



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

Registered Charity Number 1189941

October 2024

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 £23,042 This helped fund the £25,458 repairs carried out in the year to the Church roof replacing the temporary roofing that was installed after the theft of lead. This was a complicated process requiring employing an Architect, obtaining the necessary planning consent from the local council and approval from both English Heritage and the Diocese.

Organ restoration fund.

A 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 which were well supported and very enjoyable. The most recent:-
Ken Reynolds – “The Life and Times of Thomas Aveling”

Garden Party July 2023

Our stall displaying Scarecrows and encouraging children to play games with no charge was a successful “Awareness Raiser”

Music Night, March 2024.

An excellent evening with local band Nashville Exile who chose to support the friends by making no charge for their performance. It was a "Sell Out Evening" and we hope to have them return.

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.

"Songs from the Musicals"

The Community Choir Concert in July was a great success. This raised over £182, was well supported as was The Christmas Concert in St. Margaret's Church and both were very enjoyable. The Friends are very grateful to the Community Choir who consistently support us and add greatly to Village life.

The Annual Scarecrow Festival, May - August 2023.

Scarecrows were displayed in front gardens throughout the summer. A display at the Rectory Garden party on July 1st proved popular.

Forthcoming Events.

At a recent Trustees Meeting the following were agreed:-

Community Choir Concerts

Commencing with:-



The Friends of St Margaret's
are pleased to present

**High Halstow
Community Choir
Memorial Hall**



Saturday 9th November 2024
7:30pm at The Memorial Hall
High Halstow ME3 8SG

Adult Ticket - £6.00

Child's Ticket – Voluntary Contribution

Tickets available from the Village Shop or on the door
Refreshments will be available on the night

Consideration is being given to future Music Nights and the viability of The Annual Scarecrow Festival.

Wedding Photos

Mitch Dowsett is continuing to coordinate the 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 at 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.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mike Meredith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Meredith. Chairman of Trustees.

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH CIO ACCOUNTS 2023/24 FINANCIAL REPORT APRIL 2024

Subscriptions

We currently have 44 subscribers

42 monthly, 2 annually and 1 four weekly

Income

Included a £10,000 Legacy

Expenditure

£30947.04 was spent on Church roof repairs

Administration costs were £597.08

Current Funds

Bank	£33550.07
Cash in hand	£25.48
Total funds	£33575.55

Earmarked Reserves

Organ fund	£5500
Window repairs	£3728
Grouting	£1500
Decoration	£1000
Total	£11728

Debtors

Gift Aid	£1149.13
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Which will be claimed for in the new financial year

Accounts

These have been independently audited

R W Collins
Treasurer
April 2024

AUDITOR - Gary Thomas

Recently retired from Medway Council where he was responsible for:-

The implementation and managing of the main finance management systems
Managing Exchequer Services (payments, debt management and cashiering)
Managing insurance requirements and claim processing

Friends of St Margaret's High Halstow				
Profit & Loss Account				
For The Year Ended 31st March 2024				
	2022/23		2023/24	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Income</u>				
General				
Subscriptions	5,504.00		5,281.00	
Gift Aid	1,330.87		1,176.06	
Donations	1,729.11		4,118.43	
PCC repayment	2,641.97		290.68	
Legacy			10,000.00	
		11,205.95		20,866.17
Fund Raising				
Scarecrow Festival	210.22		171.17	
Summer Concert	154.80		182.86	
Christmas Tree Festival	200.15		101.14	
Christmas Cards	114.30		129.30	
Flower Festival	324.65		0.00	
M Bufford collection			172.81	
Coffee Tree				
Nashville Exile	0.00		851.13	
Village events	93.49		54.40	
Gardening	220.00		0.00	
Christmas Concert	304.75		494.90	
Amazon	5.00		18.41	
History Talks	272.80		0.00	
		1900.16		2176.12
Total Income		13106.11		23042.29
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Insurance	415.23		415.23	
Stationery			6.85	
Roof Repairs	1394.20		25458.53	
Window renovation				
Miscellaneous	76.00		75.00	
Quinquennial repairs	16243.33		0.00	
Total Expenditure		18128.76		25955.61
Excess Expenditure Over Income		-5022.65		-2913.32
Excess Income Over Expenditure				