

Friends of St. Peter's, Meavy

Providing a focus of support for all who value this ancient church

Newsletter 8

March 2017

Welcome

Michael Parle, Chairman

Thank you in advance for your time taken to read this the eighth edition of the Friends of St Peter's Church Meavy Newsletter. Thank you to my fellow committee members, Sarah, Stephen, Carole and Yvonne for all their hard work during the past year. And thank you to all the members of the Friends and the local community who continue to support the activities of the Friends of St Peter's.

During the past year we had a few fundraising events, though we have not been as active as in previous years.

As has become our custom, the main article is "The Churchwarden's Perspective", a most informative item on ongoing progress of repairs and maintenance to the church, provided by Annie Inman. Through our members efforts we were able to grant the full cost of repair to the West Window.

In May, our planned first Boundary Walk had to be cancelled because of atrocious weather conditions. We hope to have better luck some time in the future.

In June members of the Friends once again ran a book stall at Meavy Oak Fair, which did very well.

The walk and cream tea in August was held on a lovely sunny day but was not particularly well attended. The walk was up to Sheepstor village via Yeo Farm and "Bluebell" woods, returning by Burrator Dam and down through the woods to the village. Thanks to Sarah for organising the cream teas.

In December Meavy Amateur Dramatics performed 'Christmas Pudding', with the funds raised from this being for the Friends. This production was a new adaptation of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol', and was very well appreciated by the audience. Our thanks to Stephen Earp for his support. MAD may well be back next December with an adaptation of another of Charles Dickens' short stories.

In order to keep the Friends vibrant organisation we really do need to increase the membership. Anything that current members can do to bring in new members would be gratefully appreciated. Any ideas for future fund raising events, please share them with the committee.

Once again, thank you for your support.

The Churchwarden's Perspective

Annie Inman

In 2016 two major pieces of work have been completed to the fabric of St. Peter's Church. The first was the repair of the west window in the bell ringers' gallery in the tower. Andrew Johnson, Master Glazier, took out the window and it went to Exeter to his workshop for restoration. In addition some iron stumps had to be removed from the stone work. They were rusting and causing the stone work to split. They were the remains of a Victorian saddle bar. Andrew has repointed with hydraulic lime mortar as this allows for some movement. The PCC are extremely grateful to The Friends of St. Peter's for financing this important work.

As we had received this help, the PCC was able to fund another important piece of work – repairs, adjustments and renewal of rotten fascia boards and painting to the guttering on the South Elevation. This had been listed as most urgent in the last Quinquennial inspection in 2012.

Also the PCC are very grateful to Mrs Carole Fry who donated the cost of repairing the Victorian spring on the church clock in memory of her husband Mr John Fry.

This year, 2017, we are due for another Quinquennial inspection. Another task that we are obtaining quotes for is for work to the Ash House, beside the road, which needs roof repairs, a door to be replaced and some repointing.

Many volunteers help with cleaning the church, arranging flowers and in maintaining the churchyard and in many other ways. We try to keep the churchyard as a place of peace and beauty and apart from a paid grass cutter and sometimes some tree work it is otherwise due to volunteers. We have two working parties each year. Brambles and nettles in the unused part of the upper churchyard need tackling.

For all those who help in so many ways and for the support of The Friends of St. Peter's to this lovely and ancient village church - thank you.

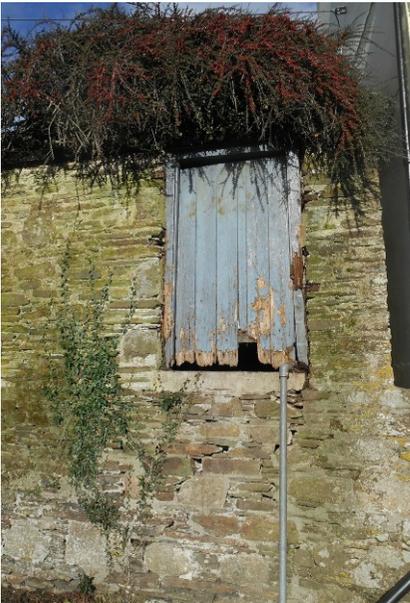
What is a Quinquennial Inspection

The Church of England's quinquennial inspection system provides for the inspection of church buildings every five years by an architect or chartered building surveyor approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC).

