



Friends of St. James' Church, Wigmore

Minutes of AGM: 20 Sep 2025

Present: Bill Jackson, Steve Pollacco, Fran Rhodes, David Swatton and 4 members of the Friends

Apologies: Joy & Brian Ardy

1. Review of the past year
 - a. Bill summarised the events and activities undertaken in the last year including the ticketed events hosted by the Friends and the projects undertaken in the churchyard.
2. Finances
 - a. Fran summarised the income and expenditure over the year
 - i. We have a healthy bank balance – approx. £4700
 - ii. The events made a small surplus over this season despite very varying numbers of attendees
 - iii. We received approx. £800 in donations over the year, had approx. £260 of sales of books, cards etc and received approx. £470 in membership fees.
 - b. We have cash in hand to continue with work in the churchyard which includes relaying the path between the two gates, repairing the bench and installing an additional bench at the rear of the church.
3. Church Closure Process
 - a. David summarised the status of the formal church closure process. Nothing has happened since June. At that point the Hereford Archdeanery Mission and Pastoral Committee agreed to proceed with closure. However, the second round of consultation to be managed by the Church Commissioners for England has not yet commenced.
4. The Year Ahead
 - a. Steve to set the scene regarding the year ahead and posed the question regarding whether or not the Friends should go ahead with planning for another year of events and activities. In light of the slow moving closure process, it was agreed that we should plan for at least another year.
 - b. Steve then captured suggestions for potential events which included:
 - Ludlow Male Voice Choir
 - Sea Shanty group
 - Early/Medieval/folk music
 - Historical lectures
 - Mortimer History Society to present on the Wigmore Castle project completion
 - Mortimers Cross Battle group talk
 - Gaza/Ukraine personal experiences - local and Bill's connections together with local Ukrainians
 - Wildlife/Nature based talks - Forestry England suggestion (may be in conjunction with PAWS?); Nick Davison wetland talk (Myanmar experience/Wigmore lake)
 - Book launches
 - Craft worker talks
 - Artist exhibitions and 'Antique Roadshow' type events.
 - a. It was suggested that for talks, combining two or three shorter talks on related subjects might work better than a single speaker, especially if the talk covers niche subjects.
5. Election of Trustees
 - a. Lesley Pollacco agreed to become a Trustee next year
 - b. In the immediate term, the current Trustees were re-elected