

Trustees' Annual Report

The Friends of St James the Great, Thorley

Registered Charity No: 288678

Year ending 31 December 2011

Legal and Administrative Information

This report is for the financial year beginning on 1 January 2011 and ending on 31 December 2011.

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.org

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 2012 and those who acted during the period covered by this report.

Name	Office (if any)	Dates Acted Since 1 January 2011	Mode of Appointment
Mr Toby Braddick		1 January 2011 - present	Parochial Church Council Appointee
Miss Margot Cage		1 January 2011- 11 March 2011. 4 April 2011 – present.	Elected until 11 March 2011 Co-opted from 4 April 2011 to 16 March 2012 Elected from 16 March 2012
Desmond Conridge		4 April 2011 - present	Co-opted from 4 April 2011 to 16 March 2012 Elected from 16 March 2012 - present
Mr Bill Hardy		1 January 2011 – 11 March 2011. 4 April 2011 – 16 March 2012 2 April 2012 - present	Elected until 11 March 2011 Co-opted from 4 April 2011 to 16 March 2012 Co-opted from 2 April 2012 - present
Dr Philip Hargrave	Chairman & Secretary	1 January 2011 - present	Elected
Mrs Lindsey Holme		19 September 2011 - present	Parochial Church Council Appointee
Mrs Rosemary Jones	Treasurer	1 January 2011 - present	Elected
Mrs Lina Loadman		1 January 2011 – 16 March 2012; 2 April 2012 - present	Co-opted until 11 March 2011 Elected from 11 March 2011 to 16 March 2012 Co-opted from 2 April 2012 - present
Mrs Margaret Morley	Vice Chairman	1 January 2011 - present	Elected
Mrs Lesley Parker		1 January 2011 – 16 March 2012 2 April 2012 - present	Parochial Church Council Appointee until 11 March 2011 Elected from 11 March 2011 to 16 March 2012 Co-opted from 2 April 2012
The Revd Robert Payne		1 January 2011 - present	Ex Officio
Mrs Sue Russell		1 January 2011 – 11 March 2011 4 April 2011 – present.	Elected until 11 March 2011. Co-opted from 4 April 2011 -16 March 2012 Elected from 16 March 2012
Mrs Christine Tew		1 January 2011 - 16 March 2012 2 April 2012 - present	Co-opted until 11 March 2011. Elected from 11 March 2011 to 16 March 2012. Co-opted from 2 April 2012 – present

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 16 March 2012

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, Doris Collins and David Philpott. David was one of the founding Committee members of the Friends. He, along with Ann Cottee, John Fuller, Daphne Ruddock and Jim Simpson, who were the other original Committee members, met for the first time on 21 February 1983, thirty years ago next year, under the chairmanship of Compton Whitworth. The rest, as they say, is history.

As you may recall, it was agreed at our 2010 Annual General Meeting that the Friend's next fundraising project would be in respect of repairs to the stonework of a number of the Church windows, and the stained glass they contain, the need for which had been noted in the most recent quinquennial report. At last year's Friends' Annual General Meeting, Steve Poulter reported that the Parochial Church Council had investigated the work required and ascertained that the total cost would be some £18,500. At that time we only had £10,000 at our disposal for the project, but committed to raising the full amount, estimating that it was likely to take another year of fundraising to do so.

We were therefore delighted to be in a position to announce just before Christmas that we had already raised the full £18,500 required. Clive Weir has kindly joined us this evening, and will be giving an update on where things stand in respect of this work. He will also be outlining other work that is in the pipeline from which we might like to select our next major fundraising project. For the interim, at the request of our Rector, Bob Payne, our fund raising is in respect of a new carpet for the Sanctuary.

One of the reasons that we met our fund raising target for the window restoration earlier than expected was the success of our 2011 Festival of Flowers and Music. I'll leave what was an extremely good financial outcome to Rosemary to present, but it was our best ever Festival in that respect. It was also a great success from an outreach perspective. Visitors were able to view flower arrangements portraying the *Trades & Cries of Old London*. 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 a selection of songs from Shows and the Music Hall, and their leading on the Monday of *The Big Sing London Style*, a selection of hymns with a London connection. A number of *musical moments*, with performances by individuals and small groups, were also featured throughout the Festival.

