



Friends of St. Mary's Church Chartham



FRIENDS IN FOCUS FRIENDS IN FOCUS

Quarterly Newsletter from The Friends of St. Mary's Church Chartham

July 2014

Welcome to the fourth edition of our Newsletter. It hardly seems possible that we have been established for nearly a year now, how the time has flown. We hope you have enjoyed reading all the news and taking part in the events that we have covered throughout our first year. Please see below the planned events for the rest of the year.

The Committee

We are pleased to welcome another member to our Committee, Mr Gordon Steadwood, making a team of six, including our President, Rev. Phil Brown. Gordon as many of you will know is a popular member of our community, a school teacher, and a family man. He will bring to the organization new ideas, new talents and most of all experience of church matters, having served on the PCC in the past. We hope you will be able to attend our Annual General Meeting in September to meet the team and ask any questions you may have about future planning for the organization.

Membership & Gift Aid

We are pleased to report that our membership is still expanding, and we now have 77 members including joint members. Many of these people are from the wider community of our village, and some are as far away as Scotland, but they have had a connection with St. Mary's Church in the past, and are keen to see that it is preserved for their future generations. You are all doing a great job of spreading the word on our behalf, and making sure that people are aware of what we are doing, so please keep up the good work and help to increase our numbers even more in the coming year. Many of you have kindly completed the Gift Aid forms which allow us to reclaim 25% of your contributions, so thank you to those members. If you are a tax payer and have not completed a form, please contact us so that we can send a form to you. **Reminder: Annual Subs become due in September. Please make cheques payable to The Friends of St. Mary's Church Chartham or alternatively pay directly to our Bank account at Lloyds Bank 77-63-08 78463660. Thank you.**

Legacy Planning

Whilst none of us want to think of this subject in any depth, it is an inevitability that will come to us all in time, and what better way to ensure our memories live on after we have gone, than by donating a legacy to the Friends, and ensure our beautiful, historic church of St. Marys, that gave us so much in our lifetime, is maintained for our children and grandchildren in the years to come. No matter how large or small you would like to give, every penny will go towards helping us achieve that goal. Thank you.

Advertising and Marketing

We continue to be supported in this by Rev. Phil Greig, who recently designed the new aprons bearing our logo and name, which we use at the Coffee Lounge on the first Saturday of every month. Our loyal band of helpers were delighted with their corporate 'pinnys' and we hope to have a photograph of them all to put on the website in due course. Phil is also responsible for all the advertising for events and for updating the website, and we are so grateful for all the time he spends on behalf of The Friends.

Inevitably the time is fast approaching when Phil will be moving on with his career, and we will be looking for someone with outstanding IT skills like Phil, to join us and continue with new ideas and design. If you have these skills or are interested in finding out more, please contact us. We would like to hear from you.

We are very pleased to announce that during the year we were contacted by a gentleman in the USA who had a previous association with the famous brass of Sir Robert de Septvans which lies in St. Mary's Church. He has produced a very attractive silk print measuring approx 5'x2' which he is happy to take orders for if anyone is interested. They will be retailing at £40 +PP and will on view at our Anniversary Party on Sunday 21st September. Please come and see them, they are really beautiful and would make a lovely gift.

The Book Lounge

As many of you know by now this is our regular event every first Saturday in the month with the exception of August which is when most people are away on holiday.

Although it is usually well attended, we need to spread the word to more outsiders in the village, and raise the awareness of what is on offer on those Saturday mornings. As well as a huge selection of good quality second hand books for sale at 50p each, we also have tea/coffee and pastries all for £1.00 pp, a table of homemade preserves, and now we have introduced a homemade cake stall as well which has proved very popular. Please let all your family and friends know about this and bring them along. It has become very much a part of our regular income over the first year. We would also welcome any views you may have as to how we can improve the event. Please let us know.

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 21st September – The Friends Anniversary Party on The Green – 2.00pm – 5.00pm. A celebration of one year of The Friends, with cream teas, bouncy castle, croquet, tombola, cake stall, raffle, church and tower tours, and music from the boys of Simon Langton school. Please come and celebrate with us and bring all the family and friends to enjoy the afternoon.

Sunday 28th September The Friends Annual General Meeting – 2.00pm in St. Marys Church. A chance for you to come and hear how the organization has progressed during the first year, see what we have planned for next year, and ask any questions about the running of the Friends, how we can improve and any concerns you may have. Although most people do not like meetings and see them as boring, we can promise you that our meeting will be kept to a minimum, it will be direct, it will be interesting and above all it will be fun.

Friday 10th October – History Evening – Chartham Paper Mill – 7.00pm Chartham Village Hall. Another very interesting part of the history of Chartham, and one not to be missed. We are already recruiting excellent speakers, many archives and memorabilia, and it promises to be a really good event. If you would like to contribute in any way to the evening, please contact us as soon as possible.

We would also like to hear from you with any ideas for next year's fund raising events. We are already planning another St. Augustine's History evening, this time from a personal view, and the domestic arrangements at the hospital, which we did not have time to cover in the previous one in March. If you would like to be part of this evening and tell us some of your stories, then please get in touch.

Your support in what we are doing is very important to us, and ensures that we continue to be an organization that not only brings in much needed funds, but also gives us all an excuse to have some fun while doing it.

Our next Newsletter will be published at the end of October 2014. Meanwhile enjoy the summer, because next time you hear from us the clocks will have moved on to winter time!!!!