**THE FRIENDS OF ST.JOHN’S, SHAROW**

 **NEWSLETTER - November 2021**

**Dear Friends,**

***Concert with Supper at St. John’s Church - Friday 26th November .*  By way of a final reminder , please see the attached copy of the flyer previously sent to the members . I hope you will come along to this Concert / Supper, if you can . Those of you who wish to attend are requested to contact Rosemary Page on 01765-601514 or by email (arpage36@gmail.com) for reservations without delay , please, as final numbers are needed for catering purposes no later than Wednesday 24th November.**

***Annual General Meeting - 19th October last.* At the AGM last month Rev’d . Ruth Newton as Chair of the Friends gave a brief Annual Report, covering the following items :- 1. Due to Covid-19, no social /fundraising events for the Friends took place for a period of 18 months or so , until 24th September last, when John Colston gave an illustrated talk on “ The Life and Times of William Shakespeare “, with some incidental music. This was a very enjoyable and successful event, which resulted in a financial surplus of just over £350 . 2. Tickets for the Local Lotto have continued to be bought throughout the past year and this has proved to be a most useful source of income (currently £468 per year) requiring no effort on the part of the members . 3. The Friends have continued to bear the cost of periodic grass-cutting within the car park area opposite the Church. No additional financial outlay has been incurred during the past year, though it is anticipated that some grant(s) will be made to the PCC for the benefit of the Church within the coming year. 4. Because of the pandemic, members’ subscriptions were suspended last year, but members have now been invited to renew their subscriptions and it is hoped that they will be happy to do so. 5. A number of events are being planned for the Friends’ enjoyment during the course of next year. In the meantime, the Lay Clerks of Ripon Cathedral will be giving a Concert on 26th November, with Supper during the Concert interval . 6. The PCC has recently appointed Natasha Newcombe as a part-time Bookings Secretary on the basis that the Friends will contribute £500 towards her remuneration, which has been agreed . In conjunction with this appointment the Executive Committee has taken over responsibility for the future management of events at St. John’s, with Simon Grenfell and myself acting as co-ordinators for this purpose . This represents an important step forward for the Church and should help to encourage a wider use of the building by the local community.**

**At the AGM the following members were elected as Honorary Officers, namely Simon Grenfell (Chairman), Rosemary Page (Vice - Chair) and Chris Tunnard (Hon.Secretary) ; and Maureen Nolan and Di Tunnard were re-elected to serve on the Executive Committee for a further term of 3 years. David Page, Neil Thewsey, Veronica Rickards and Charles Tease (Treasurer) will continue to serve as members of the Committee until the next AGM .**

***Subscriptions***

**Membership subscriptions for the year commencing 1st October last became due on that date and can be paid by bank transfer or standing order into the Friends’ bank account number 83470601 at Barclays Bank ( sort code 20-98-98 ), or by cheque made payable to “ Friends of St. John’s” . Cheques should be sent to the Treasurer , Charles Tease at 79, Whitcliffe Lane, Ripon HG4 2LB . It is my hope that you will be inclined to renew your membership accordingly as soon as possible, if you have not already done so .**

**With best wishes,**

**Chris Tunnard Hon. Secretary**