Friends of Holland House,

c/o Holland House,

Main Street,

Cropthorne, Pershore,

Worcestershire

WR10 3NB

Dear Friends,

On the afternoon of 9th October 2022, 17 Friends met in the Chapel of Holland House for the AGM. Here is a summary of the proceedings. We offered Friends an opportunity to join us by Zoom, but on the day, none joined. We received 26 apologies, including one of our Friends Trustees, Alma Organ.

We were pleased that the newly appointed Chair of the Trustees, Virginia Pawlyn along with the Diocesan Trustees, Duncan Cadbury and Derek Valentine, were present and we thank them for their support. Virginia Pawlyn, was appointed as a new Friends Trustee at the last AGM. Our Secretary, Wendy Berry, reported on the meetings held during the past year as well as a Friends Social hosted by Carol Rosier in July. Since Mary Reeves retired as Membership Secretary at the last AGM, Wendy has taken on responsibility for the membership as well as the mailings sent out by email and by post. Our treasurer, Sarah Thomson also gave a report.

The Chair gave an overview of the activities in the House and commented that it had been a much better this year than last. The **Nick Helm Day Retreat** happened, which was very well received and Brenda also covered a **tree-planting** ceremony for two trees, one in memory of Chris North, the other for the Queens Jubilee Green canopy. The Chair also noted that the **Quiet Garden Days**, which she organises, were better attended than ever before, with one event having 35 attendees. The Chair thanked a small number of volunteers who have been helping receive visitors at the House and appealed for more.

Thanks were also expressed to the committee for their support. Particular thanks were given to the vice-chair, **Kathleen Bentley**, for setting up the Friendly Lunches, Secretary, **Wendy Berry** for her help with emails and postal mailings and **Emily Miller** for help with the website. **Suanna Rosier**, who is stepping down from the committee at this AGM was thanked for her support as well our Treasurer, **Sarah Thomson,** who is standing down at this AGM after many years of support. The Chair appealed for any candidates for the Treasurer Position. The Chair presented Suanna with a card and Sarah with some flowers.

We were delighted to elect a new member to the Committee, namely **Sue Perry**. However, the Chair noted that we still need more committee members, so any nominations are welcome. It is not an onerous task, 4 meetings a year, including the AGM, reading reports, responding to the House’s request for money, maybe arranging some events.

The Chair thanked Revd Peter Knight as Friends Trustee as he steps down in January 2023. We were pleased to nominate Archdeacon Hayward Osborne as Friends Trustee. Thanks were also given to other Friends Trustees, Virginia Pawlyn and Revd Alma Organ.

All Friends were thanked for their support, both financial and practical.

The new Chair of Trustees, **Virginia Pawlyn** gave an introduction to the current Trustees and explained she had only been Chair for 8 weeks. She announced that Auriol Ainley has been appointed as Clerk/PA to the trustees. Virginia showed a visual diagram which depicted how the Staff, Trustees and Friends interact with Guests at the centre. The key points from 2022 were the Quinquennial review, which highlighted a significant number of items needing repair, the record number of bookings and the staff and trustees have been working together to consider what should be included in the five-year plan. A workshop for the Friends is planned to give input to the five-year plan. The Treasurer, Derek Valentine highlighted that a significant amount of fund raising will be needed for the repairs to the House and he asked for any expertise in completing Grant application forms.

The Warden, Revd Ian Spencer was unable to attend, but sent his report.

Anne Albright informed the meeting of the death of **Christine Collins** on 24th September. She was an active member of the Friends committee for many years and wrote the book about Holland House called ‘**Building Peace – the History of Holland House’.**

The meeting concluded with a prayer at 3.30 pm and tea and cake were served in the dining room.

**Summary of personnel: Friends Committee**: Chair: Revd. Brenda Morton, Vice Chair: Kathleen Bentley, Secretary: Wendy Berry, Treasurer: Vacancy. Other members: Emily Miller, Julie Fay, Sue Perry, 4 vacancies. **Friends’ Trustees:** Revd Alma Organ, Virginia Pawlyn, Archdeacon Hayward Osborne who replaces Revd Peter Knight from January 2023. **Diocesan Trustees:** Duncan Cadbury, Derek Valentine, Paul West.

**2023 AGM.** A Sunday afternoon in October was thought to work well with a suggested 2.30 pm start. Since the AGM, **Sunday 15th October at 2.30 pm in the Chapel has been booked**.

**And a reminder: We are coming to the end of 2022 – can you take a moment to check that you have paid your Friend’s subscription for this year please?**

With all good wishes,



**Brenda Morton (Chair of Friends of Holland House)**