**THE FRIENDS OF ST. GODWASLD**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**TUESDAY 12TH MARCH 2024 – 7.30PM**

**RUTH HEALD ROOM AT ST. GODWALD’S CHURCH HALL.**

**Present**: Mr Norman Hewer (NH), Revd. David Ford (DF), Mrs Margaret Eurell-Dixon (ME-D),

Mrs Janet Hewer (JH) and Mrs Caroline Spencer (CS).

1. **OPENING PRAYER –** The Revd. David Ford opened the Executive Meeting of The Friends with a prayer.
2. **APOLOGIES RECEIVED -**  There were no apologies received.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON 17TH JANUARY 2024 –** The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2024 were proposed as a correct record of the meeting by Mrs Margaret Eurell-Dixon, seconded by the Revd. David Ford and approved. The Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman (NH).
4. **MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**(5) Membership Campaign – Material –** The Chairman (NH) referred to the short potted history leaflet on The Society of the Friends of St. Godwald which had been circulated both at the Summer Fete last year and with copies left at the back of the Church. Discussion ensued on the content and re-wording of a new leaflet about the aim and work of The Society of the Friends of St. Godwald to be circulated to the Membership of The Friends, Church Members and at Baptism and Wedding Services. **The Chairman (NH) agreed to re-draft a new leaflet which would include detailing the work done by The Friends of St. Godwald and to submit to the Executive Committee at their next meeting for approval.**

The Friends of St. Godwald Banner was now situ at Church ready for display at forthcoming Church/Friends of St. Godwald events. It was agreed by Members that it was an attractive eye-catching Banner.

Different forms of communication to further publicise The Friends of St. Godwald were discussed by Executive Members. What’s App Group, but it was agreed that we pursue further in publicising The Friends of St. Godwald on the Church Website. **Chairman (NH) to liaise with the Revd. David Ford and Kerstin MacDonald.**

**Update on appointment of an Archivist –** (CS) reported that she had not been able to find out the contact details for Pat Tansell but would pursue another possible lead of someone who had worked at Bromsgrove Library for many years and whom may have her contact details. **(CS to enquire).**

**(6) Patronal Service 2024 –** Referring to the last meeting of the Executive Committee and the suggested date of Sunday 2nd June for the 2024 Patronal Service, the Chairman (NH) stated that due to a change of date for the Bromsgrove Joint Parish Service for the leaving of the Revd. Paula Honniball, this date was now not possible and suggested to Members that we look to holding the Patronal Service on **Sunday 16th June – 10.30am**. Discussion was held on the Patronal Service and it was agreed that this be a Morning Prayer Service and that an **invite be sent by the Secretary (CS) to Members of The Friends and local dignitaries to attend. Preacher for the Patronal Service to be agreed (NH).**

1. **UPDATED TREASURER’S REPORT -** It was reported by Mrs Margaret Eurell-Dixon (ME-D) that one or two late Membership subscriptions had been received since the last meeting but there had not been a huge difference in the total income from the Receipts and Payments sheet which had been circulated to Executive Committee Members at the last meeting. Thanks were expressed to both Mrs Margaret Eurell-Dixon and Mrs Sharon Charles for their work in looking after the financial affairs of The Friends. **The Secretary (CS) to email latest list of paid Membership to (ME-D) which also highlights Members still due to pay for their 2024 subscription to The Friends.**

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1. **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE –** Reported that paid-up Membership numbers totalled 48 with 9 subscriptions still overdue for the current year. Subscriptions received from the Churchyard for maintenance and upkeep of the grounds was very good.
2. **REQUEST FOR FINANCE FROM THE DCC -** The Revd. David Ford spoke on the work required in treating the walls of the Lady Chapel. A quote for the work to be carried out was still awaited from Thomas and once this had been received, then the DCC will apply to the Diocese for funding. The Executive Committee were asked as to their agreement for The Friends of St. Godwald to make up any difference in cost for the treating of the walls in the Lady Chapel. **All were in full agreement.**
3. **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**
   1. **Friends Bottle Stall – Church Summer Fete – Saturday 8th June 2024.** It was agreed that ‘**Bottle Sunday’s**’ for The Friends Bottle Stall will be held on **Sunday 28th April, 5th May and 19th May**. **(CS) to ensure that details of the Bottle Sunday’s are published in the Weekly New sheets.** The newly approved leaflet for The Friends also to be given out from the Bottle Stall on the day of the Summer Fete.

Contact also to be made with John Bugden, a Member of The Friends who had volunteered to organise a display of Royal Enfield motorcycles at the Summer Fete. **(CS)**

* 1. **Patronal Service 2024 –** Discussed earlier in the meeting – page one.
  2. **Strawberry Tea and Plant Stall – Saturday 13th July 2024 –** The Secretary (CS) confirmed that she had booked the Church Hall for the afternoon of Saturday 13th July with the Parish Office for the Strawberry Tea and requests to be made to Church Members for donations of plants for the Plant Stall.

Contact also to be made with Robin and Rhoda for plants **(ME-D/CS)**

* 1. **Autumn Concert –** Discussion ensued regarding an Autumn Concert and it was suggested by (ME-D) that we split the proceeds of the Autumn event this year between two charities instead of three as was done last year.

It was agreed that **(ME-D) contacted Emma Morris to see if there were any dates available for the Rock Choir** to sing at St. Godwald’s Church mid/late September or early October. **Enquiry also to be made by (CS) with a local Skittles Band regarding their cost.**  To be further discussed in greater detail at the next meeting when dates/costs are confirmed.

**8.5 Coffee/Mulled Wine and Mince pies –** Following lengthy discussion it was agreed that the refreshments following the Candlelight Carol Service to be held on **Sunday 15th December** would be provided by the courtesy of The Friends of St. Godwald – Coffee, Biscuits, Mulled Wine and Mince pies. There would also be one major Raffle prize to pre-sell tickets and also sell on the evening – Christmas Hamper of food. It was felt that by the courtesy of The Friends providing refreshments following this Service that this would be good publicity for The Friends.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
   1. **Patronal Service 2025 - T**he Chairman (NH) was pleased to announce to the Executive Committee that the Bishop of Dudley had most kindly agreed to become the Patron of The Society of the Friends of St. Godwald.

Following discussion on dates for the Patronal Service for 2025, it was agreed by all present that this Service be held on **Sunday 8th June 2025 at 10.30am** and that the Choir of Finstall First School and Orchestra of Aston Fields Middle School be invited to take part in the Service.

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**Secretary (CS) to write and invite the Bishop of Dudley to preach at the Patronal Service on 8th June 2025.** If the Bishop of Dudley accepts the invitation to preach, then **contact be made with both Finstall First School and Aston Fields Middle School at the start of the academic school year in September. (CS/JH)**

Consideration also to be given to reinstating the Aston Fields Middle School Art Exhibition to coincide with the Patronal Service and St. Godwald’s Summer Fete 2024. (JH/CS)

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 30th April 2024 – 7.30pm. Ruth Heald Room, S. Godwalds Church.**

There being no further matters raised for discussion, the Chairman (NH) thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

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(CHAIRMAN)

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(DATE)