

Friends of St. Peter's, Meavy

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

Newsletter 7

March 2016

Welcome

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Friends of St Peter's Church Meavy Newsletter.

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. We had two new committee members for this year: Carole Fry and Yvonne Hughes.

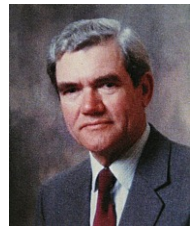
We have not been quite so active this past year with fundraising but we did manage to have two events. The Book Stall at Meavy Oak Fair was very successful. Also at Oak Fair, we must note with grateful thanks the contribution made by members of the PCC in providing refreshments in the Parish Hall. A significant donation from the Oak Fair Committee was made to the Friends for which we are most grateful. The August Summer walk and cream tea helped to boost funds a little more. Our thanks to those who helped with these events and also to those who joined us for the walk and cream tea. The sale of Christmas cards brought in some money, and we might have a new one for this year.

There were no projects requiring funding during the past year but there are a number of projects for which we will be able to assist with funding over the coming year. You can read details in the Churchwardens' Reoort.

One particular point of concern for the committee is that of membership. Our membership has remained fairly static for a number of years and we wish to look for ways of attracting new members. To keep the Friends a vibrant and viable fundraising organisation for the benefit of St Peter's Church we feel it is important to broaden our membership. We can only be successful at fundraising with the active participation of our members and friends. Remember that membership is not restricted to those who attend St Peter's. Anyone who appreciates and values this beautiful village church may join the Friends.

Denis Walker RIP

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Denis in December. In January we had the opportunity to celebrate his life in a service of Choral Evensong. Denis lived in Meavy and made wide ranging contributions to village life. In particular he was a founding member and the first chairman of the Friends of St Peter's. We are most grateful for his generosity and inspiration given to the Friends.



The Churchwardens' Report

Sarah Gordon and Annie Inman

Thoughts from St Peter's Church

After the major expenditure on the church roof and East window in 2014, the Church Council decided that we would have a "work holiday" in 2015. This did not mean that the work went away, just that we were not going to undertake it in 2015.

Our quinquennial report of 2012 indicated that quite a bit of work needed to be done and the PCC's Standing Committee met in November 2015 to look at and prioritise the work identified. This work ranges from repairing the chimney in the corner of the clergy vestry; repointing the floor of the South porch, together with the external walls of this porch, and adding guttering to one side; removing the old varnish and re oiling the south door, investigating beam ends in the tower; dealing with rusting guttering; looking again at the reredos and working out a plan to carry this repair forward together with the removal of one or two of the chancel steps.

We also have identified some work that was not in the quinquennial report but that the PCC would like to carry forward – making an area for children in the South transept which would include removing two pews and carpeting the floor and replacing the cracked concrete outside the south porch.

In January the committee met with our Architect and he is now working on the Chancel and reredos plans, and drawing up plans for a Children's area.

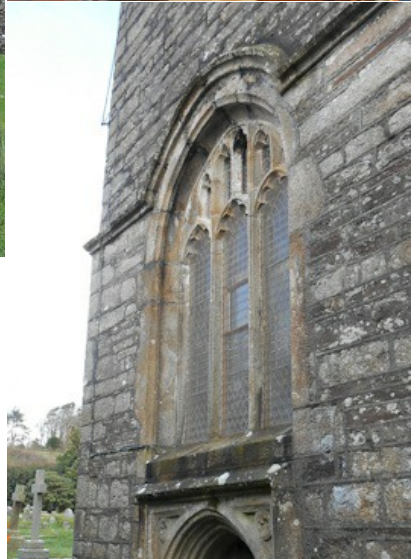
Any work to a church has to be approved by the church authorities and Exeter Diocese has now introduced a new online faculty application process which should make these applications easier. For full faculty applications there will still be the process of public consultation as before. We have already agreed that Andrew Johnson will repair the West Window and Archdeacon's approval for this has been done through the new system.

Our Churchyard is showing signs of Spring at the moment with the daffodils just coming out. The PCC arranged for the repair and renovation of the bench in the upper churchyard in memory of Douglas Henderson (a founder member of the Friends) and we are very grateful to Dair and her family for their generous donation.



The churchwardens are very grateful to those of the Friends who help to maintain our churchyard.

The bench in the upper churchyard in memory of Douglas Henderson. Just the place to rest for a moment of peace and quiet.



Above: the exterior of the clergy vestry showing the chimney that is in need of repair.

Above right: the proposed children's area in the South transept which would include removing two pews and carpeting the floor.

Right: repairs to the west window glass are necessary.

Walking the Bounds of Meavy Parish

Saturday 21st May 2016, 9:30 am

Meet in the car park above Clearbrook (SX 518 651)

A walk of about 4 miles. In parts the walk will be over rough ground and will involve steep and slippery slopes. Everybody taking part in this event does so entirely at their own risk. We will walk as close as is feasible following a part of the Meavy parish boundary.

No fixed charge for the walk, but a donation of around £5 to Friends of St Peter's would be most welcome.

AGM

Saturday 24th September at 10:30am in St Peter's Church

Book Stall at Meavy Oak Fair

The Friends of St Peter's will have a Book Stall at Meavy Oak Fair, on Saturday 18th 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 £6212.26 on 30 June 2015 and therefore have about have £5000 available to help the PCC with repair and maintenance work.

The PCC have not asked for a grant so far this year though we are expecting to help with repairs to the west window in the tower when they are approved and arranged.

We are most grateful to the Meavy Oak Fair Committee for their continued support as shown by their donation of £500 to the Friends. This grant is made in recognition of the work done by the PCC and the Friends for the village fair, "Meavy Oak Fair".

A walk and tea on 9 August 2015 raised £58.00 and coincidentally the same amount was raised by the sale of Christmas cards through the year.

The Gift Aid rebate from HMRC of £193.16 was received on 29 June 2015

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 Peters, please consider making the Friends of St Peters 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).