

# Friends of St. Peter's, Meavy

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

Newsletter 3

March 2012

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## Welcome

Welcome to the third edition of the Friends of St Peter's Church Meavy Newsletter. Our members attending the AGM at St Peter's on 24th September agreed that we had a successful second year. Following the AGM Mr Robert Platts give a short talk on "St Peter's Meavy: a typical Dartmoor Church?" This gave us an interesting insight the growth in the design of our lovely churches.

At the AGM the committee was elected. The committee members re-elected are: Sarah Gordon, Douglas Henderson, Catherine Leather and Michael Parle. A new committee member elected is Stephen Hughes. At the first meeting of the new committee Michael Parle was elected as Chairman, Sarah continues as Secretary and Douglas as Treasurer.

The committee meets regularly to plan action and future fundraising events. The Friends has a website managed by Michael Parle, [www.meavy.org.uk/fsp](http://www.meavy.org.uk/fsp). This year we again produced a Christmas card, with a lovely photograph of St Peter's in the snow taken by Denis Walker. They sold very well, with a few packs remaining.

We have also produced a full colour leaflet and an application form which is available in the church and on the website.

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## "Is St Peter's Meavy a typical Dartmoor church?"

*A talk given by Mr Robert Platts at the AGM*

Robert Platts gave an excellent talk, illustrated with good slides.

He started with pictures of the windows in St Peter's alongside examples of different window designs from early medieval through to 1540. He explained that all churches grow out of their communities, be they rich or poor, small or large, and where they are located.

He then widened the scope of comparison with a picture of the tower of Shaugh Prior church, and pictures of Widecombe in the Moor, followed with plans and pictures of churches across Dartmoor from the simple form of Brentor, to Sourton, Peter Tavy, Lustleigh, Manaton, Widecombe, Buckland in the Moor, Whitchurch, Harford, Cornwood, Ashburton

He compared the structures looking at the materials used to build the churches, the roof layouts, the towers, the interior barrel ceilings, and other items of interest commenting on Victorian alterations at the same time.

Robert ended with the question – after seeing his examples of small and large churches dotted across the moor, did we think that St Peter's was a typical Dartmoor church.

# The Churchwarden's Perspective

*Philip Helby*

Since I last wrote to you, the work to the rainwater goods has at last been completed and we now have redecorated guttering, renewed endstops and in one or two places new downpipes. We hope that the good effects will last us for many years.

The final large item from the last quinquennial inspection is to deal with the east end. We need to remove the two curved steps in front of the altar for genuine health and safety reasons (we really don't want to see anyone tumbling down them) and simultaneously to repair the reredos and reread the east window. In fact, the reredos has to be removed in order to undertake both the window work and the removal of the altar steps, so the package fits together very well.



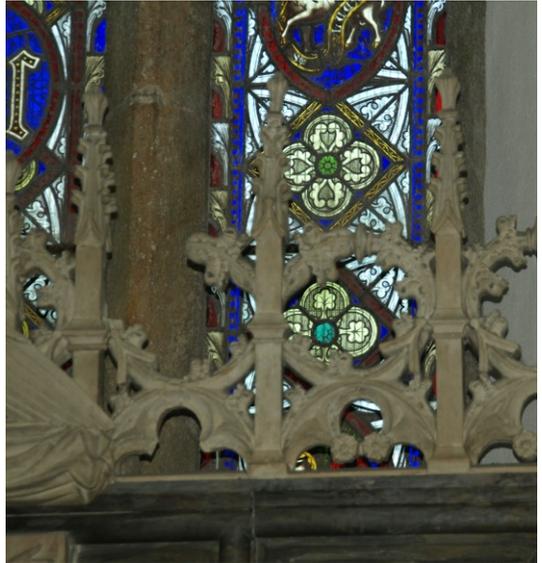
Two curved steps in front of the altar that we need to remove

Our architect has drawn up a scheme for removing the steps and a statement of need and significance has been expertly compiled by a combination of the architect and Peter and Pauline Hamilton Legget, our local historians, for which many thanks. The next step is to submit the plans to the appropriate diocesan office in Exeter and also to the Victorian Society.

Our church is a grade 1 listed building and so before alterations can be made there is an exhaustive process of checks and balances to be undergone with the intention of ensuring that nothing is done without proper consideration. This all takes time and I will be in a better position this time next year to tell you when the work will actually happen, and whether it will be in quite the form that we currently plan. In 2008 we received quotes for this work in the region of £15,000; it is inevitable that the price will have risen in the meantime.

2012 brings us back to the start of the quinquennial cycle and arrangements have been made for the inspection to take place in August. We hope there will be no nasty surprises, but more news on this next year.

Finally, thank you all for your continued support. We hope that St. Peter's church in Meavy will continue to offer something to everyone local or not, church goer or not for a very long time to come. Your support is vital to that mission.



Left: the altar with the reredos above and the partly obscured east window. Right: a detail of the reredos showing some of the stain glass detail behind. Below: the ornate top section to the reredos.



## Summer Walk

**Sunday 12th August 2:30pm**

From St Peter's Meavy to St Leonard's Sheepstor

Followed by cream tea from 4:30pm.

A walk via Meavy Ford, Lynch Common and Ringmoor Down to Sheepstor, returning via Burrator Wood, past Yeo Farm, Marchant's Cross and Meavy Ford.

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

## AGM

**Saturday 22nd September at 10.30am**

To include a short talk, speaker to be decided.

## Plymouth Area Police Choir Concert

*Denis Walker*

Last December, The Friends were pleased to welcome to St Peter's the Plymouth Area Police Choir directed by conductor Brian Gerry with guest soloist, soprano, Kate Walker.

This well known choir based in Plymouth provided a varied and at times, amusing, programme. A good deal of humour came from the choir member who introduced the items! Their music is always attractive, songs from shows and well known numbers and a touch of festive while Kate ranged from opera to Noel Coward.

The Friends are grateful to a very good audience who supported the event which, after a contribution to the choir, provided handsomely to the funds.

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## Treasurer's Report

*Douglas Henderson, Hon. Treasurer*

The Friends raised £1,481 in the financial year to 30th June 2011 which, together with the amount carried forward from the previous year, meant that £2,998 was available for repairs and maintenance of St Peter's. The repair work to the roof, guttering and downpipes has now been completed and £1,800 has been donated to the PCC towards the cost of this work.

So far this financial year a guided walk round Meavy followed by a cream tea raised £152 and a concert by the Plymouth Area Police Choir with soloist Kate Walker raised £640. A further concert and other fundraising events are planned for 2012. We are most grateful for continued support from the Meavy Oak Fair committee with a donation of £325. Please remember that the Friends is registered as a charity for tax purposes making subscriptions and donations eligible for Gift Aid. In the last financial year this boosted funds by £163.

Current fundraising has been allocated to the proposed repair work to the east window and reredos. The committee is most grateful for all the support given to our fundraising events and activities.

### **The Portrayal of St Peter Through Art**

*An Illustrated Talk by Geri Parlby*

**Friday 18th May 2012 at 7:30 pm in St Peter's Church**

Admission £5 to include coffee and biscuits.

For ticket requests telephone Catherine Leather 01822 852898,  
Douglas Henderson 01822 855383 or Sarah Gordon 01822 854298

## 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](http://www.meavy.org.uk/fsp)) and send it to our Treasurer, Mr Douglas Henderson (to the address on the form).