



# Friends of St Edmund's Church

Reg. Charity no. 1082600  
[www.friendsofstedmunds.org](http://www.friendsofstedmunds.org)

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## Newsletter - May 2011

### Fundraising

Fund raising for St Edmund's has become even more vital this year following a series of lead thefts from the church roof. The roofs above both the south transept and the organ chamber were completely stripped of lead, whilst flashings were also taken from the north transept. After lengthy negotiation, permission has finally been granted for the stolen lead to be replaced with stainless steel, which is of little scrap value, and so is of no interest to metal thieves. Repair work is currently under way, and should be completed within the next few weeks. Unfortunately, the masonry in the South Transept suffered significant water and frost damage after the lead was stolen, so that area will once again need to be repaired and redecorated just months after previous works had been completed. The cost of these repairs will be partly covered by insurance, but the remainder will have to come from church funds and the Friends.

**Quiet Chapel:** Once repairs to the roof are completed, work will begin on creating a quiet area in the South Transept. An altar has been designed and is to be put in place along with specially designed doors for the recesses in the wall to create an aumbry for reserved sacrament. The purchase of both the altar and the aumbry has been made possible by a kind donation from a parishioner, for which we are very grateful.

**Central heating Boiler:** A new central heating boiler has recently been installed in St Edmund's Church at a cost of some £14,000, and was being commissioned as this newsletter was being prepared. The majority of the cost (£10,000) was granted by **Durham County Council** from the Councillors Discretionary Fund, with a further £2,000 being granted by the **Walkway Wind Farm Community Fund**. We are grateful to John Robinson, David Brown and Durham County Council for supporting the Friends in this way, and to the Walkway Wind Farm. The remaining cost was met by the church council.

The old boiler was originally oil fired, and was converted to gas at least thirty years ago. Whilst the old boiler had given good service its replacement should be more reliable and more efficient. More importantly, heating the church will also be much more affordable, whilst CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be significantly reduced.

**Disabled Ramp:** The permissions necessary for installing the disabled ramp and associated woodwork are still being awaited, but it is envisaged that work will begin in June.

**The Cheese, Wine and Quiz** evening in February was, again, a great success and raised more than £400. In addition to our usual raffle a second draw was held for one of the limited edition prints of Sedgefield (please see below). This raffle alone raised £60. We are very grateful to all those who attended and generously donated raffle prizes and bought raffle tickets.

At the end of March, David and Elizabeth Brown held a very successful coffee morning in their home and raised the fantastic sum of £950 for the Church Lighting fund. We are very grateful to them for their sterling efforts.

### **Future Fundraising Events and Trips**

At the end of November we had our annual Christmas shopping trip; this time to York, and, as luck would have it, it coincided with the beginning of the bad weather with blizzards and deep snow in the days leading up to the trip. Understandably, several people felt that they could not go and we are grateful to these people for allowing us to keep their money as otherwise the Friends would have made a loss, as the bus was already paid for. The ten or so of us who went did, in fact, have a jolly good day, and with the transport problems York was fairly empty.

**Steam Train Outing:** Looking forward, we have planned two trips for the summer months. The first is on Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> and will involve being taken by coach to Leeming where we will board a steam train for the journey to Leyburn. (It is Steam Gala weekend!) Once there, we will have two hours free to do as we wish before return journey by coach. The total price (which includes coach and rail fare) is £17 per head.

**Whitby Trip:** The second trip is to Whitby on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. We plan to stop off for coffee in Guisborough *en route*, and will then continue to Sleights for a Fish and Chip Lunch before going on to Whitby for some free time. The price for the coach is £12 per person. We regret that the cost of these trips has had to increase as the cost of bus hire has risen significantly, but we hope that you will continue to support us as these outings still represent good value for money and are good fun. Please let Alison Hodgson know if you would like to go on either (or both) of these trips. If you can't contact Alison, please book with Sarah Britton.

Any suggestions for future visits and fund raising events would be very welcome.

Once again, we must thank all of you who have supported our fund raising activities, gone on trips, bought pictures. Fund raising for the maintenance of our beautiful church is a relentless task; but we like to think we are making a difference.

### **Plea for E-mail addresses:**

As you will see, members reading this newsletter online have quick and easy access to related documents, such as the **Agenda and Minutes of the AGM.** More interestingly, a full copy of this year's **Recital Programme** will also be available shortly!

