

Friends of St Mary's Church Goudhurst

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Spring Newsletter 2018

Diary Dates

- AGM - Village Hall - Sat, 3rd March, 6 for 6.15pm
Quiz Night & Supper - Sat, 3rd March, 7.00pm
Spring Tidy up
in the Churchyard - Sat, 14th April, 10-12
Goudhurst Fête - Sat, 9th June

Spring is around the corner - please can you help us?

Our spring tidy up of the Churchyard will be on Saturday, 14th April from 10.00 am to 12 noon. Please call Andrea on 01580 211037 if you can help. Tea and coffee will be on hand, but please bring your own gardening kit and wellies with you. **Thank you!**

Friends of St Mary's Church
helping to preserve the fabric of this Church 2017

The new bench we have donated



Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 3rd March 6 for 6.15pm- Village Hall

A short AGM will take place prior to our fundraising Quiz evening. We hope you will be able to attend both. Please let Andrea Kirkby know by 26th February on 01580 211037 if you would like to attend the AGM. For more information about the Quiz, please see below.

From the Chair

The temperature outside is struggling to reach 3° but there are snowdrops in the garden, a sure sign that Spring is waiting in the wings. After a busy 2017 your committee, well rested and eager, are also gearing themselves up for another year of fun and fund-raising. I hope you are ready. As you read this Newsletter you will notice that we are repeatedly thanking you for your support. Support comes in many forms. First there is financial, and of course we are most grateful for your annual subscriptions which are the basis of our funds and the numbers of you attending the fundraising events last year. Then there is your generosity, giving gifts for the stalls at the Christmas Fair, raffle prizes, cakes and sandwiches (Victoria Hislop), canapes (Feverpitch concert) and puddings for the Quiz. However, the support you give as a gift of your time is the most valuable of all. Manning the Tower through the summer and the stalls at the Fair, helping with the Spring and Autumn tidy ups, opening your homes for the choir parties and the choir itself. It all helps your small but very willing committee to reach the outstanding results achieved in 2017. My thanks to you all and please continue to help us keep up the good work

Quiz Night & Supper

Saturday, 3rd March, 7.00pm – Village Hall

Following on from last year's success, both Friends' Members and those who enjoy the fun (and frustrations) of a Quiz are welcome. The first of a two course meal will be served on arrival with the dessert course in between rounds. Tickets are £15 per head and there will be a paying bar. We will have tables of eight but can also team you up with other quizzers. This is one of our major fundraisers this year so please support us.

Numbers are limited - please book now!

Contact Andrea Kirkby on 01580 211037 . Please let her know if you need a vegetarian or gluten free meal when booking.

Contact us:

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

Church Tower

Last summer we raised a massive £1876 which was £500 more than the previous year but with additional volunteers we could do even better, especially as the Tower has now been tried and tested by Penelope Keith! We would like to open the Church Tower on each Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday between April and September subject of course to weddings, baptisms and the unpredictability of the weather**PLEASE CAN YOU HELP US?**

We need two volunteers for each session between 2.30 – 5.30 pm. Volunteers should be under 75 years old, able to climb the 78 tower steps and carry a mobile phone for emergencies. Duties involve opening the Tower, welcoming people to the church, facilitating their climb to the top for a small fee, and selling Friends' merchandise. We have many interesting visitors, including some from abroad and erstwhile hop pickers from London. The proceeds go directly back into the property and fabric of the church thus maintaining this lovely old building for the whole community. If you can help, please contact Andy Freeman on 01580 211140. Thank you.

Tea with Victoria Hislop

We were very fortunate last October to entertain about 100 guests to "Tea with Victoria Hislop" which took place in the Church. Victoria was interviewed by former ITV weather presenter Gemma Humphries. She gave a fascinating insight into her love of Greece and the collection of postcards which prompted her to write "Cartes Postales". The thoroughly enjoyable afternoon also involved large quantities of sandwiches, cakes and tea! Victoria signed books at the end of the afternoon and we'd like to thank both her and Gemma for entertaining us so well and for helping us raise a welcome £973.



How have you helped us?

With your support we have recently contributed:

- £790 for a new bench on the south side
- £2,680 on new floodlighting
- £311 on renovations to the Bathurst Tomb

We anticipate the quinquennial review will bring requests for further financial help to maintain the fabric of the building, so your ongoing support will be needed even more.

Although subscriptions are slightly up on 2016, please encourage your family and friends to join the Friends. It helps us if you can pay your subscriptions by direct debit and if you can Gift Aid your donations, including subscriptions, we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give.

Christmas Fair 2017

We are delighted that so many shops and businesses participated to make this a very special Christmas evening. More of them stayed open and this brought an especially vibrant and festive spirit to Goudhurst. With the help of our team of volunteers, cake makers, visitors and stall holders Friends raised £2,274 and we are grateful to all who contributed to a wonderful evening. Our thanks also to the Primary School Choir, to Nick and Barbara Seymour for the loan of the Street Organ and to Soban at the Newsagents and Barry and Sheila Noakes who supplied electricity for the organ and the crepe van.



Christmas Carol Parties

Many thanks to Jill Dunstall for organising the Carol parties again and to the singers and hosts who together raised £771. We know that there is much background work and effort involved in making these evenings a success. Thank you.

Friends Committee Members

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