

Trustees' Annual Report

The Friends of St James the Great, Thorley *Registered Charity No: 288678*

Year ending 31 December 2006

Legal and Administrative Information

This report is for the financial year beginning on 1 January 2006 and ending on 31 December 2006.

The Principal Address of the charity is:

60 The Paddock
Bishop's Stortford
Herts
CM23 4JW

E-mail: friends.stjames@btinternet.com

Website: www.friends.stjames.btinternet.co.uk

The object of the charity is to help and support the Rector and Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. James the Great, Thorley (subject to any necessary faculties being obtained) to:

- maintain and embellish the fabric, furnishing and fittings of St. James the Great, Thorley
- maintain, protect and beautify the churchyard of the Church.

The Governing Document of the charity is the Constitution as adopted on 21 February 1983 and amended on 18 March 1984. This calls for the management of the charity to be in the hands of a Committee of Trustees consisting of two members appointed by the Parochial Church Council of St. James the Great and six members elected at the Annual Meeting of the Association. The Committee may co-opt additional members as necessary and invite the Incumbent of St James the Great to be an ex-officio member. The Officers of the charity are a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary who are appointed by the Committee. The Constitution calls for an Annual Meeting to take place in the month of March and the Accounts to be made up to 31st December every year.

The following table details the Trustees as of September 2007 and those who acted during the period covered by this report.

Name	Office (if any)	Dates Acted Since 1 January 2006	Mode of Appointment
Mrs Joan Abbotson		1 January 2006 - present	Co-opted until 9 March 2007 Elected from 9 March 2007
Miss Margot Cage		1 January 2006 - 9 March 2007; 23 April 2007 - present	Elected until 9 March 2007 Co-opted from 23 April 2007
Mr Bill Hardy		1 January 2006 - 9 March 2007; 23 April 2007 - present	Elected until 9 March 2007 Co-opted from 23 April 2007
Mrs Sue Buxey		1 January 2006 - 17 July 2006	Parochial Church Council Appointee
Dr Philip Hargrave	Chairman & Secretary	1 January 2006 - present	Elected
Mrs Rosemary Jones	Treasurer	1 January 2006 - present	Elected
Mrs Lina Loadman		1 January 2006 - present	Elected
Mrs Margaret Morley	Vice Chairman	1 January 2006 - present	Elected
Mrs Lesley Parker		17 July 2006 - present	Parochial Church Council Appointee
The Revd Robert Payne		1 January 2006 - present	Ex Officio
Mrs Sue Russell		1 January 2006 - present	Co-opted until 9 March 2007 Elected from 9 March 2007
Mrs Christine Tew		1 January 2006 - present	Parochial Church Council Appointee

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 9 March 2007

Thank you all for coming this evening and for your support throughout the year.

The Committee has worked hard on our behalf and I am sure you would like me to pass on your thanks to them.

We were sad to learn of the death of two of our longstanding members during the course of the last year, Audrey Childs and Compton Whitworth. As many of you will know, Compton was the founding chairman of the Friends who continued in that role for seven years until 1990.

The Friends' key outreach and fundraising events during 2006 were the provision of Sunday afternoon teas in the Church Room from the first Sunday after Easter until the end of British Summer Time, the Festival of Flowers and Music over the August Bank Holiday weekend and the Quiz Evening in October.

We were indebted to Nigel Rixson and his small team of helpers for ensuring the orderly appearance of the Churchyard throughout the year

The theme for the 2006 Festival was 'Encounters with Jesus', and it had as its financial objective the funding of the power washing, re-rendering and re-decoration of the exterior of the Church. In addition to the many popular attractions of recent years, the programme also included 'Musical Mystery Moments', during which a number of solo instrumentalists played at various times throughout the Festival, and a performance by 'Little Worship' on the Monday afternoon. Visitors were also given the opportunity to light a candle on the altar. The Festival once again proved to be very successful, both from the point of view of the number of visitors attending and the money raised, the latter amounting to some £4,000.

We were grateful to Bob and Brenda Williams for organising regular Whist Drives, the profits from which were donated to the Friends in support of our Quinquennial repair fund. The Friends final fundraising event of the year was another very enjoyable Quiz Evening, hosted by John Loadman.

As a result of all these events and the membership subscriptions received, the Friends were able to increase to £30,000 the total amount committed to the Parochial Church Council in support of the Quinquennial repairs, and to £6,500 the amount committed towards the re-decoration of both the exterior and interior of the Church. We will be paying the £30,000 in support of the Quinquennial repairs to the Parochial Church Council in the next few weeks.

