



The Friends of St Peter & All Hallows Church West Huntspill

Newsletter Issue No. 9 – Autumn 2021

Annual General Meeting

A reminder that our AGM will be held on Thursday 23rd September at 7:00 p.m. in the Church and any member of The Friends is welcome to attend. Last year it was not possible to hold an AGM because of Covid so this is our first general meeting since The Friends was formed two years ago.

We have a vacancy on The Friends Council.....Will you help us? We need an enthusiastic person to help us plan events and to help look after the running of the organisation. We meet up every couple of months throughout the year. We would love to hear from you if you feel you could help. If you are interested please contact Ann Hopwood (contact details at the end of this Newsletter) or email hello@friendsofspaahc.org

The Rev. Chris Judson

Although the Friends is independent of the Church, it is important to forge and maintain close links to enable us to work together to secure the future of the building as a community asset. To further this aim, the Council recently invited the Rev. Chris Judson to become President of the Friends of St Peter and All Hallows Church and we are delighted that she has accepted and sent the following message.

Dear Friends,

As the relatively new priest for St Peter & All Hallows I wanted to write to say a big thank you for all that you are doing to support this amazing building. I was delighted to discover that The Friends group had been established and had already gained so many members, and was deeply honoured to be invited to take on the role of President. I realise that Covid will have hugely limited The Friends activities of late, but I enjoyed meeting many of you at the Barbeque and am looking forward to Richard Lennox's performance and all else that lies ahead. There are many challenges to be met if we are to secure the future of this historic and marvellous church, but it is deeply encouraging to be facing them with your support.

With every good wish,

Chris

Rev Christine Judson, The Huntspills & Mark

~~ SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER ~~

As you know, last year thanks to your generosity The Friends were able to fund the repair of the Reginald Wade window in the Church at the cost of £2480, which considering that we had only been running for a year at that point, was quite remarkable and shows how important the church building is to the community in the village. However, it did take most of our funds and so with the lifting of lockdown, the Council has wasted no time in seeking ways to top them up again.

To kick things off, at the Church Fete we raffled a hamper containing a cream tea for two, complete with Pimm's. This raised £175 after the costs!

BBQ on the Lawn – 14th August

Well, we could not have asked for better weather for our first event for over 18 months when we gathered on the Church Lawn on Saturday afternoon for the barbeque. The sun shone all afternoon as we emerged blinking from the gloom of lockdown. Around 40 people enjoyed a truly delicious range of barbecued fare, thanks to our chefs, Ryan and Jon Hopwood, and a very social, if slightly socially distanced, get together. We were also treated to a stunning display of aerobatics by the local dragonfly population who turned out in force.

As well as being a very enjoyable occasion, it also raised a grand total of £476 after costs which was beyond our expectations. A generous gift of an embroidered picture representing the church was auctioned for £50 and the raffle raised a splendid £150. One of the prizes was a delicious looking box of fresh fruit and vegetable which was very kindly donated by “The Milk Lady” (mobile 07712412640 and also on Facebook)

Our thanks also to the PRS/PPL who granted us a free licence so we could provide background music.

Community Cafe at the Church

The Friends now have a table at the West Huntspill community cafe held at the back of the church on the first and third Monday of the month at 10.30am until 12pm. There are greetings cards and other goods for sale at a very reasonable price. One of our members is very kindly donating beautiful hand crafted cards with all proceeds going to The Friends, so do come along and have a browse and enjoy coffee and cake! If you have a small amount of surplus fruit or vegetables you would like to donate to the table, please bag and price them up and bring them along. Hope to see you there!

~~ FUTURE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES ~~

West Huntspill Vintage and Classic Car Show

The Friends will have a table at the Car Show on 11th September at the Balliol Hall Field. We will be running a raffle and will also have tickets on sale for future events. If you are attending this ever-popular show, please come and say hello - and maybe buy a raffle ticket 😊. The show is open to the public from 11am-4pm. Admission will be £3, with under 16s free. Parking is free.

If you would be willing to help out by manning the table for an hour or so, please let us know.

Gala Concert by Richard Lennox at St Peter & All Hallows Church Friday 22nd October at 7:30 p.m.



“This virtuoso musician plays everything from Bach to The Beatles, musical theatre to rock and roll, and just about everything in between. He has worked extensively in theatre, cabaret and major concert venues across the UK and Europe, including the Royal Albert Hall”

Richard Lennox is an innovative classical crossover Pianist and Organist with a unique style encompassing classics, popular music and jazz. We are delighted to be able to welcome him to West Huntspill and you can be sure of an entertaining evening.

