



The Friends of Dedham Church Charity

Annual Report 2009

**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  
Peter Rowles

**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 126 members, fourteen of whom are life members. This is an increase of 21 from 2008.

## **Main Objectives 2009**

The Friends continued to fund the Churchyard project, implemented to free up parts of the Churchyard to allow for additional burials and match-funded the cost of the repair of the external render on the Church. Both projects were completed in 2009.

A grant was also given to purchase a set of steps to assist the flower ladies.

In addition, the Friends gave a grant to Dedham Primary School for a stained glass window to commemorate their new hall and to celebrate the link between the School and the Church. They also continued to support the funding of minibus hire to take children from Dedham Primary School to entertain residents at Blackbrook House, a Residential Care Home in Dedham.

## **Fund Raising Activities**

A Golf Day was held at Hintlesham Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> May and was attended by 74 people. Players enjoyed a round of 18 holes followed by a delicious lunch in the clubhouse. £1,204 was raised.

On 26<sup>th</sup> 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 an outstanding £10,343 was raised. Many thanks to all those who attended the events.

*Members' Events:* Members were given the opportunity to visit Sandringham and Highgrove in 2009. Both trips were well attended. A Friends of Dedham Church drinks party was also held at the house of Peter and Wendy Moorhouse in August with over 40 members attending. A surplus of £632 was received from these events.

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

*Tower Tours:* Tours to the top of the Tower continue to be very popular and 700 people took part in the tours in 2009 raising a total of £ 2127. All proceeds raised from the tours go towards maintaining the fabric of the Church and these year £2263 was spent on repairing windows. Tours are managed and run by the Church and thanks must go to Neil McShane and Philip Erith for their guiding and organisation.

## **Financial Review**

In 2009 the Friends of Dedham Church raised a total of £14,461.93 after event expenses. This revenue was achieved through subscriptions, donations, fund raising events, member's events, gift aid and interest.

In 2009 a total of £23,507.98 was approved in grants: £2008.33 for the Churchyard project, £15,717.83 for the repair of the external render on the Church (a match-funded project), £609.49 for the purchase of steps for the flower ladies, £5,000 for a stained glass window for Dedham Primary School, £122.50 for the hiring of a minibus to take Dedham Primary School pupils to visit residents at Blackbrook House and £45 for a Christmas cake for the Good Neighbours Christmas Party.

The Friends' current assets amount to £22,579.55. I am confident, therefore, that we have the resources to continue to support the fabric of the Church and other connected community projects in Dedham.

A set of accounts are attached to this report.

### **Plans for the Future**

The Friends will 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 2010.

A Golf Day will be held at Hintlesham Hall on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

The 2009 Dedham Summer Ball will be held on 25th June at Le Talbooth.

A Members' trip will be held in September, details still to be announced.

A Member's drinks party will take place in August, details still to be announced.

### **Trustees**

We say a sad farewell to Neil McShane who will be stepping down from his position on the PCC and consequently his role as PCC representative with the Friends. Neil has contributed enormously to the success of the Friends and we are indebted to him for all his hard work, enthusiasm and dedication. He will be replaced by Michael Hughes who is also Chairman of the Church Fabric Committee.