



Friends of St. Mary's  
Chartham

# Report to the PCC AGM St. Mary's Church Chartham, on the 'Friends of St. Mary's Church' 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

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The Friends of St. Mary's Church are now entering their third year, and we are pleased to report that the organisation is growing in members and subsequently in profitable fund raising.

We have recently been advised by HMRC that because this year our overall annual income will exceed £5000, we must register with The Charities Commission for Charitable status with them. Our Treasurer is now working towards the completion of numerous forms to put this application in place.

At the end of January 2016 our total finances stood at £11,417.52. We are also still owed about £1000 in Gift Aid claims.

Members are as follows;- 67 paying members, and 28 joint members making a total of 95.

We have recently completed a leaflet drop with all the Parish magazines, thanks to all the people involved in helping us with that, and have already had some positive responses.

Our website is kept up to date with thanks to Tony Frost who has linked our site to the church website, and has made some brilliant additions to the pages.

Our events continue to raise a lot of interest and this year we will be hosting a Wine, Pie & Wisdom in April, a Swimathon in July and another of the popular History evenings in October. This time it will be on the History of St. Mary's Church. For those of you who requested another Burns Night, you will be pleased to know that one for next year is already in the planning. Our coffee mornings still bring in a regular income every month, and are thoroughly enjoyed by all those who come.

We now have six members on our Executive Committee, all of whom are very experienced in different aspects, and bring with them a variety of talents which enable us to maximise our potential.

Following the recent Architects report on the church building, and the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, we hope to be in a position to help meet some of the building costs which will inevitably arise from any shortfall in funding.

This is just a snapshot of where we are at the moment, but we wouldn't be at this point if it wasn't for the huge support we receive from all of you, so thank you for that support, and please go out there and spread the word, so next year we can come back and report even greater achievements.