

FRIENDS IN FOCUS

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Quarterly Newsletter from the "Friends of St. Mary's Church, Chartham"

October 2013



Website: stmaryschurchchartham.org.uk/friends

Welcome to all our Members who over the past few weeks have signed up to become a 'Friend' of St. Mary's Church in Chartham, The committee would like to thank you all for your valued support. Without you, we wouldn't have had such a fantastic start in setting up this new organisation.

This is the first of our quarterly Newsletters in which we will be reporting to you the progress of the 'Friends', from the number of members to upcoming events and plans for the coming year ahead.

Direct Mailings

Firstly could we please ask you all, if you have an email address could you let us have it, so that we can keep our costs to a minimum and send these communications electronically rather than by post? Our email address is friendsofstmaryschartham@aol.com If you would just email us and let us know that you are happy to receive it this way, we will be able to pick up your address from there. If however you would rather receive communications by mail then you need do no more. Thank you for helping us to save the money you are so kindly contributing.

Spreading the Word

Our aim is to try and attract as many people from the wider community of the village as possible, and this is where you can help us. If you have friends or relatives who don't normally attend church services, but want to see that the building is looked after for other important functions, like weddings, christenings and funerals, as well as community functions, then please spread the word, and invite them to get involved in part of our history.

Launch Day

It all started on the 21st September when we launched the Friends of St Mary's Chartham with a big party on The Green. The sun shone, and an afternoon of cream teas, raffle, bouncy castle, tower tours, church history tours and brass rubbings was enjoyed by many visitors. This resulted in a huge sum of £1079.70 being raised to start our organisation.

We are very proud to report that we now have 36 paid up members, and this is growing every week as more applications come in. We can also report that we are very proud to have received our first legacy. This is something you might like to give some thought to in the future. What a wonderful way to ensure your money becomes part of our heritage. All large donations and legacies are given anonymity unless you expressly wish for your name to be published. **We will even inform you of the items covered if you so wish.**

Forthcoming Events

You will all have received your Certificates and book marks by now, and our other promise to you was to give you priority notice of all forthcoming events. We are pleased to report that we are staging our first event at the beginning of December and are aiming to make this a regular monthly event, with three larger events taking place during the course of the year. This is still in the planning stage, but we hope to be able to produce the whole of next year's calendar of events early in 2014.

The regular event is a 'Bring and Buy' Book sale and coffee morning. This will take place in Chartham Village Hall on Saturday 7th December 2013 from 10.30 – 12.00. We will have a range of second hand books for sale, and we invite you to bring your used books (good quality only please) to increase our stock. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee with a mince pie (it will be nearly Christmas). Bring the family and the children will be entertained with stories while you chat and relax. If you know someone who is lonely or doesn't get out very much, please bring them along, or let us know and we can arrange for them to be collected. Your support will be key to the success, so please spread the word. You might even be able to pick up some bargain books for Christmas presents!

Advertising and Marketing

We are presently updating and improving our advertising material, and we will be taking part in the Christmas Market in St. Mary's Church on Saturday 30th November 2013 to promote and hopefully recruit more members. Bring your friends to meet us and find out how they can become part of a growing organisation with a clear objective to protect **a beautiful historic building** for future generations.

We hope you enjoy reading your first Newsletter, and if you have any comments, please do not hesitate to let us know. We can be contacted on either our email address, or by phoning Sheila Finn 01227 733545.

Our next Newsletter will be published at the end of January 2014. **In the meantime we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a good New Year.**