



Special points of interest:

- Our New President
- Financial Report
- Solar Panels
- Jill Hangs up her Handbags

REVEREND HUGH WRIGHT — OUR NEW PRESIDENT

In 2013 the newly appointed Vicar of St Catherine's, Reverend Hugh Wright, soon discovered that as Incumbent he was also President of the Friends. His presence at our committee meetings has been a tremendous encouragement and we greatly value his enthusiasm and support. Previously he had been the Vicar of St John's Church, Ryde for over 20 years. We have already gained substantially from his considerable talent as a folk guitarist and from his support of our various fund raising



initiatives. He continues to support the PCC's plan for a Community Garden and is assisting David Tamcken in progressing the scheme through the formalities of the Church and Diocese while at the same time seeking to address the misgivings of those opposed to it.

With the responsibility for three churches, Hugh has very limited free time but does enjoy playing with the Ventnor Guitar Club and also with his two grandchildren in Niton, as well as studying for a Masters' degree. His vision for St. Catherine's in the coming years is to continue its dual role of spreading the Gospel of Christ and being a Church for all the people at the heart of the community of Ventnor.

WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER



Our last newsletter was in January 2013. So what has been happening within the Friends of St. Catherine's Church since then:-

Well the Committee has changed for members' personal reasons or career changes, as is the way with voluntary groups. The changes included losing our Founder and President, the Reverend Canon Graham Morris following his departure from Ventnor to continue his work in Ryde. We also lost the services of Malcolm Young our webmaster and valued member of the Committee.

In March 2014, our Patron, Richard Dickson resigned for personal reasons. This placed the remainder of the Committee under considerable pressure and we nearly folded at this time. However, after assurances from the new Vicar, the Rev. Hugh Wright (and a letter from the Parochial Church Council in February 2014 saying that the support we had been giving the church was greatly appreciated) we took a vote and decided to continue as a Committee until Phase III, the Community Garden, was completed.

Therefore, it was business as usual and our merry band of volunteers set about fundraising in both 2013 and 2014 – the details of which are given, later on within this publication.

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN - THE PLANS ARE CHANGING

For some years now the Friends of St Catherine's Church has been supporting and assisting financially with plans to create a Community Garden around the Church entrance. We had hoped to report that work would soon be starting on this exciting project but now there is a problem. The Church is a listed building and everything has to be approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee and by English Heritage. Both these organisations are in favour of the scheme but have requested changes to the plans that were submitted. This is in order to reduce the impact on the present churchyard by moving a smaller number of headstones. There will now be a delay to progress whilst new plans are prepared. However, it is encouraging that there is still optimism that a satisfactory compromise will be reached and the Community Garden will fairly soon, but not as soon as we had hoped, become a great asset to the town of Ventnor.





FINANCIAL REPORT

FUNDRAISING 2013

Fundraising Events 2013

Feb – Dinner with the Bishop of Portsmouth	£ 253
Mar - Railway Film Night	£ 203
Apr - Spring Quiz	£ 155
May - Young Persons Meal	£ 80 donation
May – Bridge and Cream Tea	£ 236
Jun – 24 hour Music Event	£1,274
Oct – Autumn Quiz	£ 90
Nov – Railway Evening	£ 90
Dec – Christmas Fayre Stall	£ 202

Total £ 2,583

Other donations

Legacy from Nora Hill	£ 323
Grace – Handmade cards	£ 50
2012/13 Collection boxes	£ 25

Lead Organisers for the event

Rob/Gordon/Ken
Malcolm Young
Gordon Pollard
Young members of the Church
Gordon and Ann
Michele Brock/David Tamcken
Gordon
Malcolm Young
Ann and Jill



FUNDRAISING 2014

Fundraising Events 2014

Feb - Dinner at St. Andrew's Hotel, Ventnor	£ 146
Apr - Spring Quiz	£ 130
Sep - Bridge and Cream Tea	£ 200
Oct - Adrian Searle Local History Talk	£ 149
Nov - Sing a long film night Mama Mia	£ 215
Nov - Rockin' on Heaven's Door	£ 504
Nov - Christmas Fayre Stall	£ 221

