

2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes

The Friends of St Candida

Friday, 14th JUNE 2024, 5:15pm
at The Five Bells Inn, Whitchurch Canonorum

1. Welcome

In attendance were the following:

Briony Blair, Nigel & Liz Carter, Sylvia Creed-Castle, Olivia Daly, Helen Davis, Anne & Eddie Howson, Sam Milburn, Neil Molyneux, Don & Judith Newman, Carolyn Peck, Marion & Adrian Roberts, Betsy West, Alan & Ros Woodbridge, Nick Ziebland

Apologies were read by Betsy West as follows:

John & Jeanette Broadhurst, Sue Johnson, Adam & Chris Peat, Tilly Stobart, Wendy Syer, Barry & Yvonne Welch, Michael West

Nick Ziebland, Chair, welcomed the gathering.

2. 2023 AGM Minutes Approval

Betsy West, Secretary, submitted the minutes from the 2023 AGM for approval. No changes were required and the members voted to accept the minutes as a record of last year's proceedings. Nick signed the hard copy.

3. Election of Officers & Trustees (Nick)

Nick is stepping down as Chair and Olivia will be stepping up in addition to continuing her role with Communications and Local Publicity. Betsy plans to stay on in her role as Secretary to support Olivia but is hoping to find a replacement by the end of the year. Other officers will continue as follows:

Olivia Daly, new Chair, Communications & Local Publicity

Betsy West, Interim Secretary until 31-12-24

John Broadhurst, Honorary Treasurer

Neil Molyneux, Trustee & Membership Secretary

Briony Blair, Trustee & CommuniTea Café

Sue Johnson, Trustee & PCC Member/Liaison

Marion Roberts, Trustee & CommuniTea Café

Member proposing election of Officers & Trustees: Sam Milburn

Member seconding election of Officers & Trustees: Ros Woodbridge

4. Membership Report

Neil Molyneux, Membership Secretary, reported that we currently have 89 life members and 24 annual members. Neil also reported about his efforts to secure listings on both the Visit Britain and Visit England/Dorset websites and to research

the requirements for obtaining a brown tourist sign for the church. He is spreading the FoSC brochures about and encouraging others to do so. He thinks the church should have an updated branded brochure and has had a conversation with Ginny (Team Vicar) about this.

Nick noted that it is great to have the commitment of life members but this provides no ongoing income. Betsy mentioned that if FoSC is performing its role of community involvement with the church and promoting cohesion then funding will follow as needs arise. Olivia asked how many annual members had standing orders. Neil said it was five. The gathering agreed that encouraging members to sign up for standing orders to renew their memberships should be a priority.

5. Money Matters

- Treasurer's Report (provided by John Broadhurst) Attached as Appendix A

Nick formally thanked John Broadhurst for his report and the years of service as Treasurer. John is willing to continue to serve but hopes that a new Treasurer can be found in the coming year. Nick noted that our financial position is static and that the key to changing that will be running successful events.

- Budget Allocation for likely grant requests in 2024

FoSC has approximately £4,000 available for providing grants in the coming year.

Marion Roberts reported that the CommuniTea Café had a surplus of £267.52 last year.

Nick reviewed the list of events that FoSC has put on over the years and items funded. **Attached as Appendix B**

6. FOOSC Activities Report

2023/24 Activities reported by Betsy

CommuniTea Café

First Sunday of the Month from June - October 2023

Relaunch and rebranding of the Free eXchange café which faltered during COVID. The concept of bringing a Café back into the church for the village community was taken up by the Friends in 2023 to great success. We've been able to make use of the new kitchen facilities and invite people to use our very special and historic church building, using it as a hub for informal gathering which strengthens and builds community connections and friendships.

Monthly meetings between June and October were well attended. Surplus from donations minus costs totalled £267.52

Alice Dilke Memorial Concert with Maria Razumovskaya, Piano, 30 July 2023

The annual FoSC summer concert was introduced in 2017 in memory of Alice Dilke (1919–2016), who lived in Whitchurch Canonorum with her husband Christopher for nearly 50 years. She was a founder member of the Friends.

Whitchurch Flower Show 28 August 2023

Olivia Daly and Neil Molyneux organised and operated a Friends of St Candida Stand to raise awareness and generate interest and Funds for the Friends. They distributed the new Friends brochure, provided posters and information about FoSC and sold books and CDs.

