



Friends of St Peter & All Hallows Church West Huntspill

Members' Newsletter Issue 1 Autumn 2019

Welcome to the first of our quarterly Members' Newsletters, we hope you find it interesting. If you have any comments, or would like to contribute to future editions, contact details are at the end of the Newsletter.

The inaugural meeting – we are now a reality, not just an idea!

The evening of Saturday 21st September saw the launch meeting of the Friends of St Peter and All Hallows Church, West Huntspill. Thank you to everyone who attended for coming along and making the meeting a success. It was particularly encouraging that it was an interactive meeting with so many people contributing to the discussions.

Michael Hopkins opened the meeting by outlining the background to the formation of the Friends and our aims. The Friends are a secular group and will work together with the PCC to secure the future of the Church building.

The constitution was agreed and members of the Friends' Council were formally elected. Formalities over, we enjoyed wine, canapes and chat.

What are our aims?

Not everyone could attend the inaugural meeting and so it is worth reiterating the main points of the purpose of the Friends of St Peter and All Hallows, West Huntspill.

Everyone in the village can be proud of both of our beautiful churches. They are important to the community. They are where we celebrate the major milestones of human life and where we can come together as a community, not just for services, but increasingly for other purposes, whatever your beliefs.

St Peter & All Hallows Church is an important historical building which has been at the heart of village life for hundreds of years but it is now in real danger of permanent and irreparable damage unless action is taken to make significant repairs as soon as possible.

There is no doubt that the PCC have done a fantastic job in securing the first tranche of funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, but this is just the start of their project. As well as securing the fabric of the building, the PCC has ambitions to see the Church used more widely by the community, particularly the elderly, the isolated, and the young. Even with, hopefully, the full grant amount for repairs, there will still be the need to raise additional funds to complete the work and for the ongoing running of the Church as a community asset.

Our purpose as a secular group is to mobilise people (including those who perhaps would not normally become involved in "Church" activities) to become involved in supporting the PCC in their long term ambitions, in particular securing the fabric of this beautiful and ancient building for future generations. How can we do this? In two ways:

- 1) By growing the number of Friends of St Peters and All Hallows, West Huntspill, and
- 2) By raising funds through activities, donations and membership.

Membership

Initially, we have set ourselves the target of reaching 100 members by the end of this year and just two weeks after our launch event, we were over two-thirds of the way there!

We will be publicising the Friends locally and online but the best way to spread news is still always word of mouth, so if you know of anyone who might be interested in joining, please encourage them and let them know where membership forms are available:

- In the Church
- In the Crossways Inn
- From the Membership Secretary, Janet Hill

We are hoping that, in particular, people who have special memories of the Church from past events would like to help preserve it.

So what's next? Get involved!

There is still one seat on the Friends' Council to be filled. At present, the Council is meeting monthly on the 2nd Tuesday but even if you do not want to be on the Council, there are plenty of ways you can get involved.

Would you like to join the **Events Group**? We are looking for people who would like to contribute to putting together the events calendar and organise the events.

Ideas – if you have some ideas for activities and/or fund raising, we want to hear about them.


Finally – support the events and encourage your friends to do the same.

***** Upcoming Events *****

- Skittles Night with buffet at the Orchard Inn at 7.00pm on Saturday 16th November. Tickets (including buffet) £10 for members, £12 for non-members. Tickets must be purchased in advance from the Membership Secretary.

There will be a prize for the winning skittler and a raffle.

Help! We need sticker uppers & volunteers to sell raffle tickets.

- Coffee Morning at the Balliol Hall 15th February 2020 – details to follow.
- Please watch out for more events as they are announced.  Follow us on Facebook for the latest news.

The Friends' Council Members – Contact us at davidandjanethill@yahoo.co.uk

Chairman: David Hill 01278 229379	Secretary: Ann Hopwood 01278 794927
Membership Secretary: Janet Hill 01278 229379	Treasurer: Anne Paul 07557 103443
Elected Member (1 year): Michael Hopkins	Elected Member (3 years): Vacant
Elected Member (2 years): David Holmes	PCC Nominee1: Geoff Bryant
Elected Member (3 years): Naomi Maratty	PCC Nominee 2: Bronwyn Fraley