs Brenda Parker as Trustee.

Nomination for John Bailey as Trustee and PCC representative.

All nominees were unanimously elected by the attending members of the Friends of Saint Wenefrede's Church.

The meeting agreed that Macefern Financial Services be appointed as Auditor for forthcoming years.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

MEETING CLOSE

The Vicar thanked the Committee and Sponsors for the Cheese and Wine supper and those attending for their commitment, enthusiasm and support and the Chair closed the meeting following "the Grace" at 8.40pm.