

Trustees' Annual Report

The Friends of St James the Great, Thorley

Registered Charity No: 288678

Year ending 31 December 2008

Legal and Administrative Information

This report is for the financial year beginning on 1 January 2008 and ending on 31 December 2008.

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 October 2009 and those who acted during the period covered by this report.

Name	Office (if any)	Dates Acted Since 1 January 2008	Mode of Appointment
Mrs Joan Abbotson		1 January 2008 - 7 March 2008; 14 April 2008 - present	Elected until 7 March 2008 Co-opted from 14 April 2008 until 13 March 2009 Elected from 13 March 2009
Mr Toby Braddick		12 January 2009 - present	Parochial Church Council Appointee
Miss Margot Cage		1 January 2008 - 13 March 2009; 20 April 2009 - present	Co-opted until 7 March 2008 Elected from 7 March 2008 until 13 March 2009 Co-opted from 20 April 2009
Mr Bill Hardy		1 January 2008 - 13 March 2009; 20 April 2009 - present	Co-opted until 7 March 2008 Elected from 7 March 2008 until 13 March 2009 Co-opted from 20 April 2009
Dr Philip Hargrave	Chairman & Secretary	1 January 2008 - present	Elected
Mrs Rosemary Jones	Treasurer	1 January 2008 - present	Elected
Mrs Lina Loadman		1 January 2008 - 7 March 2008; 14 April 2008 - present	Elected until 7 March 2008 Co-opted from 14 April 2008 to 13 March 2009 Elected from 13 March 2009
Mrs Margaret Morley	Vice Chairman	1 January 2008 - present	Elected
Mrs Lesley Parker		1 January 2008 - present	Parochial Church Council Appointee
The Revd Robert Payne		1 January 2008 - present	Ex Officio
Mrs Sue Russell		1 January 2008 - 13 March 2009 20 April 2009 - present	Elected until 13 March 2009 Co-opted from 20 April 2009
Mrs Christine Tew		1 January 2008 - 7 March 2008; 14 April 2008 - present	Parochial Church Council Appointee until 7 March 2008 Co-opted from 14 April 2008 to 13 March 2009 Elected from 13 March 2009

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 13 March 2009

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.

The Friends were pleased to be able to make a grant of £6,500 during the past year to the Parochial Church Council, in support of the re-rendering and redecoration of the exterior of the Church that is now well underway. We have also now raised and committed a total of £22,000 towards our latest project, that of financing the replacement of our Church organ. This is £8,000 more than at this time last year. As most of you will know, whilst still operational our organ's chequered history means that there are serious shortcomings in both its functionality and its ability to cope with the tonal and dynamic variation so much associated with even a relatively 'basic' organ. It has therefore been dubbed as 'The Mongrel' and is in need of replacement.

The Friends' outreach and fundraising activities since the 2008 Annual General Meeting have included two new events in addition to our usual programme of Sunday afternoon teas in the Church Room, the Festival of Flowers and Music over the August Bank Holiday weekend and the Quiz Evening in October. The first was a sale of plants in May, to which we invited gardeners to donate those 'surplus' to their requirements and come to purchase what they lacked. The second was a Craft Fair that was held in the St Barnabas Centre in early November. Both were very successful, and we have therefore decided to repeat them again this year. This year's plant sale will be held on the afternoon of Sunday 10 May, and there will be an Autumn Craft Fair on Saturday 21 November.

The theme for the 2008 Festival was 'Great Composers – Chosen Excerpts'. As well as viewing the flower arrangements, visitors were also able to enjoy anthems and hymns representative of a number of great composers, together with instrumental and vocal solos and duets. On the Sunday there was a Festival Songs of Praise, for which some of the Festival volunteers selected their favourite hymns and outlined the reasons for their choices. A new innovation for 2008 was a very enjoyable barbecue on the Saturday evening. The Festival once again proved to be very successful, both from the point of view of the number of visitors and the money raised. The latter amounted to just under £5,000, a substantial increase on the £4,500 raised by the 2007 Festival, which was itself a marked increase on that of £4,055 for the 2006 Festival. Rosemary will give you some more detail in her report. The theme for this year's Festival will be 'Favourite Poems'.

We were grateful to Bob and Brenda Williams for continuing to organise regular Whist Drives throughout the year, the profits from which they kindly donated to the Friends. We were also grateful to my wife, Maureen, for similarly donating the profits from her extension of the Friends' season of Sunday afternoon teas, followed by the serving of soup-and-roll lunches over the winter months so as to maintain Sunday fellowship and outreach from the Church Room throughout the year.

