

Trustees' Annual Report

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

Year ending 31 December 2017

Legal and Administrative Information

This report is for the financial year beginning on 1 January 2017 and ending on 31 December 2017.

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.

In fulfilling the object of the charity, the Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

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

The following table details the Trustees as of October 2018 and those who acted during the period covered by this report.

Name	Office (if any)	Dates Acted Since 1 January 2017	Mode of Appointment
Miss Margot Cage		1 January 2017 - 10 March 2017 3 April 2017 – 9 March 2018 16 April 2018 - present	Elected until 10 March 2017 Co-opted from 3 April 2017 – 9 March 2018 Co-opted from 16 April 2018
Mr Desmond Conridge		1 January 2017- 10 March 2017 3 April 2017 - present	Elected until 10 March 2017 Co-opted from 3 April 2017 – 9 March 2018 Elected from 9 March 2018
Mr Bill Hardy		1 January 2017- 10 March 2017 3 April 2017 - present	Elected until 10 March 2017 Co-opted from 3 April 2017 -9 March 2018 Elected from 9 March 2018
Dr Philip Hargrave	Chairman & Secretary	1 January 2017 - present	Elected
Mr Clive Hayball		25 September 2017 - present	Parochial Church Council Appointee
Mrs Rosemary Jones	Treasurer	1 January 2017 - present	Elected
Mrs Lina Loadman		1 January 2017 - present	Co-opted until 10 March 2017 Elected from 10 March 2017
Mrs Margaret Morley	Vice Chairman	1 January 2017- present	Elected
Revd Chris Orme		1 January 2017 - present	Ex Officio
Mrs Lesley Parker		1 January 2017 - 10 March 2017 3 April 2017 – 9 March 2018	Co-opted until 10 March 2017 Co-opted from 3 April 2017 – 9 March 2018
Mr Graham Rundle		1 January 2017 - 9 March 2018 16 April 2018- present	Co-opted until 10 March 2017 Elected from 10 March 2017 – 9 March 2018 Co-opted from 16 April 2018

Mrs Sue Russell		1 January 2017- 9 March 2018 16 April 2016 - present	Co-opted until 10 March 2017 Elected from 10 March 2017 – 9 March 2018 Co-opted from 16 April 2018
Mrs Christine Tew		1 January 2017 - 10 March 2017 3 April 2017 – 9 March 2018	Co-opted until 10 March 2017 Co-opted from 3 April 2017 – 9 March 2018
Mrs Helen Turner		1 January 2017 - 24 September 2017	Parochial Church Council Appointee
Mr Clive Weir		1 January 2017 - present	Parochial Church Council Appointee

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 9 March 2018

Good evening and thank you all for coming to the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St James the Great, Thorley.

During the course of the past year we were sad to learn of the deaths of three of our long standing members, Roy Roberts, Audrey Hutchinson and Eileen Bangert.

At last year's Annual General Meeting I was pleased to report that the Friends were poised to make a grant to the Parochial Church Council to cover the full cost of the redecoration of the interior of the Church, which had then just been completed. Following the discussion at our 2016 Annual General Meeting, and with the agreement of the Parochial Church Council, we had by last year's Annual General Meeting turned our attention to raising funds to improve our Church heating. By the middle of 2017 the Friends had raised what was believed to be sufficient funds to cover the full cost of the upgrade that had been suggested to the Parochial Church Council by the Diocesan Heating Advisor. That is one based on the existing boiler, but employing more efficient radiators to enable the system to be programmed to reach the temperature required for services and other activities in a timely manner from a lower level at which the Church would be maintained throughout the rest of the week. At the request of the Parochial Church Council, we then turned our attention to raising funds for a range of new projects. These were to create a path border for a new Garden of Remembrance in the Churchyard, as the current one is nearing capacity; to undertake work that had been identified in the last Quinquennial Report as being required on the north walls of the nave, vestry and chancel, and on the south porch; and to provide a new floor covering for the Church Room. Many of you will have noticed that the stonework border for the new Garden of Remembrance adjacent to the Church Room is already in place, as is a laminate flooring in the Church Room.