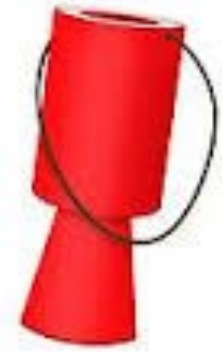
Total £ 1,565

Other donations

Donation from member	£ 500
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Lead Organiser's for the event

Gordon and Nava
Gordon Pollard
Gordon and Ann
Hugh
Michele
Hugh
Ann and Jill



IT SUPPORT



We currently have a vacancy on the Committee for a Website and Facebook Administrator and we would welcome the assistance of anyone who can spare an hour or so a month to update our website and Facebook page with forthcoming fundraising events. Perhaps someone of the younger generation who enjoys social media and can add some 'coolness' to our pages, they may wish to add this experience to their portfolio as part of their advancement into this field of work as a future career move. Having worked voluntarily for a community based charity will only help to impress prospective employers and enhance their curriculum vitae.

This position would not involve attending Committee meetings (although you are more than welcome to) as any information that we wish to have placed on our website and Facebook pages could be passed to you via email.

If you are interested, then please contact our Secretary, Gordon Pollard, whose contact details are on the back page of this Newsletter

WELCOME TO OUR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER



We are pleased to announce that Michele Brock agreed to become a Committee member at our January meeting. Michele has been a valued fundraiser for the 'Friends' over recent years, she has organised two major music based fundraising events which raised a substantial amount of money. More recently she has introduced a new fundraising initiative

with 'sing along film nights'. These started with 'Mama Mia' last November followed, in February, with a showing of 'Les Miserables'. The Committee welcome Michele aboard and look forward to working with her on future events.





SOLAR PANELS - Energy From Nature

The church solar panels have generated the following Kwh and the performance translates thus:-

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>kWh generated</u>	<u>Generation payment</u>
December 2012 to March 2013	286	£ 134
June 2013 to September 2013	1404	£ 680
September 2013 to December 2013	464	£ 225
December 2013 to March 2014	343	£ 166
March 2014 to June 2014	1109	£ 548
June 2014 to February 2015	<u>2375</u>	<u>£1182</u>
	5981	£ 2935



CHAIRMAN'S THANKS

I would like to thank both Richard Dickson and Malcolm Young (who both resigned from the Committee for personal reasons during 2013/14) for their support and fundraising initiatives while serving with the 'Friends'.

Their help was greatly valued and their contributions to our fundraising efforts were both successful and innovative.

I would also like to thank Duncan Radcliffe who has willingly supplied us with some of his most admirable works of art to auction/raffle at many of our fundraising events.

Our events at the church are always backed up with refreshments such as wine, tea/coffee, cakes and biscuits and these are usually dispensed by a collective of supporters and Committee members but a special mention should go to Julia Pollard and Shirley Tamcken who provide their catering services on every occasion.

My thanks and those of the Committee also go to my daughter Catherine, without whose editing skills, this newsletter would just be another piece of paper to discard to the recycling box.

Instead they form a snapshot in time of what part of the community did to enhance and maintain one of the most iconic and prominent buildings in Ventnor.

They will be something future generations can look back on for both historic reference and social enlightenment and how a small group of volunteers worked towards the common goal of completing the 3 phase improvements to make St. Catherine's Church a place of both religious worship and a focal point for community events and visitor interest.

To that end I thank both past and present members of FOSCAT's for their support

and encouragement as I continue to lead the Committee, without whom, none of this would have been possible!

Finally... our thoughts and condolences go to the family of Mr. Alan Walker who passed away on the 28th December 2014. Alan served on the Committee from the outset of the 'Friends' and although he used to say that he didn't contribute much to our meetings, he took the time and trouble to attend and his presence there was enough to show that he cared about what we were trying to achieve on behalf of the church and the community of Ventnor.

