

## **FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, SWANTON MORLEY**

### **NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

The first thing to say is that the AGM will be held in the church on Tuesday, 29 May 2012, starting at 7pm. We hope that as many Friends as possible will attend to hear about what has been achieved and what our plans are for the future. You will see below that, once again we achieved quite a lot in the past year, especially since this achievement has, of course, to be seen against an increasingly tight economic climate. This will be a chance for you to give your views on how we should proceed from now on.

We currently have six committee members including the two officers, because we co-opted David Ashford during the year, but we would welcome more!

#### **A summary of fundraising from the date of the last AGM (9 July) to date**

This summary follows on from the events reported in the June 2011 Newsletter.

We organised another very successful Village Yard Sale on 9 July. This raised £370. The PCC participated in this and they made an additional £117. There will be another Yard Sale this year on Saturday 9 July

A Mardling and Music Evening was held on Saturday 17 September. Unfortunately, this had a very poor response and there was only a small profit.

We ran a quiz in the Village Hall on 15 October, and raised over £500.

The Friends assisted John Carrick in the Fireworks Evening that he ran on 5 November and he kindly donated £1,173 to the Friends

#### **Our contribution to the maintenance of the structure of the church, and other support to the PCC**

This year we contributed nearly £18,000 towards the cost of re-leading and repairing the tower roof.

We also helped out after the lead was stolen from the north aisle roof. First, we gave practical assistance to the PCC in finding and costing a non-lead replacement material. We also helped to devise a security system, and contributed £1,300 towards the cost of this.

#### **Our next target for fundraising**

This will be to make a significant contribution to the re-wiring and updating of the electrical system in the church. This is the first step in the installation of a much-needed new heating and lighting system. We are currently waiting for the PCC to give us estimated costings and time scales for the whole project, but it is probable that the total cost will be in the order of £50k and it is hoped that work will start in the next few months. The specification of this work has borne in mind the future plans of the PCC to build a unit containing a toilet and kitchenette, which will be necessary if they are to complete their mission of making the church into a hub for a range of local activities. It is aimed at making the church an educational and historical centre, especially for local children, but also for visitors from both the UK and abroad. These facilities would also be made available to other visitors such as ramblers and bird watchers.

It will also, of course, be of considerable value in our own fundraising. The splendid acoustics of the church make it ideal for concerts and other musical events, but such events will have much greater appeal if we can offer a warm church and improved facilities.

### **The website**

Don't forget that, thanks to Aaron Hall, we now have a splendid website which we share with the PCC and the Bellringers. So, if you want to know what's going on, then go to

[www.swantonmorleychurch.co.uk](http://www.swantonmorleychurch.co.uk)

### **Fundraising events next year**

We have a full programme of fundraising events planned for next year. All events will be in the church unless otherwise stated

Saturday, 19 May      *King Henry's Music*. This is our contribution to the Dereham Festival  
Starting at 7.30 pm      Tickets including food ('Tasty Tudor Morsels') £7.50 Friends £6.50  
Available from James Layte (01362 637793), David Stone (01362 637592) or the Festival Box Office

Saturday, 14 July      Great Village Yard Sale. This will take place throughout the village.

Saturday, ???      A concert by Songbyrd, conducted by Geoff Davidson (who you will remember wrote and conducted the superb *Gettysburg: a cantata in memoriam Abraham Lincoln*, as part of our Lincoln Festival in 2009)  
Tickets .....

September      A concert by the choir of Gresham's School

Saturday, 17 Nov.      A quiz in the Village Hall

### **Subscriptions**

At present it is proving somewhat difficult to monitor these because, historically, members have paid at different times of the year, and less than half the members have paid by standing order. It has now been agreed that in future (i) all subscriptions shall be due on 1<sup>st</sup> May (ii) members will be strongly encouraged to pay by standing order. This will make things much easier for our hard pressed, and aging, Administration Section (i.e. James and me!)

We recognise that that there may well be some confusion during the changeover period, so if you think that you have been asked to pay twice, just let us know. Incidentally, this is a wonderful opportunity for members to consider increasing the level of their subscription.

### **Keeping in touch**

If you are not able to come to the AGM, but have any issues that you wish to raise, do feel free to contact me or James at any time. Perhaps I may remind you that it would make my life much easier if all those who have an email address could let me have this address. Some people have kindly done this, but most have not.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the AGM

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