The Parochial Church Council received two responses to its Request for Tenders for the proposed upgrade to the Church heating, both of which came in under the figure we had set aside for the work. Hopefully the upgrade will be undertaken well before the onset of next winter, so that we can then benefit from the long-awaited and much-needed improvement in Church heating.

Our main fundraising event during the last year was, as usual, our annual Festival of Flowers and Music held over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Visitors to the 2017 Festival were able to view flower arrangements on the theme of *Rainbow Rhapsody*. They were also treated to a number of musical moments and group singing throughout the Festival. Together with a Craft Fair on all three days of the Festival and a chance for visitors to sit and chat over refreshments, the Festival was once again a great success, both as a significant outreach opportunity and also financially. I will leave it to Rosemary to go in to further detail in her Treasurer's Report.

The Friends' other fund raising activities during the course of the past year were a sale of plants in May, an Autumn Craft Fair in November, and our Sunday Afternoon Teas from the Church Room during the summer months. Most recently we held another very successful and most enjoyable Quiz Evening in February of this year. A particularly big thank you is due to Pam and Steve Robertson for once again setting the questions for the Quiz and overseeing the marking, and to Mike Trippick for his sterling performance as Quiz Master. As usual, a great time was had by all.

During the past year, our small team of dedicated helpers has continued to ensure that our beautiful Churchyard, comprising a whole acre of grass, paths, hedges and trees, has remained in good condition. The Friends purchase and donate to the Parochial Church Council, with whom the ultimate responsibility for the maintenance of the Churchyard resides, all the equipment that is used in undertaking this important task. The Friends also fund the cost of the yearly maintenance of that equipment. Last year proved a particularly difficult one from a maintenance point of view given the excessive growth of the grass. We would welcome more volunteers to help look after this wonderful asset going forward. There are a variety of jobs, ranging from mowing and strimming to pruning and sweeping - truly something for everyone. If you can spare an hour or two per month to help in this way, please contact Margaret and Peter Morley who will be delighted to hear from you.

The Friends would like to once again be able to offer Sunday Afternoon Teas from the Church Room during the months of May, June, July, August and September this year. However, this will only be possible if volunteers are forthcoming who are prepared to organise rotas for segments of this season, together with those willing to sign-up for the individual weekly slots in these rotas. Please let me or any of the other Committee members know if you are able to help in either way.

During the course of the past year it has become clear that significant sums will soon be required to undertake work in areas of the St James' estate that fall outside the remit of the Friends to support. The Committee therefore agreed that the Friends should step aside from organising a Festival of Flowers and Music and associated Craft Fair over the 2018 August Bank Holiday weekend to enable the Parochial Church Council to use the extended weekend this year for fundraising in support of other parts of the St James' estate. Please watch out for announcements by the Parochial Church Council as to its plans for the three days. I know an offer as been made to head-up a team of flower arrangers so that these can once again include a Flower Festival, but the final decision rests with the Parochial Church Council.

Once the necessary business of this Annual General Meeting has been completed, Bill Hardy will be giving a short presentation entitled 'The Carpenters' Marks in King's College Chapel, Cambridge'. Our evening will then conclude with a bring-and-share finger buffet and drinks.

I will draw my report to a close by thanking Margaret, our Vice Chairman and Rosemary, our Treasurer, and indeed all the members of the Committee, for their help and support during the past year.

That said, I cannot end my report this year without paying a very special tribute to two of our long standing Committee members who have decided not to seek re-election to, or co-option on, the incoming Committee. Looking back through the Friends' records, I find that both Christine Tew and Lesley Parker initially joined the Committee as Parochial Church Council Representatives in 2006, Christine with effect from 1 January and Lesley from 17 July of that year. Both continued as members of the Committee when they ceased to be a Parochial Church Council Representative.

