

**Friends of St. Mary's, Appleton Wiske
Kirkcubright, 11th September 2016**

Present: David Lewis Sarah Hurhangee Angela Carlin Olwen Young
Megan Patterson Ken Blackwood Jane Connolly Claire Matata

1	Welcome and thank you for coming and sharing thoughts, ideas and company on a sunny afternoon.
2	Points discussed: -
2.1	<p>What is the purpose of the 'Friends' group?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary one is to support, preserve and promote St. Mary's church as an historic building in the centre of the village. • Secondly, to organise and hold social events / talks / concerts etc that will hopefully be of interest to a wide audience in Appleton Wiske and beyond. • To use these events as fundraisers for the preservation of the church building (St. Mary's funds its own running costs and clergy expenses)
2.2	At Megan's suggestion we have agreed to structure the 'Friends' on a more formal basis, with a committee and regular meetings for updates and planning.
2.3	Ken and Olwen are meeting to look at films and slides that might be of interest and relevance for a talk on the history of St. Mary's and Appleton Wiske. There seems to be a wealth of archive material, and personal knowledge, that would allow us to put together a talk and open afternoon/eve in the church. Possibly November. Refreshments, donations or tickets, publicity.
2.4	Are we going to ask for a sub on joining? Could be yearly or life. Could be for dormant or active members. Joining 'Friends' does not mean you have to be actively involved with planning, but will hopefully mean you could offer help and support at 'Friends' events.
2.5	Jane has offered general help when needed. Jackie (churchwarden) has asked if 'Friends' could organise a weekly cleaning rota for St. Mary's. It only has two services a month, but is open for visitors seven days a week. Also help with flowers?
2.6	Ken and Simon do a wonderful job cutting grass in the churchyard on a voluntary basis (alongside the paid grass cutting). Can we help keep paths free of weeds and flower beds and tubs looking at their best? The church entrances are a bit untidy sometimes, but are well used by dog-walkers – can we make them more attractive? These things would add to the value of the building as a living and used resource in the village. The annual churchyard clean-up is early October - check Anvil for date.
3	Our next meeting will be Monday 26 th September, 7pm, at 21 Hunters Ride.