

# FRIENDS IN FOCUS

## FRIENDS IN FOCUS

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

January 2014



[Website: friendsofstmaryschartham.co.uk](http://friendsofstmaryschartham.co.uk)

Welcome to the second edition of our quarterly Newsletter for the Friends of St. Mary's Church Chartham, and may we take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy 2014.

We would like to start this letter with a few words in memory of two very good Friends who we lost at the beginning of this month, and who will be very sadly missed by the whole community. John Griffin who passed away on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2013, and Dennis Owen on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014. They both gave so much of their time to St. Mary's Church in so many ways and their loss will be felt for a very long time to come. Our thoughts are very much with their families at this sad time.

### **Direct Mailings**

Thank you to everybody who agreed to have their Newsletters sent by email and so keep our costs to a minimum. We hope you will enjoy receiving your communications this way. If anybody has any difficulties with opening the attachment, please let me know.

### **Charity Status**

We are very pleased to inform you all that the Friends have now been approved by HMRC as a registered charity, and we are therefore able to Gift Aid all your subscriptions. There is a form attached to this newsletter for you to return to us if you are a UK tax payer and you would like your subscription Gift Aided. We are able to reclaim the Gift Aid for all subscriptions made since the launch of the Friends in September 2013, so please do get the form back to us, as we will then receive an extra 25% of your subscription for the benefit of the Friends.

### **Subscriptions**

Annual subscriptions will become due in September each year starting with September 2014.

We have attached a standing order form for you to take to your bank with all the details in time for the renewal date. Please ensure you ask the bank to see that your name is shown as the sender, so that we are able to cross reference your details with our bank statement.

## **Advertising & Marketing**

If you have not already done so, and have access to the Internet, please take time to look at our **brand new website** (details at the top of the page). This site has been very skilfully put together by Rev. Phil Greig, for which we are very grateful. You will find lots of interesting information, details of our forthcoming events, photos of your committee members and lots more. We would welcome your comments and any ideas for improvement to the content.

We are continually thinking of new ideas for advertising, and will be updating our brochures in the near future. We are also looking at marketing ideas such as Friends tea towels, mugs, mouse mats, key rings etc. If you have any ideas on how you would like us to market the Friends, please do get in touch and let us know.

## **The Book Lounge**

This has now become our regular event every first Saturday in the month. The first sale was in December, and we were supported by the Friends of St. Nicholas Church, New Romney, who came in their numbers with nine boxes of second hand books for us to start our own book sale. They had achieved such a financial success over the past two years with their sale, and after speaking to various people, we thought it was something that we could also make a success of. Our first sale brought in over £100 for the Friends, and we hope that this will go from strength to strength over the coming months. Please tell all your friends and neighbours to come and visit us at Chartham Village Hall from 10.30am – 12.00 noon every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in the month, and enjoy a cup of coffee and pastry, and browse our large selection of second hand books for sale at 50p each.

## **Forthcoming Events**

As promised when you made your first subscription to the Friends, you would have prior notification of all forthcoming events, and we are pleased to announce that our next big event is on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 7.00pm in Chartham Village Hall. This will be the first of our History Talks starting with a subject close to many of our hearts, whether you worked there, or indeed live there now, the history of "St Augustine's Hospital from 1875 – 1993".

We have some excellent speakers, some with firsthand knowledge of the hospital, together with photos and memorabilia of St. Augustine's. We will start the evening with coffee and cake, and end the evening with some tales of personal experiences of time associated with the hospital. Tickets will be on sale in March and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Other events in the planning are a jazz evening with dancing and refreshments hopefully on a lovely summer's evening with the doors open to the garden at the village hall. Details will follow in the next newsletter.

Some members have also asked if we are going to have an anniversary party on the Green this year as we did for the Launch Party in September, which was such a success. If you think this is a good idea, please let us know?

We hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter and if you have any comments, please do not hesitate to let us know. We can be contacted on either our email address [friendsofstmaryschartham@aol.com](mailto:friendsofstmaryschartham@aol.com) or by phoning Sheila Finn 01227 733545.

Our next Newsletter will be published at the end of April 2014.