Rest in peace Alan and thank you for your support – you were a true gentleman from the 'old school' of life and it was a pleasure to converse with you at our meetings.

JILL HANGS UP HER LAST HANDBAGS

After the Fashion Show event that Jill Lock organised on behalf of the 'Friends' back in September 2011 she continued with an idea to sell 'nearly new donated handbags' from her Ventnor hairdressing salon.

Jill has now sold on her last handbag following retirement from the hairdressing business.

It was an inspired piece of fundraising and here is the breakdown of the results of her initiative:-

The Fashion Show raised £727

Handbags sold in 2012	£487
Handbags sold in 2013	£174
Handbags sold in 2014	<u>£325</u>
Handbags total	£986
plus the Fashion Show	<u>£727</u>
Grand total =	<u>£1,713</u>



Quite an achievement and not only do we wish to thank Jill for such a successful fundraising idea but also all of you who attended or supported the Fashion Show and/or donated nearly new handbags to the cause.

Our sincerest thanks for your help and support - well done. Pats on the back all round!

IMPORTANT DATE'S

'Spring Quiz' on Thursday 21st May at 7.30 pm
'Scones and Scales' on Sunday 7th June at 3 pm - a Cream Tea and Concert, featuring piano students of Michele Brock.

AGM DATE SET

The AGM date has been set for the 18 June 2015 and we look forward to seeing our valued members on that evening.



St. Catherine's Church
Church Street
Ventnor
Isle of Wight

Contact:

Gordon Pollard —The Secretary,
Friends of St. Catherine's Church,
Holly Lodge, Denness Path, Sandown,
Isle of Wight PO36 8PH
Tel: 01983 407064
Email :gordonpollard@btinternet.com

Current Committee

President – Reverend Hugh Wright
Patron — Currently vacant
Chairman – Rob Reed
Secretary – Gordon Pollard
Treasurer – Ann Daly
Vice Chairman – David Tameken
Publicity Officer – Evelyn Knowles
Webmaster – Currently vacant
Members – Jill Lock
Ken Lock
Michele Brock

We would like some new Committee members from local community groups, who could benefit from the new facilities that St. Catherine's Church has to offer.

Come and join us!

TO JOIN OR TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

We warmly invite all who share in our vision for St Catherine's to join the Friends. Many people who joined the Friends of St Catherine's Church during its first year back in 2009 are still valued supporters today and have already renewed their subscriptions for the year to come.

I/we wish to pay £**

Name

Address

E-mail

Tel. No.

Single membership £10 p.a.

Family membership £20 p.a.

Group membership £20 p.a.

Club 52 (£1 a week or £4.33p a month) = £52 p.a.

** If you wish to pay by standing order and require a form for your bank please tick here...

Alternatively, if you wish to set up a standing order with your bank via the internet, you will require our

Account details, which are:-

sort code 54-41-31

NatWest Bank

19 High Street

Shanklin

Isle of Wight

PO37 6JX

For the account of

Friends of St. Catherine's Church

Account No. 49572350

Gift Aid Declaration

Please complete this if you pay UK Income Tax

Please treat all my subscriptions and donations to The Friends of St. Catherine's Church as Gift Aid donations.

Signature of donor: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to: The Secretary, FOSCAT, Holly Lodge, Denness Path, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 8PH



THE HUB

at St. Catherine's Church is open:-

Tuesday to Saturday

10.30 am to 1.00 pm

for the public to come and enjoy tea, coffee and cake.

Why not pop in for a drink and a chat.

To contact **The Hub** Tel. 01983 857795



The Hub is currently collecting plastic milk container tops (*any colour, as long as they are marked with the recycling sign on the inside of the top*) for

Ability Dogs 4 Young People

All contributions to this worthy cause are gratefully accepted so please do bring them along.

