

Trustees' Annual Report

The Friends of St James the Great, Thorley *Registered Charity No: 288678*

Year ending 31 December 2010

Legal and Administrative Information

This report is for the financial year beginning on 1 January 2010 and ending on 31 December 2010.

The Principal Address of the charity is:

60 The Paddock
Bishop's Stortford
Herts
CM23 4JW

E-mail: friends.stjames@btinternet.com

Website: www.friends.stjames.btinternet.co.uk

The object of the charity is to help and support the Rector and Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. James the Great, Thorley (subject to any necessary faculties being obtained) to:

- maintain and embellish the fabric, furnishing and fittings of St. James the Great, Thorley
- maintain, protect and beautify the Churchyard of the Church.

The Governing Document of the charity is the Constitution as adopted on 21 February 1983 and amended on 18 March 1984. This calls for the management of the charity to be in the hands of a Committee of Trustees consisting of two members appointed by the Parochial Church Council of St. James the Great and six members elected at the Annual Meeting of the Association. The Committee may co-opt additional members as necessary and invite the Incumbent of St James the Great to be an ex-officio member. The Officers of the charity are a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary who are appointed by the Committee. The Constitution calls for an Annual Meeting to take place in the month of March and the Accounts to be made up to 31st December every year.

At a meeting of the Committee held on 15 January 2007 it was agreed that would be prudent to maintain reserves at a level of £2,500.

The following table details the Trustees as of October 2011 and those who acted during the period covered by this report.

Name	Office (if any)	Dates Acted Since 1 January 2010	Mode of Appointment
Mrs Joan Abbotson		1 January 2010 - 12 March 2010	Elected until 12 March 2010
Mr Toby Braddick		1 January 2010 - present	Parochial Church Council Appointee
Miss Margot Cage		1 January 2010- 11 March 2011. 4 April 2011 – present.	Co-opted until 12 March 2010 Elected from 12 March 2010 to 11 March 2011 Co-opted from 4 April 2011
Mr Bill Hardy		1 January 2010 – 11 March 2011. 4 April 2011 – present.	Co-opted until 12 March 2010 Elected from 12 March 2010 to 11 March 2011 Co-opted from 4 April 2011
Dr Philip Hargrave	Chairman & Secretary	1 January 2010 - present	Elected
Mrs Lindsey Holme		19 September 2011 - present	Parochial Church Council Appointee
Mrs Rosemary Jones	Treasurer	1 January 2010 - present	Elected
Mrs Lina Loadman		1 January 2010 – 12 March 2010; 19 April 2010 - present	Elected until 12 March 2010 Co-opted from 19 April 2010 to 11 March 2011 Elected from 11 March 2011
Mrs Margaret Morley	Vice Chairman	1 January 2010 - present	Elected
Mrs Lesley Parker		1 January 2010 - present	Parochial Church Council Appointee until 11 March 2011 Elected from 11 March 2011
The Revd Robert Payne		1 January 2010 - present	Ex Officio
Mrs Sue Russell		1 January 2010 – 11 March 2011 4 April 2011 – present.	Co-opted until 12 March 2010 Elected from 12 March 2010 to 11 March 2011. Co-opted from 4 April 2011.
Mrs Christine Tew		1 January 2010 - 12 March 2010 19 April 2010 - present	Elected until 12 March 2010 Co-opted from 19 April 2010 to 11 March 2011. Elected from 11 March 2011.

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 11 March 2011

Thank you all for coming this evening and for your support throughout the year.

The Committee has worked hard on all our behalves, and I am sure you would like me to pass on your thanks to them.

During the course of the year we were sad to learn of the deaths of two of our longstanding members, Gwil and Joyce Griffiths. Gwil and Joyce invariable held the record each year for the number of tickets sold for the raffle held in association with our Festival of Flowers and Music. Two other longstanding members have also moved away from the area, Colin and Margery Sampford. Colin and Margery are staying members of the Friends, and have sent a note to say they are sorry to miss this year's Annual General Meeting, and will be thinking of us this evening.

