



The Friends of St Peter and All Hallows Church West Huntspill

Newsletter No.19 Summer 2024

Dear Friends,

In this Newsletter we have a letter from Rev Chris to us as Friends, it is a lovely acknowledgement of what we as an organisation are about.

As an organisation we have procedures and an important one in our calendar is the Annual General Meeting. As members, you should recently have received notice of the meeting and the relevant documents. Any Friend can attend the AGM which will be held in the Church at 11am on the 10th August.

We will be two council officers down at this AGM, we have been without a Membership Secretary for a year, and Christine Stephens our Secretary is stepping down at this AGM because she has moved away, she will continue to be a Friend, we thank her for her time on the Council. If you are interested in coming onto the Council please contact us.

Dave Paul

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### **Letter from our President, Rev Chris Judson,**

Dear Friends of St Peter & All Hallows,

Thank you for all that you are doing to support and sustain West Huntspill's historic Church building. Your role as 'friends' is deeply appreciated and it seems to me that 'friendship' is one of life's most precious gifts.

'The Friendship of Christ' is an 8<sup>th</sup> Century Coptic Icon, depicting Christ and Abbot Mena. At its heart is a deep bond of friendship, and Christ's arm is gently resting on Abbot Mena's shoulder, almost as if he is encouraging him as he presents him to others already in heaven!

This, together with the beautiful account of what friendship is that appears in Kahlil Gibran's 'The Prophet', is a source of inspiration for me. Kahlil claims that 'your friend is your needs answered..... your board and your fireside', ....the one whom you should seek with 'hours to live', not 'hours to kill'. Throughout my own life, I've been richly blessed with friendships – and they matter a lot to me.



For St Peter & All Hallows Church here in West Huntspill to have friends is indeed a real encouragement – one that I just want to say 'thank you' for. If you are a member of the Friends group, and especially if you're on the committee – THANK YOU!

Already this year we have shared some great times - most recently 'The Summer Fayre'. What a joy to witness lots of people, from our own village community and beyond, simply enjoying being together, feeling at home in their church and inhabiting the space that it offers us all.

Your 'friendship' is supporting us as we seek to look after an incredible piece of history – our Church building - and is helping us to ensure that the building is in the best state possible to be able to welcome others to come and join in.

Saving the heritage that has been passed down to us, and sustaining the community in which we live are the two fundamental aims of the recent building work – but that only marks the start. Now that we have physically adapted our space it is up to us to make good use of all that we have available, to nurture the life of our village and to extend the hand of friendship to all. So thank you for all that has been achieved thus far, and here's to all that lies ahead!

With deep gratitude for all that you do and are,

God bless you,

Rev Chris



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Grant for repairs to the Organ Well

Since the last newsletter there has been a leak above the organ in the Church, thankfully the organ was not damaged. The leak has been fixed, but there was water damage to the walls and re-decoration is required. In order to carry out the re-decoration the organ will need to be covered to ensure that there will be no accidental damage to it. The covering needs to be carried out by external specialists and the PCC have asked the friends for a grant of £1000 to cover the costs of the protective covering and the re-decoration. The Council has approved the grant and the work is now underway.

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### **Update on the Tower Handrail Appeal**

As you know, last Summer we announced the launch of the Tower Handrail Appeal in response to a request from the PCC (Parochial Church Council) for a grant of £5,000 to pay for the manufacture and fitting of a replacement handrail for the Bell Tower steps. The rail is to replace the existing rope "handrail" on the steps and will improve safety and accessibility.

We set ourselves a target of raising additional donations of £2,500 for the Appeal, to be matched £ for £ from general funds raised through membership subscriptions to the Friends, donations, activities and the raffling of hampers at local events.

We invited people to "Sponsor a Step" for a donation of £25, with 97 numbered steps available. You may have recently seen a report on our

Appeal on the Burnham-on-Sea news website. We are delighted to report that we are now just over halfway up the tower with 49 steps have been sponsored, leaving 48 still available.



This, together with other Appeal donations, brings the total raised for the Appeal so far to £1372.50. With funds matching from our General Fund the total Appeal Fund currently stands at £2,745, so we are well over halfway there!

How long do we have to reach our target? Well, we do not have a firm timescale yet. Due to the strict controls exercised by the Church of England, the Church Wardens are working hard to get the necessary "faculty", the Church's equivalent of planning permission. This is a complex process as you would expect with a building of this age and importance (being Grade 1 listed) and is not known for being particularly swift!

Meanwhile, we will continue to work to achieve our target with your help.

Anne Paul

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SAVE THE DATE – FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 14th September – West Huntspill Classic and Vintage Vehicle Show

The annual show will take place as usual in the field next to the Church and The Balliol Hall. As well as the many interesting vehicles on display, there will be stalls in the Balliol Hall and on the field. As usual the Friends will be hosting a table, raffling a hamper of goodies and also publicising the Friends and the Tower Appeal.

The council members who usually attend the tables also have other duties at this show and so we are in need of a few volunteers to share the manning of the table.

Saturday 16th November – Christmas Fayre at the Balliol Hall

This is a lovely event to get you into the Christmas mood and again, we will have a table to raise awareness of the Friends and raise a bit of money with a hamper raffle.

Please let us know if you would be willing to give up an hour or two of your time to attend one of the tables, or would be willing to make a donation to the cost of the Hampers we will be raffling.

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## **Secretary and Membership Secretary – What's Involved?**

In the introduction I said we require a Secretary and a Membership Secretary, what do they do?

The **Secretary** assists the Council in the running of the Friends. They are a member of the Council, tasks included are organising the meetings, checking the emails and responding as necessary or contacting the right person to respond. It should only take a few hours a month.

The **Membership Secretary** is responsible for managing the membership database, processing membership renewals and processing of new memberships. Again it also should only take a few hours a month. They are also a member of the Council.

We have more detailed information about the roles, please contact us if you are interested.

## Round up of recent activities



As Chris mentioned above on 6<sup>th</sup> July we had a table at the **Summer Fayre** on the Church lawn.

Unusually for this summer, the day was sunny and warm-ish, and the event was well attended.

Our raffle prize was a Cream Tea and Pimm's Hamper, which was won by Ann Hopwood! Ann is pictured here with Dave Paul.

We made £118.30 from the raffle and donations for books and cards. In addition, 5 more steps were sponsored which more than doubled the total on the day.


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Want to contact us?

Telephone 07557 103443 or email: hello@friendsofspaahc.org

Friends' Council Members:

Chair: Dave Paul	Secretary: Christine Stephens (resigns Aug 24)
Membership Secretary: Vacant	Treasurer: Anne Paul
Elected Member: Michael Hopkins	Elected Member: Ann Hopwood
Co-opted Member: Janet Hill	PCC Nominee1: 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.