

# FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE HUNTSHAW

## UPDATE AUGUST 2018

The Friends with the support of the PCC have made excellent progress over the past six months having overseen hundreds of people visiting our church. The congregation numbers are steadily growing and we have hosted three successful fundraising events, including a joint event with the Friends of All Saints. More exciting and different events are coming up and already we are thinking about 2019.

**CHURCH REPAIRS** We have obtained three estimates and it looks as if we need to raise at least £180,000 for repair work. We are at an early stage and this figure may change but we will be able to reclaim VAT on costs. Two major grant funders have invited us to submit applications and negotiations with a third are underway. Please note that applying for grants is a lengthy and complex process and realistically we may not be ready to start work until 2020.

**THE BELLS** We want to hear the bells ringing again and Richard (Sears) has met with the Diocese Consultant on Bells and the Bells and Bellfries Advisor to the Guild of Devon Bellringers. The first thing to say is that the bells and bell frames are listed so strict restrictions apply to any restoration. Two of the bells are 'out of tune' while the third is cracked so they would have to be removed through the tower roof and taken away for a month for repair. As the heaviest bell is half a ton this is a major undertaking. Discussions are ongoing, but no decisions made as yet as to whether we go ahead.

**CREATING AN OPEN SPACE IN THE CHURCH** As you are probably aware, the flooring beneath the four pews at the back of nave needs new joists and the area is currently out of use. The Friends and the PCC are negotiating with the Diocese, that the pews are removed permanently to create an open space for the Sunday School, prayer meetings, discussion groups, coffee mornings etc. The front partition would remain. The question is, if we are successful in our plans, what do we do with the redundant pews?

**BAT SURVEY** Before any repair work can begin we are required to have a bat survey. We are grateful to the PCC for funding this which began on 22nd July with a site assessment. As expected bats have been found so a twilight survey will now take place. The survey will continue for 12 months.

**"THERE BUT NOT THERE"** We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded six Tommy silhouettes from the Armistice and Armed Forces Communities Programme: Remembering and supporting their contribution. The silhouettes will become a permanent feature in the church and will help us to remember the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers during the Great War. We are bringing our community together on Remembrance Sunday and the silhouettes will form a central feature of the event.

**WE ARE GOING "SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FREE" on 1<sup>st</sup> September** We will register with the Plastic Free North Devon group that are a part of the national Plastic Free Coastlines charity Surfers Against Sewage.

The Church of St Mary Magdalene Huntshaw is preparing to embrace the 21<sup>st</sup> century and if you would like to help us fulfil our ambitious plans then we want to hear from you. Putting on an event, doing your own fundraising 'thing', working with the Friends or simply making the tea, there is something for everyone. Contact: Lorraine: [lorrainehooper489@btinternet.com](mailto:lorrainehooper489@btinternet.com) Mob: 0791250399 or Audrey: [audreyalimo@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:audreyalimo@yahoo.co.uk) Mob: 07952028013

**Open Church Day Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 12 – 4 pm** In celebration of Devon Historic Churches Day we are opening the doors of the church for visits and or quiet reflection. Barbecue 12 – 2 pm. Cream teas 2 – 4 pm. Start the day by coming along to our popular All Age service at 11 am.

**Graveyard Survey Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 11 am** Join us for a systematic recording using methods developed by The Historic Graveyard Project team. Each headstone will be numbered, photographed and have its inscription recorded.

**Harvest Festival 4th October 2018 from 7pm**

**Remembrance Sunday 11th November**

We will be welcoming congregations from all 11 churches in the Two Rivers Mission for this important event to mark the centenary of the end of WW1. There will be a ceremonial march of veterans or their families, followed by a service and laying of wreaths. The Tommy silhouettes will be joining us as a reminder of the horrors of war. Refreshments in the village hall from 12 midday.



**Huntshaw Christmas Bash 8th December 2018** Kick off your seasonal partying and join us for an evening of celebration, fun and lively festive music. Plans include a cold meat buffet, salads, pickles, cheese board and, in keeping the Huntshaw tradition lots of sweets with 2nds & 3rds if you can manage them!!

**Carol Concert Sunday, 9th December 2018**

**Carol Service Sunday, 23rd December 2018**

**AND FINALLY:** See our website for more information on all of the above: [huntshawchurch.com](http://huntshawchurch.com)