



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

Registered Charity Number 1189941

**Newsletter**

**Autumn 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. I am delighted to share with you the news that after over ten years of hard work the building is weatherproof. This is a very significant milestone in our efforts.

This would not have happened without your support.

If members have ideas on what projects we might address next then please let me know but also bear in mind that there are roof works required by English Heritage and Medway Council, which must be a priority.

## **Organ restoration fund.**

FOSM are happy to administer the newly established organ restoration fund. Any monies raised will initially be used to fund a survey of the organ to establish what works are required and how much they are likely to cost. Alastair Curtis, an organ tuner and restorer will undertake this task.

## **Events.**

We hope to offer our usual range of activities that have proved so popular in recent years. More Historical Talks pertinent to the local area are planned following the success of Ken Reynolds "The History of the Railways of the Hoo Peninsula" and Len Feist's "History of the Hoo Peninsula"

The first talk to be given by Ken on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023 will be "Cinemas of the Medway Towns"

### **Scarecrow Festival.**

The Scarecrow Festival went ahead this year but seemed to suffer from being extended throughout the summer. Although not as well supported as some previous years it did raise £325, including Gift Aid. Our thanks to the Post Office and Bradford's Garage for hosting the donation boxes. It's time to start planning next year's Scarecrows! The next Festival will run from Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June through to mid-August.

### **Jubilee Fair.**

### **Garden Party.**

### **Welcome Event.**

The "Friends" had a stall at each of these events and were particularly pleased by the response of visitors at the Garden Party. Our stall attracted many visitors, both for the free games, with small prizes and a competition to guess the weight of the fabulous cake, expertly made and donated by Tamsin Stowers.

### **Jubilee Concert.**

The High Halstow Community Choir offered an excellent program of music spanning the late Queen's seventy year reign.  
We look forward to:



The Friends  
of St Margaret's  
are pleased to present

High Halstow  
Community Choir

**Old Time Music Hall**

Saturday 26th November ~ 7.30pm  
at The Memorial Hall  
High Halstow  
ME3 8SG

Adult Ticket ~ £6  
Child Ticket ~ Voluntary Cont.  
Tickets are available  
from the Village Shop

Refreshments will be available on the night

**Wedding Photos**

Mitch Dowsett is coordinating a project to celebrate the role of St Margaret's in the community. In the October edition of the High Halstow Times you may have noted the article recording two Dowsett family weddings. If you have memories of events in which St. Margaret's Church played a significant part then please contact Mitch on 01634 254428 or [mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com](mailto:mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com)

### **High Halstow Christmas Cards**

Ray Collins, the designer of our popular Village Christmas Cards, is selling them again this year from the Village shop and 6 Marsh Crescent and at the Christmas market on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

### **Christmas Tree Festival 2022**

We are again holding Church this year.

The trees can be December until the open for viewing on

If you would like to please contact Ray



the Festival in St Margaret's

displayed from the 10<sup>th</sup> New Year. The Church will be dates to be announced

exhibit a tree or sponsor one, Collins on [rcollins.ceng@btinternet.com](mailto:rcollins.ceng@btinternet.com)

or 01634 250105.

The trees can be set up on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> or Friday 9<sup>th</sup>. Spaces are limited so it will be on a first come first served basis.

### **Flower Festival.**

Generous donations were received sponsoring this event. Although well attended from near and far, many visitors did not leave donations and the takings were only slightly more than the sponsorship money (which was used to purchase flowers). The Festival is not expected to be an annual event but may well be repeated.

### **Amazon Smile.**

If you are an Amazon customer as many of us are, 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. I've registered and The Friends of St. Margaret's receives the benefit.

### **Membership.**

In order for our membership numbers to grow, we do need your active support. In order to build upon our success it is important that we recruit new members. I am sure we could each think of someone 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 people you can think of and how many membership forms you need and I will make sure you receive them.

Kind regards,

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

Mike Meredith. Chairman.

Phone - 01634 252939. Email - [m.meredith@zen.co.uk](mailto:m.meredith@zen.co.uk)