

# **FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, SWANTON MORLEY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2014**

## **Annual General Meeting**

The first thing to say is that the AGM will be held in the church on Tuesday, 13 May 2014, 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, despite the tight economic climate, we achieved quite a lot in the past year. I think that the overall message remains unchanged; the Friends are still struggling a bit through a lack of active members, but overall we are not doing a bad job. Anyway, this will be a chance for you to give your views on how we should proceed from now on - and on how you are going to help us do this!

## **Fund-raising 1 May 2013 to date**

### **5 May: Gresham's School Concert**

This was very well attended and the new lighting was used for the first time, to general acclaim.

### **13 July: Great Village Yard Sale**

This year the event was particularly well supported, with yard sales being held at 35 different venues throughout the village. Furthermore, several people very generously donated the proceeds of their individual sales to our funds. This was much appreciated and enabled us to make a total profit of £660. In addition, the PCC made a combined profit from their stall and from their refreshments of over £120.

This event is clearly very popular and we shall be running it again on Saturday, 12 July this year. If you want to take part, please get in touch with Judy or me. It will cost you £10 per household to put your individual yard sale in our brochure.

### **Saturday, 20 July: Auction of Promises**

This event turned out to be rather disappointing and did not really justify the large amount of effort that was put into it. The donors of the 'promises' were very generous and the final catalogue contained over 60 items, with something to suit all pockets. Once again, however, the problem arose from the poor attendance, despite the excellent publicity that we were given by the press. Those who did attend had a very enjoyable evening, and they bid most generously, but the profit on the evening was only £2,360 which was much less than we had hoped to achieve.

### **2 November: John Carrick's Fireworks Evening**

We and the Bowls Club collaborated on assisting John in running this event. Despite the fact that a violent gust of wind virtually destroyed the marquee during the afternoon, the rain held off during the evening and the event itself was very enjoyable. John kindly gave each group £1,176, which was much appreciated. He will be running it again this year on Saturday, 8 November.

### **9 November: Another Quiz in the Village Hall**

Here we had another near disaster because my laptop (on which Judy does all the scoring) packed up about 15 minutes before we were due to start. (Thanks for the loan Cyril!) The evening made £546 and the Village Hall bar must also have done pretty well too. However, it was disappointing that we had to spend £48 hiring extra tables, because the Village Hall no longer have enough tables of a suitable size. The next quiz will be on Saturday, 15 November.

## **Contributions made to the PCC**

As you many of you will know, the PCC has now completed the major programme to re-wire and update the entire electrical system in the church, including heating and lighting. The work, which was done by a local company, Wensum Valley Electrical Ltd, is generally considered to have been a big success. We donated a further £11,868 to the PCC for this work during the year, making a sum of £20,968 in total. The first time that I saw the new heating in action was during the Christingle service in December and it was immediately clear that it was very effective; it warmed up quickly and directly heated the congregation without sending hot air up to the roof. The only slight downside was that, when the lights were turned out for the children to process with their candles, the glow from the heaters still lit the church. I expect that this can be overcome by turning the heaters off for a little while next year.

Thanks to the generosity of two of our members, David & Kathy Woods, we have been able to pay for the handrail on the disabled access ramp to be rubbed down and treated with Sadolin wood stain, which will be much easier to maintain.

At present we have about £9k in our account and we shall be looking to the PCC to tell us what their current financial priorities are.

## **Changes to the Officers**

James Layte has now left the village and has accordingly resigned as both acting treasurer and acting chairman. His cheerful and unflappable input will be much missed. The Friends are most grateful for all his past efforts and would like to wish him and Gillie every happiness in their new home. David Ashford has now taken over as treasurer. The post of chairman remains vacant, but John Carrick has kindly agreed to chair the committee meetings.

## **Fund-raising events planned for the coming year**

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Saturday, 12 July</b>     | <b>Great Village Yard Sale</b>          |
| <b>Saturday, 8 November</b>  | <b>Fireworks Evening</b>                |
| <b>Saturday, 15 November</b> | <b>Quiz Evening in the Village Hall</b> |

## **Subscriptions**

Perhaps I may remind you that subscriptions are due on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 (single membership £10) and that members are strongly encouraged to pay by standing order. The treasurer can be contacted on 01362 690210 or [davidjashford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:davidjashford@yahoo.co.uk)

Thank you all for your support.

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