

## **MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SHEEPSTOR**

**The meeting was held on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2010 in St Leonards Church commencing at 11.00.**

Tim MacDonald (TM) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming.

He gave apologies and expressions of support from Claire and Hugh Twiss, Marion Bennett, Stephen Hopson, Sybil Johnson, Lord and Lady Tanlaw and their daughter, Asia Brooke Trotter (Secretary of the Rajah of Sarawak Fund).

TM explained that the purpose of the meeting was to seek support for a secular charitable society to be formed to develop wider interest in and use of the St Leonard's church building. The funds raised by the proposed society would be used exclusively to assist the PCC with the maintenance, modification and repair of the church building and its environs. While the Cof E still wanted to maintain St Leonard's as a place of worship, the management and maintenance of the church would remain the responsibility of the PCC. The proposed society would help to fund the maintenance tasks.

TM outlined the limited use of the building and possible ways to increase that use. TM explained that Lord Tanlaw was concerned that the church should remain open, regardless of its use by the Cof E, in order to be able to be visited by the many who come to see the Sarawak connections, the memorials and the tombs. That was why Lord Tanlaw had agreed to become the patron of the society and had agreed to provide a trustee from the Rajah of Sarawak Fund charity should we accept his offer. TM outlined the funding requirements for the building and that the society's aim would be to assist in meeting the running costs of the building, major repairs and modifications required to enable its wider use.

TM presented the proposed constitution and indicated that he would hope to see a wide range of interests represented on the committee with only a minority of them drawn from the regular weekly worshippers.

When the meeting was opened to the floor the following points were raised.

Patrick Drennan asked who was to manage the churchyard. TM assured him that the management of the church and churchyard would remain exclusively with the PCC so long as it was in existence. This was confirmed to be the case by the Revd Nick Shutt, the Priest in Charge.

Keith Scrivener showed interest in setting up a historical village record to be displayed in the church.

Michael Williams was keen to incorporate a Sarawak link into this.

The meeting unanimously accepted the draft constitution with the amendments that all committee members would be trustees, that the Rajah of Sarawak Fund should appoint one committee member/trustee and that meetings required a quorum of three

members.

The meeting agreed that there should initially be up to 6 members on the committee but that this should be flexible and that there should be the option to co-opt extra members for specific purposes. Lady Kitson advised that this should not be written in stone in the constitution to allow future flexibility without the difficulty of changing the constitution. Having been agreed at the AGM it would require any change to be similarly agreed.

The meeting unanimously approved the following as members of the committee:-

Tim MacDonald

Keith Scrivener

Suzanne Seabrook

John Bowman

Patrick Drennan

A representative of the Rajah of Sarawak Fund

Michael Williams co-opted as representing the Sarawak Association.

A discussion about membership subscription followed.

A £10 annual single membership, and a £20 annual family membership were agreed.

TM suggested £200 life membership and although some considered this to be too high, a majority vote thought that this would be acceptable. It was decided to leave the final decision to the committee. Corporate and overseas membership will also be considered by the committee.

TM thanked everyone for their support and the meeting closed.