



**Minutes of the 9th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St Mildred's
Held on Sunday 19th November 2023 at 11.15am
In The Lady Chapel, St Mildred's Church, Tenterden**

Present: Jeremy Cooper (Chairman), Jill Clark; Malcolm Kneller; Penny Kneller; Linda Fennell; Eddie O'Donnell; M. Peacock; Glen Peacock; Nick Marshall; Stephanie Marshall; Jamie Hillyer; Roy Isworth; Brian Guest; Charlie Nicholls; Jan Nicholls; Chris Northen; Julia Vink; Martin Vink; Tim Lee; Mary Monckton; Tim Monckton; Jean Morris; Jan Sienesi; Roger Graham; Lindsay Hammond.

Apologies: Dr Nick Hudd; Sue Harvey; Mark Appleby; John McKenzie; Rachel Hay; Maria Orme; Gill Topley; Alan Topley; Michael Betts; Rosemary Izod; Linda Guest; Clare Picking.

1. Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting

These were circulated with the Annual Report and Newsletter. There were no matters raised from the floor and the minutes were accepted and approved as read.

2. Chairman's Report

Jeremy Cooper commenced by remembering Peter Sienesi who had made a significant contribution to the formation of FOSM, and Tony Pearlman, an active committee member, who had died during the year. Their families received our condolences. The Chairman continued that the finances of the FOSM were in a good state and the organisation has 134 members. FOSM has held several successful events this year including two jazz evenings and the Bukolika Piano Trio. Funding from the Countess of Munster Trust has been very beneficial especially in the case of the young pianist Ignas Macknikas. The London Adventist Chorale was very popular. The Chairman commented that FOSM is always looking for new ideas.

In the meantime, the Transformation Group of the church have been very successful in their bid for funding, and as a result the church will be closed in 2025 for seven months for underfloor heating to be installed. The church is still considering the viability of heat pumps and have taken professional advice. Outside work will be starting before June 2024. There is a subgroup working on alternative venues. Finally, he confirmed with sadness the recent death of Peter Costain who had been a notable contributor to FOSM, and whose funeral was being held soon.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report related to the financial year ending in April 2023. The accounts had been approved by MMP, FOSM's independent examiner. The financial year has yielded £16,000 in profit and as at April FOSM had £81,000 in the bank. The Treasurer commented that subscriptions were slightly up. He also mentioned the importance of donations to the overall level of profitability in events.

FOSM has benefitted from substantial legacies this year, especially from Edna Harrison which greatly boosted the accounts. There had been no direct sponsorship or grants this year, and gift aid receipts were slightly down. Bank interest rates have now considerably improved and surplus funds have been placed on deposit with the Charity Bank as Nat. West, with whom FOSM banks, pays no interest (although it does not charge us either). The Treasurer reported that since 2014 we have donated approx. £103,000 to the church but still have funds in the bank. The Treasurer thanked Brian Guest for his support, Webb's Ironmongers, members for their help in selling tickets, and Frank Port at MMP. The Treasurer commented that he is now in his third year and would like a "treasurer's mate"; volunteers would be welcome. The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his hard work over the year. The Treasurer's report was proposed by Tim Monckton and seconded by Penny Kneller.

4. Appointment of Examiner

Frank Port of MMP is FOSM's auditor; and was reappointed. They have never levied a fee.

Proposed by Malcolm Kneller and seconded by Roy Isworth

5. Election of Trustees

Brian Guest took the chair for this and the next item and put forward the nominations who were voted for en bloc: Jeremy Cooper; Roy Isworth; Malcolm Kneller; Tim Monckton; Jill Clark.

Proposed by Martin Vink, seconded by Tim Lee.

6. Election of Officers

Jeremy Cooper's three year term as Chairman was complete but he was willing to be chairman for an extra year to give time to find a replacement.

Proposed by Roy Isworth, seconded by Charlie Nicholls

7. Election of General Committee Members

The Chairman read out the 3 nominations: Barbara Frikstad; Chris Northern and Eddie O'Donnell. They were elected en bloc:

Proposed by Penny Kneller, seconded by Tim Monckton.

8. **AOB** There was a short discussion concerning alternative venues, such as the Benenden school concert hall, during 2025 when the church would be closed. Roy Isworth gave a vote of thanks for the Chairman and Committee of FOSM. Lindsay Hammond, the vicar offered his thanks on behalf of the PCC.