



The Friends of Dedham Church Charity

Annual Report 2013

**Registered Charity Number:**

Charity No: 1103634

**Registered Address:**

Badgers, Coopers Lane, Dedham, Colchester CO7 6AX

**Charity Trustees who served in 2013**

Beth Mitchell (Secretary)  
Peter Staple (Treasurer)  
Gerard Moate (Incumbent)  
Maria Johnston (Membership Secretary)  
Michael Hughes (PCC Representative)  
Jane Adams  
Karen Walters  
Philippa Hudson (until March 2013)  
Peter Rowles  
Anita Cotterell  
Anne Fletcher  
Peter Wilson (Chairman)

**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 had as at 31 December 2013 155 members, nine of whom are life members. This is an increase from 149 last year with five members having died and five members not renewing

## **Main Donations 2013**

Last year I reported that the Friends had removed the ring fencing of funds designated for refurbishment works in the Nave as some of the works had been completed thanks to a generous legacy given to the Church, and there remained uncertainty regarding the start date for the remainder of these works and the final cost. It was intended that removing the ring fencing would give us greater flexibility to support other projects that might have a more immediate need. However, during the year no new suitable projects were identified by the PCC that the Friends were able to support, and unfortunately the PCC have to date not been able to provide a timetable for the recommencement of works in the Nave or an estimate of projected costs. As a result we are still holding funds as detailed in the financial statement which can be used to support the Nave refurbishment or other suitable projects when identified. The Committee believe that it is important that the money raised by the Friends is spent in a timely manner to further the objectives of the Charity and hope that the PCC will shortly produce suitable proposals that we can support.

The Friends did pay for two Charity collection boxes which the church had requested to try to increase revenues from the many visitors who come to the church each year. These were finally delivered at the end of the 2013 and can be seen at the back of the church although they are still to be connected and have banners made to sit along side to explain the high cost of maintaining the church fabric.

During the year a grant of £3000 was made to Dedham Primary School for the construction of two study rooms to enable pupils who required additional help to understand certain principles of a lesson to have this in a separate room adjacent to the main classroom. The Friends again paid for the hire of a mini bus to take children to Blackbrook nursing home on two occasions to entertain residents there; payment was also made for the maintenance costs of the CCTV system at the Duchy Barn .

## **Fund Raising Activities**

During the year the Friends held a number of events to promote the Charity and raise funds. On August 15<sup>th</sup>, Jane Adams kindly hosted a drinks party in her garden; the weather was not at its kindest but with the aid of a small marquee and the occasional sunshine, all members had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The golf day at Hintlesham Hall was not as well attended as in previous years but still managed to attract 42 players who had a thoroughly enjoyable day and the event raised £849.20. We will hold a further golf event again on May 7<sup>th</sup> at Hintlesham and are hoping to gain further support for this event.

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 committee did a superb job in organising the evening and I am constantly surprised at the ingenuity shown in devising the entertainment. The evening was a great success and raised a record amount of £11052.75.

A new event for the Friends was a quiz night which was held in the Assembly Rooms and was well supported by people from across the village and raised £911.98 for the Charity. The Friends organised two trips during the year; the first was to Houghton and the final event of the year was a Christmas trip to the Christmas Spectacular at Thursford for members and friends. Both events were fully booked and made a small profit, but more importantly provided enjoyment and fellowship for members and friends.

### **Financial Review**

The financial performance for the year is provided separately, but in 2013 Friends of Dedham Church made a net income of £10054.55 on an income of £32064.99 and expenditure of £22010.44.

Grants were given during the year to a total value of £6549.51 and are detailed in the accounts, a full set of which are available from: [info@friendsofdedhamchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofdedhamchurch.org.uk)

### **Plans for the Future**

The Friends will continue to raise funds to further the objectives of the Charity. We will support further work in the Nave when we have details of the works, a timetable and estimation of costs, and the money required for these projects is reflected in the accounts.

The 2014 Dedham Summer Ball will be held on 13th June at Le Talbooth. The Golf Day is scheduled to be held at Hintlesham Golf Club on 7th May. A member's drinks party will take place in August at a venue and date still to be confirmed, and other events are being planned and will be announced nearer the dates

This year is the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Friends of Dedham Church and we feel it is appropriate to mark the occasion with a special event. Discussions are underway to try to bring the London Gospel Choir to Dedham on the 18<sup>th</sup> October: this is dependent on their confirmation of availability and us securing sponsorship to underpin the costs involved. Provisionally put this date in your diary—we want it to be a very special occasion.