During the year the Friends' website at www.friends.stjames.btinternet.co.uk continued to attract considerable interest, with enquiries including those from two researchers working on forthcoming books, both of whom had come across relevant 'From the Archives' articles by Bill Hardy. We were also able to help the University of Toronto who were seeking a picture of our font to include in their 'Baptisteria Sacra', an online iconographic index of Baptismal Fonts from across the world, and members of the Wordsworth, Frere and Raper families seeking information about their ancestors. During the latter part of the year we launched an updated version of our Churchyard database, including revised maps showing the precise locations of all recorded interments up to August 2006.

As you will be aware, the Friends 2007 programme kicked-off last Saturday with a very interesting and enjoyable talk by Bill Hardy entitled 'How Dendrochronology has Revealed the Building Date of our Barn'.

I would like to end my Report by thanking Rosemary, our Treasurer, and Margaret, our Vice Chairman and indeed all the members of the Committee, for their help and support during the past year. On behalf of the Committee, and myself I would also like to thank you for the support you have given us.

Unless there are any questions at this stage, I will now hand over to Rosemary for the Treasurer's report.

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ending 31 December 2006 to the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 9 March 2007

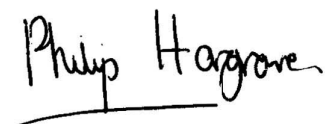
The year was again, financially, very successful. There was an excess of receipts over payments of £9092, £56 more than in 2005. All our excess funds are invested in the Church's Central Board of Finance until they are required, as they shall be this year and as you have, no doubt, already seen. The Accounts, which are presented in Annex A, show how the income was received and the expenditure incurred, together with comparative figures for 2005.

I will now comment on some of the detail.

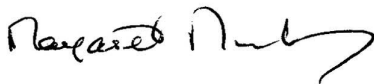
1. Subscriptions are down this year as are donations from weddings. These are not major amounts but it is a concern that the membership of the Friends is decreasing and the Committee would like to ask you to help us "spread the word" about what we do and why.
2. Donations include a most generous bequest from the estate of the late Eva Ashwell.
3. The Flower Festival was again a huge success and our thanks are to you all for your tremendous support.
4. October saw our ever-popular Quiz Evening, which produced a surplus of £350 compared with £298 in 2005 and includes raffle receipts of £146.
5. Sunday Teas are not generating as much income as in the past, down this year on 2005 by £300. These Sunday afternoons in the summer are a vital outreach opportunity for the Church and we do all need to support the work.
6. Proceeds of the Whist drives held at the Christian Centre are now donated to the Friends, thanks to the generosity of the PCC and Bob and Brenda Williams.
7. It is encouraging that so many members and donors are now gift-aiding their contributions, it is very easy to do, only one form to complete, and I have the forms with me tonight for anyone who may be interested.
8. Repairs and Maintenance expenditure include £300 for very necessary repairs and servicing to our grass cutting equipment and £150 for hedge trimming. In 2007 we expect to spend considerable sums on the work required on the Church, already under way.
9. Finally, my thanks to Geoff Pickering for auditing the Accounts.

Authorisation

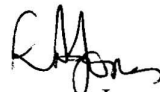
This Annual Report is issued on behalf of the Trustees and was approved by them at a Committee Meeting held on 24 September 2007.



Philip Hargrave
Chairman and Secretary



Margaret Morley
Vice Chairman



Rosemary Jones
Treasurer

5 October 2007

Annex A

FRIENDS OF ST. JAMES THE GREAT, THORLEY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st DECEMBER 2006

2005		2006
RECEIPTS		

1247	Subscriptions (including £150 weddings)	1165
730	Donations and bequests	1300

	Fund raising:	
5611	Flower Festival	5323
671	Quiz	795
1069	Sunday Teas	768
611	Quilt Raffle	-
-	Whist drives	215
	Other:	
-	AGM	27
1147	Bank Interest	1514
293	Tax Rebate	441
		1982

PAYMENTS

	Fund raising:	
1416	Flower Festival	1268
373	Quiz	445
17	Sunday Teas	33
42	Quilt Raffle	-
	Other:	
58	Administration	55
18	Lottery Registration	18
184	Insurance	187
235	Repairs and Maintenance	450

9036	Excess of Receipts over Payments for the Year	9092
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FRIENDS OF ST. JAMES THE GREAT, THORLEY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2006

2005		2006
	RESERVES	
25061	Balance brought forward from previous year	34097
9036	Excess of Receipts over Payments for the Year	9092
<u>34097</u>		<u>43189</u>
	Represented by:	
34097	Balances at Banks	43189
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