



The Friends of St. Margaret's

Newsletter

Autumn 2018

Dear Friends,

Since our successful Scarecrow Festival, Spectacular Sunflower Competition, Summer Concert and participation in a rather damp "Focus on Medway Event", your Committee have been planning further events into the New Year.

Knit and Natter Group

Our dedicated Knitters set a target of knitting 1918 poppies for decorating the Church on this very special commemorative year. I am delighted to report that they exceeded their target and their poppies will decorate the Church at the Sunday Service, Concert and Open events around Remembrance

Open Church 3rd & 10th November 2-4pm

Refreshments will be provided while viewing the Church Armistice decoration. People will be invited to make donations to the upkeep of St Margaret's Church. The focus for the Friends will be to recruit new members.

The Armistice Concert Friday 9th November 7pm High Halstow Community Choir, Hartlip Singers and other Villagers

Our next Concert has a very special theme. My thanks to June, Ken and Maggie for organising a superb programme. See below for more details.

Remembrance Sunday Service 10.15am.11th November

Members of the Committee to be at the door at the close of the Service to talk to people and to discreetly invite them to become Friends of St. Margaret's.

The Christmas tree Festival

The Festival will take place in the Church on Saturdays the 8th and 15th of December, from 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. There will also be two Twilight Sessions on Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th from 3.30 - 5p.m. so that Parents can bring their children to see the trees. For the Saturday entertainment we have invited the Karman Dancers and the High Halstow Community Choir.

High Halstow REAL Christmas Trees for sale and delivered to the village. £6 per tree will go directly to The Friends of St Margaret's.

| | 5ft | 6ft | 7ft | 8ft |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Norway Spruce (Traditional, fragrant) | £31 | £34 | £39 | £47 |
| Serbian Spruce (beautiful silver/blue under needles) | £32 | £36 | £40 | £48 |
| Nordmann (well known, non- drop) | £37 | £41 | £46 | £54 |
| Blue Spruce (very fragrant) | £32 | £37 | £42 | £47 |

No VAT, grower is registered flat rate farmer, VAT only charged to VAT registered businesses

All the trees are super fresh! Guaranteed not cut more than 24 hrs before! **Collection:** 10am-12noon on Sunday 9th of December from:- 67 The Street, High Halstow. Larger Trees, up to 15 ft. also available and can be delivered earlier.

To order please email: tamsinemeredit@hotmail.com Or call on 07976 113961.

Payment will be needed before the farmer cuts your tree.

I have 69 firm orders and its rising quickly. Don't miss out!

A Winter Window Wonderland Festival

Tamsin Stowers is to organise an event after Christmas. More details to follow.

High Halstow Christmas Cards

Cards are available again this year sold by their designer, Ray Collins. Obtainable at The Kings Kitchen, The Taste of Christmas event and from Ray direct at 250105.

High Halstow Primary Academy.

I am delighted to report that a very worthwhile meeting occurred recently between myself and Mrs Gemma Stangroom, Head Teacher, High Halstow Primary School. Mrs Stangroom is keen for children to have an awareness of community issues in the village and has suggested ways in which our activities might support the school's educational aims. A first indication may be the exhibiting of work from the children's Remembrance Week in our weekend of Remembrance activity. The School was the first group to book a Christmas Tree Festival place. We both believe that further collaboration will be beneficial.

Monies Raised.

Monies raised from these events and your subscriptions totalling over £5000 have allowed us to part fund an electrical upgrade and extensive drainage works. Currently the roof and windows are our main focus and they require urgent action.

Gift Aid

It would be appreciated if anyone able to gift aid their donations and have not completed the necessary form, do so to take advantage of the extra income this would generate.

National Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Committee have prepared an Expression of Interest in making an application for funding to address the extensive list of remedial issues and eventually those works that could improve the range of uses for our historic building. This is a complicated task and we would be delighted to receive help from persons who have experience of making such applications. Any useful skills from Members or acquaintances would be very welcome. This initiative if successful could immensely significant. Other Peninsular Churches have been successful, why shouldn't we?

Membership

A new Flyer/membership Form has been prepared. Anyone wanting copies for circulation should contact- Ray Collins, June Collins, Di Welch, Mike Meredith Wendy Brunt or any Committee member.

Our membership continues to grow. Two new members recruited in the rain at the "Focus Event". 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?



Chairman



The Friends of St Margaret's Church

present

WWI ARMISTICE COMMEMORATIVE CONCERT

7pm Friday 9 November

at St Margaret's Church, High Halstow

Including popular songs of the period performed by the
High Halstow Community Choir & other artists.

Tickets £6 (including light refreshments)

Available from the village shop,

Kings Kitchen (Memorial Hall Tuesday 10- 1pm)

or June Collins 250105.

Donations to the Royal

Christmas Tree

Once again we are
Festival in St

This will enable the



British Legion

Festival 2018

planning to hold the
Margaret's Church.

trees to be displayed



for several days between Saturday 8th December and Saturday 15th December and including some afternoons during that week. Refreshments will be available with entertainment on Saturday afternoons

We can display a maximum of 23 trees so if you would like to be involved please contact June Collins on junemari49@gmail.com or 01634 250105.

Tree applications will be accepted on a first come first served basis for a £5 donation. The closing date for applications is November 25th

Arrangements for setting up the trees on the Thursday 6th or Friday 7th can be made so all trees are ready for viewing prior to the first opening day.

At Wednesday 17th October we have **just 19 places left**. First come