A bar will be available for the purchase of wine and soft drinks.

Tickets are just £10 and can be purchased by contacting Geoff Bryant on 01278 788061 or emailing geoffbryant6@gmail.com. They are also available by contacting us as detailed at the end of the newsletter.

Skittles Night at the Orchard 3rd December 7:00 p.m.

A re-run of our first ever Friends event, which proved to be very popular and a lot of fun.

The ticket price of £12 includes a game of skittles (with prizes) and a generous buffet.

Details of how to get your tickets can be found at the end of this newsletter



Continuing our informal series of stories of local life from our members, we are grateful to Gordon Fear for sharing his memories.

The Family Recollections of Annette Moore which appeared in the Friend's Spring Newsletter I found very interesting, as I was also born on New Road at Number 4! This was at my Grandparent's William and Annie Gunningham's house, way back in the 1930s. However, my childhood was spent on The Clyce (Clyce Road) Highbridge. I missed out on attending West Huntspill School until I was eleven years old, as I had to attend Highbridge Infants School.

Many of my childhood friends who lived on The Clyce also attended West Huntspill School, where the Headmaster at the time was a Mr L. A. Davey who was also the Organist and Choir Master at St Peter & All Hallows Church.



This is a photograph of the WH School's Football Team which was possibly taken in 1949 or 1950. I have just realised that included in the team were four boys from The Clyce and the Headmaster Mr L.A. Davey is pictured alongside his school's team. The other teachers at the school when I attended were Mr H.(Arthur) Holley, Miss Porter, Miss Phillips, Miss Cox and Mr C. Parish.

The School Dentist would visit the school maybe every six months or just once a year, and Mrs King at No9 New Road allowed her front room to be used as the Dental Surgery!

Most lunch breaks when at school I could visit my Gran at No4 New Road. My Gran's sister Mrs Mason (who was my Aunt Fann) lived at No7 and very often she would bring a wonderful freshly baked fruit cake for us all to enjoy. Both my Gran and her sister (my Aunt) were born in West Huntspill on Sloway Lane. The 1891 Census lists my Gran as aged 17 and my Aunt Fann as 13 years old.

I know Mr Syd(?) Washer at No6 and my Uncle Ern at No7 were firm friends, both were members of the Village Church's Choir and each Sunday morning they would walk to church and if the singing had gone well might pop into the Globe Hotel on their return home to refresh their vocal cords! Being careful to be home in time to carve the Sunday Roast!

I can also remember the Village cricket team playing their home fixtures at Mr Bill Palmer's Grove Farm, before moving to the War Memorial Ground on New Road possibly in the 1950s.

I expect there are others who remember the huge traffic jams on summer weekends, when traffic would be solid from Bridgwater to the Bristol side of Highbridge. Thank goodness the M5, when opened in the 1960s, sorted that problem.

Gordon Fear

Why be a member of the Friends?

Although the purpose of the Friends is to raise funds for the preservation of the Church building, perhaps more importantly at this time, we are able to demonstrate community support for the efforts of the PCC in gaining the funding grants essential for the major repairs that are needed to secure the future of the church as a place of worship and, importantly, a community asset available to all.

The Friends is an inclusive group welcoming people of any denomination - or none. Independent of the Church, but having close ties and the common purpose of preserving the building and keeping it open and available for use by the whole community.

We have plans to organise varied and interesting events in the village, ranging from skittles evenings to concerts and talks. In fact, anything that we think people will enjoy. If you have any suggestions or requests for future events we would love to hear from you.

Some of these events, for example the concert in October, will be held in the church itself, further demonstrating its value to the Village community.

As we approach the 2nd anniversary of the formation of the Friends, many of you will be coming up to your membership renewal date. We would like to thank you for your support and we really hope that you will renew your membership and help this group to continue.

Contact and ticket purchase details.

To reserve tickets for one of our events or for any other query you can e-mail the Friends Council at hello@friendsofspaahc.org

See our website: <https://friendsofspaahc.org> for more information, the latest news, new membership and renewals, ticket purchases and more.

Prefer to talk to someone?

For any membership queries or renewals you can speak to the Membership Secretary, Janet Hill on 07840 072351

All other queries including ticket purchase, call Janet on 07840 072351 or Ann on 01278 773804