



Friends of St Peter & All Hallows Church West Huntspill

Newsletter Issue 5 - Autumn 2020

Hello, we hope that this Newsletter finds you all well. As the current situation seems to stretch ahead of us for the foreseeable future, we are of course unable to reschedule any of our cancelled activities, or to contemplate organising any new ones and so there is precious little news to bring you at this time.

We do not as yet have any timeline for the repair of the Reginald Wade window which the Friends will be funding, however, our Membership Secretary, Janet Hill, has been doing a bit of investigation into who Reginald Wade was and why he is commemorated in the Church and her findings are below.

Most of you will know Nigel Maddocks, formerly a Church Warden for many years. Nigel looks after the Churchyard and has kindly provided a piece for us about it and the wildlife it contains.

Finally, we would like to thank those of you who have already renewed your membership for another year.

St Peter and All Hallows Churchyard.

The churchyard at St Peters, is an open churchyard, this means that those who live in the parish of West Huntspill can be buried in the Churchyard. This status should continue for the foreseeable future. The records for the churchyard are held in church and can be viewed on request to the Church Wardens.

In 2002 a group consisting of church members and with the aid of the Huntspill Projects, now Huntspill 4 U, were given a Millennium grant to make the churchyard a place to rest and be peaceful. Seats and arbours were installed and the churchyard kept clean and tidy. This work still continues up to the present day.

The churchyard has two public footpaths running along the left hand side and in front of the church. This is used daily by dog walkers and hikers. The areas of the graves are kept tidy by volunteers cutting grass and general maintenance.

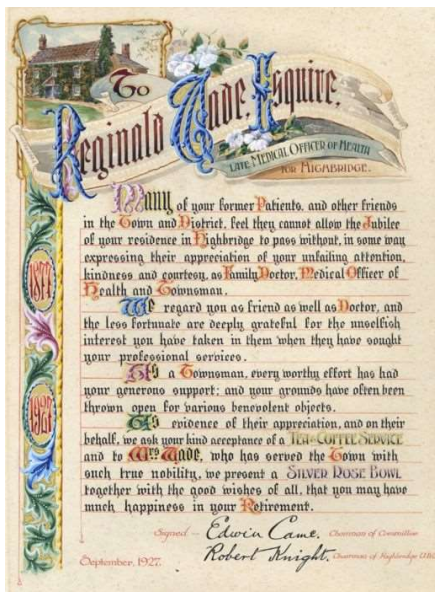
The churchyard has a large number of mature trees, the larger beech trees are listed because of their size. The area at the bottom is put over to conservation, until required for burials. This means that we have a vast number and variety of wildlife. A survey carried found that there are around 400 types of insects. These encourage other wildlife and there are grass snakes and rodents to be found.

The bird life is also diverse, green and spotted woodpeckers, jackdaws, and ravens who nest each year. There is a bat nursery in one of the lime trees and a nest of bees under the church. All of this can be seen if you sit quietly on one of the many benches around the churchyard.

All are welcomed to use the churchyard to relax and rest in. Enjoy the peace and tranquility of the churchyard, you do not have to wait until you need to use it, the residents do not mind and are quite friendly.

Nigel Maddocks

Who was Reginald Wade?



Dr Reginald Wade and his wife Ellen lived at Southwell House in Highbridge where he was the Doctor and Medical Officer of Health for Highbridge until 1927 when he retired. As you will see on the window in the church Mrs. Wade died in 1929 and Dr. Wade in 1931. He and his wife are buried in the churchyard at St. Peter and All Hallows, West Huntspill.

In 1932 Southwell house, garden and land was sold to Highbridge Urban District Council for £550.00. The area was to be used for public walks and gardens. The Council opened the Recreation Field on 29th March 1933. Highbridge Urban District Council was dissolved in April 1973 and amalgamated with Burnham. Later in 1974 Sedgemoor District Council was formed and took over the responsibility for the area.

There is a Community Hall on the site of Southwell House alongside a War Memorial Garden which is supported and run by volunteers.

Janet Hill

Gift Aid

The Friends has now been granted charitable status by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs, enabling us to claim back 25% of your membership subscription and any additional donations if you give us permission to do so. Our renewal and joining forms now contain a gift aid declaration.

We appreciate that some of you already gift aid up to the limit of your tax with other organisations – or are not taxpayers, but if neither of these things apply to you, then please tick the declaration when you renew and we will be able to claim the 25% back on both this and last year's subscriptions. This additional money will go towards preserving the fabric of the Church together with every penny of your subscriptions and donations.

Christmas Shopping? Raise some money for the Church when you shop online

Just a reminder if you shop online to sign up for the fundraising scheme easyfundraising.co.uk, which the Church has signed up to on the recommendation of the diocese.


You can sign up by going to the website and then select "St Peter and All Hallows Church West Huntspill" as the cause to support. A downloadable app then gives you access to a number of very well-known websites (including Wickes & Screwfix if you are planning some DIY this autumn – or Amazon and M&S for your Xmas shopping). Each time you make an online purchase via the app, the store donates a small percentage of what you have spent to church funds. It does not cost you any extra and is very easy to sign up to.

For more information, please contact Mel Wall at philmelwall@btinternet.com

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**WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO, WE WILL ANNOUNCE NEW DATES FOR OUR EVENTS. ANY NEWS WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE OR INCLUDED IN THE NEWSLETTER WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED QUARTERLY.**

You can e-mail the Friends Council at [hello@friendsofspaahc.org](mailto:hello@friendsofspaahc.org) or contact the Membership Secretary, Janet Hill on 07840 072351

See our website: <https://friendsofspaahc.org> or follow us on Facebook  for the latest news.