The highlight of the past year was, of course, the removal of the old Church organ and its replacement, on 6 May 2010, by a 37 Stop Two Manual Allan electronic organ. The old organ was affectionately known as 'the mongrel', because it had been brought together from a variety of sources and as a consequence had a number of unfortunate, to say the least, shortcomings. At a cost of just over £30,000, the installation of the new organ brought to an end the Friends' largest single fundraising project to date, three years after the project was launched back in 2007.

The 2010 Festival of Flowers and Music provided an excellent opportunity for our Director of Music, Simon Dellow, to demonstrate the capabilities of our new organ. The theme for the 2010 Festival was 'Joy to the World'. Visitors were able to view flower arrangements portraying Joy in its various religious and secular forms. They were also treated to a session of group singing each day, with performances on the Saturday and Sunday by the St James Music Fellowship of the Cantata 'Jerusalem Joy', and the Fellowship's leading on the Monday of 'The Big Sing' of Hymns and Songs of Joy. A number of 'musical moments', with performances by individuals and small groups, were also featured throughout the Festival. On the Sunday the Festival was host to a Deanery Evensong, at which some of the Festival volunteers selected their favourite Hymns of Joy, and outlined the reasons for their choices. The Festival also marked the launch of the Friends' latest fundraising project, as agreed at last year's Annual General Meeting, in respect of the much needed restoration work on a number of the Church windows and the stained glass they contain.

A memento of the Festival, in the form of a DVD featuring photographs of all of the flower arrangements, accompanied by music played by Simon on the new organ, was produced and offered for sale. Copies are still available for purchase. The DVD gives a hint of the capabilities of the new organ, through renditions by Simon ranging from hymns in the style, as you would expect, of a church organ, to medleys expressing the Joy of family and friendships, colours and holidays in the completely different style of a theatre organ.

The other fund raising activities during the course of the year were a sale of plants in May, our ever popular Quiz Evening in October and an Autumn Craft Fair in November. A particularly big thank you is due to John Loadman who has decided to lay down the mantle of Quiz Master and make the 2010 Quiz Evening, the eleventh he had hosted with the able assistance of Lina, his last. Pam Robertson has kindly agreed to take over the reigns from John and set the questions for this year's Friends' Quiz Evening.

The Friends Committee were also grateful to my wife, Maureen, for once again extending the summer season of Sunday afternoon teas and reverting to the serving of soup and roll lunches over the winter months, to maintain fellowship and outreach from the Church Room throughout the year. We were similarly grateful to Bob and Brenda Williams for continuing to organise regular Whist Drives, the profits from which they kindly donated to the Friends.

The Friends' website has continued to attract interest. E-mails received from around the world included one from Canada expressing the Joy experienced on continually returning to the site, and finding something of interest not seen previously. The most recent addition to the site has been a new 'From the Archives' section entitled 'Thorley Postal History'. Compiled by Bill Hardy, it features a number of early twentieth century postcards written by Thorley residents. These provide a fascinating insight into Parish life at the time.

I would like to end my Report by thanking Rosemary, our Treasurer, and Margaret, our Vice Chairman and indeed all the members of the Committee, for their help and support during the past year. On behalf of the Committee, and myself I would also like to thank you for the support you have given us.

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ending 31 December 2010 to the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 11 March 2011

This year our accounts show an excess of expenditure over income of £11,422 which is due to the completion payment for the lovely new organ. We paid a deposit of £10,200 in 2009 and the balance of £20,217 was paid in May 2010. This method of payment allowed us to purchase the organ with the lower rate of VAT in force in 2009. Excluding the purchase of the organ, the Friends raised some £8,800 for future projects. All our excess funds are deposited with the Church's Central Board of Finance until they are needed. The Accounts, as presented in Annex A, show how the income was received and expenditure incurred in the year ended 31st December 2010 with comparative figures for 2009.

I will now comment on some of the detail.

