



The Friends of Dedham Church Charity

Annual Report 2012

Registered Charity Number:

Charity No: 1103634

Registered Address:

Badgers, Coopers Lane, Dedham, Colchester CO7 6AX

Charity Trustees who served in 2012

Jacqui Freeman (Chairman-resigned November 2012)
Beth Mitchell (Secretary)
Peter Staple (Treasurer)
Gerard Moate (Incumbent)
Maria Johnston (Membership Secretary)
Michael Hughes (PCC Representative)
Jane Adams
Karen Walters
Philippa Hudson
Charlie Kelly (resigned September 2012)
Peter Rowles
Anita Cotterell (appointed September 2012)
Anne Fletcher (appointed September 2012)
Peter Wilson (appointed trustee September and Chairman
November 2012)

Patron

Andrew Buxton

Independent Financial Examiner

Philip Strangward

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 as at 18 April 149 members, eleven of whom are life members. This is an increase from 124 last year with five members having died and four members not renewing their membership.

Main Objectives 2012

In 2010 the Friends pledged to support the refurbishment work to be carried out in the Nave, but because of the uncertainty surrounding the start date and the final cost, the Friends agreed to ring-fence a part of their funds to support this major project. Some of this work has now been completed in part thanks to a very generous legacy given to the Church, and the Friends funds remain intact. While we remain ready to support further work on the Nave, other projects are coming to the fore and we therefore decided to remove the ring fencing of this money so that in the short term it could be used if needed on more immediate projects .

During the year grants were made to Dedham primary School for the hire of a mini bus to take children to Blackbrook nursing home to entertain residents there; payment of maintenance costs on the CCTV system at the Duchy Barn and the purchase of trees for the Church yard.

Fund Raising Activities

During the year the Friends held a number of events to promote the Charity and raise funds. On 16th August Richard and Carolyn Clayton kindly hosted a drinks party in their garden on a beautiful summer evening and 50 Friends enjoyed a visit to Kensington Palace in September. The Golf Day at Hintlesham Hall attracted 66 players and raised just over £1000. The Summer Ball was again held at the Talbooth; it is now an established event in the local calendar and was a "sellout" with just over 170 people attending. The evening was a great success and raised £8420.

Financial Review

In 2012 the Friends of Dedham Church raised a total of £10039.73 after event expenses. This revenue was achieved through subscriptions, donations, fund raising events, member's events, gift aid and interest.

Grants were given during the year to a total value of £3575.05 and the details of these are shown in the accounts, a full set of which are available from: info@friendsofdedhamchurch.org.uk. At the year end current assets amount to £44208.60. 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.

Plans for the Future

The Friends will continue to raise funds to further the objectives of the Charity. We have agreed to support the building of new toilet facilities which will not only benefit church goers but will also improve visitor experience and enable the church to be used for a wider range of activities. As previously mentioned we will also support further work in the Nave and the money required for these projects is reflected in the accounts.

The 2013 Dedham Summer Ball will be held on 7th June at Le Talbooth. The Golf Day is scheduled to be held at Hintlesham Golf Club on 1st May. A member's drinks party will take place in August at a venue and date still to be confirmed, and a Quiz night is to be held in the assembly Rooms on 2 November. A member's trip to the Christmas Spectacular at Thursford will be held on 6th December 2013.

Thanks

Jacqui Freeman had announced at the beginning of the year that she wished to resign as a Trustee and Chair of the Friends and this she did in November of 2012. Jacqui had held these positions since the Friends inception and has led the organisation with great skill and enthusiasm, and has been instrumental in establishing the Charity on the sound position it is in today: she leaves with our sincere thanks and our best wishes for the future.

In January this year Andrew Buxton announced that he wished to resign as Patron as he was no longer a local resident and he felt the role was no longer required. Andrew has provided sound guidance to the Trustees as well as enthusiastic and generous support, and we extend our sincere thanks and best wishes to him for the future.