

Friends of St. Peter's, Meavy

Providing a focus of support for all who value this ancient church

Newsletter 5

March 2014

Welcome

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Friends of St Peter's Church Meavy Newsletter. Our members attending the AGM at St Peter's on 21st September agreed that we had another successful year. Following the AGM Mrs Sue Andrew gave a most interesting talk on roof bosses entitled "The Meavy Mouseman and the medieval church". This talk explained the design and purpose of roof bosses.

At the AGM the committee was elected. The committee members re-elected were: Sarah Gordon, Stephen Hughes and Michael Parle. Following the AGM, Catherine Leather agreed to come back onto the committee. This leaves us with one vacancy. We would welcome enquiries from any member of the Friends who might like to join the committee.

The committee meets regularly to plan action and future fundraising events. If you have an idea for an event please let us know.

The main fundraising event in the past year was the concert given by Callington Community Gospel Choir, one of the largest Gospel Choirs in the UK. This concert certainly lived up to the promise of giving us the most joyous, spirited and energised singing to be found anywhere. Unfortunately it was not as well supported as we might have expected.

Around 25 members and friends (and dogs) enjoyed a pleasant sunny afternoon stroll exploring the line of the leat that supplied the water power for The Mill in Meavy. We are most grateful for the support given at this and other events in helping to raise funds towards the maintenance and repair of St. Peter's Church.

As usual, the main article in the newsletter is The Churchwarden's Report, this year by Sarah Gordon. We are most grateful to Sarah for her contribution to the newsletter.



The Mill Leat walkers pause for a while in Burrator Woods, at the point on the River Meavy of the weir that marks the start of the Mill Leat.

The Churchwarden's Report

Sarah Gordon

I took over from Phil Helby as Churchwarden in May 2013 and have gradually been getting to grips with all the many responsibilities that come with the role.

One of these responsibilities is the care of the churchyard and I am very grateful to the volunteers from the Friends who have undertaken to care for sections of the churchyard boundary. We have regular churchyard working parties twice a year and would welcome more help if you can spare the time. Our churchyard is always open and is a peaceful place to pass a few minutes in the sunshine (when that happens) and enjoy the tranquillity and wildlife.

Another responsibility is the church building. After discussions with our builders – Farnham Brothers, and glazier Andrew Johnson, the Church Council took the decision in autumn 2013 to move forward with repairs to the East window and at the same time to repoint with lime mortar the external East chancel wall. The Council hope that a faculty for this will be granted by the Diocesan Registrar in April 2014 and work will then be able to start. The work to the reredos and altar steps will be readdressed in due course.

As a result of our quinquennial inspection in 2012 we had an inspection of the roof voids of the church – the areas between the ceiling that you see and the roof tiles. As a result of the initial inspection we have requested our architect to carry out a detailed survey of the voids but before he could do this it was necessary to have a survey by volunteers from the Bat Conservation Trust to tell us when we could or could not carry out work. This survey identified three species of bats present in the church building – pipistrelle, long-eared and lesser horse-shoe.

The survey of the roof voids will continue in 2014 with work being carried out to repair roof timbers - some of which date back to Tudor times, treatment of roof timbers due to beetle infestations and repairs to some lathe and plaster in the ceiling over the chancel. Necessary permissions will be required from the Diocese before this work can be undertaken.



Close-up of the east window showing detail of the stained glass behind the reredos

Other smaller works highlighted by the Quinquennial inspection will also continue to be carried out during the year.

The costs of maintaining our Grade 1 listed building as well as supporting our mission within the West Dartmoor Mission Community and the Exeter Diocese are considerable and the Church Council is very grateful for the support of the Friends of St Peter's so that we all can continue to use and enjoy this lovely church.



Chancel roof looking east.

Photos by Robert Platts, Architect.



Beetle damage to arch brace and tie on north side of the Nave



St Peter's Church Flower Festival

11th to 13th July 2014

All are welcome to visit St Peter's Church to see our church decorated with flowers.

A flower display at the St Peter's Church Flower Festival back in 2009.

Summer Walk

Sunday 10th August 2:00pm

An Exploration of the parish landscape.

Followed by cream tea from 4:00pm.

A walk from Meavy to explore the landscape to the north and east of Meavy.

No charge for the walk, but a donation to Friends of St Peter's would be most welcome.

AGM

Saturday 6th September at 10:30am

Includes a short talk on repairing stained glass windows given by Andrew Johnson.

Treasurer's Report

Stephen Hughes, Hon. Treasurer

When last year's books were closed on 30 June 2013 we had a balance of £5,834 which was available for repairs and maintenance of St Peter's Church. The figure currently available is £9,791. It is anticipated that this money will be used to assist the PCC with the repair work on the East window and roof.

On the 30 June we were awaiting the rebate from HMRC for gift aid of £204. This has now been received.

We are most grateful to the Meavy Oak Fair Committee for their continued support as shown by their donation of £350 to the Friends. The walk and cream tea raised £218 and the concert given by the Callington Gospel Choir raised £242.

Please remember that the Friends is registered as a charity for tax purposes making subscriptions and donations eligible for the Gift Aid scheme. This means that we can claim a rebate from HMRC of the tax you pay, at the basic rate, on the donations you make to us. Please use the Friends' Gift Aid Envelopes so that we can claim this rebate.

We have recently benefited from legacies from wills and funeral collections. If you are arranging a funeral, particularly of someone who had an association with St Peters, please consider making the Friends of St Peters Church a beneficiary of the Collection.

Book Stall at Meavy Oak Fair

The Friends of St Peter's will have a Book Stall at Meavy Oak Fair, on Saturday 21st June. If you have any books surplus to requirements that you could donate for the Book Stall we would be most grateful. Also if you have an hour to spare during the afternoon we would welcome help in looking after the Book Stall. For further details on either giving books or giving your time please contact Sarah Gordon (01822 854298).

Plymouth Clarion Male Voice Choir

St Peter's Church

Friday 21st November 2014 at 7:30pm

Plymouth Clarion Male Voice Choir is a small choir of around 14 voices. They perform a wide variety of music from traditional male voice choir, to musicals and pieces composed for the choir.

Please come and join us to listen to the choir and to help raise funds for the church.

Admission by donation, raising funds to support St Peter's Church.

Join Us

Membership of the Friends of St. Peter's Church, Meavy is open to all who support the aims of the Friends. Should you wish to join please complete the Membership Application Form (see our web site at www.meavy.org.uk/fsp) and send it to our Treasurer, Mr Stephen Hughes (to the address on the form).