On the Sunday evening there was a Festival Evensong, at which some of the Festival volunteers each selected a favourite Hymn, and outlined the reasons for their choice.

Coupled with the Craft Fair, which was extended to all three days of the Festival for the first time, the Mini Fete on the Monday, and chance for visitors to sit and chat over refreshments, it was a great outreach success.

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, an Autumn Craft Fair in November, and our sale of Sunday afternoon teas from the Church Room during the summer months. A particularly big thank you is due to Pam and Steve Robinson, who took over the reigns from John and Lina Loadman in setting the questions for the Quiz Evening and overseeing the marking, and to Rob Wynford-Harris for his sterling performance as Quiz Master. We've decided to reschedule the Quiz Evening going

forward, to space our events more evenly over the year. So you'll have to sit tight and wait until March of next year for the next outing of our Quiz Evening.

The Friends Committee were also once again very grateful to my wife, Maureen, for 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 will be taking over responsibility for Sunday Afternoon teas with effect from the start of May. We desperately need volunteers to come forward enable that, particularly at this stage during the month of May itself.

The Friends' website has continued to attract considerable interest during the year. We have received a number of thank you e-mails, including one from a lady in Australia who exclaimed that she was overwhelmed and could not even begin to say how thrilled she was to find the site.

The most significant recent addition to the website has been short biographies of all the Rectors of Thorley, from the first recorded incumbent, William Vigerons, right through to the Rector who served during the latter years of the Second World War. Do visit the site and take a look if you have not recently done so. Read about the Pastor of Thorley who was threatened with decapitation during the Peasant's revolt of 1381; when during the reign of Henry VII Thorley had a Bishop for its Rector. Read about the Rector who was imprisoned during a visit to Rome and sent to the Galleys; and the Rector who openly defied Parliament, was ejected from the benefice, wounded during the Civil War, but richly rewarded at the Restoration for what the King described as his *particular and eminent sufferings for Ourselves and the Church*. You can also Read about our most famous Rector of all, who was brought up in Thorley, where his father was Rector before him, who edited and published a complete edition of the works of Isaac Newton, and picked and won a theological fight with Joseph Priestly, that resulted in his elevation to the Bishopric, and him becoming a powerful reforming figure in the House of Lords. Not to mention the Rector who was a poet and a somewhat ineffectual headmaster of a famous public school, where the boys openly rebelled against him on three occasions. Some interesting individuals have served as the Rector of Thorley.

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 2011 to the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 16 March 2012

This year our accounts show an excess of income over expenditure of £9153 compared with a deficit in 2010 due to the purchase of the organ. All our excess funds are deposited with the Church's Central Board of Finance until they are needed and so we can earn a little bit of interest. The Accounts I am presenting tonight show how the income was received and the expenditure was incurred in the year ended 31st December 2011 with comparative figures for 2010

I will now comment on some of the detail.

1. Subscriptions show a good increase this year which is encouraging but this is mainly due to existing members increasing their contributions. So we still need new members. We need to encourage our friends to become our "Friends" and in particular, those of us who attend the 10:30am service need to invite members of that congregation to join. Donations have also increased on the 2010 figures.

2. As you know, because I say it every year, gift-aid on contributions is a great benefit, particularly in these days of low interest rates. The tax rebate has increased to £780 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. Changes in the method of reporting our finances require gross income and expenditure to be shown separately so you will need to deduct £2266 expenditure from £7405 income to arrive at the net proceeds of £5142, as against £4187 for 2010, a substantial increase, Praise the Lord. I have produced details of the figures for you, alongside the Accounts.

4. October saw our Quiz evening again, great fun as ever, with £217 raised. This is another event where we see many non-members of the Friends come to enjoy themselves, so another outreach opportunity.

