



The Friends of St Peter and All Hallows Church West Huntspill

Newsletter No.13 Autumn 2022

A message from David Hill, Chairman

Dear Council and Members of Friends,

After considerable thought I would like to inform you that I wish to step down as the Chairman of The Friends of St. Peter and All Hallows' Church.

When offering myself to take up the Chairman's appointment at the inaugural meeting it was always my intention to only serve for a period of 3 years in accordance with the requirements of our Constitution. Due to the Pandemic period of virtually no activity we are in fact entering the agreed extension to a 4 year term.

I am now approaching the age of 84 years and wish to reduce my current commitments. I have also some ongoing health issues which hopefully will be resolved with treatment over the coming months. This situation has obviously influenced my decision to stand down earlier than intended.

Also, as you may be aware, I am currently the Organist of the church and feel that I wish to continue to give this role as part of my priority time towards the life of St. Peter and All Hallows' Church and in addition I also wish to spend more valued time with the family.

I am encouraged that Friends has made excellent progress since being formed in 2019 especially when one considers getting through the Pandemic period which has been a very difficult time and affected all organisations such as ours and indeed the whole country. For our size we are in good shape financially and our Membership numbers also remain at an acceptable level. I am also most pleased that during my position as Chairman we were able to finance the restoration work of the Reginald Wade window in the Church. The fact that this was achieved within the first year of our inauguration meeting from the Membership was no mean feat. The wall below the window has now had the brass Plaque fitted in acknowledgement of this.

We have established a recognised profile within the local community. We have brought to their notice the importance of supporting the ethos of the preservation of our wonderful church building for the present and future generations both as a place of worship and as a community gathering now newly named as the Huntspill Hub. I hope that I may still be available from time to time to help out in some way at future events when needed.

Lastly I have considered it a great privilege to serve you all as Chairman and offer my thanks to you for your support during this time.

Having recently discussed the situation with Michael Hopkins our Vice-Chairman he has kindly agreed to stand in until a new Chairman is appointed at the 2023 AGM.

With my very best wishes,
David

Mr Fred House

Mr Fred House was a farmer in West Huntspill until his retirement and was a member of The Friends of St Peter and All Hallows from the launch date of the group.

We were sad to hear of his death, in hospital, on 27th September 2022 and would like to send our condolences to all his family.

News

“Islands of the Bristol Channel” – postponed.

We are sorry to announce that the film show scheduled to take place on **Friday 28th October at 7.30pm in the Church** has had to be postponed.

This will be rescheduled to another date but at this time we are unable to say when that will be. As soon as we know, we will contact you all with the revised details.

Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting was held at the Church on Saturday 20th August and we are delighted to welcome Carole Baker on to the Council.



Recent Activities

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

On a fine Saturday morning in July, 12 Friends enjoyed a fascinating and informative guided tour of Maundrils Farm. The weather was kind to us right until the end when we had a rather damp but companionable picnic in the garden on front of the farmhouse.

We learned about how the pasture is managed to give the greatest yield and provide the cattle with the most nutritious feed. Thanks to the generosity of Rachel and Joe all proceeds of the ticket sales went to the charities funds and £140 was raised.

Village Classic and Vintage Vehicle Show –10th September

We were once again very lucky with the weather and the sunshine brought out a good number of visitors who were able to enjoy a great variety of vintage vehicles and motorbikes as well as a number of stalls. This included the Friends Table where we ran a raffle for a superb Hamper from Rich's Cider Farm, raising £113 for the Friends funds.

The Car Show is the major fundraiser for the Church and this year the total proceeds were over £4000. A proportion of this also goes towards the upkeep of the Balliol Hall (much appreciated after the loss of rental due to Covid).

St Peter and All Hallows Tower and Reordering Project September 2022

An update from David Lemon

The project work started at the end of March 2022, with most of the internal reordering now complete and in use every week for the Monday coffee morning. Still outstanding are some of the decorated floor tiles which have to be especially made, they are expected sometime in October. The font has a small leak caused by an inadequate soak away. This should be rectified by the time you read this. The new flexibility of the West end of the Church gives us the chance to use it for other purposes as well as large services.



Work on the top of the tower started in mid-July immediately after more than the ten weeks the scaffolding had taken to erect.

It soon became evident that dismantling the parapet to remove the rusting iron cramps was going to be a problem. The cement used in previous repairs had been a very strong mix and was much harder than the soft sandstone. It was essential to replace the iron cramps, which when rusting were causing the stone to crack. They were to be replaced with stainless steel cramps thus eliminating the problem. After much head

scratching, a technique of cutting out just enough stone to allow the removal of the old cramp, giving enough space (letterbox) to put the new cramps in, and finish with a new piece of stone. This has taken much more time and added considerably to the cost.

Three and a half tons of the loose stone and cement pointing has now been removed from the tower, and work has started on the repair where possible of the stone and replacement of stone where necessary. Almost all the stone will be re-pointed, with some mortar repairs, and the surface of the stone coated with sheltercoate to protect the face of the stone.

Work on the inside of the tower is on hold as a very rare grey long eared bat has taken up day residence inside the tower, necessitating a bat mitigation licence. We are also unable to drill the stonework for the Cintec anchors and tie bars until the bat can be removed.



The original finish date was estimated at the middle of December, but with the present setbacks this could slip into the New Year, especially as dismantling the scaffolding is likely to take about four weeks after work finishes



What's Coming Up?

Christmas Craft Fayre - Saturday 19th November – The Balliol Hall

The Christmas Fayre is one of the most popular fixtures on the village calendar and a great opportunity to buy some Christmas presents. The Friends will be running a raffle at the Fayre as usual this year so please drop by and buy a ticket.

Coffee Morning at the Church every Monday morning 10:30 – 12:00

Come along and have a drink and a piece of cake!

“Bags2theFuture” collection in aid of the Balliol Hall

Bags of good quality second-hand clothing, shoes and accessories are being collected to raise funds for the Balliol Hall and any contributions would be gratefully received.

Items should be secured in any plastic bags and can be left at the Hall from October 31st to Sunday 6th November. The bags will be emptied after collection and sent for recycling. For further information contact Anne on 07557 103443.

Want to contact us?


Telephone the Membership Secretary, Janet Hill on 07840 072351 or email:

hello@friendsofspaahc.org

Friends' Council Members:

Chairman: vacant	Secretary: Ann Hopwood
Vice Chairman: Michael Hopkins	Treasurer: Anne Paul
Membership Secretary: Janet Hill	Elected Member: Christine Stephens
Elected Member: David Holmes	PCC Nominee 1: Geoff Bryant
Elected Member: Carole Baker	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.