

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, POLSTEAD



Photo Bill Wigglesworth

Bianca Madden working on conservation of the wall paintings October 2012

ANNUAL REPORT 2011 – 2012

Registered Charity No. 1116464

REVIEW

2011-12 was, once again, a very good year for the Friends of Polstead Church. Two major projects have been completed with funding through the Friends. First, the drive has been reconstructed and the car park enlarged and improved. Finance for the PCC's share of the cost has been provided, through the Friends, by the outstanding generosity of Toby and Emma Owles. Secondly, urgent conservation work has been carried out on the wall paintings in the church. Grants from the Friends during the year were in total £12,000.00. The Friends stands ready to implement grants to the PCC to complete the funding of the work on the drive and the wall paintings and for a number of other current projects (see below).

The Friends has continued to enjoy strong support, with generous donations from a number of newer residents in Polstead and others. Our total cash reserves increased to £34,532.54 by the end of the year when our membership stood at 116. We continue to be the main source of support for the conservation and maintenance of St Mary's Church.

HONORARY PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS AND OFFICERS

The following held office during the year.

Honorary President: Sue Wigglesworth

Honorary Vice-Presidents: Dr Ronald Blythe
Henry Engleheart
Sir Simon Jenkins
Sir Michael Scholar, President of St Johns' College,
Oxford (patron of the living)

Executive Committee: Bill Wigglesworth (Chairman)
Lea Blackham (Treasurer)
Dr Roger Bray
Professor John Gorrod
Jane Oldrey
Gale Scott
Maggie Bird (representative of the PCC)
Father Adrian Mason (*ex officio*)

Independent Examiner: Roger Huggett (Treasurer of the Friends of St Mary's,
Preston)

Honorary Presidents and Vice-Presidents

Sue Wigglesworth has indicated her desire to step down from the honorary presidency. The Committee is delighted to propose, in her place, the election of Toby Owles, who has kindly confirmed his readiness to become our Honorary President.

Committee Members and Honorary Officers

Gale Scott has indicated her wish to step down from membership of the Committee.

Caroline Mansfield has very kindly agreed to offer herself for election to the Committee.

All the other elected honorary officers on the Committee and other elected Committee members offer themselves for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

Independent Examiner

Roger Huggett has kindly agreed to continue to act as Independent Examiner.

MEMBERSHIP

During the course of the year, to 31 October 2012, the number of individual and joint members of the Friends has grown to 116. A full list of members at 31 October 2012 is on page 8 of this report.

The Committee is most grateful to everyone who has supported the Friends and is continuing to encourage all who have an interest in the preservation of St Mary's Church, Polstead, and its surroundings to become members.

FINANCE

In the course of the year, the Friends received £26,828.51 in donations income and £640.04 from fund-raising. In addition to those, listed below, who have made membership donations, the Committee would also like to thank those who have made additional personal donations. Gift Aid tax repayments were £1,184.53 and £24.73 interest was received on the deposit account, bringing the total income for the year to £28,677.81.

Grants to the PCC during the year were £12,000.00 in total, resulting in a surplus for the year of £16,262.81, including £225.04 net surplus on fund raising and trips, leaving total reserves of £34,532.54 carried forward.

The Committee would like to congratulate everyone associated with this continued excellent financial performance and to thank, in particular, our major donors, especially Toby and Emma Owles and John Gorrod. A summary of the accounts for the financial year ended 31 October 2011 is on page 6 of this report.

CHARITABLE STATUS

As a result of its charitable status, the Friends is able to reclaim Gift Aid on donations where this is mandated. As noted above, this is of considerable assistance in raising funds for the preservation of the church and so helping to maintain our heritage for the benefit of the community, the general public and posterity. It is the Committee's policy to encourage the mandating of Gift Aid as much as possible, together with the payment of annual donations by standing order to minimize administrative costs.

The elected members of the Executive Committee constitute the Trustees of the Friends, in accordance with modern charitable practice.

ACTIVITIES

Committee

The Executive Committee met three times during the year to discuss the development of the Friends and its activities. The Chairman would like to express his personal thanks to the members of the Committee for their continued strong and helpful support.

Social Activities

The Annual General Meeting in May 2012 was once again combined with the annual supper, after which Peter Holman, Artistic Director of the Suffolk Villages Festival and Emeritus Professor of Musicology at Leeds University, gave a most interesting talk about musical performance in the district, and its church venues, going back to the eighteenth century.

Our annual trip in October was to Cambridge where a wealth of sightseeing opportunities, excellent shopping and cultural visits were pursued and many joined our tour of Kings Chapel in the afternoon. Almost everyone attended the evening service in Kings Chapel, which provided an unforgettable end to the day. We again joined up with supporters from the parishes of Leavenheath, Nayland and Stoke by Nayland, in the PentAccord benefice. In doing so we were able to fill the coach and make a small profit which we shared with the Friends organisations in the other parishes in proportion to the numbers taking part.

The Committee has decided that the AGM should be held in April, following the start of summer time. The annual supper party will coincide once again with the AGM, which is being held on Friday 12 April. (For details see below.)

Fund Raising

Net funds of £225.04 were raised from the proceeds of the AGM and the annual trip.

Publicity

The Friends has continued to publicise its purpose and activities, through the brochure, which is on display in the church, the Community News and the Polstead website (www.onesuffolk.co.uk/polsteadpc; or just Google "Polstead").

Grants to the PCC

The following grants were made to the PCC during the financial year.

- (1) *Re-construction of the drive and enlargement and improvement of the car park*

£12,000 was paid to cover phase one of the work (payment for phase two and for replacement of the oak gateposts to the churchyard will follow during the current year).

(2) Conservation of the wall paintings in the church

£3,500 has since been paid for professional fees, faculty fee and the completion of the conservation work.

