



Friends of St Edmund's Church

Reg. Charity no. 1082600
www.friendsofstedmunds.org

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Newsletter- May 2010.

Yet again the Friends have had a busy year. Our main frustration is that of awaiting final approval for schemes on which we want to spend money. The Faculty process is incredibly slow, but is a necessary mechanism to protect churches from inappropriate alterations.

Nevertheless, the last twelve months has seen the improvements to the porch, the new vestry toilet completed, and a start made to the new lighting. The "Friends" paid for the improvements to the vestry toilet while another charity provided the funds for the porch alterations. The "Friends" are, of course, making a major contribution to the Lighting scheme but we have a lot of fundraising to do before we can complete that major project. We have also paid just over £2000 for the decorating recently completed in the church. The "Friends" have made a commitment to pay for half of the cost of the new ramp and to the changes necessary for the formation of a new "Quiet Chapel".

Obviously, our ability to contribute to schemes such as this depends on our fund raising success and this year, thanks to your support, we have successfully raised quite a lot of money. Our very popular Wine, Cheese and Quiz evening in January raised nearly £400. Last June saw the Teddy Bears' Picnic and Parachute Jump organised by Rectory Row School with "The Friends" receiving half the profits. As usual, we made quite sure that a stall was operating in the Church on Mediaeval Fayre Day and a reasonable amount was made then and at other times in the year from the sale of merchandise.

In the Autumn, we enjoyed a superb concert by the Andreas Ensemble in the Church. Attendance was extremely disappointing but a start was made to a fund that will be solely available for repairs to the organ. Our two coach trips were very much enjoyed and made a small amount for our funds. We hope to have another good fund raising year and accordingly ask you to give your support to the following events.

The Castle Howard Proms- August 21st.

Brian Mutch is again organising a trip to this event which is always much enjoyed by all who go. This year the proms will be opened by the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers then followed by a spectacular parachute drop over the arena by the RAF Falcons; later on there will be state of the art stunning special effects and more fireworks than ever before, all lighting up the skies over the castle. The cost of a ticket is £26 for adults and £15 for children plus transport. Please let Brian know on 01740 622302 if you are interested.

Organ Recitals at St Edmund's

There is to be an exciting series of organ recitals at St Edmund's Church during the spring of 2010.

St Edmund's is very fortunate to have a fine 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 year or two. 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.

Dates of the recitals are as follows:

Date		Recitalist
Wednesday 28 th April	Keith Wright	(Durham Cathedral)
Wednesday 5 th May	Philip Deane	(St Luke's Church, Ferryhill)
Tuesday 11 th May	Trevor Blease	(Stockton Parish Church)
Wednesday 19 th May	Brian Varley	(St Andrew's Church, Bishop Auckland)
Weds 26 th May	Simon Fleming	(St Michael's Church, Bishop Middleham)
Wednesday 2 nd June	Alexander Ord	(St Edmund's Church, Sedgfield)

In addition, Alex Ord will be holding a fund raising Jazz Concert in June, when he will be using the new grand piano recently bequeathed to the church. (Dates to be confirmed)

All events start at 7.30 pm, with £5.00 admission charge. Please speak to Alex Ord or Nigel Clegg for further information.

There will also be an organ recital at St Edmund's at 12.30 pm on Saturday 15th May, given by Jonathan Clegg as part of the church's Medieval Fayre Day activities. Admission will be free.

"Teesside Princess" River Cruise.

The Friends of St Edmund's invite you to join them on a Cruise on the "Teesside Princess" on Saturday, September 11th. Leaving Stockton Quay at 2pm and returning at 5.30pm, we will enjoy a leisurely cruise up and down the river, taking in Yarm and the Barrage. We will be served a meal of Roast Beef, Apple Pie and Ice Cream with vegetarian options available. A raffle will be held (so contributions welcome!). We will use our own cars to get down to Stockton with spaces being organised for those who wish.

Prices:- Adults - £16.00. Concessions - £15.00,

September is a long way off, but I have to submit definite numbers by the end of June; so if you are interested, please let me have your money as soon as possible at the following address.

Mrs. Alison Hodgson, 18 Hardwick Rd, Sedgfield, TS21 2AL.
(Telephone: 01740 620912)

Coach Trip to Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal- Wednesday, 30th June.

Join us to visit these two delightful venues, perhaps enjoying lunch in the National Trust restaurant or a picnic in the lovely grounds.

The coach will leave the Parish Hall at 9.30am and will return at approximately 4.30pm.

Price - £10

We are unable to charge the low prices we enjoyed under the Carelink bus scheme which has now ended but hope plenty of you will still support us. Places are limited to 21 so don't delay! Ring Alison or Sarah to put your name down.

Summer Quiz. - Saturday, July 24th

Judy and Peter Evans have very kindly agreed to run a quiz for the "Friends", following the runaway success of the winter Cheese Wine & Quiz evening. The "Friends" committee wanted an extra event to lift us nearer to the time to complete the church lighting. Few dates were available in Ceddesfeld Hall so we hope this date soon after the start of the school summer holidays will not deter too many people. Tickets (available from members of the committee) will, as usual, include your first drink, and will cost £7. Doors open at 7 p.m. for a 7.30 start.

I would like to finish by appealing yet again for all those who receive their newsletter by post to consider letting us have their e-mail address. Every time we issue a newsletter, not only do we have to use some of our funds for postage but Brian has to spend ages stuffing envelopes. We promise that your e-mail addresses will only be used for this purpose.

Plea for E-mail addresses:

Please let us know if you would like to receive this notice sheet by e-mail, as this will help to save the Friend's printing, postage and stationery costs, and is also kinder to the environment.

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Please also note that the latest notice sheet may be downloaded from the Friend's website simply by logging on to www.friendsofstedmunds.org .

E-mail your details to us at secretary@friendsofstedmunds.org .

Any Ideas?

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

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

The Friends Committee

www.friendsofstedmunds.org