Better still, receiving the newsletter by e-mail saves the Friends printing, postage and stationery costs, and is kinder to the environment. It also means that Brian Mutch, our Membership Secretary, doesn't have to spend hours stuffing envelopes! The latest notice sheet may also be downloaded from the Friend's website simply by logging on to [www.friendsofstedmunds.org](http://www.friendsofstedmunds.org).

Please E-mail your details to us at [secretary@friendsofstedmunds.org](mailto:secretary@friendsofstedmunds.org). We promise that e-mail addresses will only be used to send out newsletters, and will be kept private from other members.

## **Fund raising for St Edmund's Organ**

St Edmund's is very fortunate to have a fine two-manual pipe organ, which was almost completely rebuilt with a new electro-pneumatic action and speaking pipes by Jackson of Leeds in 1974. The organ is playing well at present, and has benefited from very regular use over the past few years. However, the electro-pneumatic action and mechanical relay systems, which were 'state of the art' in 1974, have been causing problems for some time, mainly in the form of 'ciphers' (stuck notes), and stops which stick half-open or closed; especially in cold or damp weather.

To resolve these problems, the organ builder is proposing to replace the old electro-mechanical relay system with modern solid state controls. This would include solid state memories for different stop settings, replacing the archaic, and increasingly unreliable, switchboard system used at present. Additional work will include re-leathering the wind chest beneath the Swell Box to reduce noisy air leaks from this source. These recitals will showcase the organ, and help to raise funds to pay for the much needed maintenance work.

The Organist at St Edmund's, Alex Ord, has once again arranged a superb summer recital series including some top names from the organ world, and some keen young talent.

Entry to all of the organ recitals listed here will be just £5.00, with doors opening at 7.00 pm.

Away from the organ, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June Alex Ord and his Trio will be providing some light entertainment to accompany a relaxing afternoon of strawberries and cream teas in St Edmunds for church funds. Alex will also be giving a solo piano recital (for the organ fund) on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July, when a buffet tea will be provided.

If you don't want to wait until June for some live music there will be a short organ recital at 1.15 on Medieval Fayre Day, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May when entry is free!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Recitalist</b>
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	7.30 pm	Keith Wright (Durham Cathedral)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	7.30 pm	Philip Deane (St Luke's Church, Ferryhill)
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	7.30 pm	Oliver Brett (Durham Cathedral)
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	7.30 pm	Alan Barber (St Peter's Church, Stockton)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	7.30 pm	Jonathan Clegg (All Saints, Stranton, Hartlepool)
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	7.30 pm	Andrew Christer (St John the Evangelist, Darlington)
<b>Other Musical Events:</b>		
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	2.30 pm	Strawberries and Cream with Alex Ord and his Trio (for Church funds)
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	7.30 pm	Alex Ord (solo piano recital) including buffet. (£6.00 entry fee)

## **Friends Merchandise**

The Friends has a large stock of Christmas and greetings cards, which we currently on a **Buy One Get One Free** offer! There are also plenty of mugs, notelets, tea towels, and other items available, all of which make ideal gifts and souvenirs.

We like to make our merchandise available in Church at every opportunity, and have sold more than £300 worth of merchandise in recent months. We are hoping to sell a lot more merchandise at the forthcoming Mediaeval Fayre, where we also hope to sell more of our limited edition prints of Sedgefield. These framed prints have been very well received and are selling quickly, so please place your order soon to avoid disappointment, as numbers are strictly limited to 100.

## **Framed Painting of Sedgefield Village**

The Friends of St Edmund's has commissioned a watercolour painting by artist Hazel Mutch, (Brian Mutch's sister), which is based on a recently found photograph of the village from around 1910, and the artist's own observations and imagination.

This watercolour has been expertly scanned, and printed onto fine quality photographic paper for years of enjoyment. A limited edition of 100 framed and numbered photographs of this painting will be sold by the Friends for £30 each, on a first come, first served basis.



The dark wood frame is shown here, but a gold frame is also available, and has proved very popular. Samples of both frames can be seen in church.

If you would like to reserve your own framed print, please return the form below, or let Brian Mutch, Membership Secretary know as soon as possible on 01740 622302.

**Please reserve            copies of the limited edition painting for me at £30 each.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone No:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Any Ideas?**

If any of you have any ideas for future fund raising events we would be delighted to hear from you!

One idea that has been put forward is to set up a Scalextric track around the church. Another idea (suggested by a church organist of all people) is to set up a '00 Gauge' model railway!

Finally, please don't forget to have a look at our recently updated website for latest news!

*The Friends Committee*

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