



The Friends of St Peter and All Hallows Church West Huntspill

Newsletter No.12 Summer 2022

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

Summer is here and the sun is shining at last, although the West Huntspill wind has been fairly constant (as the flag on the tower will attest).

The main news regarding the Church is that the internal work is largely complete. If you would like to see how the inside improvements look, you could come along to the next Pop Up Cafe recommencing on the 18th July.

Judging by the progress of the scaffolding, the work on the tower will be starting in earnest soon. It is heartening to those of us who love this building to see these developments, although the main roof repairs still need to be addressed in the future.

We cannot underestimate the work that has been done over the last few years to bring things to this point and the village owes much thanks to the PCC and, in particular, to David Lemon.

Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Church on Saturday 20th August 2022 at 10.30 a.m. and anyone is welcome to attend. The Agenda will be sent out to all members later this month, together with the Report and Accounts.

Upcoming Events

Maundriils Farm Walk – Saturday 23rd July at 11 a.m.

Join us on a guided tour of this local farm where they produce organic beef cattle raised on pasture.

The walk will take approximately 2 hours and, optionally, you can bring a picnic to enjoy after the walk.

Tickets are £10 in advance from the website, or contact Janet Hill.

Children under 12 go free. Maximum 2 children per adult. Please note that this is a working farm and their safety is your responsibility.

West Huntspill Village Classic and Vintage Vehicle Show

Saturday 10th September

The Friends of St Peter and All Hallows Church will be at the Classic Vehicle Show again this year.

This show really is one of the highlights of the village year, and a great fundraiser for the Church so, if you have not been before, come along and see what it is all about. There will be lots of interesting vehicles, cars, motor bikes and trucks of various types to look at as well as stalls, a BBQ and refreshments.

Islands of the Bristol Channel

Friday 28th October at 7.30pm in the Church

Join us for a film show presented by Friends' Council and PCC member Geoff Bryant.

Tickets £12.50 to include cheese and a glass of wine. Wine and soft drink bar available.

Recent Activities

Skittles at the Orchard 1st April

We advertised in advance that because of the special circumstances prevailing at the time (as now, sadly) the Council had suggested that the profits should be donated to the DEC Humanitarian Appeal for Ukraine.

This enjoyable evening raised £230 which was duly donated to the Ukraine Appeal. Special thanks must go to Mark for keeping us all in check and ensuring that the skittles competition ran smoothly.

Table Top sale in aid of Ukraine 7th May

The Church Social Committee organised a table top sale and invited people to take a table for a small fee which was to be donated to the Ukraine Appeal.

The Friends took a table selling donated items and chose to donate not only the fee, but also the takings to the Appeal. Our contribution amounted to £83.

In total, £660 was raised for the Appeal by the sale despite it being put together at short notice.

St Peter & All Hallows Church Summer Fete 2nd July

As usual, the Friends had a table with a raffle at the Fete. The prize was a lovely summer hamper with everything needed for Pimms and a cream tea.

The weather was disappointing to say the least, with heavy downpours at times, but the hardy people of West Huntspill still came out in numbers. The Church was open for teas and coffees and we were able to see the improvements to the facilities which will make it so much more useable for the community. A number of names were suggested for the new space and people were invited to vote for their favourites. In addition, suggestions were sought for the type of activities that people would like to see take place there (without detracting from the Balliol Hall of course).

The Fete raised a total profit of £924 which considering the weather was a great result. On top of this, the Friends raffle raised £78 for our funds, which will of course eventually go to the Church when our next project is identified.

Raven Mad?

If you spend any time in or around the churchyard, you soon become aware of the sights and sounds of the resident corvids (Rooks, Crows and Jackdaws) which nest in large numbers in the nearby trees - but can you tell the difference between them?

The Jackdaws are the easiest to recognise as they are considerably smaller than the other two and have a light grey neck. Rooks and Crows are similar in size, but the rook has feathery "plus four trousers" and a distinctive pale bill which has a bare grey base.

Corvids are intelligent and sociable birds, often known to mate for life and it is reported that adult family members without their own nests will assist family members in the feeding and raising of young.

We can certainly testify that they are extremely sociable. One of the treats of this time of year is to see the mass flights which often take place around the church area in the evenings coming up to sunset. The birds gather in the tree tops and on the top of the tower, calling and chattering amongst themselves until at some unseen signal they all take off with a "whoosh" of wings and wheel around the sky, sometimes literally hundreds of them.

From our vantage point with a good view of the church tower, we also frequently see the birds doing what can only be described as playing by taking it in turns to balance on the weather vane and even on the top of the fluttering flag.

Are there Ravens here? I personally have never seen one in West Huntspill but there are reliable reports of Ravens nesting nearby, so it is possible. They are unmistakable on the ground, being much larger than Rooks or Crows standing at about 46cm tall (around 18 inches in old money) and with a wingspan of up to 1.5 m. It would be wonderful to see them here, so I live in hope.

Anne Paul

Can you help out?

As well as our own events, the Friends try to have a presence at Village events such as the Vintage Car. Would you be willing to help out, perhaps by manning a “Friends Table” for an hour or so? You get to meet lots of lovely people! If so, please let us know.


We also have a vacancy on the Friend’s Council, hopefully to be filled at the AGM. If you would like to get involved, look out for the AGM notice which David Hill will be sending out shortly.

Want to contact us?

Telephone the Membership Secretary, Janet Hill on 07840 072351 or email: hello@friendsofspaahc.org

Friends’ Council Members:

Chairman: David Hill	Secretary: Ann Hopwood
Membership Secretary: Janet Hill	Treasurer: Anne Paul
Elected Member: Michael Hopkins	Co-Opted Member: Christine Stephens
Elected Member: David Holmes	PCC Nominee1: Geoff Bryant
Elected Member: Vacancy	PCC Nominee 2: Bronwen Wright

See our website: <https://friendsofspaahc.org> for more information, the latest news, new membership and renewals, ticket purchases and more. Follow us on Facebook  for news.