Cantamus Concert 16 March 2024

The choir gave a musically excellent concert with an a cappella style well suited to the acoustics of the building of St Candida and Holy Cross. However, attendance was disappointing especially given the work that went into promoting the event and the fact that Cantamus' past performances have been so well received with healthy numbers in the audience. There were other events and poor weather leading up to the concert which may have distracted people from coming.

Use of Friends List to promote other local events most with some connection to St Candida and Holy Cross such as: Whitchurch PCC Tea to launch the new kitchenette in April 2023, Festive services and concerts such as the Brass Band Concert and Carols by Candlelight in December 2023 and Choral Evensongs, the Church's Donation Appeal for the Seaside Store, the annual Ride and Stride for Dorset Historic Churches Trust, The Whitchurch Morcombelake and Ryall Flower Show.

Special thanks to Olivia Daly for all the local publicity she organises including networking with press and social media, writing the copy, checking the facts and creating attractive email notices which she sends out regularly on behalf of the Friends.

2024 Further Activities Preview:

CommuniTea Café will continue on the first Sunday of the month through October.

A talk by Eric Smiley Friday 12th July at 7pm
Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall

As we look forward to the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, local Olympian Eric Smiley presents a fascinating 'behind the scenes' look at what goes on at the games.

Ryall resident Eric is a renowned equestrian coach, having enjoyed a career in Eventing at international level. He took part in the Olympic Games in Barcelona (1992) and Atlanta (1996).

This event is free with a collection in aid of FoSC. The hall bar will be open.

This year's Alice Dilke Memorial Concert will be on Sunday 28th July at 3pm, when professional pianist Alexander Soares will play for us in St Candida & Holy Cross.

Whitchurch Flower Show Bank Holiday Monday, 26 August 2023

Olivia and Neil are reprising their roles organising a Friends Stall selling books and CDs, and spreading the word about the Friends of St Candida. Olivia asked for donations of books and CDs to sell for the stall.

7. Any Other Business

Ros, representing herself, Sue and the Whitchurch PCC, expressed thanks to the Friends for their support and role in funding the new kitchen and mentioned what a pleasure it is to use and how much easier it makes hosting events with refreshments. Ros thanked the CommuniTea Café organisers, Marion and Briony, for their diligence with the monthly café.

Nick thanked Betsy for her work as Secretary.

8. Date of next AGM

Nick mentioned that we hope to hold our next AGM in June of 2025.

9. Close of Meeting

The meeting was called to a close.

APPENDIX A – ACCOUNTS REPORT

The Friends of St Candida Accounts for 2023

Receipts	2023	Expenses	2023
	£		£
Subscriptions	560.00	Web hosting	114.81
HMRC Gift Aid refund	147.35	Benches – Church path	520.00
Memorial Concert	995.13	Memorial Concert	821.40
Donations	225.00	Church Porch door mat	57.58
Flower Show book stall	113.36	Card reader	22.80
		Gopak Contour Table	153.52
		Friends' Leaflets	103.90
		New shelf for leaflets etc.	744.00
		Carol Service mulled wine	35.60
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	£ 2040.84		£ 2573.61
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Excess of Expenses over Receipts £532.77

Money in the Bank 01.01.2023 £7604.55 less Excess Expenses £532.77

Money in the bank 01.01.2024 £7071.78

Notes

1. The subscriptions covered one new life member and 24 who renewed their annual membership. These annual members help to sustain our income especially when Gift Aid is added. A further £140 is due from HMRC when last year's claim is submitted.
2. We now have our own card reader which makes it much easier to take money for concerts etc. as so many people do not carry cash. We pay 1.75p in the pound for that convenience. It can also be used for membership renewals and payments from new members.
3. Figures for the Alice Dilke Memorial Concerts are kept separately and after this year's concert the balance in hand was £665.23.

Friends of St Candida - Summary of Annual Accounts

Year	Excess of income over Expenditure	Money in Bank
2014	£2102.90	£7094.68
2015	£1435.77	£8533.45
2016	- £145.36	£8388.09
2017	£2698.08	£11086.17
2018	£2652.34	£13738.51
2019	£3299.98	£17038.49
2020	£183.56	£17222.05
2021	-£345.33	£16876.72
2022	-£9272.17	£7604.55
2023	-£532.77	£7071.78

APPENDIX B

The Friends of St Candida.

Since the Friends of St Candida were started by Mr & Mrs Bain and Mr & Mrs West in 2011 £14270 has been raised from subscriptions and £4138.44 has been received in donations. Most of this money was also Gift Aided which meant that a further £2618.97 has been claimed from HMRC for Gift Aid. Together with the events below it enabled the Friends to contribute much to enhance our church.

