

## FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, POLSTEAD

Chairman: Bill Wigglesworth  
Tel: Boxford (01787) 210029 (home)  
210590 (office)  
Email: <ww@reedheath.keme.co.uk>

Millfield House  
Heath Road  
Polstead  
Colchester  
Essex CO6 5AN

### **Annual General Meeting**

#### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7.30pm on Friday 19 January 2007 at Polstead Village Hall**

##### *Present*

The meeting was attended by forty two members of the Friends.

##### *Welcome*

Bill Wigglesworth welcomed those present and thanked them for coming on a dark January evening. He confirmed that they formed a quorum under the constitution.

##### *Apologies for absence*

Apologies for absence had been received from John and Sheena Baxter, Mr and Mrs Robert Derbyshire, Ray and Jill Lowe and Mr and Mrs Parry-Crooke.

##### *Minutes of the Inaugural General Meeting (IGM) held on 2 November 2005*

The minutes of the IGM, held on 2 November 2005, were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

##### *Matters arising*

There were no matters arising.

##### *Annual Report*

###### *(1) Chairman's report*

Bill Wigglesworth introduced the annual report which reviewed the activities of the Friends since their formal establishment in November 2005. As the report brought out, following the launch, the Friends had attracted most generous support from the Polstead community and now had just on one hundred members. More members were beginning to join from further away and the Committee wished to encourage this trend. He wished to thank everyone who had given so generously, as well as the members of the Committee for their support during the year.

The Friends was now a registered charity, following careful evaluation by the Charity Commission of the objects of the Friends to preserve the fabric of the church and its surroundings. The elected members of the Committee were the Trustees.

During the year, the Committee had been pleased to elect Elsie Braybrook an honorary member of the Friends in recognition of all she had done to care for and preserve Polstead Church over many years. The meeting showed its approval and appreciation of this action.

Bill Wigglesworth paid tribute to Guy Scott, the first Honorary President of the Friends, who had sadly died in February. Guy's love of the church was well known. In addition to his support of the church over many years, he had been a benevolent and supportive influence in the creation of the Friends.

The summer party of the Friends in July and the accompanying tour of the church, led by the inimitable Roy Tricker, had been a great success.

Finally, Bill Wigglesworth reviewed the programme of grants, towards specific conservation projects in the church and churchyard, which the Friends had agreed with the PCC. He explained the background to the various projects, on which he would also be touching in his illustrated talk on the state of the church building and surroundings after the AGM. He also explained the careful process of control exercised by the Diocesan authorities to ensure that all such work was to the highest standards of conservation and provided good value for money.

## *(2) Treasurer's report*

Lea Blackham briefly reviewed the summary of the Friends' accounts on page 6 of the annual report. In its first financial year, from 1 November 2005 to 31 October 2006, the Friends had achieved an income of just over seven and a half thousand pounds, without taking account of the tax rebate that would be payable on many donations as a result of having obtained charitable status.

This was a magnificent achievement and he thanked and congratulated all members for this level of support.

## *Election of Officers and the Executive Committee*

The Officers and the elected members of the Executive Committee offered themselves for re-election. There were no other nominations.

On a proposal by Henry Engelheart, seconded by Roger Bray, the existing honorary Officers and elected Members of the Executive Committee were unanimously re-elected, as follows:

Lea Blackham	Treasurer
John Gorrod	Member
Jane Oldrey	Member
Gale Scott	Member
Patrick Scrivens	Member
Bill Wigglesworth	Chairman and Secretary

### ***Honorary President***

Bill Wigglesworth said that it was the sad duty of the AGM to elect a new Honorary President in place of Guy Scott. The Executive Committee had decided to nominate Sue Wigglesworth. There being no other nomination, Sue Wigglesworth was unanimously elected Honorary President.

### ***Independent Examiner***

The existing Independent Examiner, David Culverwell, was unanimously re-appointed.

### ***Future Activities***

Bill Wigglesworth said that the Friends were just about to produce a short brochure explaining the role and objectives of the Friends and inviting support. A draft was available for inspection. The brochure would be available in the church and in the community shop and would be circulated to possible supporters. Anyone wanting copies was asked to contact the Committee.

Bill Wigglesworth mentioned a number of possible activities that might be of interest to members that the Committee had in mind. He said that the Committee would welcome any suggestions and would be polling members to see how many might be interested in various outings with a conservation theme. It was hoped to join up, whenever possible, with the Friends of St Mary's, Stoke by Nayland, who's Chairman, Geoffrey Mieville was at the meeting.

The event immediately in prospect, in which the Committee wished to participate, was a combined flower and craft festival which Maggie Bird was organising in Polstead church on the weekend of 26, 27 and 28 May. Maggie Bird briefly reviewed what she had in mind and stressed that all support would be most welcome. The presence of a display by the Friends would provide an opportunity for visitors to support the preservation of the church.

### ***Annual General Meeting***

The next Annual General Meeting would be held in late 2007 or early 2008 on a date to be notified.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm and members adjourned for refreshments before the illustrated talk.

W. R. B. W