



THE FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY, RAYLEIGH

LATE SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

Covid-19 edition

Registered Charity No: 1069853
President: Rt. Hon. Mark Francois MP
Chairman: Jane Brown

Dear Friend, Hello, how are you?

On account of Covid-19 it's several months since our last newsletter. I do hope that you and your families have managed to stay safe and well. If you are needing any help, please do contact me as there is a team at church willing and able to help with shopping, prescriptions, etc. JUST ASK

Please, If you have received this as a hard copy but could have received it as an email, let me know. That will be a great help to those delivering future mail. Thank you.

Since our last communication we are aware of the loss of Members Michael Jackson, Ann Helliwell, Philip Mears, and Founder Members Alan Avery and very recently, Margaret Toogood. We send our sincere condolences to their families, some of whom have had the additional burden and sadness of dealing with their loss during lockdown. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

On a happier note, welcome to our most recent members, Ann Columbi and Lyn Brind. Thank you both for the support you have already given us and may I wish you many happy years as members. Many thanks also to retiring members and delivery agents for many years, Keith and Gloria Hosking.

Thank you to those who supported the February Quiz Evening. We had a lot of teams and we have to thank everyone who came along and joined in the fun. Thanks also to Maggi and Ian Gale whose inventive minds produced a very different set of questions and challenges. A most worthwhile £457 was added to our funds.

Another thank you to our delivery agents who managed to get your AGM booklet to you just before lockdown. Sadly the meeting itself had to be postponed and then cancelled but fortunately, by getting the annual accounts and reports to you (thank you Ian for producing the booklet), we have fulfilled our obligations as a registered charity. Here, I must thank ESW Chartered Accountants, High Street, Rayleigh for once again checking the figures for us without charge. This makes a huge difference to the amount of money we can pass to the church each year. This year it was a **wonderful £18,000**, the outcome of our 2019 efforts.

As far as your committee for 2020, all existing members have kindly agreed to stay in post for a further year until our next AGM which will hopefully take place in March 2021. My thanks to the committee for their great support. They are Janet Davies, Joyce Giles, Derek Kentish, Doris Norwood and Chris Redrup. Revd. David Oxtoby continues as Vice Chairman and churchwarden Jacky Wragg in an ex officio capacity.

The Thanksgiving Shield went to Team Bodge, that wonderful team of skilled people who carry out many day to day repair and servicing tasks. The team saves the church much money that can then go toward any specialist tasks that have to be undertaken on the ancient listed fabric.

Unfortunately, we were not able to open the tower at the end of May and our June Coach Outing set for the end of June, has been postponed.

So, what's next?

Well, Chris Redrup has found about a dozen gardens who are offering to open for our Garden Trail on 30th/31st August. We are just waiting for government guidance to see if this might be possible in some form so please keep the weekend free and we shall let you know. If you would like to add your garden to the trail, please contact me.

Sadly The Orpheus Singers have postponed their October Concert as they have been unable to practice. We are hopeful that they will be with us during the autumn of 2021.

The Christmas Tree Festival is still an unknown quantity but again, we wait for guidance.

You will appreciate from all this uncertainty that very little money will be made by The Friends during 2020. Fortunately, our few overheads are associated with each event so we are not in the precarious position of many charities. We shall bounce back but it is the church funds that will be substantially affected by our lack of fundraising opportunities.

Can you help? I am sure that most of you can...

How about placing in a tin or jar, that which you would have spent on a coffee, had you been out with friends or perhaps pop in a few coins when something makes you smile or someone is kind to you. We need to count our blessings when things are tough.

If you have undertaken some craftwork, please make something for a future Friends stall.

Please use your talents to turn a fiver into more or just place a regular £1 away for The Friends.

If just 10 of you put away £1 for 10 weeks we would have £100. If 100 of you did that, we would have £1,000 and if every member did that, it would be nearer £3000.

It's over to you!

Thank you all for your continuing support.

Jane

Chairman and Trustee

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