

Friends of St. Nicholas  
 Extraordinary General Meeting  
 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in St. Nicholas' Church, Stretton

**Present:** John Leefe (JL) Chairman, Liz Foster (EF) Treasurer, Peter Ransome-Jones (PRJ) Secretary, Jonathon Pattison (JP) Churchwarden, Rona Menzies, Emma Chan, Jill Lessey (JLy), Richard Foster (RF), Helen and Johnny Hall, Judy and Tony Tullett, Gill and Greg Harker (GH), Andrew Hayns (AH), Penny Isaacs (PI), Jill Lessey (JLy).

**Apologies:** Janet Bianchi, Molly Hayns, Rev. Anthony Oram, Anne Adamson.

<b>Treasurer</b>	LF handed out up-to-date statement of FOSN's bank account.	
<b>Chairman</b>	<p>Thanked all for coming.</p> <p>Particular thanks to Jill Lessey for arranging the Historical Walk around the village, which raised £140.</p> <p>Chairman handed over to Greg Harker (who is a member of the Church Reordering Committee) for a presentation on progress of the Reordering of the Church (GH's presentation will be found on the Village Website in it's entirety, but some salient points of are noted below).</p>	
<b>Greg Harker</b>	<p>- During the Reordering, estimates, quotations and orders will be the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council, NOT the Friends of St. Nicholas. FOSN will be approached like any other source of funds to see if any financial help is available.</p> <p>- The last time the Church building had a thorough refurbishment was in 1881; the pews in the nave and the screen in front of the organ both date from this time.</p> <p>- GH has been applying to charitable institutions for grants to aid with the Reordering. Applications have necessitated a steep learning curve, due to different criteria required by each potential grant provider.</p> <p>GH used Barrowden Church as an example of what can be achieved by a motivated village, while suggesting that some of Barrowden's alterations would be beyond the means of Stretton.</p> <p>- One of the issues to be considered with our Church is the flooring in the nave and the seating: currently the plan is to remove all the pews and the platform on which they stand, which is in poor condition in several places. New seating would have to be provided. Church authorities would like to see oak chairs bought to replace the pews, rather than plastic stacking chairs, to maintain a certain standard in the nature of the church furniture.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Continued.....</p>	

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<b>2.</b>	<p>...cont'd.</p> <p>However, the recommended design of oak chair costs approx. £300 per chair.</p> <p>Members of FOSN asked why oak was deemed necessary, and whether the PCC would be buying these chairs if they wanted them; the reply was that the PCC do not have sufficient funds. Some members felt that supply of funds for such chairs does not come within the remit of FOSN.</p> <p>As Churchwarden, JP confirmed that the PCC could only ever ask FOSN for funding, in the same way that it would ask any other grant-giving organisation: whether or not FOSN supplied funding would, as ever, depend on the decision of the FOSN membership.</p> <p>- GH spoke about the Quinquennial Review of the condition of the building, which was conducted in March: the roof over both transepts has been found to be in need of repair. An initial estimate of £35,000 has been received for completion of this work; GH said that the Committee feels that this is excessive and will be looking for other quotations.</p> <p>GH has applied for a grant from Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust (RHCPT); they have agreed to provide £10,000 towards the cost of the roof repairs, if a similar amount can be sourced by the Reordering Committee.</p> <p>RF proposed a vote on whether FOSN members present agreed to match the £10,000 offered by RHCPT. This was seconded by JLy.</p> <p>The members were unanimously in favour of providing £10,000, to match the sum offered by RHCPT, in order to fund the roof repairs.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked GH for a very interesting and informative presentation.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 19.45 hrs.</p>	
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