



## **FRIENDS OF GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH CHURCH**

Charity Registration Number. 1067435

[www.missendenchurch.org.uk](http://www.missendenchurch.org.uk)

Newsletter No. 19

April 2017

**From: Vivienne Davis, Chairman**

**Congratulations and a huge "thank you"** to our members, supporters and local businesses for all their kind support in 2016. How splendid that this small charity was able to make grants totalling £46,570 towards the £61,000+ cost of the church organ restoration last year! We have now made grants to the PCC of almost £115,000 since our first one in 2000.

**2016** was a wonderful year of fundraising events starting with a talk on "Tudor Easter Customs" in March when Martin Sirot-Smith returned for the third time. We then took part in Adey's Car Boot & Tabletop Sale in May.

There were three talks on India in July by Canon Rosie Harper, Andrew Edwards and Jill Robertson. In October, we held our third Talents & Hobbies Exhibition and in November Presiley Fitzgerald introduced the "The Home Front in Buckinghamshire 1914-1918" film and Jill Robertson gave a talk on "Great Missenden in World War1" while Jamie Gairdner sang, accompanied by Yvonne Pinion at the piano, as they did at other events. The year ended with our usual participation in the Christmas Tree Festival and Market where our tree's theme was "A Right Royal Christmas". We held a raffle and sold our newly commissioned tea towels featuring a drawing of the church, preserves and scones.

**Afternoon events** with delicious teas seem to be very popular and it is so good to have varied, stimulating presentations and to see happy faces! These community gatherings also contribute to keeping our much-loved historic church in good repair.

We have five excellent illustrated talks planned from this July to July 2018. We do hope that you will be able to join us for some or all of them. They will all be in the Oldham Hall on Saturdays at 2.30pm, with a delicious Afternoon Tea and also free parking on the adjacent school playground.

### **2017**

**July 22nd - Professor Ian Beckett**, Professor of Military History at the University of Kent:  
**"Buckinghamshire in the Civil War"**

**September 23rd - Dr Graham Twemlow:**  
**"Art and Design in the Chilterns in the 20th Century"**

**November 11th - Jill Robertson:**  
**"1917: Great Missenden in WW1"** with another showing of the film **"The Home Front in Buckinghamshire 1914 - 1918"**

**December 2nd & 3rd**, at the Parish Church, the **Christmas Tree Festival and Market**

### **2018**

**March 3rd - Tony Marshall**, Founder of Prestwood Nature: **"Bugs. Bluebells & Badgers: Natural History of Great Missenden"**

**July 14th - Peter Hague:**  
**"Inside the World of a Film & TV Extra"**

**Preserves & Home Produce:** Our link with the Church Combined School is strong and it is always a joy to go to the Farmers' Markets held there twice a term. The children usually buy all the small and medium jars of jam available, and parents make purchases too. We raised £515 at the School markets last year. We were again invited to take a table at the excellent Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning in October. Sales of preserves throughout the year contributed over £3100 to the Friends' funds in 2016.

**Local shops and businesses** have once again been very helpful with publicity for our events.

**Membership** has sadly dropped in the past three years and we remember with gratitude and warmth those who have moved away or died. We need to invite our friends, neighbours and local businesses to become members, as well as young people who use the church for term-time services and history visits. Can you help us please? The Committee has decided to prepare a Joining Leaflet specifically aimed at the three local schools and will ask them to send these out with their application forms to the parents of prospective new children.

**The Church** has a Quinquennial Inspection of its fabric in October. In the meantime, nineteen projects around the church have been identified as requiring repairs and restoration work. We await applications from the PCC.

**The Committee:** we are sad that Nicola Savage has had to step down as Treasurer because of ill health and thank her for her hard work over the past three years. We now welcome Nevil Coulson as our new Treasurer.

Finally, I would like to warmly thank all the enthusiastic members of the Committee who contribute such excellent ideas for fundraising events and work so hard to make them run smoothly and happily, all for the eventual benefit of our beautiful and much-loved Church. **Such a grand team effort!**

**Committee Members:-**

Hon Chairman: Vivienne Davis; Hon Secretary: Jennifer Moss; Hon Treasurer: Nevil Coulson; The Revd. Canon Rosie Harper; The Revd. Carolyn Bailey; Ann Biscoe-Taylor; Di Denny; Norma Gardner; Jill Robertson

**A message from the Vicar**

Dear Friends,

I have a particular love of the wonderful Parish system we have in this country. The C of E is the Established church and you may or may not think that is a good idea, but it is built on the concept that there is a Christian presence in every community. The value is good and deep both for the worshippers and also the whole locality. Our Parish Church buildings are some of the crown jewels of our country and the weight of maintaining them is too great for the congregations alone to bear.

The fundraising activities of The Friends has been extraordinary and due to their grants to the value of £46,570 we have been able to restore our historic organ in its centenary year.

Thank you all so very much.

The Revd Canon Rosie Harper

**A message from the Organist, Wendy Harris**

*It's been such a relief to know that Funds were available from the Friends for this large project, which otherwise would have been impossible. We can confidently look ahead now, knowing that we and the Village Workshop have done our best for the organ in its centenary year and hopefully preserved its heritage for future generations. Our JJ Binns organ is a remarkably large and fine instrument, ingeniously fitted into a very small chamber – and all the organ builders have commented on this! THANK-YOU!*

Our speakers on India



Jill, Rosie and Andrew