



The Friends of Dedham Church Charity

Annual Report 2018

Registered Charity Number:

Charity No: 1103634

Registered Address:

Badgers, Coopers Lane, Dedham, Colchester CO7 6AX

Charity Trustees who served in 2018

Peter Wilson (Chairman)
Beth Mitchell (Secretary)
David Druitt (Treasurer)
Maria Johnston (Membership Secretary)
Jane Jewell
David Jewell
Jill Strangward
Peter Rowles
Suzanne Woods
Kevin Taylor
Jayne Anderson
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

Membership of The Friends is open to anyone who is interested in preserving the fabric of the Church and its environs and promoting the Church as a central part of Village life.

As at the 31 December 2018, we had a membership of 155 which was an increase of 5 from the previous year. We have 9 new members and our Life members have increased from 15 to 26. Last year we announced an increase in the annual membership fee from £12 to £15 but in spite of sending out two reminders we still had 53 members who renewed at the old rate; I am sure this was an oversight on the part of those people, but if you are one of them I would ask you to please change your standing order instruction or remember the new rate if writing a cheque.

WE are always looking for new blood and new ideas for our fund raising activities and social events. Please be active in encouraging others to join us and ensure we remain strong and continue to grow

Main Donations 2018

My optimism last year in believing we would finally be able to deliver the hospitality unit and toilets proved to be unfounded and the Friends did not make any contribution to capital projects in the church.

As in previous years we 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. Other small grants were made to the Duchy Barn for CCTV (£102), to the PCC for a Plaque in memory of Clifford Welch whose legacy was used to enable the refurbishment of the nave and aisles (£250), and a retention payment relating to the aisle refurbishment (£852.78)

Future Plans

I am pleased to report that I have renewed optimism that 2019 will be a more productive year in addressing the fabric of the Church. I am sure many of you will have already noticed the improvements that the Friends have made to the pathways from Royal Square to the church and for those using this route it will be drier and safer. We have also appointed a contractor to Repair the wall alongside the Royal Square and to repair the buttresses on the south side of the church, and this is due to be completed in the spring. Finally plans are currently being prepared for the hospitality unit at the back of the church and it is hoped that this will be installed and functioning by the Autumn. The fabric committee met with the DAC at the end of 2018 to discuss the new toilets: our proposal to build out from the

old Vicar's vestry into the cemetery area was refused as they deemed it would distract from the church building when viewed from the cemetery. They did however accept in principle that the toilets could be built within the old vicar's vestry and this is now being designed and drawn so that a faculty may be obtained and a contract awarded.

Among the other items included in the last quinquennial report was the poor state of some of the stained glass windows: some are very badly bowed and there are cracks and small holes in others. The total cost of the repairs are estimated at approximately £85000, with individual windows costing between £200 and £18000 each to repair. The Friends will consider how best we can help the church in this restoration work.

Many of you will know that the organ is in a bad state of repair and the church has a separate committee looking at the options to repair or replace.

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 £1053.00 for our funds.

A new event last year was a horse race evening at the Assembly rooms. Horses, jockeys and races were sponsored by a variety of companies and individuals and great fun and amusement was had by all.

The Friends Summer Pimm's and canapés Party was held at the home of Peter and Jo Rowles which was as usual very well attended. The rain stopped at just the right time for us all to be able to enjoy their beautiful garden and the wonderful views. The ladies of the Committee as usual produced a wonderful selection of canapés while the men folk did their best to look useful!! This is always a very good occasion for meeting together and celebrating the success of the Friends. Drinks were donated so the event also raised £497.08 for our funds

The Summer Ball was held at the Talbooth on the 16 June and was again a "sell out" with just over 170 people attending. This was the first Ball organised by Jayne and all agreed that she did a superb job and has been persuaded to take the lead again this year. We stayed with a silent auction, and although this raised slightly less than in previous events the evening was a great success and made a profit of £8606.50. The ball is our main fund raising event each year and we do depend on the generosity of companies and individuals to donate auction prizes, and if you can help in this regard please do let us know as soon as possible.

The Friends annual outing last year was to Chatham Dockyard and disappointingly was for the first time not fully booked.

Financial Review

The financial performance for the year is provided separately in the accounts which will be presented by David. At the year end the Friends accounts showed a very healthy balance and while this is encouraging, it is disappointing that some of some of the money was not able to be used on identified projects which have been too long in gestation.

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, Jill Strangward and David Druitt resign, but offer themselves for re-election. Last year Peter Rowles indicated that he wished to stand down as a trustee but after a little persuasion I am pleased to say that he has remained as a trustee.

Future Events

Our first fund raising event of the year is as usual the golf day at Hintlesham Hall on the 1st 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 2019 Dedham Summer Ball will be held on 14th June again at Le Talbooth. Demand for tickets is high so please order your tickets now 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 15th at Albany House, the home of David and Vee Druitt

The members outing this year will be a visit to Hampton Court on the 11th September

Finally

My thanks to all who have served on the committee during the past year and a special thank you to our minute secretary Jean for her sterling work. My thanks also to our members for your continued support.