



Friends of St. James' Church, Wigmore

Minutes of AGM: 12/10/2024

Present: Bill Jackson, Fran Rhodes, David Swatton + 12 members of the Friends

Apologies received from: Peter Lloyd, Lesley & Steve Pollacco, Philip Hume, Jane Brown

The meeting conducted the following business:

WELCOME

The meeting was opened by the Rev. Adrian Thompson

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Bill spoke briefly about the events and activities of the last year and highlighted the positive comments being left by visitors to the church. He also made a point of thanking all members for their support through the year.

FINANCES

Fran summarised the financial position of the Friends Group and explained the principal items of income and expenditure.

PROJECTS

David summarised the projects for which the Friends had acquired funding and requested further suggestions for future projects.

NEXT YEAR'S CALENDAR

David explained that the intention for next year is to have a mix of types of events along the same lines as this year and spoke briefly about the following outline plan:

- Talk by Annie Garthwaite – historical novelist who lives in Shropshire
- A Ukrainian Evening, featuring a talk by Marcus Evans and his army interpreter
- Medieval music concert by Fleur de Lys
- Builth Ladies Choir
- Book launch – Hereford Castle and the Walled City
- H.Art in September
- AGM – October

Those present supported this mix of events, but David also requested those present to notify us of any ideas for future events.

TRUSTEES

As no new candidates for Trustees had put themselves forward, the present incumbents were re-elected for another year. That is:

- Bill Jackson – Chair
- Fran Rhodes – Treasurer
- David Swatton - Secretary

AOB / Q&A

- It was suggested that signage on the road should be improved to indicate the way to the church as well as the castle.
 - **Action: David** to contact the clerk of Wigmore Group Parish Council to get her view on how this can be changed.
- Fran queried whether the membership price was pitched at the right amount and if members received an adequate discount for events. It was generally agreed that it was about right or, if anything, should be increased. It was agreed that this should be reviewed next year in light of whether or not we were breaking even with the new season of events.
- Bill asked those present to consider the notion of a Patron for the charity and to contact us with suggestions for who might fulfil that role.
- There was a general discussion on how better to advertise events at the church but no specific additional methods of advertising were recommended.
- It was suggested that a charge should be made at events for refreshments. However to avoid the need for an event licence it was recommended that a “suggested donation” amount should be specified and it was agreed to look into this for future events.