

Friends of St Mary's Church Goudhurst

Autumn Newsletter 2019

Diary Dates

Autumn Tidy up in the Churchyard	Sat, 19th October, 10-12
Bridge and Tea	Tues, 29 th October 2 -5
Christmas Fair	Fri, 29 th November, 4-9
Christmas Carol Parties	Dates TBC
AGM	Sat, 7 March 2020
"Watch this space" event	Sat, 7 March 2020

Village Christmas Fair Friday, 29th November 4-9 pm

With some new exciting stalls, we look forward to welcoming you all. Please save the date and invite friends and family.

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 new unwanted gifts, bottles of wine, or soft toys in good condition

Thank you

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.

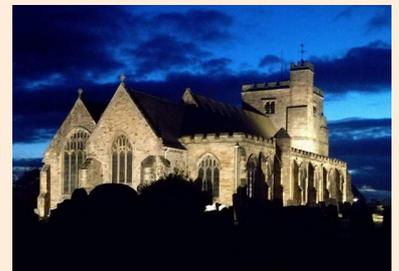
Friends of St Mary's Church Goudhurst

Maintaining the Church

This summer we mounted a display in the Church showing that over the last 5 years we will have contributed **just over £50,000** to maintaining the Church. Here are some of the photos which demonstrate how that money has been spent.



Clock £1872



Floodlights £2680



Mosaics £1840



Roof repairs £1560



Tower safety £1475



Noticeboards £2670

Sound system £8000

+£30k committed to remedial work

£50,000 is a lot to raise and, with a dwindling membership of only 93, we rely on you and the wider community to support our events. Please encourage others to become members and join in the fun.

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

Photography Competition

We need your seasonal photos taken in and around Goudhurst for postcards, Christmas cards and a Calendar!

Proceeds from all sales will go to support the maintenance of St. Mary's Church

Categories:

A year long competition!

Autumn – September to November

Winter – December to February

Spring – March to May

Summer – June to August

Age categories: under 17 & 17 and over

Lisa Hills, a local professional photographer, has offered her expertise and guidance. She is planning informal photography walks to inspire creativity

Please submit no more than 3 photos per season to lisa.hills@icloud.com with a minimum of 2mb per image

Please contact Lisa if you need further information

Autumn Tidy Up



By the time this goes to press, the Autumn Tidy Up in the Churchyard will be done and dusted! Thank you to all who help keep the gardens looking so lovely and welcoming to visitors.

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 – Pam Stubbs

It has been an unusual summer for The Friends. It started well with a successful quiz, but things went very wrong on Fête day. Our legendary Human Fruit Machine, which is as much fun to operate as to watch, fell victim to the unseasonable storm and was abandoned. Nevertheless, we were very busy. We received the report on the Culpeper figures from Valentine Walsh, the expert on polychrome painted figures. We are extremely lucky to have such rarities and the recommendation is that they be cleaned and the paint stabilised to prevent further loss. This is undoubtedly an expensive process, but there are charities which can help with – if not fully underwrite – the cost. Following the 5-yearly inspection of the condition of the building the PCC approached us to help with the cost of some of the work. We subsequently paid £4,460 for remedial work to some of the windows, and agreed to pay for work on the flagpole and louvres. Unfortunately, this work has been delayed until 2020. As we move into the autumn we have two fund-raising events. On October 29th we have our first Bridge Tea when we look forward to welcoming bridge players to what could become an annual event. A month later we have THE CHRISTMAS FAIR, our main fund-raiser of the year and I urge as many of you as possible to get behind us and help wherever you can. We need you!

Church Tower

We should like to say a huge 'Thank You' to 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. When the sun shines, it is a very pleasant way to spend a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, but on several days this year the weather has not been so kind, and yet our intrepid volunteers have carried on whenever possible, braving the unfavourable conditions to keep the tower open. Through everyone's combined efforts we have raised nearly £1,700 this year; a little down on last year (£1,800), due mainly to the weather, but a tremendous achievement nonetheless. All these funds go directly towards the repair and maintenance of St. Mary's building and fabric, and help to preserve our wonderful and historic church in all its glory for everyone's benefit. To help next year, please contact Andy Freeman on 01580 211140 or at atmfreeman@hotmail.com

The Annual General Meeting

After a disappointing attendance at this year's AGM, we're giving you advance notice of the date for next year!

7th MARCH at 6.30 pm

Please save the date!