

Friends of St Mary's Church Goudhurst

Spring Newsletter 2019

Diary Dates

Spring Tidy up in the Churchyard	- Sat, 30 th March, 10–12
Goudhurst Fête	- Sat, 8 th June
Summer Event	- to be arranged

Annual General Meeting

A short AGM took place on Saturday, 2nd March. Very disappointingly only 4 members attended.

Where were you all?

Pam Stubbs, Andrea Kirkby and Gill Wallis- Hoskens were re-elected. We really need to boost our membership so if you know of any friends who may be interested in supporting our work, please let any of us know.

It's springtime again!

We will be doing our usual spring tidy up in the Churchyard on Saturday, 30th March from 10 - 12. Many hands make light work, so if you're able to help please come along armed with your wellies and favourite gardening tools.



Refreshments will be provided. Please let Andrea know on 01580 211037. Fingers crossed the weather is as good as last year! Thank you.

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

Christmas Carol Parties

The 2018 Christmas Carol parties raised a huge £1200. This includes £575 raised by Donald and Georgie Sargeant at their wonderful "Garage" Party. Our thanks to them and to Jill Dunstall and the other hosts organising events on our behalf. We appreciate the hard work that makes these evenings so successful.

From Pam Stubbs, the Chair

As we neared the end of 2018 the financial implications of the Quinquennial Inspection (QI) became clear. The QI is a thorough examination of the fabric of the church and, in order to meet the requirements indicated by the inspection, the sum of £85,000 would need to be found. St. Mary's PCC is responsible for ensuring that the work is completed before the next inspection in 2022 and they have sought our help to meet these costs. If the Friends had a mission statement it would be 'to maintain, repair and restore the property and fabric of our church', the committee therefore had no hesitation in agreeing financial assistance amounting to £30,000. However, we wished it to be spent targeting specific projects allowing you, our members, to have a connection with the work in progress. So far you are committed to pay for repairs to the door opening onto the Tower and the flag pole; repairs to the louvres adjacent to the bell loft and repairs to and restoration where required of certain windows, including stained glass. So, when you pass the church and notice any of this work being done you can say with satisfaction 'We paid for that'

Not everyone is familiar with the Culpeper figures. They have lain in an alcove, outside the Bedgebury Chapel gathering dust, almost unnoticed for c.450 years. One of our members, Sheila Klopper, was worried by their neglect. We needed professional advice which would be expensive but we had money set aside for a 'special project'. The Friends were fortunate to receive a legacy of £1000 from Sir Derek Day which we used to engage Valentine Walsh, an expert in polychrome wooden figures. She made a detailed visual examination and took paint samples for analysis; we eagerly await her report. There are only 70 such figures in the country and ours may be one of the best examples. Exciting times ahead!

Goudhurst Calendar 2019

Another highlight this year was our Goudhurst Calendar which raised a welcome £1000. We are very grateful to Donald Sargeant of the Weald Service Station who generously sponsored all the production costs, thus boosting our profit.



Our thanks also to Sarah Clark Photography who assisted with technical and resolution issues and, of course, to our talented local photographers whose photos so wonderfully captured the essence of Goudhurst.

And next?.... opening the Tower!

Spring is upon us and its time to think about opening our beautiful Church tower to the public. All the proceeds go directly back into the property and fabric of the Church, thus maintaining its presence for the whole community.

We will open to visitors from Saturday, 6th April and generally need cover for each weekend and Bank Holiday from 2:30pm to 5:30pm (weddings, baptisms and the English weather permitting).

We are lucky to have a small but dependable band of volunteers but we sometimes struggle to fill all the open afternoons. So, if you feel you or a friend would like to help, please contact Andy Freeman on 01580 211140. Volunteers must be under 75 years old, able to climb the 78 Tower steps, and must carry a mobile phone for emergencies.

Last year we were within a whisker of raising £2000, please help us to break that barrier!

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

Christmas Fair 2018



Our most successful Christmas Fair to date raised just over £3000, an increase of £700 over the previous year. This is our key fundraiser of the year and we try to keep it fresh by bringing in new ideas and a few new stalls each year. We are delighted that so many shops and businesses now stay open for the evening which enhances the Christmas feeling throughout the village and adds to the community spirit. Thank you to all those who volunteered their time on the evening, donated gifts and cakes, and to all stallholders and visitors. Thanks also to the Primary and Bethany School choirs for their carol singing, to Nick and Barbara Seymour and to Barry and Sheila Noakes who once again facilitated the Barrel organ. Onwards and upwardsBelieve it or not, we already have two stallholders booked for next year!

Friends Committee Members

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