

# Friends of St Mary's Church Goudhurst

## Autumn Newsletter 2018

### Diary Dates

Autumn Tidy up in the Churchyard	Sat, 13th October, 10–12
Christmas Fair	Friday, 30 <sup>th</sup> November, 4-9
Christmas Carol Parties	Dates TBC
AGM	Sat, 2nd March 2019
Quiz Night	Sat, 2nd March 2019

### Village Christmas Fair Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 4-9 pm

**We look forward to welcoming you all.**

**Please can you help us with our key fundraising event?**

**Contact Andrea Kirkby on 211037 to:**

**Volunteer on the night and join the fun!  
Donate a cake or biscuits**

**Contact Pam Stubbs on 211013 to:**

**Donate raffle prizes, new unwanted gifts,  
bottles of wine, or soft toys in good  
condition**

### Goudhurst Oil Group

We should like to acknowledge the generosity of this Group for nominating Friends of St. Mary's as the beneficiary of their periodic donations to charity.

### Gift Aid

Thank you to all who Gift Aid your donations including membership. This significantly increases the amount we receive. We will continue to claim Gift Aid on your donations unless you let us know otherwise.

### Pimms by the Pond

What a lovely summer we've had ...and to think we were worried the beautiful weather may not last for our Pimms evening. Well we need not have worried! Classic cars, the entertaining Shepway U3A Swing Band, Pimms Tent, canapés and strawberries ...what's not to love?

The event was well attended by over 100 people and we raised a huge £1745. Many thanks to all who came and to our band of helpers who cajoled people into bringing their classic cars, cooked and served the canapés, and made the vast quantities of Pimms.



### The Annual General Meeting

The AGM, delayed by bad weather, was held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018, and attended by about 20 members. There were no committee changes and the Chair thanked all for their ongoing support.

#### Contact us:

Post: The Secretary, Friends of St Mary's Church, 2 Grand View, Goudhurst, TN17 1AS.  
Email: [admin@fsmg.org.uk](mailto:admin@fsmg.org.uk)  
Phone: The Secretary, Friends of St Mary's Church: 01580 211037

## Goudhurst Village Fête

We made £235 through the ever comedic Human Fruit Machine, opening the Church Tower, hosting a paper aeroplane competition and selling Goudhurst bags and tea towels.



**Our thanks to all who supported us**

## Church Tower

We should like to thank all our wonderful volunteers who have so kindly given up their time over the last 6 months to support Friends in opening the church tower to the public.

**Through your combined efforts we have raised over £1,800 since Easter**, and but for the wet weather of the last month it would undoubtedly have been more.

All these funds go directly towards the repair and maintenance of St. Mary's building and fabric, and help to preserve our wonderful church in all its glory for everyone's benefit.

**To help next year, please contact Andy on 01580 211140**

## Quiz Night

Our second Quiz night, postponed until Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> April proved another great success, making a profit of £1222. Thanks to all our helpers including those who planned some fiendish rounds and Phil Kirkby, our masterful Quizmaster. Quizzers enjoyed a two course supper. Who can challenge John McCaig's team and halt their winning run? See diary date for next year!

## Autumn Tidy Up

Our next "tidy up" the Churchyard session is on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> October from 10-12 am. Refreshments will be provided.

**If you can help, please come equipped with your favourite gardening tools and wellies.**

## Friends Committee

Carol Buckland  
Andy Freeman  
Andrea Kirkby (Secretary)  
John McCaig (Gift Aid)  
David Nichol  
Donald Sargeant  
Pam Stubbs (Chair)  
Gill Wallis-Hosken  
Chris Williams (Treasurer)

## From the Chair

We all know that an historic church like St. Mary's, standing proudly at the top of the hill, is in continuing need of repair and restoration. To help with this, your committee works hard, staging events, which you generously support, raising considerable sums each year. However, ancient stone, lead roofs and stained-glass windows are not the only treasures. Near the Bedgebury Chapel are two hidden gems - the recumbent, painted, wooden effigies of Sir Thomas and Lady Culpeper, dating from 1554. There are only 70 such figures in existence and we are privileged to be the custodians of two of them. Sadly, they are deteriorating. Our remit, as Friends of St Mary's, must extend to them as well, so we are seeking the advice of professional conservators, at a cost of £600, as to how we might proceed. Please do what you can to make our Christmas Fair a success. We particularly need volunteers on the evening to help with our stalls. Can you help?

Finally, grateful thanks go to the family of Sue Crookall who donated the collection made at Sue's Thanksgiving Service to the Friends.

## A Goudhurst Calendar 2019 is on its way!

Donald Sargeant of Weald Service Station has generously offered to sponsor the cost of production, so all proceeds will go to Friends of St. Mary's to help maintain the Church. Our thanks also go to some very talented local photographers who have kindly allowed us to use their photos, and to Sarah Clark Photography for help and guidance.

**Here is a teaser....**



**The calendar, costing £8 will be on sale at our Christmas Fair from 4-9 pm on 30<sup>th</sup> November. If you wish to pre-order, please contact Carol on 211900 or email her at [carol.smugley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carol.smugley@hotmail.co.uk)**

## How are you helping?

Your subscriptions and support at events mean that we have been able to fund:

£450 - Structural Engineer's report Tower safety  
£1025 - Tower pigeon proofing and cleaning  
£1740 - Tower Mosaics restoration  
£100 - Tower Mosaics protective covers  
£2,670 - Contribution to new Church Noticeboards

We anticipate helping with some of the expenditure arising from the Quinquennial Inspection.