



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

Registered Charity Number 1189941

**Newsletter**

**Spring 2023**

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. Our next challenge is to replace the temporary roofing that was installed after the theft of lead. This is a complicated process and our Architect has been instructed to apply for the necessary planning consent from the local council. We have also sought approval from the Diocese and English Heritage which has been granted.

This would not have happened without your support.

## **Organ restoration fund.**

The new fund that has been set up to restore our Victorian Church Organ is proving to be very popular and already donations for it have been coming in steadily. Alastair Curtis, an organ tuner and restorer will survey the Organ later this month.

## **Recent Events.**

Ken's talk on "Cinemas of the Medway Towns" was well received and he has been approached about making it available to Cinema enthusiasts nationally. Ken with his Talks and work directing the Community Choir is a valued supporter of "The Friends"

## **Christmas Fair.**

The "Friends" had a stall at this event and Ray sold a good number of Christmas Cards

## **Christmas Tree Festival.**

A wonderful success. The Church was magical for the Christmas Services and the Carol Concert which was packed with villagers.

## **Music Hall Concert**

The Community Choir 'Music Hall' Concert in November was a great success. This raised over £340 was well supported and very enjoyable. The Friends are very grateful to the Choir who consistently support us and add greatly to Village life.

## **Forthcoming Events.**

At a recent Trustees Meeting the following events were agreed:-

## **The Annual Scarecrow Festival.**

It's time to start planning next year's Scarecrows! The next Festival will run from Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Scarecrows being made during the School Half Term, and displayed in Front Gardens throughout the summer. A display at The Rectory Garden party on July 1<sup>st</sup>. is also planned.

The Friends of St Margaret's

# ANNUAL SCARECROW FESTIVAL

2023.

Make a scarecrow and display it in your front garden.

From May Half Term through to the end of August.



It will add much to the village this Summer.

Let's make this the best year yet.

Follow us on Facebook - "High Halstow Scarecrow Festival"

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### **Concert.**

The High Halstow Community Choir will present,  
"Songs from the Musicals"

Saturday 8th July, 7.30pm. The Memorial Hall.

### **History Talk.**

A Royal Interlude - the speaker is Peter Hartley, a former Royal Equerry. We are hoping for a good turnout, based on increased interest in anticipation of the Coronation.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March. 7.30pm. The Memorial Hall.



*A Talk by a  
Former Member of the Royal  
Household*

***Peter Hartley***

# *A Royal Interlude*

*Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm  
High Halstow Memorial Hall,*

*Admission £5 – Tickets from Village Shop or at the Door. Refreshments will be available.*

### **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)

### **Amazon Smile.**

I'm sorry to report that Amazon are no longer supporting charities through "Amazon Smile" and The Friends of St. Margaret's will receive no further benefit.

### **The Annual General Meeting.**

The Annual General Meeting followed by a Trustees Meeting will be held in the church at 7.00pm on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

### **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,

Mike Meredith. Chairman.

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