



Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Friends of St Mary Magdalene held on Wednesday, 24th April 2013 at 1800hrs at the Church and then on board M V Southern Comfort

Present – Jan Bowman, Peter Bowman, Bill Dax, Jill Dax, Revd Lucy Holt, Phil Sherwin, Peter Smith, Stephen Smith, Jean Tyler, Christopher Tyrer, Liz Wiggett, Roger Wiggett.

1. Apologies - Louise Whaley, Robbie Gibbs, Ivor Lloyd, Justin Nolan

2. Introduction Bill Dax welcomed those present to what was the inaugural meeting of the Friends of St Mary Magdalene. He invited those present to express their motivation for expressing an interest at this initial stage.

A number of views were expressed which centred on three factors –

- Delight that a well loved feature of Dorney & Boveney had been restored
- A determination that the restored building should be a living resource for those who would benefit by its use
- A desire that such activities and any income thus derived be within appropriate boundaries

3. The Proposed Constitution Bill Dax urged that the title of the group be the 'Friends of St Mary Magdalene' because that was precisely what we were. This title was accepted by the group.

He referred the group to the Draft Constitution which had been circulated prior to this meeting. After discussion, this Constitution was adopted.

In line with the Constitution, the group appointed a Chairman. Bill Dax was proposed by Peter Bowman and seconded by Peter Smith. Bill Dax was duly appointed Chairman.

In line with the Constitution, the group appointed a Secretary. Peter Bowman was proposed by Bill Dax and seconded by Jean Tyler. Peter Bowman was duly appointed Secretary.

4. Financial It was agreed that a Friends bank account was required. A number of options were discussed. The Secretary would investigate a Co-Op Community Direct Plus account.

The Chairman outlined a number of cash amounts which had accumulated from collections at the venue and other sources.

5. St Mary Magdalene as a venue

The Chairman referred the meeting to the document published by the Friends of Friendless Churches – 'Procedures for Use of our Churches'. This 'rule book' underpinned everything that was possible from both a religious and a secular point of view.

Revd Lucy Holt outlined the possibilities for religious services. The use of establishments which were under the remit of the FFC was governed by the practices of the Church of England and, in relation to weddings, civil law as well.

Revd Holt said that St Mary Magdalene's had been in use three times in the last 12 months, including Easter Sunday. Within guidelines, the Church could be used for regular services, baptisms, blessings of civil marriages and funerals.

The Chairman said that much secular usage would be possible. This could include artistic events – concerts, exhibitions and literary gatherings. He would be contacting Martin Denny about Windsor Festival events from 2014. He said that a 'riverside picnic' centred on the church was planned for early June.

It was pointed out that any such event was subject to the lack of facilities available. There would be no light, heating or toilet facilities.

Peter Bowman asked whether our organisation would act as a 'booking agency' for such events. Bill Dax thought this was an option.

Phil Sherwin (the keeper of Boveney Lock) pointed out that the Environment Agency insisted on the availability of mooring on these banks for boat users. The Chairman would clarify this situation.

Phil Sherwin would report to the Chairman on the number and distribution by date of requests at the Lock by members of the public for the key to the church.

Bill Dax said that he had been drafting a brochure for visitors to the church. This could be a means by which information on visitors was collected. Members of the group said that Eton Wick historian, Frank Bond, might be a source of material for such a publication.

Members asked for clarification on issues like volunteering for open days and cleaning rotas.

Bill Dax proposed that a fee of £250 per day would be appropriate for social usage of the church and its surrounds, dependent on the purpose of the event.

6. Membership Fee

Bill Dax proposed that membership of the Friends of St Mary Magdalene would be subject to a £10 annual subscription. There was no dissent from this, but the methods of payment to be used and the rewards of membership would be matters for later discussion.

7. Future Meetings

Bill Dax proposed that there would be at least two meetings of the group in each calendar year – an AGM held around the date of this inaugural meeting and on the Sunday nearest to the feast day of the Saint (July 22). Sunday July 21 2013 could be an open day for the church.