



Friends of St Cuthbert's

Spring 2020 newsletter

When setting up the Friends Scheme we asked the children from St Cuthbert's School to enter a competition to design a logo. We had an array of wonderful designs to choose from and it was a very difficult choice as they were all so good. We hope you like the chosen Logo and that it will become a familiar sight as we continue to develop our "Friends Scheme".

We would like to keep you updated about how the Friends scheme is helping to support the Church and of future fundraising events that are planned. If you have not given us your e mail address and would like to receive 'Friends News' in the most environmentally friendly way then please let us know by contacting us on: stthomassteph@btinternet.com

Why did we need to set up a Friends Scheme? The annual costs of running the Church are in the region of £60k and all of this has to be found by St Cuthbert's as we do not receive any funding from the wider Church. In recent years we have exhausted our reserves and we now face a deficit in the region of £10k each year. This last year we were fortunate to have received a generous legacy which meant that at the financial year end we had a balance of £14k in our funds. Without this legacy we would have seen a zero balance and would have begun to experience immediate problems meeting our commitments.

We like many Churches need every bit of help to stay open and the funds raised through the Friends Scheme are helping us to do just that. **All donations made by joining the scheme are used exclusively to support the costs of repair and maintenance thereby preserving the Church and Churchyard.**

I have not joined the scheme yet so how does it work? You can subscribe to the scheme by paying a minimum annual subscription of £20 and becoming an official "Friend of St Cuthbert's". Joining forms can be picked up in Church, downloaded from our website or we can send you one if you contact us on the email address below. Please consider being a Friend and if you already are then spread the word to others who wish to see this building continue for future generations. Fiftytwo Friends have joined us so far and we have friends from as far afield as Australia.

But I'm not religious! We understand that not everyone has a religious faith and may not wish to contribute to the religious aspects of Church life but we strongly believe that our Church sits at the centre of our great community. If you have used or attended the Church for baptism's, weddings or funerals or you simply feel that the Church is an important part of Halsall and you want to help to protect it as part of your heritage then this is a great way to do it!

Can I help in other ways? A big part of the Friends is to explore different ways of raising funds to meet the costs of repair and maintenance and a small group of people get together periodically to plan fundraising events. We are always looking for volunteers to join our "Friends Team". If you are interested and can spare an hour every so often or may be happy to help at our fundraising events please contact us on information@halsallstcuthberthub.co.uk We aim to keep our meetings to an hour.

How is it going so far?

Funds raised so far are in the region of £8k. In addition to the annual 'friends' subscription this has been raised through a variety of events organised by the 'Friends Team' and also by individuals who have held 'family do's'

and other events where they have very kindly sought donations for us. Events have included summer fairs, Gilbert & Sullivan Concerts, Rock and Roll nights, Bonfire night Hot Pot stalls, carol singing, history talks and a tractor/farming museum tour! Raising funds and having fun!!!

For those who have been in Church during this challenging weather you may well have noticed there have been occasions when umbrella's would have been useful in Church as well as outside! Sadly we have several leaks and are constantly undertaking roof repairs. We are currently exploring what can be done to make us more watertight and hope that the friends fund will be able to help with some of this work.



Events coming up

Events that are planned during the year will be advertised on our local facebook pages, in the Parish Magazine, on our website and of course in our "Friends News" which we aim to issue quarterly. **Hold the date.....**the next Gilbert & Sullivan Society production is planned for 17th October. More information to follow.

Photo: Pirates of Penzance at St Cuthberts

How can I Join: Joining forms can be printed off the website, picked up in Church or if you contact us (see below) we can send one out to you.

Minimum annual subscription: £20 renewable on the 30th day of April each year. Bankers orders can be sent to your own bank to set up the annual payment and cheques may be sent to the Friends at the time of Joining.

The membership secretary is Stephanie Albertina and she is based c/o The Parish Office. St Thomas Vicarage. Church Lane, Lydiate L31 4HL Tel no: 0151 526 2292 (Mon-Wed 9am to 1pm)

To all of our current Friends, thank you so much for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

Website: www.halsallstcuthberthub.co.uk

E-mail: information@halsallstcuthberthub.co.uk