

Friends of St. Peter's, Meavy

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

Newsletter 6

March 2015

Welcome

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Friends of St Peter's Church Meavy Newsletter. Our members attending the AGM at St Peter's on 6th September agreed that we had yet another successful year. The committee members re-elected were: Sarah Gordon, Stephen Hughes, Catherine Leather and Michael Parle. Since then Catherine has moved to Exeter and hence resigned from the committee. We thank Catherine for her contribution to the Friends. This leaves us with two vacancies. We would welcome enquiries from any member of the Friends who might like to join the committee.

The meeting was followed by an excellent talk from Andrew Johnson, Master Glazier on the history and making of stained glass, using examples from St Peter's and other churches.

We have had three fundraising concert events since the last newsletter. The Kate Walker concert in October, a concert given by Plymouth Clarion Male Voice Choir in November, and this month a classical guitar concert given by Alison Smith. Kate took us through an amusing and nostalgic programme of Ivor Novello and Noel Coward. This concert was organised by Denis Walker, to whom we give our grateful thanks. In her classical guitar concert Alison performed an exciting and appealing programme including music from her latest CD, Incandescent. Composers included: Bach, Giuliani, Mertz, Ryan, Tarrega, Albeniz, Piazzolla, Lovelady & Houghton. Our thanks to Mike Inman for organising this concert. All three concerts were very well supported.

In June members of the Friends once again ran a book stall at Meavy Oak Fair, which did very well.

In August a select group of around a dozen members and friends enjoyed a pleasant sunny afternoon stroll across Yennadon Down to the northern boundary of the parish at Lowery Cross. See photo on page 3.

We are most grateful for the support given at these and other events which make a most valuable contribution towards helping to raise funds used to support 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 Churchwarden's Report

Sarah Gordon

2014 saw some major work undertaken in St Peter's.

The East window, the oldest stained glass in the church, was removed, taken to Exeter for cleaning and repair and then reassembled into the church.

This work was undertaken by Andrew Johnson – Master Glazier, who gave a very informative talk to those at the Annual Meeting on the production and use of glass from earliest times.



Andrew Johnson at work on the east window The east window back in place

At the same time as the window was being repaired Farnham brothers removed the hard Victorian cementitious mortar from the external chancel wall and repointed the wall with lime mortar.

The Parochial Church council are very grateful to the Friends of St Peter's for their generous donation of £6,600 to the work done.

In September extensive repairs were carried out to the timbers in the roof voids above the chancel, transept and nave. The workmen from Farnham Brothers had to work in very restricted spaces to strengthen the lath and plaster ceiling over the chancel and to repair and treat old, possibly Tudor, timbers in the South transept from the damage done by furniture and in some places death watch beetles.

At the same time some mortar repairs to loose stonework in the bell chamber were also undertaken.

At the time of writing the PCC are holding back on further work as church finances need some replenishment.

There is still Quinquennial work outstanding though and we hope to be able to undertake soon the repair to the West window in the bell ringers gallery which is in need of re leading and the replacement of rusting metal work as well as some cracked and bowed glass. We also need to look again at the reredos.

The Church Council is very grateful to the Friends of St Peter's ifor supporting the maintenance of our Grade 1 listed building.



Timbers in the roof void



Our walkers pause for a while before heading off north across Yennadon Down to Lowery Cross.

Summer Walk

Sunday 9th August 2:00pm

An Exploration of the parish landscape. A walk from Meavy to Lovaton and over Lynch Common to explore the landscape to the south of Meavy.

Followed by cream tea from 4:00pm.

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

AGM

Saturday 26th September at 10:30am

Book Stall at Meavy Oak Fair

The Friends of St Peter's will have a Book Stall at Meavy Oak Fair, on Saturday 20th 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).

Treasurer's Report

Stephen Hughes, Hon. Treasurer

We had a balance of £9,911 on 30 June 2014 and have £5,627 available to help the PCC with repair and maintenance work.

On 14 July we made a grant to the PCC of £6,608 which was used to make good the East wall around the window when it was being repaired.

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 concert given by the Clarion Choir raised £233 and the walk organised by Mike Parle and the cream tea afterwards raised a further £120.

We are very grateful to Denis Walker for organising a really enjoyable concert by Kate Walker. This event raised a splendid £700.

We have received a Gift Aid rebate from HMRC of £268.60

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 also benefited from legacies from wills and funeral collections. If you are arranging a funeral, particularly of someone who had an association with St Peter's, please consider making the Friends of St Peter's Church a beneficiary of the Collection.

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).