



The Friends of
St. Margaret's Church,
High Halstow CIO

Registered Charity Number 1189941

Summer 2020 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Great News

It's been a long campaign and a lot of hard work but we have achieved our **Charity Commission Registration**. Back in January I was advised by the Charity Commission (CC) to expect a wait of twenty weeks for a decision after the submission of an application and a new Constitution conforming to their rigorous requirements. In February we held an Extraordinary General Meeting where the issues were discussed. We were advised that if we failed to meet the C.C. requirements the process could be extended indefinitely. It was proposed and agreed that we instruct solicitors experienced in the ways of the C.C. to prepare the application. Not only were they successful on our behalf but they managed to overcome the Commission's quibbles about aspects of our work and in record time.

Some members will have read the documents that were circulated and you will know that thirty pages of a binding constitution is a very dense document. It had to be right because it will govern our future activities. We may need to prepare a precis for everyday use.

I offer thanks to Ray Collins who supported me in all meetings with the solicitors both pre-lockdown and later in video and document preparation, and Chris Peek and committee members who proof read reams of documentation.

All committee members are now trustees and our name now concludes with "CIO" standing for "Charitable Incorporated Organisation" as required by the C.C.

Co-op Funding Application

I have today submitted an application for funding from the Co-op's local charities scheme. We should know the result by October.

Windows

This week should see our fourth window completed and we have already commissioned the restoration of two more. This is very good progress which is dependent on your much appreciated subscriptions.

Scarecrows

We have a good selection of Scarecrows appearing around the village but there is room for more! I'm so pleased that despite the pandemic we've managed to keep our annual festival intact and that those exercising on our streets have had the entertainment of new additions to the display. I'm grateful for the efforts of Scarecrow makers. They've made High Halstow a better place.

Other Events

We hope to benefit from the relaxing of government's regulations soon and be able to reinstate our range of events including Concerts, Talks, the Christmas Tree Festival, Knit & Natter and the Kings Kitchen.

Kind regards,

Mike Meredith

Chairman.