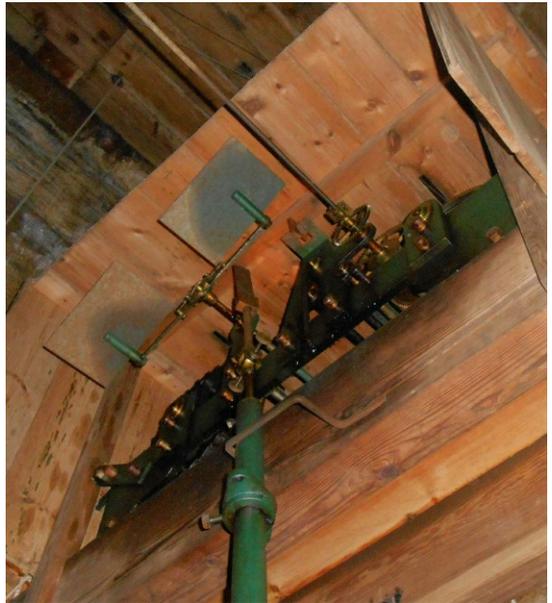
The quinquennial report is one of the key documents which assists the Parochial Church Council (PCC) in the care and repair of a church building, for which it is legally responsible. It gives a snapshot of the repair needs of the building, and lists the repairs required according to their priority. It is also read by the DAC, the archdeacon and by any grant-giving bodies which the PCC approaches.



Andrew Johnson putting the finishing touches to the west window.



The Ash House. Used to store coal and the waste ash when the church had a coal fired boiler.



The clock mechanism viewed from below.

AGM

Saturday 16th September at 10:30am in St Peter's Church

Both members and non-members are welcome to attend.

Book Stall at Meavy Oak Fair

The Friends of St Peter's will have a Book Stall at Meavy Oak Fair, on Saturday 17th June. If you have any books surplus to requirements that you could donate for the Book Stall we would be most grateful. Also if you have an hour to spare during the afternoon we would welcome help in looking after the Book Stall. For further details on either giving books or giving your time please contact Sarah Gordon (01822 854298).

Treasurer's Report

Stephen Hughes, Hon. Treasurer

We had a balance of £7088.26 on 30 June 2016 and therefore had about £6,500 available to help the PCC with repair and maintenance work.

We were expecting the PCC to ask for a grant to help with repairs to the west window in the tower. This work has been completed and we contributed by making a grant of £4,910. This met the cost of the work in full apart from the VAT which the PCC is able to reclaim from HMRC.

We are most grateful to the Meavy Oak Fair Committee for their continued support as shown by their donation of £400 to the Friends. The Gift Aid rebate from HMRC of £78.25 was received on 4 July 2017. The walk and tea on 14/08/16 raised £42.00.

The Meavy Amateur Dramatic Society very generously gave a performance of "A Christmas Pudding" for the benefit of the Friends on 17 December 2017. This together with donations for refreshments etc raised a total of £500.

Other donations, sale of Christmas cards and member's subscriptions have raised £318.88 so far this year.

Please remember that the Friends is registered as a charity for tax purposes making subscriptions and donations eligible for the Gift Aid scheme. This means that we can claim a rebate from HMRC of the tax you pay, at the basic rate, on any donations you make to us that are covered by a declaration. Please use the Friends' Gift Aid Envelopes so that we can claim this rebate.

In the past we have also benefited from legacies from wills and funeral collections. If you are arranging a funeral, particularly of someone who had an association with St Peters, please consider making the Friends of St Peters Church a beneficiary of the collection.

Join Us

Membership of the Friends of St. Peter's Church, Meavy is open to all who support the aims of the Friends. Should you wish to join please complete the Membership Application Form (see our web site at www.meavy.org.uk/fsp) and send it to our Treasurer, Mr Stephen Hughes (to the address on the form).