



The Friends of St. Margaret's

Newsletter

Autumn 2019

Dear Friends,

Since our successful Scarecrow Festival, Spectacular Sunflower Competition, Summer Concert and participation in the "Charity Fun Day Event", your Committee have been planning further events into the New Year.

Knit and Natter Group.

Our dedicated Knitters continue to Knit and Natter on the first Wednesday of the month, but do check with the Church first in case of changes due to special events.

Heritage Days. 13th & 14th September.

Ray & June led this event. Refreshments were served to visitors from near and far who made donations and a new member was recruited. We also welcomed cyclists taking part in Ride and Stride for the Friends of Kent Churches.

The Christmas tree Festival.

The Festival will take place in the Church on Saturdays the 7th and 14th of December, from 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Refreshments will be available. There will also be two Twilight Sessions on Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th from 3.00 - 5p.m. so that Parents can bring their children to see the trees after school.

Trees can stay displayed until after Christmas but removed after the 15th if required. If you would like to be involved please contact June Collins on junemari49@gmail.com or 01634 250105.

We can display a maximum of 23 trees. Arrangements for setting up the trees on Thursday 5th or Friday 6th can be made so all trees are ready for viewing prior to the first opening day. For each tree displayed we would appreciate a £5 donation.

**The Christmas Concert Saturday 14th December 7pm
High Halstow Community Choir.**

Our Concert during the Christmas Tree Festival will have Christmas theme music to enjoy and Carols to sing. My thanks to June, Ken and Maggie for organising this event.



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.

All the trees are super fresh! Guaranteed not cut more than 24 hrs before delivery!

	5ft	6ft	7ft	8ft
Norway Spruce (Traditional, fragrant)	£31	£34	£39	£47
Serbian Spruce (beautiful silver/blue under needles)	£32	£36	£40	£54
Nordmann (well known, non- drop)	£28	£38	£50	£54
Blue Spruce (very fragrant)	£32	£37	£42	£47

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

Following the success last year with over 40 trees supplied, Tamsin Stowers is again organising the sale. **Collection:** 10am-2pm. on Saturday 7th 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@hotmai.com Or call on 07976 113961. **Payment** will be needed before the farmer cuts your tree.

Don't miss out!

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.

Coffee Tree

Last year's very successful event will start again this Autumn. If you would like to host a fund raising Coffee Morning then please contact Jane Cook, Mike Meredith or any Committee member.

High Halstow Primary Academy.

The School has continued to participate in Friends events including The Sunflowers, Entering the Scarecrow Festival, the Remembrance event and last year the School was the first group to book a Christmas Tree Festival place.

Monies Raised.

Monies raised from these events, your subscriptions totalling over £5000 and successful grant applications have allowed us to fund an ambitious Window Renovation Program. Two restorations have been completed at a cost of £13.710 and work on two more has been commissioned. We offer grateful thanks to the High Halstow Community Lottery for a very generous donation of £1000.

Gift Aid.

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

National Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Committee are preparing 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 be immensely significant. Other Peninsular Churches have been successful, why shouldn't we?

Other Funding

We are in the process of making a number of applications to charitable organisations and local businesses for funding towards renovations on the remaining windows, roof repairs and pointing.

Data Protection

To comply with **The General Data Protection Regulation - or GDPR**

New regulations came into force in May 2018 with which we must comply. The information that we keep about you is - Name/ Address/ E mail address/ Phone number/ subscription. And is governed by our -

Data Policy:-

- This information is kept securely by the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer solely for the purpose of contacting you and knowing who our members are.
- When membership lapses after a six month grace period records are destroyed.
- The data is never made available to others.
- Any breach of the regulations will be investigated independently and the membership will be informed.
- Members may view their own data held by The Friends of St. Margaret's by contacting the Chairman.
- Members are required to give their permission for us to hold this information.

Please give your consent for the "Friends" to hold this information by contacting Michael Meredith, Chairman, at 4, Medway Avenue. If you have any concerns then please raise them with me now or at the next AGM.

Revised September 2019.

Most members have already complied with this request but new members and others who haven't found the time are requested to do so.

The Charity Commission.

We are currently planning to Register with the Charity Commission. When the paperwork is completed an Extraordinary General Meeting will be called for members to ratify the application.

Membership.

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

Our membership continues to grow and has doubled in the last two years. 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?

A little early perhaps but Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members.



Mike Meredith

Chairman