1. Subscriptions show a slight increase this year which is encouraging and we have gained some new members, but we can always find room for some more so if you would like to invite your friends to become our 'Friends' that would be lovely. Donations, however, are down but in 2009 we did have some significant gifts specifically for the new organ which were not repeated this year.
2. It is now the norm for members and donors to gift-aid their contributions and this is a great benefit, particularly in these days of low interest rates. The tax rebate has increased to £747 for this year.
3. The Festival of Flowers and Music was again a huge success and our thanks are to you all for your tremendous support and hard work. Although the figures are not as good as 2009, there were reasons for that, most noticeable, the weather was not at all kind to us for the August Bank Holiday weekend and with the school holidays finishing very soon afterwards, many people were away. I have produced details of the figures for you, alongside the Accounts.
4. October saw our Quiz Evening again, not so well attended as in the past but great fun nonetheless. £173 was raised.
5. Sunday teas and soup lunches in the winter months have both generated another year on year increase. These afternoons are a vital outreach opportunity for our Church and our thanks go to the small band of volunteers who take on this work. You will note an entry for a special lunch. The local History Society held a day in the Barn and asked if lunch could be provided. Sue Russell came up trumps as ever and the result is a very welcome £192 for the Friends.
6. Once again, I would like to thank Bob and Brenda Williams for running the ever popular whist drives which raised £205 for the Friends.

7. Lesley Parker's contributions have again been wonderful. The plant sale in May raised £168, up on the previous year and the Craft Fair in November £422. After this horrible winter, some of us may have lost garden plants so we await the Plant Sale eagerly.

8. Repairs and Maintenance costs remain high, with our equipment needing costly repairs because of all the hard work it is put to. Our thanks to Peter and Margaret Morley for their dedication and efforts in this area.

9. Finally, I would like to thank Geoff Pickering for once again examining our Accounts to check I haven't done the sums wrong.

Flower Festival	2010	2009
	£	£
Raffle	357	498
Donations	1054	1309
Refreshments	1264	1121
Ice Cream	19	80
Souvenirs	173	239
Plants	212	282
Flowers (note 1)	(3)	12
Stalls and Sale of Fruit	480	629
St Barnabas Centre	(120)	(120)
Expenses (note 2)	(220)	(185)
Craft Fair	270	365
Programmes	258	221
Books	436	311
BBQ	-	72
Bill Hardy's Talk	7	-
Totals	4187	4834

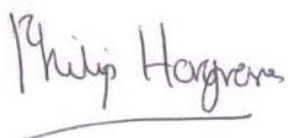
Stalls	2010	2009
	£	£
Recycled goods	129	126
Tombolas	245	282
Cakes and Produce	106	220
Children's Activities	-	1
Totals	480	629

Notes

1. Cost of flowers met by sponsors £664 (2009 £580).
2. Other expenses include donation to Organist, advertising and printing.

Authorisation

This Annual Report is issued on behalf of the Trustees and was approved by them at a Committee Meeting held on 19 September 2011.



Philip Hargrave
Chairman and Secretary



Margaret Morley
Vice Chairman



Rosemary Jones
Treasurer

8 October 2011

Annex A

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES THE GREAT, THORLEY
 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st DECEMBER 2010

2009

RECEIPTS

1187	Subscriptions		1320
1345	Donations	113	
274	Whist Drives	205	
320	Weddings	520	838
	Fund Raising:		
6561	Festival of flowers and music	6047	
545	Quiz	436	
1601	Sunday Refreshments	1475	
117	Plant sale	168	
679	Craft Fair	500	
47	The Barn History Lecture	-	
-	History Society lunch	315	8941
	Other:		
9	AGM	-	
336	Bank Interest	73	
518	Tax Rebate	747	820
<u>13539</u>			<u>11919</u>

PAYMENTS

10200	Payment for Organ		20217
	Fund raising:		
1727	Festival of flowers and music	1860	
368	Quiz	263	
135	Craft Fair	58	
62	Sunday Teas and Souvenirs	-	
10	The Barn History Lecture	-	
-	History Society lunch	123	2304
	Other:		
62	AGM	60	
20	Sundries	30	
25	Lottery registration	20	
194	Insurance	194	304
554	Repairs and Maintenance to Equipment	516	
46	Churchyard Expenses	-	516
<u>13403</u>			<u>23341</u>
<u>136</u>	Excess of Payments over Receipts for the year		<u>(11422)</u>
<u>13539</u>			<u>11919</u>

FRIENDS OF ST.JAMES THE GREAT, THORLEY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2010

2009

RESERVES

25816	Balance brought forward from previous year	25952
136	Excess of Payments over Receipts	(11422)

25952

14530

Represented by:

25952	Balances at Banks	14530
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Rosemary Jones Hon. Treasurer

Dated: 10th January 2011