

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH SUNDRIDGE

NEWSLETTER 16

July 2017



A new Chairman

After 14 years Sir David Milman is stepping down as our Chairman and Ken Ludlam now has the difficult task of following what can only be described as 14 years of magnificent leadership. David has been Chairman from the very formation of the Friends and it is due to his gentle but firm control that the Friends have achieved so much. David will be missed by the committee;

his ability to control the meetings with tact and to speak at the end of every one of our events, managing to thank everyone who contributed to the event, the speakers, artists, helpers and hosts is legendary. David told the committee that it was right that the chairman should change after a time to allow fresh thinking and new ideas to evolve and we are very fortunate that Ken has

agreed to take on the challenging role.

The Friends welcome new committee members; over the 14 years there have been many changes because members have other commitments or have moved away from the village. If you would like to join please contact Bruce Walker, Bishops Mead, 39 Main Road, Sundridge TN14 6EQ or email bruce@silversurfer247.co.uk

Chairman's report

As mentioned above, Sir David has been an exemplary Chairman and I do not underestimate the challenge I face in following in his footsteps. I have only lived in Sundridge for two years but have quickly found what a friendly and hard-working community exists around St. Mary's Church. The events organised by the Friends to raise money for

the church are many and varied, demonstrating a depth of commitment which I hugely admire. Richard & Sally Dunckley's impressive organisation of the John Rutter Sing Day and generosity in hosting the Annual Hog Roast in September are great examples of the work the committee does and we are all keen to help the PCC make progress on

the toilet project. I do hope you, the members of the Friends, will continue to take part in the fund-raising activities over the coming year and may I take this opportunity of thanking you in advance for your generous support.

With best wishes,
Kenneth Ludlam

Friends AGM 2017

The formal part of the Friends AGM was short, the committee re-elected en bloc, the only change was Ken Ludlam becoming vice-chairman. David Milman as Chairman gave us an overview of the activities of the Friends during the past twelve months detailing the varied events held in the past year and the projects the Friends have supported. The treasurer spoke about the financial position of the Friends Accounts and commended them to the membership; they were approved and accepted by the members. The Friends have set aside a substantial amount to help with the provision of a toilet in the Church and will, where possible, continue to help support the project financially. After the formalities of the AGM we enjoyed a truly wonderful talk by Irena Fairless which was intriguingly entitled



Travels through Arabia Felix The Light and Dark Side of the Yemen by Irena Fairless

7.00pm Friday 7th April St Mary Church, Sundridge

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Sundridge are thrilled that Irena has very kindly agreed to give us a talk on the trips she made to the Yemen. The Yemen is visually stunning, with amazing architecture and landscapes and is one of the quirkiest places imaginable – where else would hotels not have the usual star ratings but rather be graded as “Two sheets, one sheet or no sheet hotels”? And where else would you feel totally under-dressed if you are not wearing a dagger and carrying a Kalashnikov?

Irena's talk will concentrate on the many unexpected and often funny aspects of her travels, and only at the end will it touch briefly on the present troubles and explore how the country has changed from Arabia Felix to a failed state.

The talk will immediately follow the Friends AGM, which is generally a short summary of the Friends activities and presentation of the accounts, past and future funding of projects for the Church.

Admission is free and there will be light refreshments served after the talk.

“Travels through Arabia Felix, the Light and the Dark Side of the Yemen”. The audience sat entranced as Irena talked and showed us a wonderful selection of pictures of her travels in Yemen, the beauty of the country, its magnificent architecture and wonderful people, the oddities of the local customs, the “star” rating of hotels (no sheet, 1 sheet and 2 sheets) and the description of a long drop toilet. We were moved from laughter to awe throughout the talk. A wonderful evening so very much enjoyed by all and rounded off by a splendid selection of drinks and snacks.

