

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, SWANTON MORLEY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2013

Annual General Meeting

The first thing to say is that the AGM will be held in the church on Tuesday, 21 May 2013, 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 is that the Friends are still struggling a bit through a lack of active members, but that overall we are still doing a good job. Anyway, this will be a chance for you to give your views on how we should proceed from now on, and how you are going to help us do this!

Fund-raising 1 May 2012 to date

19 May King Henry's Band

This was a very unusual event, but it made nearly £400

14 July: Yard Sale

The Friends made £300 and the PCC stall made another £80.

This event does not make a great deal of money, but it is very popular and we shall be running it again on Saturday, 13 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.

1 September: Concert by Songbyrd

This concert was excellent, but we had an embarrassingly small attendance, and we made little money. I think that we shall be very cautious before trying to run another concert. This one was very well advertised, but very badly supported. We do have the excellent Gresham's School Choir coming on 5 May 2013, but they get strong support from the parents, and we are hopeful that we shall have a respectable size of audience.

3 November: John Carrick's Fireworks Evening

We and the Bowls Club collaborated on assisting John in running this event and he gave each group nearly £1,400. He will be running it again this year on Saturday, 2 November.

17 November: Another Quiz in the Village Hall

This made over £500 and the Village Hall bar must also have done pretty well too.

Contributions made to the PCC

As you may have heard, the PCC has now embarked on a major programme to re-wire and update the entire electrical system in the church, including heating and lighting, and we shall shortly be contributing up to £19k towards this. This will almost empty our coffers, so we shall have to get down to further fundraising, and this task is proving more and more difficult to achieve.

Fund-raising events planned for the coming year

All events except the Yard Sale will be held in the church, and the PCC will have a stall in the church on that day

Sunday, 5 May	Gresham's School Choir, 7pm
Saturday, 13 July	Great Village Yard Sale
Saturday, 20 July	Auction of Promises Bar & Hog Roast from 6 pm, Auction starts 7.30 pm
Saturday, 2 November	Fireworks Evening
Saturday, 9 November	Quiz Evening 7pm for a prompt start at 7.30 pm

The Auction of Promises


I would draw your particular attention to the Auction of Promises, because this is the main event of the year. When we last ran this event, ten years ago, we made over £5,000 and – with your help – we hope to do even better this year. We have already received a number of very attractive promises, such as a free week in some self-catering cottages, two tickets for the New Year's Eve Party at Hunter's Hall, Swanton Morley, an offer for dinner, bed and breakfast, and a number of vouchers for various local attractions. Basically we are trying to collect a wide range of promises which we hope will attract bids from an equally wide range of people.

Equally, of course we want to ensure that we get a good attendance at the auction so as to ensure that we get some lively bidding. We hope to be able to offer promises for all pockets! So do please come along and encourage others to attend.

Subscriptions

Perhaps I may remind you that subscriptions are due on 1st May 2013 (single membership £10) and that members are strongly encouraged to pay by standing order.

I should like to finish with a couple of reminders

First, 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 or  [/swantonmorleychurch](https://www.facebook.com/swantonmorleychurch)

The other thing is that, if any of you buy things on line, could I encourage you to use **Easyfundraising**. It is simple to use, doesn't cost you anything and gives us a nice little percentage of the purchase price. All you have to do is to log on to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and to complete a simple registration form naming "The Friends of All Saints' Church Swanton Morley" as your specified Good Cause. You will then be asked to specify a personal password which you must quote each time that you log on to Easyfundraising.

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