



The Friends of Dedham Church Charity

Annual Report 2017

Registered Charity Number:

Charity No: 1103634

Registered Address:

Badgers, Coopers Lane, Dedham, Colchester CO7 6AX

Charity Trustees who served in 2017

Peter Wilson (Chairman)
Beth Mitchell (Secretary)
David Druitt (Treasurer)
Maria Johnston (Membership Secretary)
Jane Jewell
David Jewell
Jill Strangward
Peter Rowles
Suzanne Woods
Anne Fletcher (resigned 7 September 2017)
Kevin Taylor (co-opted 7 September 2017)
Jayne Anderson (co-opted 7 September 2017)
Jean Flewin (Minutes Secretary)

Independent Financial Examiner

Philip Strangward

Objective of the Charity:

To maintain, repair, restore, preserve, improve, beautify and reconstruct for the benefit of the public the fabric of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Dedham its monuments, fixtures, fittings, furniture, stained glass, ornaments and other chattels and its churchyard. In addition the Society may support any charitable purpose in the parish of Dedham that promotes the whole mission of the said Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

The Friends had 150 members as at the 31 December 2017, which was a reduction of 6 from the previous year. We have attracted 9 new members and have increased Life members from nine to 15: one member has died, and 13 members have not renewed. It is always disappointing to lose members and we have contacted these people to understand why they have not renewed, and in most cases there are practical reasons such as having moved from the area. We did this year increase the annual membership fee to £15 so our membership income has increased, but it is important that we continue to grow our membership, and I want to ask you all to encourage friends and family who are interested in maintaining the fabric of the church and the church school, as well as key aspects of the village to join us in our endeavours.

Main Donations 2017

Our main expenditure during the year was to support the PCC in repairing and redecorating the aisles and replacing the metal window sills with wooden ones. The cost of repairing and redecorating the aisles was £57552.89 and the Friends contributed £34531.73 which was 60% of the total cost. The Friends also paid for the new sills which cost £2150. This work, together with the redecoration done in 2016 in the Nave and the repair of the clerestory windows and wooden floors has been well appreciated by those attending the church whether as part of the congregation or as visitors. It is rewarding to hear the very positive comments that visitors make about the beauty of the church and the condition in which it is kept.

As in previous years we also supported our local school by paying for the hire of a coach so that pupils could on two occasions visit Blackbrook Care Home to give a concert to the patients. This is much appreciated by the patients and a valuable experience for the pupils.

I am sure that many of you will share the Trustees frustration at not having yet delivered the Hospitality unit or the new toilet. The original plans were put on hold when some questions were raised about how best the hospitality unit could fit into and blend with the church fabric, and so it was decided to review both projects and to go back to basics.

This has now been done and the fabric committee have made a recommendation to the PCC for both projects and if approved a new faculty will be sought and hopefully work can be completed during this year.

Future Plans

The report of the Quinquennial inspection was delivered to the PCC in September 2017 which details the condition of the church fabric and its surroundings, and determines the structural priorities needed in the church. The report can be considered to address three key areas:

General repair and maintenance
Church yard and external projects
Major Capital projects

This latter category includes providing a hospitality area, providing an internal disabled toilet, repairing the stained glass windows and addressing the repair or replacement of the organ. It is mainly in this capital project area that the Friends will focus their help and support to the church.

Fund Raising Activities

During the year the Friends held a number of fund raising events to promote the Charity and raise new funds.

Our annual golf day was again held at Hintlesham Hall and was a very successful event with a number of new golfers attending for the first time, as well as the regular supporters of this event, and raised £1245.00 for our funds.

On 17 August the Friends Summer Pimm's and canapés Party was held at Coles Oak House which was as usual very well attended. The ladies of the Committee produced a wonderful selection of canapés while the men folk ensured a steady "top up" of the glasses. A very good occasion for meeting together and celebrating the success of the Friends. One of the Friends donated the Drinks so we also raised £620 for our funds

The Summer Ball was again held at the Talbooth on the 16 June and is now an established event in the local calendar. The event was again a "sell out" with just over 170 people attending. The organising committee led by Anne as usual did a superb job and I am constantly surprised at the ingenuity shown in devising the entertainment. We followed the example of the previous year and had a silent auction, and although this raised slightly less than in previous events the evening was a great success and made a profit of £9060.06. This was the fifth Ball that Anne had organised and she decided that it was time for someone else to take on the task, and we are pleased that Jayne Anderson has agreed to do this. The ball is our main fund raising event each year and we do depend on the generosity of individuals to donate auction prizes, so if anyone can help in this regard please do let us know as soon as possible.

The Friends annual outing last year was to Holkham Hall and was again fully subscribed.

Financial Review

The financial performance for the year is provided separately in the accounts but in summary the Friends of Dedham Church had an income of £34312.38 for the year and total expenditure including grants of £49987.36 which meant a loss of £15674.98. Our net assets at the year end totalled £67083.81.

Trustees

The details of trustees who have served during the year are detailed in this report, and in line with our constitution two of our trustees resign but offer themselves for re-election. It is also proposed that two trustees who were co-opted during the year are formally appointed as Trustees.

Peter Rowles who has been a Trustee for many years has decided to stand down and we thank him for his efforts and commitment to the aims of the Friends.

Future Events

Our first fund raising event of the year is as usual the golf day at Hintlesham Hall on the 2nd May. We are looking for an even stronger turn out this year so if you play golf come on your own or form your own team and have an enjoyable day in lovely surroundings.

The 2018 Dedham Summer Ball will be held on 22nd June again at Le Talbooth. We again expect demand for tickets to be high so please do apply early if you would like to come as we do not want members to be disappointed. As mentioned previously the financial success of the evening does depend on the generosity of people who donate auction prizes so if you can offer an item for the silent auction or provide a prize for the raffle we would be very grateful.

The member's Summer Pimm's Party will take place this year on August 16th, at Lindisfarne, Monks Lane, Dedham.

The members outing this year will be a visit to The Historic Dockyard Chatham, which will include a tour of the official location for the television drama **Call the Midwife** on Tuesday, September 11th.

Thanks

My thanks to those who have served on the committee during the year for all their efforts and a particular word of thanks to our minute secretary Jean for her sterling work.

Finally our thanks to you our members for your continued support and I hope you will encourage your friends and family to join us.