



The Friends of St Peter and All Hallows Church West Huntspill

Newsletter No.16 Summer 2023

Dear Friends,

I was voted in as Chairman at the AGM held in the Church on the 12th August. I hope to build upon the achievements of our first Chairman David Hill and our recent Acting Chairman Michael Hopkins. Thanks go to them for their work especially through the difficult Covid time. I would also like to thank Janet Hill for her time and commitment as Membership Secretary, Janet stepped down at the meeting but has agreed to continue as a council member. We do therefore have a vacancy for the Membership Secretary, if you would like to volunteer please contact us. There were a number of changes to the council at the AGM, the list of members is listed at the end of this newsletter.

After the meeting we had a showing of the video "A Towering Success" which documents the work undertaken over the last few years to reconfigure the Church and to repair the roof and the Tower. This was followed by a wine and cheese reception which was very much enjoyed by those present and gave a good opportunity to socialise. Hopefully more members will come along and join us next year as although a general invitation to members went out we had very few attendees beyond the Council.

The Heading Picture shows musician **Richard Lennox** at his last concert in the Church two years ago. We are delighted to be able to welcome him back on 16th September, See below for more information and how to purchase tickets.

Over the last year we have been looking at the way we raise money, this has culminated in a move towards specific appeal based fund raising, more about this in the following piece.

Dave Paul.

Announcing the launch of the Tower Handrail Appeal

We are pleased to announce the launch of an Appeal to fund a new metal handrail in the Tower to provide safer access.



As you can see from these pictures, the steps in the Tower are very steep with only a thin rope on the inner edge at present. It is planned to install a metal handrail but this is not within the scope of the grants received for recent repairs and so the Parochial Church Council has formally asked the Friends to provide a grant to fund this work.

The Estimated Cost of the manufacture and fitting of the handrail is currently about £5000 and the Council have agreed that this falls within the "Objects" defined in our Constitution (to assist and support the PCC in maintaining, conserving and enhancing the fabric of the building) and is a suitable project for the Friends. We have decided to make it a specific appeal to try and raise £2500 in donations we will match each donation £ for £ from our existing reserves which have been raised mainly through your membership subscriptions.

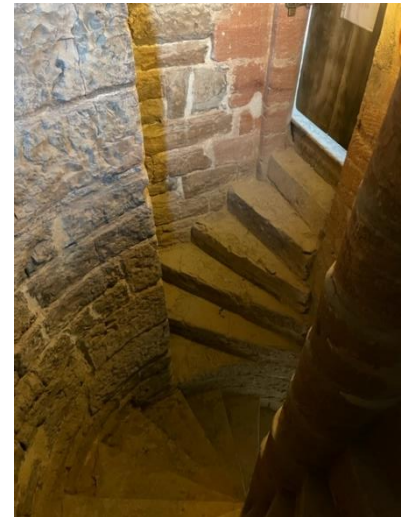
It will take time to get the necessary permissions for this work to be carried out so we do not know at this stage how long we have to raise this amount.

All donations, however small, will be welcome. Please let us know when donating that it is for the Handrail Appeal. The names of all donors (but not amount given) will be included in a Book of Donors which will be kept at the Friends Table in the Church.

There will also be other ways in which you can help us to achieve this target. There will be further announcements in the future, but the first way is to "Sponsor a Step".

Sponsoring a Step

There are 97 steps in the Tower and you can "Sponsor a Step" with a donation of £25. You can choose "your" step number, providing it has not already been claimed. So for example you may wish to sponsor a particular step for an anniversary or birthday. Step Sponsors will receive a Certificate of Sponsorship recording the step number.



How to donate to the Appeal

To donate you can contact us by e-mailing us at hello@friendsofspaahc.org or contacting Anne Paul on 07557 103443.

Alternatively you can donate directly on the website <https://friendsofspaahc.org>.

FUTURE EVENTS

A Gala Concert by Richard Lennox Saturday 16th September at 7.30 at St Peter and All Hallows Church

The last time Richard played at West Huntspill, nearly two years ago, we all enjoyed a hugely entertaining evening of Richard's unique style of piano and organ music encompassing classics, popular music and jazz.

Back by popular demand, we are delighted to announce Richard's return.

"This virtuoso musician plays everything from Bach to The Beatles, musical theatre to rock and roll, and just about everything in between. He has worked extensively in theatre, cabaret and major concert venues across the UK and Europe, including the Royal Albert Hall"

Tickets are £10 each and can be purchased via the Members Store on our website (where you also have the option to pay via PayPal) , by e-mailing us at hello@friendsofspaahc.org or contacting Anne Paul on 07557 103443.

There will also be a bar selling wine and soft drinks.

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## **9th December – A Christmas Concert in the Church with music provided By The King Alfred’s Concert Band**

Further details to follow shortly.

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As usual we are planning to have a table with donated goods for sale and also a draw for a hamper at the following village events:

Saturday 9th September – West Huntspill Classic and Vintage Vehicle Show

Saturday 18th November – Christmas Fayre at the Balliol Hall

Round up of recent activities

The Barn Dance which had been scheduled for early June sadly had to be cancelled due to lack of ticket sales.

No other events took place although we did raffle Summer Hampers at both the Summer Fete and the Church Cream Tea which together raised £168.

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**Are you interested in becoming the Membership Secretary for the Friends? If so, please contact us for more information.**

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Telephone 07557 103443 or email: [hello@friendsofspaahc.org](mailto:hello@friendsofspaahc.org)

Friends’ Council Members:

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Chairman: Dave Paul             | Secretary: Christine Stephens |
| Membership Secretary: Vacant    | Treasurer: Anne Paul          |
| Elected Member: David Holmes    | Elected Member: Ann Hopwood   |
| Elected Member: Michael Hopkins | PCC Nominee1: Geoff Bryant    |
| Co-opted Member: Janet Hill     | PCC Nominee 2: Bronwen Wright |
| Co-opted Member: Ian Fleetwood  |                               |

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