

Friends of St Margaret's Church Annual Report 2015/16

This is the third Chairman's report looking back over the past year of the Friends

Subscriptions have continued to grow with a steady stream of income coming in each month which is the main source of income for the group

Half the money raised is to be set aside for the roof works which will need completing in a few years time with the rest to be earmarked for more short to medium term works. Within the Church of England every church building must be inspected by an architect or chartered building surveyor approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) every five years. This regular system of review is designed to ensure that church buildings are kept in good repair. This is known as the Quinquennial. We had been waiting for the Quinquennial report in respect of the repair work needed to be undertaken in the Church. At the time of writing this report this had been undertaken and were waiting for a report/price on the electrics, which had been highlighted as an issue. I would like to think this work will be programmed for the coming year

In terms of Fund raising events we had the following:

- 1 Cake Festival**
This year saw the second High Halstow Cake Festival organised by June and Ray Collins. It really is a tremendous event and fast becoming a regular feature

- 2 Christmas Tree Festival**
The Tree Festival is becoming a regular event in the Village. Trees from all parts of the Village by so many groups were entered. Again thank you to Karmann Dancers, Dramarama and the Church Choir for the entertainment on the day. We are lucky to have so many talented people in the village

- 3 Santa's Visit**
Can this event get any bigger? Santa came to High Halstow and this year the proceeds went to the Friends Many thanks to all of those who make this happen as this is the Village Event of the Year

- 4 Christmas Cards**
Ray Collins once again organised the printing and sales of Christmas Cards for the charity. They are such great reminders of the Village we live in especially for people who have moved away and still receive a card

Thank you Fred and Hazel Beringer who once again let us use their house for the meetings including the refreshments. Thanks must go to Wendy Brunt, June Collins, George Crozer, Mike Meredith, Lesley Munday and Di Welch for their continued support during the past year.

Thanks has to go to all who continue to support the Charity. This will be with payment of subscriptions, help with events or by attending events.

With your continued support we will ensure that the Church is here for many years to come

Gary Thomas

Friends of St Margaret's Church Chairman