

# THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH SUNDRIDGE

NEWSLETTER 15

March 2017



## Putting the Fun into Fundraising

### Chairman's report

Dear Friends,

We have had another very successful year, as you will see in this newsletter. We particularly valued the friendships we made with the dance group from Germany. The Friends continue to raise money for the church and we have pledged to do all we can to support the

PCC in their project to build a toilet and refurbished kitchen area in the church.

On a personal note I am very grateful for all the hard work that the members of your committee do to organise events and provide refreshments. We all remain very grateful to you, the members of The Friends, for your generous support of our efforts.

We hope to see many of you at the AGM in April and are looking forward to Irena's talk which, if past experiences are anything to go by, will be both informative and amusing.

We have a busy year planned with another visit from John Rutter in May. With best wishes,  
David Milman

### Friends AGM 2016

Another exciting and varied year for the Friends. The first event of 2016 was the Annual General Meeting followed by a fascinating illustrated talk "Tales from our Past" performed by the Sevenoaks Players together with wonderful photographs from the Sevenoaks Photographic Society. After the talk we were again treated to excellent light refreshments and many stayed to discuss the talk and enjoy the company of their fellow members and friends.

### Visit to Lambeth Palace

The Friends enjoyed a rare treat in May, a private visit to Lambeth Palace. Our group was greeted by the Bishop of the Falkland Islands followed by an extremely interesting and educational tour guided by Lyndall Hacker. Lyndall is a palace guide with a wealth of knowledge about ecclesiastical symbolism, the study or use of symbols. Lyndall has co-authored the much-admired book on the glass in the palace.



### John Bailey's talk

We had a very busy weekend at the beginning of September. On Saturday 10th we were privileged to have a wonderful talk by John Bailey, our Church architect. John is very well qualified to talk about ancient buildings, he is an Accredited Architect in historic Building Conservation, a speaker and former Chairman of Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings and also Surveyor of the Fabric for both Rochester and Guildford Cathedrals. He has a wealth of knowledge about historic buildings in general and knows a huge amount about St Mary's in particular. John took a subject that could have been incredibly dry and made it enjoyable, humorous and hugely accessible. The talk was recorded and there is DVD for sale which includes close ups of the features of the Church



mentioned in John's lectures plus aerial pictures not previously published. Copies are available from Barbara Lockey Beechcroft, 197 Main Road, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 6EH

Telephone 01959 564249  
e-mail [hixmix@btopenworld.com](mailto:hixmix@btopenworld.com)

### New Website

You can now keep up to date with all of the Friends events on the web.. The website address is:  
[www.friendsofstmarys.co.uk](http://www.friendsofstmarys.co.uk)

The District of Sevenoaks  
Tales from our Past



Sevenoaks District Community Theatre  
and Sevenoaks Camera Club

The district of Sevenoaks has a long and distinguished history. This is a series of "Tales" - some fanciful, some tragic, all true. The script, written by Diana Edwardes, local writer and director, known particularly for her Community Theatre projects, is presented by three narrators. They are accompanied throughout by an audiovisual of the people, places and objects concerned, prepared by Graham Usher of the Sevenoaks Camera Club.

## The Great Sundridge Village Hog Roast

On Sunday 11th the sun shone all day for the Annual Hog Roast. Well attended and much enjoyed. The roast was, as ever, delicious and the crackling superb. The vegetarian nut roast was enjoyed by carnivores and vegetarians alike and there was a huge range of salads to complete the lunch. Red and white wine, real ale, supplied by the Tonbridge Brewery and lager to wash down the wonderful lunch. The live music was supplied by the Barnstormers and the children had the run of the lawns and a bouncy castle to complete their day.

Very many thanks, as always, to Sally and Richard Dunckley for

organising and hosting this popular and successful event.



## The Dynamic Diamonds

The Dynamic Diamonds are hardly your average 'dance ensemble'. To be honest we were not at all sure what to expect when we agreed to their proposal to come and dance for us. The group come from the village of Eichenau near Munich. Incidentally, 'Eichenau' means Little Oak, surely a sign that things would go well! The group was formed by ex-Rambert student and professional dancer Elsa Ferragliani, to combine dance with fitness.

The idea of coming to Sundridge arose from Elsa's long-standing friendship with Lela Weavers and Jane and Nigel Belle. The success of their trip was



in no small measure due to the hard work and generosity of all three of them.

The Dynamic Diamonds gave a superb and exhilarating show at Chipstead village hall on the evening of Saturday 15th October 2016. In spite of a torrential

downpour there was an excellent attendance. The group performed 13 separate short dances to well-known music such as Stayin' Alive from Saturday Night Fever, Adele's Rolling in the Deep and Bill Withers' Ain't No Sunshine. With costume changes and props, including fans, the dancers delighted an appreciative audience including the chairman of Sevenoaks District Council Simon Raikes and his wife. In the interval Elsa's husband, musician and composer Franz Kanefsky, played the piano.

The Friends are very grateful to the Dynamic Diamonds for generously donating all of the evening's takings to St Mary's and paid for their own flights and accommodation.

What delightful people and what a splendid evening rounded off by the delicious food and drink organised by Jane Belle.

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## Projects funded by the Friends

During 2016 the Friends have completely funded some large and small projects. These include the provision of two lights under the lychgate to make the entrance to the Church safer and easier and the repair to the standard light on the path by the Church, which makes the path a safer place to walk. Both the lights under the lychgate and the standard light have been updated to include a PIR control with a dusk to dawn setting so they are only on when needed. Good for the planet and the electricity bill!

The lock was on the vestry door has been replaced, a small but very important repair as the lock was starting to cause problems.

After the yolk stone path was stolen the Friends were asked to provide the money to install a CCTV system to help prevent a repeat of the theft and to deter any future theft or vandalism to the Church or Churchyard. The security system is of a very high quality and records in full high definition allowing it to be useful to the police in case of any further incidents.

The Friends have offered their support for the provision of toilets within the Church. We hope to be able to provide some of the funding and have already paid for initial plans to be completed and for an architectural investigation to ensure the best systems are used for the construction and that the project can be completed to the highest standard in the shortest time.

All in all, a very busy and a very productive year!

See the website for more details of Friends projects and events  
[www.friendsofstmarys.co.uk](http://www.friendsofstmarys.co.uk)

## Forthcoming events

2017 will be another exciting year!

The Friends Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.00pm Friday 7th April 2017 St Mary Church, Sundridge to be followed by a talk given by Irena Fairless "Travels through Arabia Felix - The Light and Dark Side of the Yemen" Irena's talks are brilliant and not to be missed! Light refreshments will be served after the talk and it is a great time to catch up with friends old and new.

The Friends are delighted that John Rutter is returning to Sevenoaks for a Come and Sing day on 27th May 2017. St Mary's is too small so it will be held at St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks. John is probably the world's most important living choral composer with a huge body of work. Many of his compositions and arrangements are now the standard work for choirs around the world. When not composing he conducts choirs and orchestras nationally and

internationally. We are fortunate that John has made time to be with us again. The event is a major undertaking for the Friends and volunteers willing to help on the day would be very welcome.

The Great Sundridge Village Hog Roast will be held at White Sheiling, Dry Hill Lane, doors open at 12 noon, Sunday 10th September. Great food with a vegetarian option, real ale, red and white wine, live music and a bouncy castle.