



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

Registered Charity Number 1189941

April 2025

Chairman's Annual Report to Trustees.

The Friends of St. Margaret's Church have had a successful year with some very well supported events which, with members' subscriptions raised £26,835. This helped fund the £30,947 repairs 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.

The fund to restore our Victorian Church Organ has proved to be very popular and donations have been coming in steadily. This Fund is managed by the Friends of St. Margaret's but is a standalone item not drawing on our general fundraising or subscriptions. We will soon have sufficient funds to allow grant applications which will hopefully meet the restoration costs of circa £18,000.

Recent Events.

History Talks.

In recent years a series of talks have been delivered which were well supported and very enjoyable. The most recent being an excellent talk by Ken Reynolds on "**The Life and Times of Thomas Aveling**", a local man born in Hoo and considered to be the father of the traction engine. Many interesting facts about Thomas Aveling and his company were learnt by the audience.

An earlier talk on the **History of Cinemas in the Medway Towns** was so popular that it has been recorded and is now available for viewing on **YouTube**. Many thanks to Ken.

Garden Party July 2024

Sadly this event was cancelled due to the Rector's retirement.

Nashville Exile, 21. March 2025.

An excellent evening in March 2024 with local band Nashville Exile was a "Sell out Evening" and we had no hesitation in asking them to return which they did on 21.3.2025. The concert made a net profit of £776.83. The band also enjoyed the evening and readily agreed to return in March 2026.

Consideration is being given to future Music Nights. Please let me know if you can recommend a band that would be suitable for our venue.

Christmas Cards.

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

Christmas Tree Festival.

A wonderful success. The Church was magical for the Christmas Services and the Carol Concert.

Community Choir Concerts

The Concert in July, "**Songs from the Musicals**" was a great success. This raised over £182, was well supported as was **The Christmas Concert in St. Margaret's Church**. Both were very enjoyable.

The concert celebrating "**The 100th anniversary of the Memorial Hall**", on 9.11.2024. was excellent and very much enjoyed by the many villagers who attended.

It should be remembered that the hall was built to celebrate those villagers who fought in the first world war and returned.



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**

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 2024.

Although the scarecrow festival was well advertised, a very disappointing number of scarecrows were displayed. Those on show were all excellent. Trustees have agreed to cancel the 2025 Festival.

Communication.

Facebook is now being utilised much more effectively and we have a presence on our own Friends of St. Margaret's page, on the High Halstow Appreciation page and similar pages serving Cliffe, Allhallows, Hoo and Strood.

Wedding Photos

Mitch Dowsett is continuing to coordinate the project to celebrate the role of St Margaret's in the community. In the October 2023 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 wish 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. <http://thefriendsofstmargarets.org.uk>

Mike Meredith. Chairman of Trustees.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
The Friends of St Margaret's Church CIO

No (if any)
1189941

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

Period start date
01-Apr-24

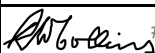
To

Period end date
31-Mar-25

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	5,180	-	-	5,180	5,281
Gift Aid	1,117	-	-	1,117	1,176
Parochial Church Council	6,290	-	-	6,290	4,094
Legacy	-	-	-	-	10,000
Donations	1,174	-	-	1,174	4,108
Various fund raising activities	1,258	-	-	1,258	2,176
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	15,019	-	-	15,019	26,835
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	15,019	-	-	15,019	26,835
A3 Payments					
Insurance	415	-	-	415	415
Stationary	-	-	-	-	7
Roof repairs	-	-	-	-	30,947
Miscellaneous	20	-	-	20	75
Organ repairs	420	-	-	420	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	855	-	-	855	31,444
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	855	-	-	855	31,444
Net of receipts/(payments)	14,164	-	-	14,164	4,609
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	34,715	-	-	34,715	39,323
Cash funds this year end	48,879	-	-	48,879	34,714

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	48,879	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	#VALUE!	M Meredith	13/12/25	
	 #VALUE!	R W Collins	02-Sep-25	