



# Friends of St Peter & All Hallows Church West Huntspill

## Newsletter Issue 4 - Summer 2020

### **CANCELLATION OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Friends of St Peter & All Hallows Church (the Friends) was due to hold its first AGM in August but the Council have taken the decision to cancel it because of the current situation and the need to ensure the safety of our Members.. The report and approved accounts for the past year which would have been presented to the Members at the first AGM are therefore included with this Newsletter. The next AGM will take place in August 2021.

### **FRIENDS PROJECT TO FUND REPAIRS TO CHURCH WINDOWS (and why we hope you will renew your membership for another year)**

We announced in the last newsletter that the Friends would be funding the repair of the "Reginald Wade" window on the south wall. The Church has been given a budget costing of £1500 and it is absolutely fantastic that thanks to your membership subscriptions and donations given in just 9 months since the start of the Friends we will be able to cover this cost.

There are two similar windows requiring less urgent repair and we hope to be able to fund this further work as well, although we do not yet know the cost.

Your membership subscriptions are vital in enabling the Friends to do this, particularly as we are unable to raise funds through events and activities at the moment. And so, as your membership comes up for renewal over the next few months, we really hope that you will choose to renew for another year. Every penny of your subscriptions and donations will go towards repairing the fabric of the church.

The Membership Secretary will be sending everyone an invitation to renew just before your membership expires. You will be able to renew manually or online and we hope that by the first anniversary of the Friends, we will be able to offer you a choice to make a **Gift Aid** declaration if you are a UK tax payer, allowing us to claim back tax on your membership fee and on any additional donations. This can increase the amount we receive by 25% without any cost to you.

**Do you shop online?** If so, you may be able to contribute to the Church funds at no cost to you.

We have been asked by the Treasurer for the Church to let you know about a new fund-raising initiative that they have signed up to. It is a fundraising scheme recommended by the diocese - [easyfundraising.co.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.co.uk).

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. You then download an app which gives you access to a number of very well-known websites (including Amazon and M&S) and each time you make an online purchase via the app, a small percentage is donated to church funds.

For more information, please contact Mel Wall at [philmelwall@btinternet.com](mailto:philmelwall@btinternet.com)

## From city to West Huntspill - Memories by David Holmes

*As we have no past or future events to report on at the moment, Friends Council Member David Holmes is sharing his memories with us. We hope you enjoy reading them.*

The story starts back in 1956. I remember arriving home from school which was a good 5-mile cycle ride. In those days, there weren't bus passes like there are today. Thinking about those days, there probably wasn't a bus route anyway. Well, where was I living? It was just on the outskirts of Manchester. Thinking back, we lived in quite a good area of the city. It was called Urmston, quite near the Cheshire border (football players country).

So the story goes as follows:- Dad to Mother "I have had enough of that Mr so-and-so. He has had promotion over me. I have had enough; we are moving down South." So the story goes on - Dad started a job at Crypton's in Bridgwater in October 1956 and we moved to West Huntspill after looking at many houses, bungalows etc in January 1957.

When house hunting before moving down, we usually came from Manchester by train because Dad had the car. The car was a very old Morris 8 convertible, I think about 1936, so the train was probably more comfortable. To make the most of the day we came down on the post train during the night, usually arriving quite early in the morning. By calling ahead we would be met at Bridgwater railway station by an estate agent, some I remember are David Monks, Greenslades, Abbot and Frost and others. So the day would begin.

With about £500 to spend on a property at that time there were plenty of properties to see. We looked at other villages in the area, but we decided that we liked West Huntspill. We met a couple of lovely ladies at this lovely house. They came from Canada and the house had a French-Canadian name. Some of the older members of the village may remember the name, it was "Quapple", or to new people in the village, 23 Church Road. So in January 1957, in deep snow, we moved in. Over the years since, many changes have taken place in the village, new roads appeared such as Plymor, but at this time there was a lovely orchard belonging to a Mr. Brooks. The woods by the church were also a great place to play.

Being only 14 years old I was sent to West Huntspill school. I found this strange as I had come from an all-boys school. I only stayed until August when I left and started work at Thomas Hamlin in Bridgwater.

My time was mainly spent with the Highbridge scout group where I met many great friends, some of whom are still friends today. This is where I met Chris, my best man when I got married at West Huntspill Church on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1967. Alas, Chris is no longer with us. Also, my dear wife who passed away 2 years ago. When we got married the vicar was the Reverend MacArthur. A big man but a great character. As young teenagers we got up to all sorts of things including climbing the church tower. Another thing I remember well was that I was in the church choir - until age stopped that.


Finishing my apprenticeship, I decided there was more to see and joined the Merchant Navy as an Engineering Officer.

Life has changed and I have returned to Huntspill Church, enjoying the company. I am on the Committee to help save the fabric of the Church. I hope you have enjoyed reading this short story of my life around West Huntspill.



**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.