
Friends of Holland House Annual General Meeting 2018

The meeting was held on Monday 8th October at 5 pm. 27 people attended with 18 apologies.

Everyone was welcomed by the Chair, Bishop Robert Paterson and the Prayer was led by the Vice-Chair Liz Ross. The secretary gave the apologies and the minutes of the last meeting were passed with one minor amendment in the change of name from Paul to Peter in the final paragraph of the Vice-Chairman's report.

Update on Anniversary Appeal

Margaret Hawkins, on behalf of Anthony Glossop, gave an update on the anniversary appeal. If all 17/18/19 pledges came through the appeal would have exceeded £100,000. The Friends contribution to the appeal including the 17/18/19 club had been 40% of the total raised and a great debt of gratitude was owed to David Rogers. The work on the Chapel was now complete and immense thanks were due to Peter Perry. The new fire regulations had incurred costs of nearly £35,000 but these had been met by in house resources. The balance of appeal monies would be used to upgrade the house facilities and maintenance of the fabric. Brenda Morton said that the 17/18/19 club visit to the Hurd library at Hartlebury Castle had been very interesting although it was disappointing that some people had been unable to attend.

Friends Weekend

Liz Ross explained that the Friends weekend and walkabout had again been very successful and the weekend to be held on the 3-5 and 5-6 May 2019 was already in the planning. It would be led by Coventry Cathedral on the theme of 'Reconciliation'. It was hoped that as well as the weekend residents others would be able to join the event on the Saturday.

Data Protection

The secretary explained that with the new data protection laws it was essential for the House to get Friends permission to have their data recorded. It would be used only by the House. Letters or emails had been sent to all Friends about this issue and the lists were now up-to-date.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer gave her report explaining that with the change of date for the close of the financial year to the end of August not all gift-aid monies had been received. (Accounts available from friends@hollandhouse.org)

Reports

On behalf of the Trustees Canon Ken Boyce thanked all those who had worked for the appeal and was delighted that the work on the Chapel was complete. He said that the Trustees were now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

The Warden said that it had been a good year and that the low financial surplus was due to the cost of updating fire safety at the House to meet the new fire regulations.

From the Chair Bishop Robert said that he felt that the Friends' committee needed more members, especially men, in order to give a greater balance. He also felt that the Committee needed a membership secretary. He referred to the 'Sponsored Row' which he and Ian Spencer, the Warden, would be undertaking from Bewdley to Worcester on Thursday 11th October and hoped for everyone's support. Bishop Robert also told the meeting about a series of talks called 'Bishops in Conversation' for 2019 in which he would have individual discussions with Rowan Williams, the Bishops of Worcester, Hereford, Ludlow, Dudley and York.

New Constitution

The new Constitution was then put before the meeting. Bishop Robert suggested that this should run for a year and then be altered if any problems had arisen. This was agreed by those present. After some

discussion it was agreed to ask Friends if they could possibly adapt their standing order or time of sending a donation to August each year as this would simplify administration for the Treasurer. Letters could then be sent out in June to remind people about this. It was accepted that this would not always be possible.

Elections

The officers were then elected. Margaret Hawkins taking over as Vice-Chair from Liz Ross who became a Trustee representative. Ms. Mavis Firkins and Dr Mary Reeves were the new Committee members for 2018-2021. Kathleen Bentley had resigned for family reasons and this left a vacancy for 2016-2019. Members could be co-opted during the year. There were no other changes.

The meeting closed at 6.30 to be followed by dinner and an entertaining 'after-dinner speech' from Bishop Robert entitled - *What are Bishops for?*

Cynthia Wardle

The Committee of the Friends of Holland House 2018-2019

Officers 2018-2019

Chair Bishop Robert Paterson
Vice-chair Mrs Margaret Hawkins
Treasurer Mrs Sarah Thomson
Secretary Mrs Cynthia Wardle

Committee Members 2018-2019

2016-2019 Mrs Selby Gell
Vacancy
2017-2020 Mrs Margaret Hawkins
Ms Suanna Rosier
2018-2021 Ms Mavis Firkin
Dr Mary Reeves

The period of office begins at the Annual General Meeting

Friends Nominations to be Trustees of Holland House

2015-2020 Revd Brenda Morton
(nominated for five years under a previous arrangement)
2017-2020 Revd Canon Ken Boyce
2018-2021 Mrs Elizabeth Ross