



The Friends of St. Margaret's Church, High Halstow CIO

Registered Charity Number 1189941

June 2023

Trustee's Annual Report

The Friends of St. Margaret's Church have had a successful year with well supported events which, with members' subscriptions raised £13,106 This helped fund the £17,713 repairs carried out in the year to the Church in line with the quinquennial survey.

Our next challenge is to support the Parochial Church Council in helping to fund the replacement of the temporary roofing that was installed after the theft of lead. This is a complicated process and an Architect has been appointed. Currently the necessary planning consent is awaited from the local council who liaise with English Heritage. Approval will then be sought from the Diocese.

Organ restoration fund.

A new fund has been set up to restore our Victorian Church Organ. It is proving to be very popular and donations have been coming in steadily. Alastair Curtis, an organ tuner and restorer has surveyed the Organ and is preparing a restoration specification and quotation of circa £18000.

Recent Events.

History Talks.

A series of talks have been delivered this winter and spring which were well supported and very enjoyable. They were:-

Len Feist – “The History of the Hoo Peninsula”.

Ken Reynolds – “The Railways of the Hoo Peninsula”.

Ken Reynolds – “Cinemas of the Medway Towns”.

Peter Hartley, a former Royal Equerry – “A Royal Interlude”

Christmas Cards.

Ray Collins once again produced and sold good number of Christmas Cards at the Christmas Fair and in the Post Office.

Christmas Tree Festival.

A wonderful success. The Church was magical for the Christmas Services and the Carol Concert which was packed with villagers.

Music Hall Concert

The Community Choir 'Music Hall' Concert in November was a great success. This raised over £340 was well supported and very enjoyable. The Friends are very grateful to the Choir who consistently support us and add greatly to Village life.

Forthcoming Events.

At a recent Trustees Meeting the following events were agreed:-

The Annual Scarecrow Festival.

It's time to start planning this year's Scarecrows! The next Festival will run from Saturday 27th May, Scarecrows being made during the School Half Term, and displayed in front gardens throughout the summer. A display at the Rectory Garden party on July 1st is also planned.

The Friends of St Margaret's

ANNUAL SCARECROW FESTIVAL

2023.

Make a scarecrow and display it in your front garden.
From May Half Term through to the end of August.



It will add much to the village this Summer.

Concert.

The High Halstow Community Choir will present,

“Songs from the Musicals”

Saturday 8th July, 7.30pm. the Memorial Hall.

Wedding Photos

Mitch Dowsett is coordinating a project to celebrate the role of St Margaret's in the community. In the October edition of the High Halstow Times you may have noted the article recording two Dowsett family weddings. If you have memories of events in which St. Margaret's Church played a significant part then please contact Mitch on 01634 254428 or

mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com

Membership.

In order to build upon our success it is important that the “Friends” recruit new members. I am sure there are villagers who care about their church and wishes to help preserve the oldest building in the village so that it remains our distinctive landmark and is available for generations to come. Membership Forms and details are available.

Mike Meredith. Chairman.

THE FRIENDS OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH CIO
FINANCIAL REPORT 2022/23

Subscriptions

We have 46 standing subscriptions. 43 monthly and 3 annually.

We lost four during the year with only one new addition.

This gave us a reduction £690 revenue, the first year our revenue through subscriptions has fallen

Debtors

We have only one debtor, the HMRC for the Gift Aid refund of £1,330.87.

Fund Raising

Following the pandemic fundraising has returned to near normal and the six events held helped raise £1900.19 including Carol and Chris's new gardening initiative.

Administration Expenses

These were £491.23 for insurance and hall hire

Funds to PCC

£16243.33 was given towards quinquennial repairs and £1394.20 for roof repair preparation. The PCC repaid £2641.97 after VAT was recovered

Audit

The accounts have been independently audited

Bank Balance

At the end of the financial year, we had a bank balance of £37995.76 with no cash in hand

Reserves

Roof repairs	£32008.06
Organ repairs	£1487.50
Pointing	£500.00
General	£4001.20

Total funds with debtor is £39325.29

R Collins

Treasurer

May 2023

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH CIO ACCOUNTS 2022/23

Friends of St Margaret's High Halstow				
Profit & Loss Account				
For The Year Ended 31st March 2023				
	2021/22		2022/23	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
General				
Subscriptions	6,194.00		5,504.00	
Gift Aid	1,317.42		1,330.87	
Donations	83.00		1,729.11	
PCC repayment	3,765.00		2,641.97	
		11,359.42		11,205.95
Fund Raising				
Scarecrow Festival	184.18		210.22	
Summer Concert			154.80	
Christmas Tree Festival	147.31		200.15	
Christmas Cards	126.90		114.30	
Heritage Day				
Flower Festival			324.65	
Knit & Natter				
Coffee Tree				
Christmas trees	500.00		0.00	
Village events	12.90		93.49	
Gardening			220.00	
Christmas Concert	170.90		304.75	
Christmas Nativity				
Amazon	14.46		5.00	
Railway talk	160.40			
History Talks	210.60		272.80	
		1527.65		1900.16
Total Income		12887.07		13106.11
Expenditure				
Insurance	391.96		415.23	
Stationery				
Asbestos Removal				
Roof Repairs			1394.20	
Window renovation	16830.00			
Charity application expenses				
Miscellaneous	32.69		76.00	
Fabric repairs	82.74		16243.33	
Total Expenditure		17337.39		18128.76
Excess Expenditure Over Income		-4450.32		-5022.65
Excess Income Over Expenditure				