5. Sunday teas in the summer 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. Visitors to the Churchyard and walkers obviously value the opportunity for a sit down, a chat and refreshment - just what Jesus told us to do.

6. Once again, I would like to thank Bob and Brenda Williams for running the ever popular whist drives which raised a tremendous £353 for the Friends.

7. Lesley Parker's contributions have again been wonderful. The Plant sale in May raised £246, up on the previous year, and the Craft Fair in November £476. Both further outreach opportunities. In fact, all our events are outreach opportunities, which I think is something the whole Church family should be aware of, we are not just a fund-raising organisation, we have become much more.

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

9. We have spent a lot of money on the Churchyard this year, £1730 to be precise, which is the cost of tree maintenance. Our churchyard is a very beautiful place, because of the lovely trees, but they do need looking after. Christine Tew has overseen all this work and our thanks to her for taking on this task on our behalf.

10. Finally, I would like to thank Geoff Pickering for again examining our Accounts to check I haven't done the sums wrong. Geoff is currently working on the audit but I have been assured by him that it all looks fine.

Flower Festival	2011	2010
	£	£
Raffle	481	278
Donations	1560	1054
Refreshments	1592	1264
Ice Cream	28	19
Souvenirs	30	173
Plants	355	212

Flowers (note 1)	(1)	(3)
Stalls -Mini Fete	512	480
St Barnabas Centre	(120)	(120)
Expenses (note 2)	(94)	(101)
Craft Fair	315	270
Programmes	152	218
Books	316	436
Bill Hardy's Talk	16	7
Totals	5142	4187

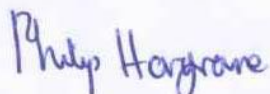
Stalls	2011	2010
	£	£
Recycled Goods	177	129
Tombolas	202	245
Cakes and Produce	127	106
Cut Flowers	6	0
Totals	512	480

Notes

1. Cost of flowers met by sponsors £676 (2010 £664).
2. Other expenses include donation to Organist, advertising and printing

Authorisation

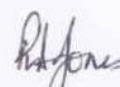
This Annual Report is issued on behalf of the Trustees, and was approved by them at a Committee Meeting held on 17 September 2012.



Philip Hargrave
Chairman and Secretary



Margaret Morley
Vice Chairman



Rosemary Jones
Treasurer

October 2012

Annex A

**FRIENDS OF ST. JAMES THE GREAT, THORLEY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2011**

2010 £		2011 £
	RESERVES	
14530	Balances at Banks	23683
14530	TOTAL RESERVES	23683
	REPRESENTED BY;	
25952	Balance brought forward from previous year	14530
-11422	Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	9153
<u>14530</u>	TOTAL FUNDS	<u>23683</u>

**FRIENDS OF ST. JAMES THE GREAT, THORLEY
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011**

2010			2011
£	RECEIPTS		£
1320	Subscriptions		1560
113	Donations		814
205	Whist Drives		353
520	Weddings		320
	Fund raising:		
6047	Festival of Flowers and Music	7408	
436	Quiz	619	
168	Plant Sale	461	
500	Craft Fair	574	
1475	Sunday Refreshments and Souvenirs	1876	
315	History Society Lunch	0	10938
73	Bank Interest	80	
747	Tax Rebate	780	860
<u>11919</u>	TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>14845</u>
	EXPENDITURE		
20217	Payment for Organ		0
	Fund Raising:		
1860	Festival of Flowers and Music	2266	
263	Quiz	402	
0	Plant sale	215	
58	Craft Fair	98	
0	Sunday Refreshments and Souvenirs	3	
123	History Society Lunch	0	2984
	Other:		
60	AGM	13	
30	Sundries	0	
20	Lottery registration	20	
194	Insurance	196	229
516	Repairs and Maintenance to Equipment	749	
0	Churchyard Expenses	1730	2479
<u>23341</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>5692</u>
-11422	Excess of Receipts over Expenditure		9153
<u>11919</u>			<u>14845</u>

Rosemary Jones, Honorary Treasurer
Dated 9th January 2012