Social and Money Raising Events:-

29.08.2011	Opening talk by Lord Hall	100.00
29.08.2011	Book signing by Dick Mayhew Smith	150.00
31.10.2011	Concert – John & Cynthia's students	240.00
09.10.2012	Trip to Highgrove	389.50
22.02.2013	Beetle Drive	250.00
02.04.2013	Royal Opera House	20.00
22 04 2013	Concert – John & Cynthia's students	386.00
13.05.2013	Race Evening	279.55
09.12.2013	Bowjangles Concert	204.00
13.02.2014	Wootton Fitzpaine Event	200.00
15.02.2014	River Exe Boat trip	46.00
16.04.2014	Taunton Races	41.57
29.07.2014	Revelhay Cream Teas	354.00
05.09.2014	Cothay Manor	47.00
24.11.2014	Antiques - Valuations	52.23
15.12.2014	Mummers	562.50
19.04.2015	Taunton Races	113.55
27.07.2015	Cantamus Concert	285.32
13.08.2015	Disco Raffle	78.00

29.09.2015	Visiting Ringers Teas	48.43
12.12.2015	Mummers	410.64
01.04.2016	Hermitage Concert	485.04
18.04.2016	Taunton Races	176.60
24.04.2017	Taunton Races	337.50
27.07.2017	John Coley's Open Garden	400.00
30.11.2017	Auction of Promises	1433.50
05.02.2018	Bowjangles	112.57
24.03.2018	Cantamus Concert	89.76
23.04.2018	Taunton Races	384.20
28.11.2018	Barn Dance	404.71
17.07.2018	Garden Party	108.10
04.11.2018	Quiz Evening	52.00
12.04.2019	Cantamus Concert	184.64
29.04.2019	Taunton Races	226.50
22.07.2019	Open Gardens	898.05
19.10.2019	Quiz Evening	132.00
18.11.2019	Barn Dance	126.30
02.08.2021	Open Allotments	321.50
10.12.2022	Cantamus Concert	138.67
29.10.2022	Donation from Whitchurch Flower Show	200.00
29.08.2023	Flower Show book stall	113.36
		<hr/>
		£10683.29
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Not included in this list are either the original amount of £865 donated at Mrs Alice Dilke's Memorial Service or the amounts for the subsequent concerts held annually in her memory. To date there is £665.23 remaining in the account earmarked for future concerts.

There was also a trip to the BBC organised for us by Lord Hall when he was Chairman, for which everyone made their own way to London independently.

Items purchased or improvements paid for by the Friends:-

01.09.2012	Fitted new water heater	424.50
02.10.2012	Cathedral of the Vale leaflets	200.00
03.07.2013	Removal of Pews	1869.00
24.10.2013	New bell ropes	1289.88
16.12.2014	Lanterns for church path	185.40
09.06.2015	Carpet	83.95
02.07.2015	Church gates	1600.00
09.05.2016	New cupboards for tower & vestry	1349.50
29.06.2016	Cathedral of the Vale leaflets	166.00
10.05.2017	Future Media – Sound system	749.78
07.10.2017	Folders for newcomers to village	176.40
02.03.2018	Music Version Hymn Books	270.00
17.07.2018	Greetings Card Packs	197.20
26.09.2018	Postcards	48.00
12.10.2018	Postcard Stand	46.72
02.12.2018	Candle Holders	300.00
13.12.2018	Lanterns & batteries	42.96
14.02.2020	Church Noticeboard	222.00
24.03.2020	Cards for the public to use at the shrine	66.00
24.07.2020	Books for children's corner	18.98
01.04.2021	Dyson Vacuum Cleaner	649.99
01.04.2021	Church Noticeboard.	233.63
17.12.2021	Greetings Cards	289.20
06.01.2022	Biodegradable bags for Greeting Cars	10.49
24.08.2022	Donation towards new kitchen	10000.00
22.05.2023	Benches for church path	520.00
03.06.2023	Church porch door mat	57.58
04.07.2023	Card reader	22.80
17.08.2023	Gopak Contour Table	153.52

29.08.2023	Friends' Leaflets	103.90
04.12.2023	New shelf for leaflets etc by South door	744.00
06.04.2024	Tables for kitchen area	784.31
01.05.2024	Contactless terminal	381.44

£23257.13

The Friends have also provided mulled wine at each Carol Service and paid for the web hosting for the website.