Friends' Website

Keep up to date with all of the
Friends events on the web.
www.friendsofstmarys.co.uk

John Rutter Come and Sing day

John Rutter is probably the world's most important living choral composer and so it was an honour and a privilege that he accepted The Friends invitation to come to Sevenoaks for a "Come and Sing" day. The day was held at St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks, it is a much larger Church than St Marys and we needed a larger venue to host the event. Over 400 tickets were sold and the singers came from, amongst other places, France, Australia, Canada,

America, Estonia and Cumbria. It was a full day of music and singing, simply wonderful. The choir sang music both sacred and secular, some pieces familiar to many of the singers, some of the pieces recently written by John so new to nearly everyone. John started with 400 individual singers and quickly moulded the group into a choir, no mean achievement! The Church was filled with glorious sound of the massed choir enthusiastically singing John's

selection of choral music. A quick look round on the day showed very happy and enthusiastic singers. Smiles all round, just occasionally replaced by a look of intense concentration when a new or more difficult piece was sung. A day of great joy as the many generous comments we received attest.



I just wanted to say thank you so much for organising such a wonderful day today. I feel very privileged to have been able to sing with John Rutter himself, who is absolutely charming beyond words and I loved all his anecdotes. He truly is extremely generous in all ways and I hope that through him, your fundraising coffers have received a fantastic boost. Thank you again and best wishes

Sarah

To see more pictures and comments click here.

The Great Sundridge Village Hog Roast

It is nearly time again for the Great Sundridge Village Hog Roast which will be held on Sunday 10th September at White Sheiling, Dry Hill Lane. It will be the same company cooking the Hog Roast as in previous years so we can be absolutely sure that the food will be wonderful, the Hog will be cooked to perfection with a lot of mouthwatering crackling, there will be a vegetarian option, a brilliant and varied selection of salads to complement and enhance. To accompany the food there will be red and white wine, real ale in the form of Tonbridge Coppernob beer poured from the barrel and a range of soft drinks. We are thrilled that we will have

the pleasure of being entertained by Izzie Yardley. She is a fine musician and tours the UK and Europe so we are very fortunate that she will be available to play and sing for us on the day. For children of all ages there will be a Bouncy Castle. Tickets for a hog roast or vegetarian option plus one free drink are £12.00 for members of the Friends, £15.00 for non members, under 12s £8.00, toddlers no charge. Tickets from Richard or Sally Dunckley 01959 563421 or by email: richarddunckley@hotmail.com

Izzie has many youtube videos, click on link below
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Op2DvveE_U

DVDs

John Bailey's brilliant talk given to the Friends last year was recorded and the DVD is for sale and includes close ups of the features of the Church mentioned in John's lectures plus aerial pictures not previously published. It was a fascinating and wonderful lecture and the recording is brilliant. Copies are available to purchase from Barbara Lockey, Beechcroft, 197 Main Road, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 6EH Tel: 01959 564249 e-mail hixmix@btopenworld.com

Projects funded

There is an acknowledged need to have a toilet at the Church. It makes the Church so much more accessible to all, small children and the elderly especially benefit. To help the project progress the Friends have funded the initial surveys and the preliminary drawings which are needed before the final plans can be completed. The costs for the work so far is in excess of £4,000.00. The Friends have given an undertaking that they will continue, where possible, to financially support the project. We have also paid to have the CCTV poles painted green for the application of anti climb paint to enhance the security of the Church.

The Beilby Porteus Memorial Lectures books

The Friends invited the then Bishop of London, Richard Chartres to give a lecture and he chose as his subject Beilby Porteus, the 116th Bishop of London and fierce advocate for the abolition of slavery. His talk was wide ranging and gives a huge insight into the life and times of Beilby Porteus and the state of the villages of Sundridge and Ide Hill at the time he lived in Sundridge. The talk aroused considerable interest and the Friends decided to inaugurate an occasional series of talks entitled "The

Beilby Porteus Memorial Lectures". The first of these Lectures, Beilby Porteus by Richard Chartres, Bishop of London and the second British Values given by The Rt Rev Bishop Michael Turnbull have been collected and published as a single book. It is an extremely thought provoking read; both Bishops have dealt with the subject with humour and great depth. Copies of the book are available to purchase in Sundridge Church or at Friends events.