



THE FRIENDS OF TILSHEAD CHURCH NEWSLETTER No 11 March 2011

Annual General Meeting 2011

This year's AGM is on Thursday 28th April in the village hall, starting with formal business as usual at 7 pm. This year we have invited Mr David Dawson, Director of the Wiltshire Heritage Museum in Devizes to speak at 7.30 pm. He will describe the museum and then focus on the history of Tilshead and items of interest associated with its past, which are held in the Museum. He will bring examples with him for members to handle. There will be an opportunity for questions before the usual supper and drinks provided by the Friends committee members. There is no charge for this, but committee members would be grateful for contributions to help defray their expenses.

If you are interested in the Summer outing to Wells on 9th July to visit the Bishop's Palace and the Cathedral, there will be leaflets available in the hall.

The Past Year

Our membership numbers are up again this year by a small margin, but we continue to encourage new ones. Please help by recommending the Friends to anyone you know, who does not belong. You will be glad to know that George Smith, who has had a long spell in hospital until recently, is back with us. The AGM was well attended and afterwards we listened to Simon Firth from Codford speak about the work of the Alabare Care and Support organization and the work done towards helping the homeless and people with learning difficulties, alcohol and drug dependency. There was a substantial collection taken towards their funds.

Events in 2010

The trip to Dorset in July to visit two special churches at Moreton and Puddletown and Lawrence of Arabia's cottage at Clouds Hill was well supported and enjoyed by all. Our other event was a visit to the Wiltshire Heritage Museum, thanks to Bill Perry's arrangements and his talk on the day. This was also well attended and proved a most interesting afternoon with items of local interest to inspect and handle.

Events to look forward to in 2011

Church Fete Saturday 28th May

The fete is organized in co-operation with the PCC and will be held as usual in the Old Vicarage garden, from 2 to 4pm. Gifts of plants for the plant stall in particular will be gratefully received. The stall is always a big draw.

Outing to the Bishop's Palace and the Cathedral at Wells Saturday 9th July

This is an all-day trip to see these two magnificent buildings, which will include the palace gardens. The day will go something like this:

8.45 am – Meet at Tilshead church gate

10 am + - Arrive at the Bishop's Palace (parking is in public car parks, which are a few minutes walk from the palace). Make sure your ticket is properly displayed!

10.30 am – Bishop's Palace and gardens tour of an hour and a half with a guide (cost £4 a head).

12 noon - Opportunity to have lunch in the Bishop's Palace undercroft restaurant. Prices of set meals range from £7.50 to £10.95, but for reasons of catering efficiency (I am told) all members of the party have to stick to one menu.

2 pm - Cathedral tour with guide (suggested donation: adult £6, senior citizen £4, student/child £3).

4 pm - Leave for home.

The day will be self-funding with transport in members' cars. The day, less transport is likely to cost £10 (£2 less for OAPs) per head for the visits, not including a mid-priced lunch at £8.50. **Details will be sent out in June to local members asking for commitment, but let me know in advance if possible, so that I can gauge overall numbers. For more distantly based members not in Wiltshire, please ring me on 09180 621329 if you want to join in.**

Advent Concert Friday 2nd December at 7.30 pm

The concert, jointly organized by the Friends and the PCC, will be given by the Dauntsey's School Choral Society, a group of local people who sing for enjoyment under the direction of the school's Director of Music. There will be a buffet supper and drinks in the village hall. Further details nearer the date.

The Financial Year to 31st March 2011

Income for the year so far is £1,928. This is considerably less than last year, which had included generous contributions from funeral service mourners and a legacy. Our Treasurer continues to reclaim income tax on contributions by those who have signed gift aid declarations, and we expect to receive about £300 from this source which will further increase the amount from subscriptions. Our consolidated funds presently stand at £18,816. The final balance will appear in our accounts, copies of which will be available at the AGM. During the year a grant of £2,010 was made to assist the PCC in the cost of cleaning the 'Royal Arms', which usually hangs above the nave arch. (The Arms will not be re-hung until the internal redecoration of the nave has been completed, but for those not in Wiltshire, 'before and after' photographs accompany this letter to give them an idea of the improvement).

Redecoration of the church interior

As I write, the process to select a contractor to carry out the redecoration is almost complete. It is expected that the work will begin in late May. Leaving aside Mrs Beth Smith's legacy, but including next financial year's subscriptions, it is likely that Friends' funds will be approximately £18,000 by then. The work is scheduled to take five weeks. The PCC is certain to request a substantial contribution towards the cost of redecoration and your committee will, in due course, consider the sum they will offer, bearing in mind the need for prudence in case of possible emergencies in the future.

Lastly I wish to thank very sincerely all those Friends, who have given so unstintingly of their time and effort to keep the church clean and arrange flowers from week to week. Friends have also made a real contribution to the running of the fete in company with members of the PCC. Thank you everyone.

I look forward to meeting you if possible at the AGM on Thursday 28th April and that you will stay on for the talk and supper afterwards.

**Michael Teale
Chairman of the Friends
April 2011**

Friends Executive Committee: Nicki Blighe, Becky Carter, Simon Wilson (Churchwarden and PCC Representative), Brian Meeke, Bill Perry, Marilyn Redshaw, Barbara Newell (Secretary), Jane Smith, Michael Teale.