



The Friends of Dedham Church Charity

Annual Report 2014

Registered Charity Number:

Charity No: 1103634

Registered Address:

Badgers, Coopers Lane, Dedham, Colchester CO7 6AX

Charity Trustees who served in 2014

Peter Wilson (Chairman)
Beth Mitchell (Secretary)
Peter Staple (Treasurer)
Gerard Moate (Incumbent)
Maria Johnston (Membership Secretary)
Jane Adams
Karen Gooch
David Jewell
Peter Rowles
Anne Fletcher
Jean Flewin (Minutes Secretary)

PCC Representative

Suzanne Woods

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 the 31 December 2014 159 members, nine of whom are life members. This is an increase from 155 last year with three members having died and nine members not renewing.

2014 saw the 10th anniversary of The Friends of Dedham Church. Over this period the Friends have donated approximately £100,000 to improvements to the Church fabric and support of the Duchy Barn, to assist our local Church School and to help in the village with projects such as the cleaning of the war memorial. We felt that this occasion needed to be marked with a proper birthday celebration and we invited the London Gospel Choir to make a return visit to Dedham, and thanks to the cost being under written by two of our members we were able to keep the ticket price to a reasonable level. Our initial concerns at the slow sale of tickets was unfounded as on the night the church was packed and we were treated to a wonderful evening of music, praise and fun which was enjoyed by all.

Main Donations 2014

During the year we again made a donation to Dedham Primary School for the hire of a mini bus to take children to Blackbrook nursing home on two occasions to entertain residents there and funds were also reserved to pay the maintenance costs of the CCTV system in the Duchy Barn. Disappointingly, in spite of our accounts being in a very healthy position, we were unable to spend more of our money as the Church were unable to bring forward meaningful works which had the necessary planning approvals and which we felt we could support. As a charity we have a responsibility to ensure that the money is spent in a proper manner with three competitive quotes being provided for any work undertaken and that the Friends have meaningful input into the projects planned. Now that we have Suzanne representing the PCC on our committee we are hopeful that past difficulties can be overcome and that we can in the coming year help to make improvements to the Church fabric.

Fund Raising Activities

During the year the Friends held a number of fund raising events to promote the Charity and raise new funds. Our annual golf day was again held at Hintlesham Hall and although not as well attended as in previous years still attracted 56 golfers (or would be golfers) who had a thoroughly enjoyable day and the event raised £900. On August 14th Mr and Mrs Francis Terry kindly hosted our summer drinks party in their lovely 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 Summer Ball was again held at the Talbooth; it is now an established event in the local calendar and was a "sell out" 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 £12,130.44.

The Friends annual outing was to Windsor Castle with a special tour of the Royal Kitchens which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Financial Review

The financial performance for the year is provided separately in the accounts but in summary the Friends of Dedham Church made a net profit of £15892.64 on an income of £38090.80 and expenditure of £22198.16. At the year end our total funds stood at £70155.43.

Peter Staple who has been our treasurer for the past six years is relinquishing the post and stepping down as a trustee following this meeting. I would like to thank him on behalf of us all for the outstanding job he has done and to wish him well for the future

Future Plans

The Trustees are pleased to see the very sound financial position that the Charity is in, but are concerned that over the past year we have not been able to receive from the PCC agreed projects that we have been able to support. It is very difficult to continue to raise new funds when our members and other supporters do not see this money being put to good use.

I am pleased to report that we are hopeful that this year we can have a better dialogue with the PCC and can agree a programme of work that we can support, and which will make a real difference and improvement to the fabric of the Church. We are in discussion on a number of projects, namely the creation of a welcome facility at the rear of the Church, new improved toilet facilities including a disabled toilet, and restoration work to the Nave and clerestory windows. To deliver all this work will be a challenge and require the close collaboration of us all.

Future Fund Raising Events

Our first event of the year is the golf day at Hintlesham Hall on the 5th May. We are looking for a stronger turn out this year so if you play golf come on your own or form your own team and have an enjoyable day in lovely surroundings.

The 2015 Dedham Summer Ball will be held on 12th June again at Le Talbooth, and we have strong demand for tickets and are assured of a good evening.

The member's summer drinks party will take place this year on August 13th at The Vicarage.

The members outing this year will be a visit to the Churchill War Museum and the Imperial War Museum with a special visit to the Fashion on the Ration: 1940 Street Style Exhibition on Tuesday August 18th.

A new event for this year is a Sea Dogs Supper at the Assembly Rooms on **Saturday** November 14th. A proper fish and chip supper and your chance to learn and sing some sea shanties.