Future programme

Current projects

The Friends has agreed to assist with the cost of the PCC's main current maintenance and conservation projects. These include the provision of safe access to the tower for vital maintenance purposes, four groupings of minor maintenance works (including roof repairs, guttering and downpipe repairs, glazing repairs and woodwork repairs), and building works for the provision of washing up facilities in the choir vestry.

Longer term projects

Among the main longer term projects which the PCC has in mind are repair of stonework on the tower and chancel, which will be dependent on a detailed survey to be carried out shortly; the possible electrification of the winding of the clock, together with repair and conservation of the clock face; resurfacing of the approach path to the south door; and repairs to the west wall of the churchyard and to a number of historic chamber tombs.

Meanwhile, a major long term commitment remains the repair of the roof timbers in the side aisles, which is likely to be timed to coincide with other work on the roof.

The church remains heavily dependent on the support of the Friends for the fully effective conservation and maintenance of the church building and its surroundings, in the interests of the community and for posterity; and the PCC is extremely grateful for the vital support that the Friends continues to give.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends will be held on **Friday 12 April 2013 at Polstead Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

An agenda for the AGM accompanies this report to members.

The formal business will be followed by a **supper** (tickets £7.50 available at Polstead Community Shop or from Bill Wigglesworth or any member of the Committee) after which **Hori Parsons**, who led the team that built the tower at Bury Cathedral, will give an illustrated talk on the building of the Millennium Tower.

All members and supporters, and anyone interested in becoming a Friend, are welcome to attend. Do encourage others to come and support us.

Bill Wigglesworth, Chairman
Millfield House, Heath Road, Polstead, Colchester CO6 5AN

Tel. 01787 210029 Email ww@reedheath.keme.co.uk

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, POLSTEAD

ACCOUNTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2012

	Yr 2012	Yr 2011
Income		
Donations	£26828.51	£ 5652.00
Fund Raising	£ 640.04	£ 972.00
IR Gift Aid	£ 1184.53	£ 1146.96
Bank Interest	£ 24.73	£ 10.03
Total	£28677.81	£ 7780.99
Expenditure		
Trips	£ 415.00	£ 591.00
Restoration	£12000.00	£ 1551.64
Total	£12415.00	£ 2142.64
Surplus/Deficit	<u>£16262.81</u>	<u>£ 5638.35</u>
Cash Reserves at start of year	£ 18269.73	£12631.38
Cash Reserves at year end	£ 34532.54	£18269.73
represented by:		
Current Account	£21901.98	£ 7391.54
Creditor (Unpresented cheques)	£(415.00)	£(2142.64)
Deposit Account	£ 6694.56	£ 8404.83
Major Projects Reserve	£ 6351.00	£ 4616.00

Auditors Report

I have examined the books and bank statements relating to these accounts and, in my opinion, these accounts represent a true record of the Friends of St Mary's Church, Polstead finances for the financial year ended 31 October 2012.

..... Roger Huggett, Independent Examiner

Friends of Polstead Church

Members (as at 31 October 2012)

Benefactors	Mr & Mrs Richard Bartlett	Prof Gorrod
	Mr & Mrs Henry Engleheart	Mr & Mrs Toby Owles
Donors	Mr & Mrs John Baxter	Mr & Mrs James Jacklin
	Mr & Mrs Lea Blackham	Adam & Kate Kerr
	Mr & Mrs Richard Blatch	Mrs Pat Lewis
	Dr Roger & Dr Annette Bray	Mr Richard MacGregor
	Mrs Patricia Brown	Mr & Mrs Alastair MacWillson
	Mr & Mrs John Buck	Mr and Mrs Duncan McRae
	K. Chamberlain & S. Everington	Mr and Mrs Bruce Martin
	Mr Michael Connellan	Mr & Mrs Simon Oldrey
	Mr & Mrs F W Cross	Mr & Mrs Michael Parry-Crooke
	Mr & Mrs Julian Coulson	Mr & Mrs Brian Richford
	Mrs Rita Gillham	Mrs Gale Scott
	Mr & Mrs Michael Goldsmith	Mr & Mrs Patrick Scrivens
	Mr & Mrs Lionel Hatch	Mrs Solomon
	Mr & Mrs Alan Humphryes	Mr & Mrs Paul Trudgett
		Mr & Mrs Bill Wigglesworth
	Members	Mr & Mrs David Allerton
Mr & Mrs Andrew Bardell		Mr & Mrs Ray Lowe
Mr Lewis Beddison		Caroline Mansfield
Mrs J Biggs		Mr & Mrs Stuart Miller
Mrs Ruth Crabtree		Mr George Mills
Mr Leslie Creevy		Mr & Mrs Martin Mitchell
Mr & Mrs Robert Derbyshire		Mr & Mrs Melvin Mitson
Mr & Mrs Bill Dodd		Mrs Mary Murray
Mr Richard English		Margaret Newman
Mr & Mrs Michael Evans		Mr Brian Orriss
Dr John & Dr Mandy Flather		Mrs Erica Pomerans
Pera Francis		Mrs B Radford
Mr & Mr Roger Freeman		Mr Tim Rouse
Julia Gorrod-Wailes		Mr & Mrs Martyn Rudkin
Mrs Anne Hagger		Mr R Sandford
Mr & Mrs Barrie Hall		W Shadbolt & W Sharland
Mr & Mrs A Hands		Mr & Mrs Les Sidaway
Mr & Mrs Ed Hynard		Mr & Mrs Donald Simpson
R. Graham & C. Digby-Jones		Mr A Webster
Honorary President		Mrs Susan Wigglesworth
Honorary Vice-Presidents	Dr Ronald Blythe	
	Mr Henry Engleheart	
	Sir Simon Jenkins	
	Sir Michael Scholar	