

Minutes

St Mary's Project Rutherford Meeting for Volunteers

7.30pm. Monday, 27th February 2023 at

St. Leonard's Hall, St Mary's Church, Broomfield, Chelmsford,

Present: Alan Coday, Ian Mercer, Sheila Hasler, Karen Paxton, Ros Mercer, Trudy Stevens, Kathy Rouse, Malcolm Taylor, Val Pattenden, Cathy Pearson, David Marcus, Alun Powell, Jill Readings, Neil Wiffen, Jim Tibbott, Carolyn Tibbott.

Apologies: Naomi Courtenay-Luck, Margaret Pinkerton, Patrick Readings, Dawn Butcher, Liz Hardy.

1. **Welcome** from Trudy Stevens;

2. **Updates:**

1 The Tower & Spire; Finances TS, AP

Current Situation: TS explained the circumstances and intricate nature of the extended works and problems and the consequent requirement of £85K further funding. TS and AP have worked on 19 further bids and reminders for funds and have so far successfully raised another £55K. The HLF Investment Manager visited the project in February and was impressed; she has indicated that an application for a grant increase may be considered in a positive light. TS provided the meeting with an account of the complex details of scaffolding reconstruction alternatives and timing, waterproofing of the spire, the state of the timbers and the watch kept on water ingress within the tower. A site meeting on 6th January produced an agreement and work on new scaffolding design, subsequently approved. Bakers have accepted financial responsibility for the scaffolding situation, although the church's insurance premium was increased and two weddings cancelled. Work on the new scaffolding is now under way and the spire work will be resumed for an anticipated completion in May. AC expressed his appreciation of the way the situation had been handled and the positive attitude of the team. TS noted that the difficulties and delays were considered exceptional, leading to the architect commenting that this is the 'worst project she had ever been involved with' but that the team had been positive throughout which was greatly appreciated by herself and Bakers.

Fresco: JT Tobit Curteis Associates had been kept up to date with the delays; there has been no increase in costs notified as yet.

Tower Interior: JT/TS Temperature and humidity monitoring are ongoing. The design of the interior needs to be considered soon as a faculty will undoubtedly be required; TS will meet with the bell ringers, whose requirements for a safe working space are paramount. A small table/altar on casters is envisaged, with the possibility of pew materials being re-used. The existing cupboard with flower-arrangers' and bell ringers' material needs to be discussed with a view to removal, however the chest will remain; carpeting, lighting and heating will be reviewed, as advised by TC Associates. IM suggested spotlighting the fresco after consultation with T C Associates.

2 The Exhibition Area; building and lighting: IM, JT, TS.

Exhibition Furniture: IM. The ramp was completed by Bakers and is in keeping with surroundings and is permanent. The cost was slightly above that allocated but the job was undertaken very rapidly, and the area of flooring and walls made good. The unpainted wall

areas will be obscured by exhibition units. Wiring was put through to the exhibit area during ramp construction. Rope barrier and/or edge strip will be put in place at the ramp edge to the exhibit area.

PR has built the tee-screen unit, corner screens and the bulk of the panels unit on the west wall and these are now on site and painted white to match the church walls. Stone colour for the lower areas, to match the pillars, is still to be obtained. The final west unit and five panels, plus the north wall carcass and desk case plus the montage light-panel unit are still to be built and fitted, ready for lights and exhibits to be installed before 22nd March.

Screen lighting has been purchased within budget, for installation in the week beginning 6th March, ready for mounting in the following week. These lights will be cool colour – the ambient lighting is window daylight and cold light from the nave ceiling lights. Some dissent regarding the colour has been recognised, however, the exhibit lighting can be adjusted with filters, as deemed appropriate, once installed; individual dimmers are unavailable, although the whole lighting system will be dimmable. JT and IM to meet on-site this week to organise installation of wiring and lights plus readiness for unbuilt sections the following week.

Displays: IM/RM

Around 75 items for mounting and display have been prepared ready for delivery to the printer this Wednesday. Mounting can then take place from w/b Monday 13th, allowing for weddings, workload, etc. IM, RM and exhibit graphic designer Trevor Johnson will do this according to detailed plans and measurements drawn up by RM. The screens will need final surface-finishing and fixing/placing before that week, with lighting already installed.

Opening: TS/IM

After discussion about the event on 25th March it was felt appropriate to open the exhibition after NC-L's talk, with a formal 'switch-on' and cutting of ribbon, hopefully by RR's niece Jenny; appropriate refreshments will be organised to include prosecco. An invitation list is being drawn up for email to TS. RM to design the invitations and forward to TS for distribution. It was agreed not to have a raffle this time but for NW to oversee the booklet sales. A display of the newly-gilded weathervane will be arranged. RM to send Newsletter information to KR for Benton End Trust. It was proposed and agreed that a tools voucher be given to PR in appreciation of his cost-saving work designing and constructing the exhibition units despite inconvenient on-site delays (*this sentence will be removed in minutes sent to PR*).

