



The Friends of Dedham Church Charity

Annual Report 2008

Registered Charity Number:

Charity No: 1103634

Registered Address:

Badgers, Coopers Lane, Dedham, Colchester CO7 6AX

Charity Trustees as at December 2008

Jacqui Freeman (Chairman)
Beth Mitchell (Secretary)
Peter Staple (Treasurer)
Gerard Moate (Incumbent)
Maria Johnston (Membership Secretary)
Neil McShane (PCC Representative)
Jane Adams
Karen Walters
Philippa Hudson
Charlie Kelly

Patron

Andrew Buxton

Independent Financial Examiner

Mike Fisher
2 Hill View Terrace
Mill Lane
Woodbridge
IP12 1HR

Objective of the Charity:

To maintain, repair, restore, preserve, improve, beautify and reconstruct for the benefit of the public the fabric of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Dedham its monuments, fixtures, fittings, furniture, stained glass, ornaments and other chattels and its churchyard. In addition the Society may support any charitable purpose in the parish of Dedham that promotes the whole mission of the said Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

The Friends currently have 105 members, fifteen of whom are life members. This is an increase of 25 from 2007.

Main Objectives 2008

2008 was a quiet year for the Friends after the success of 2007 and the opening of the Tower.

The Friends continued to support the opening of the Tower for tours which are well received by the general public and provide much needed financial aid to the Church Fabric Fund. This year the Friends paid for a pull up banner to allow the Tours to be promoted.

The Friends also continued to support the Churchyard re-use project although much of 2008 was spent in preparing for the granting of the faculty and preparing the ground for the changes in 2009.

Funding Raising Activities

A Golf Day was held at Hintlesham Hall on 15th May and was very well attended.. Players enjoyed a round of 18 holes followed by a delicious lunch in the clubhouse. £1,184.32 was raised.

On 20th June, the Dedham Summer Ball was held to raise general funds for the Friends. It was a very successful evening with over 170 people attending and £7,441.37 was raised.

A 'Words & Music' evening was held by John Sharman on 7th March which was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. £240 was raised.

Members' Events: On 18th September members visited St Paul's and the Guildhall. There was also time to enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea. £521 was raised.

Other funding was raised through general donations, subscriptions and gift aid.

Financial Review

The Friends carried forward assets of £21,711.02 from 2007.

In 2008 the Friends of Dedham Church achieved net revenue of £12,385.39. This revenue was achieved through subscriptions, donations, fund raising events, gift aid and interest as detailed in the accounts.

In 2008 a total of £2,470.81 was approved in grants: £117.60 for a tour tours banner, £410 for Muniment Book Restoration, £980.81 for the Muniment Room Handrail and £962.50 towards the cleaning and restoration of the Royal Square Monument.

The Friends' current assets amount to £31,625.60

A set of accounts are attached to this report.

Plans for the Future

The Friends will continue to support the PCC Fabric Committee in the Churchyard re-use project.

The Friends will also continue to support the repair of the stained glass windows and the clerestory windows as an additional project and hope to make some progress on this in 2009.

The Friends have pledged to provide 50% of the funding towards the repair of the render on both faces of the Church. Part of this will be completed in 2009 and the second part in 2010.

The Friends have also pledged funding for the creation of a stained glass window to commemorate the new hall at Dedham Primary School as well as the cost of hiring a mini bus to take the choir to perform at local residential homes.

A Golf Day will be held at Hintlesham Hall on May 12th.

The 2009 Dedham Summer Ball will be held on 26th June at Le Talbooth.

A Members' trip to Sandringham will take place on 16th September.

A Member's drinks party will take place on August 27th at the home of Peter and Wendy Moorhouse.

Trustees

We say a sad farewell to Neil Garnham who has retired from his position as Trustee following a move to Woodbridge and thank him for his excellent contribution to the Friends. We welcome Peter Rowles as a new Trustee.