Christine and Lesley have given sterling service to the Friends over the years, Christine particularly in respect of heading up the team of flower arrangers during our Festivals of Flowers and Music, and Lesley in respect of the organisation of our annual spring Plant Sale and Autumn Craft Fair. I would like to say a big thank you to them both on behalf of all the other current Committee members, and indeed all the members of the Friends, for everything that they have done and ask them both to accept a small token of our thanks.

Unless there are any questions at this stage, I will now hand over to Rosemary for her Treasurer's report.

Thank you very much.

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ending 31 December 2017 to the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 9 March 2018

This year our accounts (Annex A) show an excess of expenditure over income of **£3,384** and we show healthy cash balances in our bank and savings accounts.

The Accounts show how the income was received and the expenditure was incurred in the year ended 31st December 2017 with comparative figures for 2016.

Grants totalling £14,849 were made to the Parochial Church Council during the year to fully fund the redecoration of the interior of the Church, undertake some repairs and purchase a noticeboard for the Churchyard. Net income during the year was £12,412, a figure very similar to that in 2016.

Details of the figures relating to the Festival of Flowers and Music are as follows

Flower Festival	2017	2016
	£	£
Raffle	823	805
Donations	1060	940
Refreshments	2029	1786
Plants	463	457
Flowers (note 1)	(4)	(10)
Stalls -Mini Fete	260	477
St Barnabas Centre	(120)	(120)
Expenses (note 2)	(91)	(85)
Craft Fair	555	415
Programmes	87	117
Books	0	256
Bill Hardy's Talk	21	8
WWI Booklets	0	8
Totals	5083	5045

Stalls	2017	2016
	£	£
Recycled Goods	0	207
Tombolas	124	159
Cakes & Eggs	136	111
Totals	260	477

Notes

1. Cost of flowers met by sponsors £604 (2016 £753).
2. Expenses include gift for Organist, Caretaker and advertising

Authorisation

This Annual Report is issued on behalf of the Trustees, and was approved by them at a Committee Meeting held on 2 October 2018.

Philip Hargrave
Chairman and Secretary

Philip Hargrave
2 October 2018

Margaret Morley
Vice Chairman

Margaret Morley

Rosemary Jones
Treasurer

Rosemary Jones

Annex A

**FRIENDS OF ST JAMES THE GREAT, THORLEY
BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 31st DECEMBER

2017		2016
£		£
NET ASSETS		
17,238	Barclays Community Account Bank Balance	20,656
12,096	CBF Church of England Deposit Fund Bank Balance	12,062
29,334	TOTAL NET ASSETS	32,718
REPRESENTED BY:		
32,718	Surplus Brought Forward from Previous Year	42,030
(3,384)	Current Year deficit	(9,312)
29,334	TOTAL RESERVES	32,718

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES THE GREAT, THORLEY

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2017

2017		2016
£	INCOME	£
935	Subscriptions	985
2,593	Donations including weddings	5,421
	Fund Raising	
7,685	Festival of Flowers and Music	6,795
833	Quiz	862
1,051	Plant Sale	996
972	Craft Fair	833
1,249	Refreshments	982
50	Church Guides and WW1 Booklets	0
11,840	Sub-total Fund Raising	10,468
34	Bank Interest	62
608	Tax Rebate (Gift Aid)	624
16,010	TOTAL INCOME	17,560
	EXPENDITURE	
14,849	Church Decoration, Repairs and Noticeboard (2016 = Lighting)	21,808
	Fund Raising Costs	
2,602	Festival of Flowers and Music	1,740
208	Quiz	246
646	Plant sale	653
142	Craft Fair	96
3,598	Sub-total Fund Raising Costs	2,735
	Other	
28	AGM	15
0	Equipment Purchase	500
20	Lottery Registration	20
272	Insurance	270
607	Repairs and Maintenance	1,455
20	Sundries	69
947	Sub-total Other	2,329
19,394	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	26,872
(3,384)	TOTAL SURPLUS / (DEFECIT)	(9,312)

Rosemary Jones, Honorary Treasurer
March 2018