



“Friends of St Mary’s” report for the Annual General Meeting 2018

The “Friends” Committee is made up as follows:

Peter Crane (chair) Norma Crane, Pauline Simpson and Bob Willis.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF FRIENDS

The initial Aims and Objectives of “Friends” have not changed and are built around the fact that many people who are/were in our community, and indeed some who now live further away, and who have/had an interest or connection to St Mary’s would join “Friends” so that they could be involved with the life and work of our church whilst not necessarily attending services here. All of the money raised will be used for the maintenance of the fabric of the church and for community initiatives that the PCC would not be otherwise unable to afford.

At the start in 2011, we based our plan on the fact that each person in the congregation should know or have contact with at least two people with such a connection and who could/would join.

Sadly this still is not happening 7 years later.

MEMBERSHIP

“Friends” commenced in November 2011. Sadly as time passes more have left or died during the past year but we have had a couple of new members join in 2017 so we have 36 members in number..

PROJECTS

In 2017 we had sufficient funds, thanks to a generous donation, to enable us to do several larger projects. Firstly we obtained a large cupboard safe to replace the old ones that have been used for years and years. Secondly we paid to have the path around the church to the vestry door re-laid. Thirdly we obtained three lamp posts for the church path, renewed the security lights with lanterns more in keeping with the church building and renewed the floodlights, all being lit with LED fittings. The new notice board has now been updated with funding from ‘Friends’ to reflect the changes in the use of notice boards within the church as a whole. All this work has been much appreciated by the church members and the PCC.

We are also still looking for new members to make projects more attainable, so if you know someone, please speak up!

MARKETING

The big challenge for the committee, which is being led by Peter, as ever will be to get more members.

We really do need, as in previous years, everyone to take this on board.

*Bob Willis
March 2018*