

Friends of St. John's Parish Church Yeovil



48 Fennel Way
Yeovil
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21st December 2013

Dear Friend of St. John's,

Once again it is time to give a report on 2013. It has been quite a quiet year with just one concert by the Wells Cathedral School Woodwind Ensemble. Unfortunately we only managed to sell 45 tickets which was a disappointment as it was an extremely good concert. Also as we had to pay for the cost of a coach to bring the musicians from Wells we only manage to make a profit of £83.

I have in previous letters invited volunteers to join the committee but no offers have been forthcoming and so reluctantly we have decided to take a break whilst the restoration of the tower goes ahead. This is being project managed by Rob Dean who in addition to coordinating the work is actively fundraising. The estimated cost is £300,000 but the final figure will not be known until the tower has been properly surveyed and the work put out to competitive tender. Fortunately the Heritage Lottery Fund have offered a grant of £162,000 but this still leaves a substantial sum to be raised and I am pleased to say that the Friends have agreed to contribute £10,000 which includes £2,200, including tax recovered, given in memory of Rex Beable last year.

There is one further project that the Friends have agreed to pay for which is the repair and re-gilding of the cardinal letters and cockerel on the weather vane. This was last done in 1997 when the Friends met the cost at that time.



Since the Friends were formed in 1994 we have contributed nearly £70,000 on repairing and improving the church building and fabric and currently we have about £1,700 in hand. The Friends are a registered charity and will keep going whilst the tower is being restored and I will continue to deal with the administration of the charity. I very much hope that it will be possible to start fundraising again once the tower has been completed as there are other projects in the pipeline and those who have contributed to the tower will be invited to join the

Friends if they are not already members. However the future of the Friends will very much depend upon being able to form a new committee at that time. If you are a contributing member of the Friends I thank you for your support and very much hope that you continue with your support in the future.

May I wish you all a very good Christmas and every blessing for 2014.

Yours sincerely,

Chairman

Registered Charity Number 1040550