

FoHTCC Chairman's Annual Report for 2021

I feel compelled to start this report with my very grateful thanks to all our members who, despite the lack of activity over the last two years, have continued to pay their membership fees; because, on the face of it, you have not received much value for your money bearing in mind that our primary role is to bring together people who value our Church.

More pleasing, of course, is the fact that we managed to hold a concert last October and, indeed, our two year postponement of our Supper Talk last month. We are up and running again !!

On the subject of membership; the number of households we have on our membership list is 218. Most, of course are in Cuckfield but it is very pleasing that our membership includes people outside the immediate vicinity. Naturally, it includes a large number of people who have an interest in Holy Trinity but may not be involved in the regular worship activities of the Church.

It is a sad fact of life that we lose a small number of our valued and long standing members each year and the last twelve months has seen more than the usual number. We give thanks for their lives and their contribution to the Friends

Much more pleasing is the fact that two of our members have recently become CENTENARIANS..... Florence HOLT joined the 100 Club last December and Ruth BAKER joined last month. We wish them both continued good health.

Some households are single memberships and others are double, as a result the current membership is 322

Although our membership is substantial, it is a small fraction of the Cuckfield population and therefore our challenge is to substantially increase our numbers within the Cuckfield area and our plan is to embark on another recruitment campaign once we have a new Vicar. Meantime, if you are able, and have the opportunity, please do not hesitate to persuade your neighbours and friends to help in our cause by joining.

As you will hear when we get to the Finance report, we were able to donate £40,000 towards the restoration of stone work of the Church that was completed in time for Christmas and will enable the Church Warden's to sleep a little more easily at night I hope.

Finally, I must express my very grateful thanks to your hard working Committee, some of whom have been in post a long time. I want to pay tribute in particular to Gwen Fermer who is retiring today. Gwen has served our Committee with the highest degree of integrity and commitment for the best part of 12 years. She has been the person who has provided the bulk of the material for our website, the principal

architect of our tree each year at the Christmas Tree Festival, our photographer and social media guru. Regrettably she is not able to be with us today because of Covid so, with your permission and through this report, I will ensure that her contribution is recorded. THANK YOU Gwen.

By the way, if you are able to do ANY of these things, please step forward, we are always on the look out for able and energetic people willing enough to join us and to carry on our purpose.

I would also like to record my personal thanks to the man sitting next to me, our President, Bryan Mayou. Throughout my tenure, Bryan has been there as a constant source of encouragement, support and ideas. As I have said before, he has the brilliant and constant knack of asking the right questions at the right time. Bryan, as I depart, I hope that you will continue to do what you do for my successor and indeed the Friends as a whole.

Finally, as I stand down from this role, I would like to express my very grateful thanks to everyone who has served on this Committee over the last twelve years, and particularly to Guy Berkeley who, as you know, passed away in 2020. The team, all volunteers lest we forget, has at all times served as a dedicated and capable group of people acting in the best interests of members and setting a standard of professionalism that will serve this Association for many, many years to come. There are others too, not officially members of the team, who lend invaluable and unstinting support to our Committee and thus our Association. I regard my time at the helm as one of great privilege – it has been a genuine pleasure in my life to have worked alongside you all.

The Officers and Committee are grateful to all FoHTCC members for their continuing loyalty and generosity.

Paul Goldfinch
Chairman
9th April 2022

And so we move on to Item 5 To Receive and adopt our Accounts

and I will hand you over to our Treasurer, Tony Lawrence.