A major addition to the Friends' website during the past year has been a transcription of the notebook containing short accounts of the First World War service of the men of Thorley that was compiled by Revd John Procter, Rector of Thorley from 1909 to 1938. Scanned versions of photographs of approximately half of these men were also matched with and included alongside the notebook entries. During the year the site has continued to attract considerable interest. As a direct result of Bill Hardy's 'From the Archives' articles on the website we have also been in e-mail correspondence with a historian in France who is writing a biography of General Robert Georges

Nivelle. He was the great grandson of Thomas Pennington, Rector of Thorley from 1798 until his death in 1852, and was briefly commander-in-chief of the French forces during the First World War.

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.

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ending 31 December 2008 to the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 13 March 2009

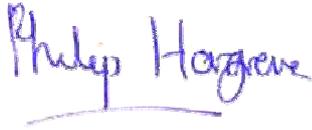
This year was again, financially, very successful and due to that and our stewarding of our reserves, we have been able to contribute further sums towards the repairs to the Church. There was an excess of receipts over expenditure of £2083 this year. All our excess funds are invested with the Church's Central Board of Finance until they are required and the results of our expenditure are now visible. The Accounts, as presented in Annex A, show the income and expenditure incurred in the year ended 31st December 2008 with comparative figures for 2007.

I will now comment on some of the detail.

1. Subscriptions are slightly down this year with only £240 received for weddings. These are not major amounts but we do need to encourage new membership of the Friends and the Committee would again like to thank Edward Miller, in particular, for all his help in this regard.
2. It is encouraging that so many members and donors are now gift-aiding their contributions, it is very easy to do, see me later for details.
3. The Flower Festival was again a huge success and our thanks are to all of you for your tremendous support. The details and comparative figures for 2007 have been provided alongside the Accounts.
4. October saw our ever-popular Quiz Evening, which produced a surplus of £189 compared with £240 in 2007
5. Sunday Teas have generated a considerable increase in income compared with previous years. These Sunday afternoons in the summer are a vital outreach opportunity for the Church and our thanks go to the small band of helpers who give up their Sundays for this work.
6. The soup served during the winter months has been a very popular Friends event and our thanks go to Maureen, Philip and helpers for all their hard work.
7. Proceeds of the Whist Drives held at the Christian Centre are donated to the Friends, thanks to the generosity of Bob and Brenda Williams, to whom – many thanks.
8. Lesley Parker organised a very successful plant sale in May, raising £249 for the Friends. We await this year's sale with much eagerness.
9. Not content with the plant sale, Lesley then set her organisational skills to work again, to mastermind an excellent Craft Fair in November, the proceeds were a magnificent £486. What would we do without you, Lesley!
10. Repairs and Maintenance expenditure is high again this year and looks set to continue to be so. Our grass cutting equipment is ageing and in need of frequent service.
11. The large amount spent on the Churchyard this year was mainly due to emergency work that had to be carried out on a diseased tree. Thankfully, this has now been cleared and is safe.
12. Finally, may I express my thanks to Geoff Pickering for being our Independent Examiner of the Accounts. The size of our organisation means that we do not require a full audit but we do have the Accounts vetted and Geoff very kindly fulfils that role.

Authorisation

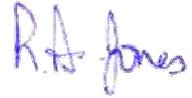
This Annual Report is issued on behalf of the Trustees and was approved by them at a Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2009.



Philip Hargrave
Chairman & Secretary



Margaret Morley
Vice Chairman



Rosemary Jones
Treasurer

10 October 2009

Annex A

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES THE GREAT, THORLEY
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st DECEMBER 2008
2007 **2008**

RECEIPTS			
997	Subscriptions		1026
1469	Donations - general	212	
55	Organ fund	283	
767	Whist drives	220	
315	Weddings	240	955
	Fund Raising:		
5905	Festival of music & flowers	6489	
607	Quiz	625	
746	Sunday Teas	1074	
150	Sunday Soup for Organ Fund	385	
-	Plant sale	249	
-	Craft Fair	673	
103	The Barn History Lecture	-	
50	An Evening of entertainment	-	9495
	Other:		
15	AGM	8	
1055	Bank Interest	1150	
403	Tax Rebate	535	1693
12637			13169
PAYMENTS			
30000	Contribution to the costs of Church Fabric repairs		6500
	Fund raising:		
1339	Festival of music & flowers	1528	
367	Quiz	436	
-	Craft Fair	187	
29	Sunday Teas	20	2171
	Other:		
40	AGM	20	
20	Administration	-	
20	Lottery registration	20	
194	Insurance	194	234
-	Materials for Church guiders	40	
778	Repairs and Maintenance to Equipment	471	
26	Churchyard Expenses	950	1461
32813			10366
(20176) Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year			2803

FRIENDS OF ST.JAMES THE GREAT, THORLEY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2008

2007	2008
RESERVES	
43189 Balance brought forward from previous year	23013
(20176) Excess of Receipts over Payments	2803
23013	25816
Represented by:	
23013 Balances at Banks	25816

Rosemary Jones Hon. Treasurer
Dated: 31st January 2009