



In your "Friends in Focus".....

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The Friends are pleased to announce that they are now a fully registered charity—**Registered Charity 1168636**

Welcome along to Issue 11 of the "Friends in Focus" Newsletter. Once again it been a long time since the last one.

As I write every year and I say once again, this is your newsletter and we'd love to hear from you. Your thoughts on the church building, your thoughts on the village, your thoughts on the Friends, your thoughts on the newsletter. You might even want to write us an article.

You can write to us c/o 54 Magnolia Drive, Chartham. You can e-mail us at mail@friendsofstmaryschartham.co.uk.

In this issue, we look at the events that have taken place since the last newsletter, introduce you to the current committee, take a look at the finances, and we look forward to some of the things happening in the next few months.

We have promised that the newsletter would appear twice a year, and that is still our ambition but that depends on your contributions. We hope the next issue could appear later in the year (Autumn/Christmas?)

Tony Frost

Newsletter & Website Editor-

FROM THE SECRETARYS DESK....

I was approached last Summer 2017 regarding the pending vacancy of Secretary to the "Friends of St Mary's" in Chartham. I had no idea what the post consisted of so I met with Sheila Finn for a lengthy discussion, which was extremely helpful.

Moving forward to the AGM in the Autumn I was formally proposed and seconded.

It's been an interesting experience working alongside the members of the Executive Committee has been a delight. Everyone is very committed, inspired by Sheila's leadership and motivation to drive the

"Friends" forward, and we have come up with exciting events

So it's been an interesting year for me, some new members have been recruited as well, so numbers continue to grow. We have some exciting things in the pipeline

So it's "onwards and upwards" ...heres looking forward to another year.

Julia Power

Message from the Chair

I took over the Chair in September 2017, and I'm pleased to report that The Friends of St. Mary's continues to do well and raise much needed funds to support the continued maintenance of our beautiful historic building in Chartham. We are now entering our fifth year, with the number of members currently at ninety four including joint members. We are pleased that even though we have lost members during the year due to various circumstances, we have also gained new members keeping our membership at a constant level. We are particularly grateful for the prime position we had at the Christmas Market which gained us four new members in one afternoon. The Executive Committee number now stands at nine with a new member being co-opted on to the committee in June. Sadly we lost Andrew Goddard during the year who stepped down after being with us from the start of The Friends, and we thank him for all his hard work and the support he gave us to get it up and running in 2013. We held several fund raising events during the year which not only increased our bank account, but also we hope, gave people a lot of fun as well. The Monthly coffee morning has now been repositioned to a quarterly timetable, and we have found that by being able to increase the content of this to include a raffle and other interests, the revenue has increased considerably. The two winter events take place in the Village Hall, and the summer ones in the church to again increase our funds.

We look forward to your continued support, and seeing you all at future events.

Sheila Finn

Meet The Committee

President

Rev. Phil Brown



Chair

Sheila Finn



Secretary

Julia Power



Treasurer,

Website,

Newsletter

Tony Frost



Advertising and

Publicity

Tim Kidd



Committee

Member

Jill Hills



Committee

Member

Yvonne Hill



Committee

Member

Janet Onslow



Committee

Member

Genny Spencer



Committee

Member

Gay Griffiths



Finance Report

The Friends funds continue to grow at a steady rate during our fifth year. At the beginning of March 2018, our funds stood at £21156.79 thanks to both some fund-raising events and the successful conquering of the HMRC website to retrieve all the Gift Aid due to us right back to the inauguration of Friends.

The recovery of Gift Aid has added £2020 to funds, events another £1100, membership—£820, plus donations of around £350 all so far this financial year.

We of course have had expenses in hiring the hall which is our largest expenditure plus all the general expenses in running events and the charity itself totalling £375.

We have agreed in principle to contribute £5000 to the church for the major roof repairs taking place this year; we will hand this over when we have received the formal request from the Parochial Church Council. The rest of the funding is coming from various sources including the Heritage Lottery Fund.

As part of the change to Data Protection laws we are having to redo all the Gift Aid Declarations that we hold. The enactment of the new laws will mean that we have to destroy all the existing forms and ask you to complete, sign and date new forms that are compliant. We would urge you to do this so we can continue to get back every 25p for every £ that you donate free from the HMRC— Gift Aid alone is worth £400 a year to us. Thank you so much for your continuing support.

Tony Frost, Treasurer

Genistas Chocolate & Orange Coffee Morning Tray Bake

Making time about 5 minutes; Baking time about 1 ¼ hours

Cake

175 grams soft margarine; 175 grams caster sugar; 175 grams golden syrup; 2 large eggs; 50 grams ground almonds; 25 grams cocoa, sieved; 200 grams plain flour; ½ level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda dissolved in 150 ml milk; Grated rind of 1 large orange

Orange butter cream

75 grams soft margarine; 225 grams icing sugar, sieved; 2 table-spoons orange juice

Method

Heat the oven to 300°F, 150°C, gas mark 2 and then grease and line with greaseproof paper a meat tin 12 x 9 inches (30 x 22.5 cm)

Put all the ingredients together in a large roomy bowl and beat well for about 2 minutes until the mixture is well blended. Turn into the tin, smooth the top and then bake in the oven for about 1¼ to 1½ hours until the cake has shrunk from the sides of the tin and springs back when pressed with your finger. Leave to cool in the tin and then turn out and remove the paper.

For the orange butter cream: put all the ingredients together in a bowl and beat well until they are smooth and blended – this will take 2 to 3 minutes. Spread the cream over the top of the cake, mark attractively with a knife or fork and leave to set. When ready, cut into 20 squares.

This recipe makes 20 chocolate and orange squares. It keeps well because of the ground almonds and golden syrup, and may be made in advance. Store in an air tight tin.

What to you get if you put together an Oompah Band, Bratwurst, Strudel, and a whole litre of Beer? You get the first ever

Chartham Oktoberfest

This will comprise of a 3-course German Meal, a whole litre of German Beer, and an evening of entertainment from Bettesteiner Footstompers Oompah Band. Tickets prices are really good value at £18 for members, and £20 for non-members. Contact Tony on 07522 316686 for tickets, please leave a message if no answer.

The Date? Friday 12th "Oktober" at 7.30pm

The Place? Chartham Village Hall

STOP PRESS—Members Ticket Prices

The committee are really pleased to announce that they have decided to give members another benefit. All Friends ticketed events will be dual priced—there will be the standard price plus from now onwards a reduced tickets price for members.

Saturday Café

As you will be aware the Saturday Café coffee mornings now take place quarterly in March, June, September and December. The June and September ones take place in the Church whilst the ones in the colder months take place in the Village Hall. As always there is tea and coffee available together with delicious cakes (see the recipe above as an example). There is also a raffle with exciting prizes at each Café, plus sales of CDs & DVDs.



Registered Charity
1168636

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