



Friends of All Saints' Church Annual [APM] Report 2014

**Friends of All Saints' Church Longstanton
Charity Number 1115069**

Annual Parish Council Meeting [APM] Report 28th April 2014

Report by Chair – John Frost

Introduction

The Friends of All Saints' Church Longstanton is a registered Charity and is run and administered by locally elected Trustees, who are appointed each year at its Annual General Meeting.

We had our first meeting of the Friends in August 2005, so that makes us 9 years old.

For those who are not familiar with us or our work; the Friends of All Saints' Church Longstanton is a Charity that was formally set up in August 2005.

The primary aim of the Friends is to raise funds for All Saints' Church Longstanton. It was set up in 2005 after the church had been forced to close in September 2003 as a consequence of elements of the ceiling falling in, causing severe damage to the interior of the church building.

The Friends were instrumental in raising funds for the repair of the ceiling and today its remit is about raising funds for the continued upkeep, conservation and repair of the church. Much of the funds that we raise go into maintain the church for the wider use of the whole community.

The Friends have 'Trustees' who are responsible for ensuring the proper running of the charity.

The current 'Trustees are;

- **John Frost** – johnfrost01@btinternet.com
Chair
- **Arthur Savage** - arthur.savage.46@btinternet.com
Treasurer

- **Louise Gamon** - louise.gamon@gmail.com
Friends Committee Member

- **Morwen Combes** - combes3us@btinternet.com.
Friends Committee Member

We also have a paying membership of the Friends, with a membership of around 35.

We are always on the lookout for more members to come and join the Trustees or to become paying members. Fundraising is hard work and more hands make light work. New membership brings new ideas and very much compliments our skill and knowledge base.

Review of the Past Year 2013

So what of the last year? What have we been doing? Well in terms of fund raising activities it's been another quiet year for the Friends. Due to a number of competing issues and we have not been in a position to arrange fund raising functions and activities on the scale of previous years.

However, we have been very proactive in terms of supporting the drive to modernise our church.

Over the last year we have been busy writing up statements of significance and need as well as attending a number of meetings with a variety of consultants and other interested parties in relation to the re-ordering project, which is now entering a critical stage.....more about that in a moment.

As for previous years we have adopted **St George's Day** [April] as our cue for commencing our annual fundraising activities and as in previous years the event is always well supported and great fun, we hope that this year's event to be held on **[26th April 2014]** will continue on that theme.

Fundraising is hard work and an ongoing mission, so as well as kicking off our year with the St George's Day event held on **27th April** last year, we also supported the following events and activities over the past year:

- 22nd February 2013 – AGM [Special Invitation]
- 19th April - Faith in Maintenance Training Day – Church Buildings
- 27th April 2013 St Georges Day Event [Raising **£1,453.00**]
- 28th April 2013 – Revd Malcolm Raby - Last service with us.
- 29th April – Attended Annual Parish Meeting.
- 5th June – Attended 'Church Buildings' presentation
- 9th July – Meeting with DAC representatives at Church
- 20th August – Visited Allen Organs

You will note from our latest accounts that during 2013 fundraising activities were much reduced due to the support being given towards the re-ordering project.

We were able from the previous year [2012] to carry forward a healthy balance of **£15,289.04**, which meant that we were in a position to support some of the expenditure towards the costs associated our re-ordering project.

Our St Georges Day event continues to be one of our most successful fund raising activities. Last year's event raised **£1,453.00**. But it continues to require a significant amount of support and effort to make it work.

As mentioned at the last APM we are debt free and despite us not engaging in any serious fund raising activity we find ourselves in a reasonably healthy position in terms of our finances.

The balance as at 31 December 2013 was **£8,906.05**. A full set of audited accounts is available and **Arthur Savage**, our Treasurer, is more than happy to answer any detailed questions you might have in relation to the accounts.

I am of the view that we continue to be a recognised force to the good within the village and there is no doubt in my mind that our presences and work associated with the continued upkeep of All Saints Church is much appreciated within the village and wider community.

But none of this success would have been possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of the Friends and the Trustees, who have given so much of their support, spare time, knowledge, skills and faith to get us to where we are today, and I thank them.

We should not forget the support that has also been consistently provided by the **Parish Council** and the **community** at large. We are also indebted to those that have become paying 'Friends' and to those who have anonymously donated funds to support our cause.

We are also grateful to the many people behind the scenes who provide their support and give their time so generously to our cause. Without such support, we would not be where we are today.

We extend special thanks and our farewells to **Revd Malcolm Raby**, who has moved onto new pastures and we thank the **Revd Valerie Kilner**, who for want of a better word is holding the fort pending the appointment of a new Minister.

I think we should also thank our Church Wardens [**Arthur Savage & Dr Paul Routley**] who during this period of interregnum and spiritual uncertainty continue to work tirelessly, providing advice and guidance, as well as giving of their own time in support our cause and the church.

What of the future?

You will be aware that it our intention along with the PCC to jointly progress a re-ordering project designed to make significant changes to the interior of the church.

The project will see the installation of toilet and kitchen facilities as well as separate meeting areas that can be used for church and community activities.

As well as providing general support to the running of the church, the Friends have been very involved in the work linked to the re-ordering project. The PCC believe that the costs associated with the project will be in the region of **£250,000** and the Friends will play a significant role in attracting and securing the funding to pay for project.

Raising such vast sums of money will present us with some significant challenges and this year we will need to increase the support and involvement of the community in order to secure the funding for such an ambitious plan.

We will also need to increase the membership of the 'Friends'. Under our current structure we don't have enough volunteers who are willing to give direct support to our fund raising activities.

It is easy to forget what improvements have already been carried within the church, which has included the installation of a new heating system, carpeting, purchase of chairs, installation of PA system and Alarm system, much of it funded via direct donations or fund raising.

The re-ordering project is our attempt to move on with our ambitions to make the church more accessible to the wider community. So, with that in mind, we are currently looking at formulating a range of fund raising activities over the coming year.

Coupled with our regular fundraising events, we are hopeful we can look at new ways of not only raising funds to keep the Church open, but also new ways in which it can be used that will help it pay its way as well as being utilised by the wider community.

So there you have it...in my view we have had another good year, not necessarily the most fruitful in terms of our fundraising but certainly productive in our getting on with the backroom activity required to progress our re-ordering project.

So this coming year is about re-energising our fundraising skills. It's about us ensuring that we communicate our vision for the church to the wider community and get their support.

This year will also be about us enlisting the skills and talents that we have within the church and community to support us on this journey. So we need to

The fantastic news that the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams has agreed to become our patron for the project is a cause for celebration and we are truly grateful for his support.

<http://friends-of-all-saints-church-longstanton.org.uk/>

John Frost
Chair FoASCL
28 April 2014