

Friends of St. John's Parish Church Yeovil



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19th December 2009

Dear Friend of St. John's

Another year seems to have flown by and it's time once again to give you an update on the Friends. We held two fund raising events this year and unfortunately we had to cancel one. In July we held a successful tea party at Holy Trinity church hall and in September an evening at the Brimsmore Garden Centre. Both events were enjoyed by all those who attended and we raised nearly £700. It was a great personal disappointment that we had to cancel the evening with Michael Eavis. Ticket sales were very slow and it would have been an embarrassment if we had a small audience on the night. Having made the decision to cancel the event several people said that they had intended to come. I think that the message to everyone is, please buy your tickets early so that we are not left in the position to have to make a similar decision again.

For 2010 we have already booked another Brimsmore evening for Thursday 8th April which will give you an opportunity to buy all your summer supplies at a 25% discount. As we are limited to 60 places early booking is advised to avoid disappointment. Tickets will be on sale at the beginning of January but if you wish to reserve tickets let me know. They are the same price as last time at £13.

If you would like to receive details of future events by e-mail then please send me an e-mail to stjohnspcc@hotmail.com and I will add your address to our list. The Friends also have a page on the St. John's web site at www.sjayeovil.co.uk/friends.htm so please look at this page if you wish to know what is going on.

Our financial position is reasonably good and at the moment we have funds of over £16,000. We have however agreed to spend £6,000 on window guards for some of the windows higher up which we thought were out of reach to vandals but one was damaged recently by a bottle being thrown through it.

If you have walked past the church recently you will have seen that the tower has been fenced off from the south door to the north door. This was required by the church's insurers as there is a danger from falling masonry. Roger Fox and the church architect are in the process of obtaining estimates for repairing the tower. This

Registered Charity Number 1040550

President: Cllr Ian Martin
Secretary: Mrs Chris Ball

Chairman: John Brookes
Treasurer: John Beable

will be a major project which will be expensive and require a lot of fund raising before the work can be started.

It is planned to redecorate the inside of the church, install new lighting and rewiring in the spring. This is likely to take several weeks and it will be necessary to close the church for the whole period so that the work can proceed uninterrupted by services. Fortunately the church has sufficient money in the fabric fund to complete this project. During the time that the church is closed it is planned to join with St. Andrew's for Sunday services when 2 morning services will be held.

St. John's is almost certainly the most expensive building in Yeovil to maintain and a lot of money will need to be raised in the next few years. It is the parish church of Yeovil and a public building and I feel that far too much responsibility for maintaining it rests upon the worshipping congregation but unfortunately with the economy of the country in such a poor state this is unlikely to change. Anything that the Friends can do to support the church is very much appreciated and your support for the Friends is very welcome.

We have fixed the date for our 2010 AGM for Wednesday 19th May when it is hoped that Jack Sweet will show some of his extensive collection of slides on how Yeovil used to look many years ago. For many of us who were brought up in Yeovil this is always a very nostalgic experience.

Once again I would like to thank the committee for their support and hard work during the year. We are all getting older and would love to welcome some new members on the committee so how about a couple of volunteers. Please think about it?

May I wish you all a happy Christmas and peaceful 2010. It hardly seems any time at all since we were celebrating the millennium.

Yours sincerely,



John Brookes