

Review of 2018

Richard, the new chairman, paid tribute to Jan Kendrick, his predecessor, who had made a notable contribution to the Friends.

The highlight of last year was the Friends' achievement in completing the task of raising £102,000 to pay for the restoration of the exterior of the South Porch. This achievement was due to the generosity of many people and organisations in the town and of those who have supported events.

The following fundraising events had been held. The first was the 3rd series of Lunchtime Concerts (which were started in 2016 by Ian Hollingsworth, to whom we owed a great debt for which Richard expressed our gratitude). In August a concert by a talented jazz quintet, The Strife of Riley, had had an enthusiastic reception from the audience; it was a free event with retiring collection. In October we held a Speaker Lunch; John Crowfoot spoke about Dorothy Hodgkin and other Crowfoots; the tickets were almost sold out. At the Christmas fair we offered home-made soup which attracted lots of people in a packed church and nearly sold out. Last year's card, painted and donated by Melanie Dodd, depicted an owl on the marshes looking towards the church. It was a sell-out – David Gregson who had produced the card had sold an enormous amount. He was on the Committee until last year but had had to step down due to other pressures. Richard expressed our thanks for David's contribution.

In March this year Simon Sparrow from Hipperson's Boatyard spoke to a capacity Speaker Lunch on 'A Life Afloat'. Richard had taken over the organisation of Lunchtime Concerts; average attendance at the time of the AGM was 74 and the performances were of high quality. The Friday coffee mornings continued to be a good fundraiser. They involved many people turning out to set up, bake cakes and serve them and coffee. They also provided food and refreshments at all the other Friends' events. We owed them a considerable debt of gratitude for turning out week after week.

Richard felt lucky to have such a good team of people to work with. Patrick was indispensable: an excellent Vice-Chairman and, if anything needed doing, he did it. Faith was a highly efficient secretary and Rachel a meticulous treasurer. Gill Parker organised coffee mornings. Jan Oakley and Gillian Robinson provided valuable contributions. Rich, the Rector, had been a consistently reliable help, and Richard thanked Rich and the PCC for their support. Richard thanked all of our Friends who come to activities and pay subscriptions. Much of our income came from donors and sponsors (some of whom were not Friends). One source of income was Peter Langford's cycle-ride from Land's End to John O'Groats which, by a man of his age, was quite outstanding.

Future plans will be focussed on fund-raising aimed at conservation work on the interior of the South Porch estimated at about £40,000.

The Committee's plans to the end of October are as follows. There will, of course, be coffee mornings every Friday. There are three more Lunchtime Concerts: David Bunkell organ recital on 26th July; Lowestoft Longshoreman on 2nd August; Matt Smith, baritone, and Richard Jones, piano, on 9th August. All would start at 12.30, and last about 45 minutes with

light lunches available; free admission with a retiring collection. Richard had taken over producing the Friends' Christmas card from David Gregson. This year's card features a picture by John Patchett which John has donated to us; John would be selling our cards at his exhibition at the Forum in Norwich. An anonymous donor has paid for the printing. The cards will go on sale in Beccles in good time. Two other events: on Sunday 22nd September the Auriga Capella Chamber Choir will perform at 4pm - free admission with retiring collection; tea and cakes available in the interval; a Speaker Lunch on Wednesday 30th October: John Campbell 'Never in the Headlines'.

Richard expressed concerns about the future of the Friends in the medium term; this year's elections had been carried out without voting because no-one approached was willing even to join as committee member. Too many people say 'committees aren't for me' though willing to help in practical ways. He urged those present to encourage Friends to join the Committee.

The Friends of St Michael's Church Beccles
 Charity No. 1015699
 Receipts and Payments Accounts
 for year ending 31 December 2018

ACCTS 2017		ACCTS 2018	
RECEIPTS	£	RECEIPTS	£
Membership*	640.00	Membership*	660.00
Ticketed lunches	1,190.00	Ticketed lunches	396.00
Coffee mornings/Musical Bites lunches (gross)	5,503.10	Coffee mornings/Musical Bites lunches (gross)	5,952.64
Other event refreshments (gross)	487.50	Other event refreshments (gross)	472.91
Total donations (events, individual, business)**	10,314.12	Total donations (events, individual, business)**	28,672.40
Cards	1,697.00	Cards	1,656.50
Miscellaneous sales	147.00	Miscellaneous sales	0.00
Gift-Aid rebate (membership, donations, GASDS)	1,658.25	Gift-Aid rebate (membership, donations, GASDS)	1,427.11
Interest	92.01	Interest	152.28
TOTAL	21,728.98	TOTAL	39,389.84
PAYMENTS	£	PAYMENTS	£
Insurance	313.48	Insurance	319.20
Events	45.00	Events	185.00
Coffee etc requisites (resources used)	207.08	Coffee etc requisites (resources used)	762.05
Suffolk Historic Churches Trust membership	25.00	Suffolk Historic Churches Trust membership	25.00
Miscellaneous	55.31	Miscellaneous	0.00
St Michael's - heating undercroft Fridays	50.00	St Michael's - heating undercroft Fridays	50.00
Cards (print cost paid directly by donor)	9.19	Cards	607.80
705.06		1,949.05	
St Michael's - organ fund	500.00		
South Porch restoration work	522.49	South Porch restoration work	71,018.29
TOTAL	1,727.55	TOTAL	72,967.34
Net income	20,001.43	Net income	-33,577.50
* £590 gift aided		* £605 gift-aided	
** £5372.11 gift-aided		** £4011.05 gift-aided	

Cash and Bank Balances 31 December

2017		2018	
The BGF C of E Deposit Fund	43,944.81	The BGF C of E Deposit Fund	11,647.59
HSBC	4,675.33	HSBC	3,395.05
	<u>48,620.14</u>		<u>15,042.64</u>

I certify these figures to be a true and correct copy of information supplied to me.

signed

R. J. B. M.

date

15.7.19

Roger Bennett

79 Darby Road

Beccles

NR34 9XH

29.10.2019

Friends of St. Michael's Annual Accounts 2018

Dear Rachel,

Further to your letter of 25.10.2019 I can confirm that you requested me to examine the accounts that you had prepared as Treasurer for the 2018 calendar year, and you provided me with the following: FOSM's HSBC cheque books, paying in books and bank statements covering 2018.

Also, CCLA CBF Church of England Deposit Fund books covering transfers and withdrawals and notifications and statements from the bank in 2018.


You also provided spreadsheets for 2018 of banking sources of gross receipts paid in and cash payments made (ledger), and recipients paid out by cheque; and Peter Langford's sponsored bike ride.

Also documentary evidence of spreadsheets, including physical ledger for 2018.

I accepted the appointment to examine the 2018 accounts and after examination signed the annual statement on 15 July 2019, and that the accounts are a true and correct copy of information supplied to me.

I am not involved with the Friends of St. Michael's apart from being the independent examiner of the accounts, nor am I closely related to any of the Trustees (the committee members)

Yours



Roger Bennett