



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

Registered Charity Number 1189941

## Newsletter / Chairman's Report.

Spring 2022

Dear Friends,

This Newsletter is designed to keep our loyal group of members aware of our events, past and planned, and the progress made in pursuing restoration projects maintaining and enhancing St. Margaret's Church.

Due to the easing of the Coronavirus restrictions, prohibiting meetings, events previously postponed are slowly and cautiously being re-established.

**The Annual General Meeting is planned for 7.00pm, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April.** You will find the following documents attached.

- The Agenda.
- The Minutes of the 2021 AGM. (24.05.2021).

This Newsletter forms the basis of The Chairman's Report.

### **Scarecrows!**

The Scarecrow Festival took place and villagers and visitors were entertained by those displayed throughout the summer in village front gardens. This year we intend to combine our Scarecrow Festival with The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and the Scarecrows will be displayed at the Village Jubilee Celebration Day,

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June, and then in your front gardens and in the Churchyard to coincide with the Church Garden Party before returning to your front garden.

Scarecrow making workshops are being planned by June Collins who can be contacted on 01634 250105, more details can be found in April's High Halstow Times. While the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is an obvious theme, all Scarecrows will be welcomed and a wide range of "Theme Interpretations" representing the last seventy years are anticipated.

This is not primarily a money making event. Its focus is community; but I will be asking Bob to accept donations in the Village Shop again and Doug, likewise at Bradford's Garage. Posters will be printed and Facebook's "High Halstow Scarecrow Festival" page activated. Scarecrows can be displayed as soon as you like and stay on display until the end of the School Summer Holiday.

This event has become an important part of the Village Community Calendar. Please support it.

### **The Knit and Natter Group. Remembrance Sunday.**



June and Ray Collins used the products of earlier **Knit and Natter Group** meetings to construct an external "Remembrance Door" and to decorate the interior of the Church. The display of poppies was amazing.

### **High Halstow Christmas Cards**

Cards were made available again this year sold by their designer, Ray Collins. A good number were sold to appreciative customers.



**High Halstow REAL Christmas Trees were sold and delivered in the village.**

My thanks to Tamsin and Craig for organising the sale. The trees were much admired by their purchasers and nearly £500 was raised.

### **The St Margaret's Church Window Restoration Project**

The work has been completed with eight windows refurbished and made weatherproof. The total cost was £39245. We offer grateful thanks to our subscribing members, the fund managers and individual benefactors that made this possible.

### **The Christmas tree Festival.**

Once again the Church was decorated with trees entered by local groups. This seasonal decoration added to the atmosphere for the Christmas services and concerts.

### **The Christmas Concert with the High Halstow Community Choir.**

Another successful annual event was enjoyed by both the audience and performers. Our grateful thanks for the ongoing support offered by the Community Choir and their leader, Ken Reynolds.

### **Spring Restoration Works**

Work commenced at the end of March which includes stonework repairs, pointing, galletting, guttering, downpipes and joinery repairs to Belfry louvre windows at an estimated cost of £13,000.

### **Platinum Jubilee Concert with the High Halstow Community Choir. Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May.2022.**

The Community Choir will perform a programme representing the Queen's seventy years of service. Tickets will be available from the Village Post Office.

### **Historical Talks**

Talks pertinent to the local area are a new development and the two that have taken place were well received by capacity audiences in the Memorial Hall. They were:-

- "The Railways of the Hoo Peninsula " by Ken Reynolds
- "The History of High Halstow" by Len Feist.

My grateful thanks are extended to Ken and Len both of whom refused to accept a fee thereby showing support for our work. It is intended to continue with a range of topics on a regular basis.

### **The Queen's Jubilee**

The Parish Council with the Cricket Club are planning a celebratory event to take place on the Cricket Ground on Saturday 4 June. The Friends of St Margaret's would like to be represented at the event. If you are able to pledge some time during the day to help with our stall then please contact Ray Collins on 01634 250105.

### **The Friends of St. Margaret's Church Flower Festival. Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June.**

Entries for this new event will be welcomed from individuals or village groups. We hope to receive many entries and much interest from villagers viewing the displays. We also need volunteers manning the Church for the four days of the festival. Please contact June Collins on 01634 250105 to book your space and, or offer your help.

### **Gift Aid.**

Tax payers who Gift Aid their Membership Subscriptions increase their value by 25%. Anyone requiring further information could contact Ray Collins our treasurer on 01634 250105.

### **General Data Protection Regulation - or GDPR**

If you haven't already done so, you are requested to contact me giving your permission for us to hold your contact information.

### **Amazon Smile**

If you are an Amazon customer as many of us have become during the Pandemic, you might wish to consider registering with Amazon Smile. It's very easy and 0.5% of the cost of your total purchases go to a charity of your choice at no cost to you.

## **Membership.**

Our membership has not increased this year and needs your active support to grow. In order to build upon our success it is important that we recruit new members. Do you know anyone who cares about their church and wishes to help preserve the oldest building in the village so that it remains our distinctive landmark and is available for generations to come? Flyer/membership Forms are available. Please let me know how many you need.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M Meredith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Meredith. Chairman.

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