

Friends of St Margaret's Church Annual Report 2014/15

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

Subscriptions continue to grow with a steady stream of income coming in each month

Subscriptions have risen from £975 (17 members) in 2013/14 to a full year effect of £1712 (25 members) in 2014/15. The subscriptions coming in annually or monthly at the end of March equates to £162

Income from fund raising was slightly down on last year due to there being no Jazz Festival last year in our programme of events

Administration expenditure was lower this year due to not printing leaflets during last year

In terms of supporting the Church we again were able to spend just under £1000 in Notice Board repairs and works to the brambles and fence repairs backing on to Forge Lane

The surplus for the year rose from £1141.43 in 2013/14 to a respectable £1842.55 leaving the charity with a surplus overall of £4900.48

Later on in the agenda I would like to discuss the investment of funds as a decision will need to be taken tonight in seeking a return on the monies raised in particular for the money we would like to set aside for the roof

In terms of Fund raising events we had the following:

1 **Cake Festival**

This year saw the first High Halstow Cake Festival, with the work organised by June Collins. With nearly 50 cakes entered this by far exceeded the expectation of the Committee. Many thanks to June for organising, judges and all who entered and supported the event

2 **Christmas Tree Festival**

This was the third year this event has been put on and is well on its way to becoming a regular community event. Many thanks to the various groups and individuals who put a tree in for the festival as well as Dramarama, Karmann Dancers and the Church Choir for the entertainment.

3 **Santa's Visit**

Again Santa came to High Halstow and this year the proceeds went to the Friends. Each year the event seems to get bigger and bigger and thanks to Santa and his helpers for making this a special event

4 Christmas Cards

Ray Collins 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

We understand the Quinquennial will be carried out by the Church this coming year. 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. We await issues raised from this report which we can help with

Thank you Fred and Hazel Beringer for the use of their house for the meetings including the refreshments. Thanks must go to Mike Meredith, June Collins, George Crozer, Bob Prichard and Lesley Munday for their continued support during the past year.

Many thanks to all of you who have supported the Charity either with your subscriptions, help or supporting of events, it really is appreciated by all on the Committee

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