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The Friends of St. Edmund's Church



Newsletter September 2021

Dear Member,

After yet another different and difficult year, I trust we find you well and enjoying our new freedoms.

Understandably, there has not been much activity in relation to the Friends of St. Edmund's (FOSE) to report. The Vestry Door project is still ongoing and the Parochial Church Council are trying to fix a completion date by the end of the year.

The quiet period we have experienced has given your committee time to reflect on the future of the FOSE. I have at previous Annual General Meetings reported on the need for new committee members, but in the main, to no avail.

Your current committee consists of:

Brian Alltree
Averil Brown – Treasurer
Anna Platt – Secretary
David Thompson
and myself – Chairman.

We were pleased that the Rev Edward Land agreed to be President of FOSE, which is an honorary office, and a non-voting member of the committee.

Brian and I were founder members of the FOSE in 1990, with Averil joining shortly afterwards and have been on the committee continuously. I have had the pleasure of Chairing the committee on several occasions over the years and feel it is not healthy for Officers to remain in post for extended periods. There is a need for new members to come forward to fill the committee vacancies and allow those who hold office to stand down if they wish to do so.

At our committee meeting on the 11th September 2021 *The Future of the Friends of St Edmund's* was fully discussed. Members felt that since its inception the purpose of FOSE had largely been fulfilled:

- it has been most effective (and most enthusiastically supported) when there was a project of scale to inspire interest
- the primary example being the provision of a kitchen and toilet
- it has enabled the roof to be repaired
- the introduction of a 'Time Line' and 'Historic Trail' for the Church and community
- the Chancel to be redecorated and damp proofed
- the installation of new heating and lighting
- the redecoration of the Church
- the repair of the bells.
- the current Vestry door project would partially complete the work needed in that area of the Church and leave funds for a final donation for a project to improve the Vestry if the Parochial Church Council so wished.

With this in mind and after much discussion:

The Chair then proposed, that there is a proposal for dissolution of FOSE at the next AGM in January 2022. That proposed dissolution would come into effect when there is an approved design and accepted tender by the PCC for the refurbishment of the Vestry.

In unanimously agreeing the proposal, the committee accepted there was a shared view the Friends of St. Edmund's had had a value beyond the contribution and enthusiasm, support and funding as it had attracted and engaged members from a wider Church family.

The President also noted his appreciation of the role played by FOSE over the years and hoped to see the Church continue to foster some of the successful activities for reasons of community, culture and outreach.

Having been involved in the FOSE for so many years, I am sorry to be the bearer of this news, but I think it is right to face up to reality and ensure an orderly dissolution than it to happen by default. Without a significant increase in members wishing to serve on the committee and take FOSE forward with enthusiasm and dedication, I think we must face the inevitable.

The final decision will of course rest with those attending the Annual General Meeting. If at the AGM the resolution is passed to dissolve FOSE your committee resolved to endeavour to hold a final celebratory concert – Covid restrictions permitting – in the Summer of 2022.

Current committee members are keen to see the Vestry refurbished and that is why the resolution covers there being a scheme in place which could cover the final amount in the FOSE accounts being donated to the PCC. Any monies left over would be donated to Costessey Parochial Church Council and placed in a Restricted Fund for St Edmund's Church.

This is the time of year when we normally ask for the annual subscription to FOSE to be paid. Under the circumstances your committee has agreed to waive members subscription for the year 2021/2022.

Yours sincerely,



Denis Collen
Chairman

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