Subsequent completion of the spire works will afford another opportunity for celebration and fundraising; followed by a final celebration when the interior of the tower is completed, denoting the end of the implementation of Project Rutherford.

3 Information and Materials:

Publications:

Leaflet – KR: this has been completed and is available in the church.

People &Stone series booklet - RM, KR, CP, NC-L: 'The Life and Works of Rosemary Rutherford', has been assembled and collated by RM, edited through by NC-L and discussed today with NW for production. All image and text files to be sent by RM to NW tomorrow for print-ready copy.

Academic Text – CP said that this will be discussed with NC-L as this is now a family rather than church project.

Activities teams: JR, VP, Chris Bailey, SH, DB: VP reported a very successful return visit of 21 of the Beavers group took place in January for Christingles and they were given stickers, envelopes/collecting box for donations. The support curriculum for schools will be completed for the summer term for both Primary and Secondary schools. The team were asked to help with the colouring sheets at the Village Fair on 7th May.

Seminars & Presentations: NW, RM, IM, TS, AP. RM has listed the series of talks and activities to take us through most of this year, including churchyard activities for all ages integrated with Eco-church, stone walks and churchyard i-spy hunts. The suggestion of a coach tour of churches with Rutherford windows was warmly received – RM to speak to Ray Spiller.

Proposed talks:

25th March – Rosemary Rutherford Life & Works - Naomi - - confirmed

29th April - Churchyard trees - Roger Cole in consultation with David Marcus

27th May – Rosemary's Religious Art – the Fresco and other paintings – Ros & Kathy Fresco conservation workshop – Tobit Curteis date tba when the work is being done

3rd June - A tour of the Church Walls - Ian & Ros Mercer

24th June – Churchyard Natural History – plants, fungi and lichens

22nd July – Churchyard Wildlife – animals (incl. bats), birds and invertebrates

30th September - Rosemary Rutherford's War Art - Kathy R and Naomi C-L

28th October - Notable Graves and gravestones – Alun Powell, Vicar, Ian

25th November - *Broomfield at War* - Cathy P to be postponed until 2024

To avoid over burdening individuals with these monthly events, team leaders have been identified to take responsibility for particular aspects, ensuring they are covered, although not necessarily undertaking the work themselves. These are:

Karen Paxton – refreshments

Jim Tibbott – IT, mics, filming

Ros Mercer – publicity, tickets, door welcome

Alun Powell – recording numbers

Jill Readings – raffle

Where appropriate, reimbursement for refreshments and raffle etc. is important.

Help with all elements will be warmly welcomed.

TS has booked a stall for the project at the Village Fayre celebrating the coronation held on Sunday 7th May, 12-4pm. Help will be needed to set up and assist. There was discussion regarding the potential use of / copy of the King James Bible stored at the Records Office for the church coronation celebrations.

Two historical societies AGM meetings arranged by Neil will be held in the hall on Saturday 17th June and 8th July; as both have supported the project, we have agreed to provide presentations at both and a light lunch at the first.

4 Other Issues:

Church internet and web site: CT/TS CT has this in progress, ready to launch. After the launch people will be issued with passwords to add their information. QR codes can then be inserted into the exhibition to link to specific pages. CT will circulate website to PCC via email link for approval to go live. The church internet is up and running.

Church opening rota: DB / TS The rota is working well; KR offered to join the rota. Once the exhibition is open TS will contact the non-church individuals who offered to assist at the original launch; however, an element of training may be required, to be advised by Lis Hardy.

Blue Plaque: NW CP sent a digest of RR life and career to CCC. Wording and picture of Huxley Jones plaque to be sent by NW to TS for consideration by the Rutherford family. The City Council will pay for it; it is to be put up at the end of St Leonard's Hall near the Rutherford memorial crosses, near the gutter end.

3. AOB:

JT Storage: The importance of maximising the storage space in the exhibition area was discussed; full door access is essential. General storage within the church will be sorted with a working party on 11th March, but there is never enough so this space is vital for the project.

TS Items to sell: the remaining pews were sold to Channels wedding venue following RM's approach, making £750 towards the fund. Small planks from the lower backs had to be removed; these could be made into plaques with painted or engraved texts, and sold as souvenirs. RM has made some lovely bookmarks featuring 6 different stained glass windows, selling for £1 each; her suggestion of making a set of postcards featuring the fresco, stained glass, and a picture of the church was warmly welcomed.

AC expressed his pleasure in the buoyant mood despite the difficulties. He has been harvesting the web site / FB page and our reports etc. to monitor the project's progress. He had determined 14 headings on the evaluation list to monitor and, on checking these, considered there was nothing seriously at risk. He will discuss the progress with TS & AP in the near future. The importance of maintaining a photographic record of every event was highlighted.

CT noted how good it was to see the involvement of both the church and the wider community in all our events. TS has kept everything on track with a lot of hard work, energy and enthusiasm.