

Chair's report

As the Chair I continue to reflect on the privilege of having in our community a historic and ancient building which is also the focal point of our community. With this privilege however comes the responsibility to continue to bring to the community's awareness the need to maintain it. This can be costly but the reward we get as a community by maintaining and preserving this wonderful building far out way the costs. As you are aware we raise money to meet these costs by our membership and by holding community events. Looking back to 2019 we raised money by:

- Increasing our membership
- Open gardens
- A Musical evening – held in the church
- The Winter Glitz evening, held in the Parish Rooms

How did we do?

From January –December 2019 the total sum raised via membership and events was £9767.66 bringing the overall total of cash to £48,309.06, of which funds are committed towards on-going projects, such as the church heating.

During 2019 we made grants to the Church totalling £19,262.78. The grants were for the cost of the following:

- pew cushions
- clock and striker
- installation of PIR switches for lights to the west door and in the chancel.

Like other fund raising charities the plans we had in place for fundraising have had to be put on hold until we can be assured that events can be held safely. We thank our members for continuing to support us at this time.

The Committee, being quorate, agreed not to hold its AGM this year on the understanding that the Charity Commission would find this acceptable as long as our accounts have been completed, approved and signed off. This has been completed by the Auditors.

Our funds from January 20 – December 20 were raised by membership subscription, and donations. The report on finance activity has been set out in appendix 1

The Committee was asked if any intended to stand down at the next AGM (2021). With the exception of Jax Price all confirmed that they would continue as a committee member. We welcomed Steven Sherwood as a new committee member who commenced in August 2019 and but was unable to be formally voted on to the committee in 2020. This year we also welcomed both Mary Yearley and Joan Angelides to our committee. Julia and Johnny have agreed to stay on an extra year and then to stand down as Honorary officers (secretary and treasurer) at the next AGM (2022).

Fabric: This has been set out in appendix 2

Looking forward:

Looking forward we are now discussing holding events again with Jazz at the barn confirmed for Sunday 12th September and the Winter Glitz evening confirmed for the 10th December. We hope to see you there.

We also have one event already held as we ran an online Quiz which was attended by many via Zoom. Our thanks go to Mr Jason Shirley for being an excellent and extremely patient quiz master

Overall:

As chair I am very pleased and proud of our achievements, which of course would not have been successful without your help and support.

Thanks to the following:

- To the Committee past and present:
- Those who have worked so hard this year: In particular I want to thank Jax Price who is standing down from the committee this year. Jax in her own words said how much she had enjoyed being on the committee and we certainly valued her input and will miss her.
- I would also like to thank the committee who all contribute in different ways: whether it be coming up with fundraising ideas, promoting the events in every way possible including the use of the website, Facebook, email, flyers; hands-on on the day setting up, preparing the food, selling tickets, manning the bar, the car park, etc. We all have our roles: good teamwork is required and it works because it is fun and we achieve.
- To our Honorary Officers Julia Moore Kelly our Secretary and Johnny Billson our Treasurer who have just completed their fourth year, but because of the uncertainty have agreed to stay on another year.
- To this year's sponsors. We could not have run these events without support from the owners of the gardens, the cake makers, the many musical acts and member of our community who supported and freely gave of their time. To Hadlows, AH Freemantle, Daisy B's, who so generously help us with ticket sales and in many other ways. So thank you to all of you. If we had to pay the going rate for what you give we would not be able to raise the money we have raised.
- To you our members for coming along to the events with your friends and family.
We look forward to our continued relationship with you and with St Peter's so that together we can continue the work originally conceived by the Rev'd Bill Day and the late Brain Anderson who along with others thankfully saw the need to engage our community in helping to protect and preserve the building.

Status of Officers:

Pat Shirley-Chair

Julia Moore-Kelly - Secretary

Johnny Billson – Treasurer

Lindsey Bailey

Jim Bartlett

Martin Young

Amanda Chamberlain

Claire Bennett

New committee members:

Steven Sherwood – 2020

Mary Yearley – 2021

Joan Angelides – 2021

Prepared by:

Pat Shirley

FoSP Chair

June 2021

Treasurer's Report

Last year was odd because of COVID and of course you all know how much that restricted everything. However, it was not too bad for FOSP. On a normal year we would have made a profit but in 2020 it looks like we have made a loss of £1,833 owing to a late payment to the church which had been budgeted for the previous year.

Looking at the Income –

Subs were £1,933 which was £360 below the previous year. I'm afraid that because of the demographics of FOSP's membership, we lose some members every year, and they are not being replaced. So, please encourage new people you meet or who move in next door to you to join. HMRC added a further £535 in Gift Aid.

Events are normally our biggest income but of course there was nothing last year. The £50 was some money paid in late from the Musical Evening in 2019.

We had 2 generous cheques from people who had used St Peter's which came to £130.

FOSP has a lot of money on deposit which produced an income of about £23 per month. However, the Bank dropped the interest rate it paid in September and we now get about 37p per month. Your committee has looked at some alternative investments, but concluded that, although there were some investments that would be suitable and safe, we would need to have the money committed to the investment for at least 5 years. The committee thought that would restrict our flexibility to act and so we are not going forward with any changes.

On the side of costs –

We spent £352 on Admin, which was made up of £260 for insurance, £74 for web hosting and £18 to the British Legion.

Appendix 2:

Fabric Report

As you can imagine not a lot of work has taken place on the Churches fabric in the last year. However there are a few issues that need to be addressed.

The first is the external face of the South wall of the chancel is in need of attention. 40-50yrs ago repointing of this wall was carried out using gypsum based cement instead of using lime mortar that has been used for the rest of the Church. Unfortunately this more modern mortar does not let moisture flow through it and is causing damage to the stone work. The Church had agreed to carry out the work but the pandemic put a stop to it. So approval will be sought to carry out the work again and a plan put in place to complete the work in the next two years.

Second is the heating project, again this has been delayed by the pandemic. The Churches finances are also been dented by the closure of the Church, so the PCC will have to decide what they must do to improve the heating and when. The work can be done in two phases so the boiler replacement may be done sooner than the proposed underfloor heating. No decisions have been made yet.

Lastly the opening up of the crypt under the Southampton Chapel is planned for later this year. As well as giving a real glimpse into the history of the Church it will also enable the Church to see whether the damp in the Southampton is caused by the crypt and what can be done to improve matters.