

Friends of Chaldon Church

The FCC has been very active during the last 12 months with a total of eleven wide ranging activities which have resulted in a substantial contribution to our finances. I must highlight the close relationship we have with the Chaldon History Group and their generous donation to the FCC of monies raised from their public events, as well as the joint events we have run with them, which included talks on the Harman family who contributed so much to the governance and preservation of Chaldon during the first few years of the 20th century; on the history of local Chaldon houses; and on the geology and general history of Chaldon/Merstham stone and the associated quarries in this area.

There was enthusiastic support for our two quiz nights during the year which we hope to continue arranging at regular intervals. Likewise it is planned to schedule further fund-raising walks similar to the recent events arranged by Richard Payne in September and October.

Historical talks were arranged for several visiting groups interested in the history of the church who came from as far afield as South Carolina in the USA. We also received good publicity in the magazine of the Prayer Book Society following a visit by some of the members of the society who visited the church in September. Two of the church talks were combined with visits to Chaldon Court.

I gave a talk during January on the fascinating history of the two 13th century church bells, both sadly stolen and destroyed during the 18th and 20th centuries. The talk was warmly received by an audience that filled the church and it has already stimulated two requests for further talks from a bell ringing group and from another historical society.

Following the grant we gave in 2016 for an assessment of the condition of the great 12th century mural on the west wall of the church we have now agreed to fund an architect's survey of the current state of the fabric of the whole building. The cost of the survey has been estimated at approximately £6000 and the FCC has given an assurance to the Parish Church Council that we will provide a grant to cover most of this. As I mentioned in a previous newsletter a provisional estimate of £100,000 has been suggested as the possible cost of a complete refurbishment of the church and a sub-committee of the PCC is now actively engaged in applying for grants for this work.

I thank the Trustees of the FCC and our Treasurer for their commitment and hard work during this successful year and thank you all for your continuing support.

Ted Howard – Chairman of the Trustees



Upcoming Events

FRIENDS SPRING WALKS 2018
Saturday 17 March 2018
Warlingham, Farleigh and Chelsham Churches

Saturday 28 April 2018
Clayton Church, Pyecombe Church and the Chattri. South Downs

AN AFTERNOON OF POETRY
Saturday 7th April at 3pm
at Chaldon Church

See Page 3 for more details

Church Opening & Sunday Teas

The church is open daily 10am - 3pm during the winter and 10am – 4pm during the summer.

With the exception of Good Friday till the dawn of Easter Sunday.

From 1st April the Hazell rooms will be open every Sunday from 3pm to 4.30pm for teas and homemade cakes.

RECENT FRIENDS EVENTS

The Friends exists to promote the history and cultural heritage of the church, and to raise funds to preserve the church building. The last Friends event of 2017 and the first of 2018 provide a useful contrast, and show the range of ways in which the Friends operate, either achieving both aims at once or concentrating on the fund raising side.

QUIZ NIGHT 1ST DECEMBER 2017

Eleven teams gathered for the sold-out quiz. Having named their teams everybody settled down to tackle the picture quiz and answer the questions of the first round. This required alliterative answers, ranging from James Joyce and Rotten Row to Kim Kardashian and West Wing. We moved on through questions about the capital of Morocco and the number of dots on the Domino Pizza logo, finishing with a round all about Christmas. The final winner had to be determined with a tiebreaker question. Combined with a raffle and a competition to guess the origin of a bottle of wine donated by Majestic Wine Warehouse, a total of £495 was raised for the Friends of Chaldon Church.

Thank you to the many people who helped to make the evening such a successful and fun event.

CHALDON CHURCH BELLS - NEW RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

The first Friends event of 2018, was a talk by Ted Howard on the Chaldon Church Bells. The church was very full, with seventy people attending the illustrated talk about the history of the two ancient and six 'modern' bells. The talk included a wealth of information about Chaldon's bells, the history of bells in England, and methods of casting bells. A short history of the Whitechapel Foundry which made our 'modern' bells, included Chaldon's links with the Foundry through one of the churchwardens, Douglas Hughes, a co-owner of the Foundry in the second half of the twentieth century.

At the end of Ted's talk, Pat Johnson gave a demonstration of how the bells are rung. The talk was a joint event with the Chaldon History Group, and raised £421 for the Friends.



Ancient Bell repaired 1902

THREE FCC COMMUNITY EVENTS

On the 4th June Ted presented a talk on the history of the church as part of the programme for the Caterham festival. A good sized audience donated £92 to the FCC.

On the 2nd July a joint venture with the church in the form of a Barbecue was held on a beautiful day in Madeline's garden. This was a celebration of the Patronal festival of St. Peter and St. Paul, the Patron Saints of the church. The Friends received donations of £245.

On the 28th August we provided a lively stall at the Chaldon Village Fete and a large picture of the Chaldon Mural was used to encourage children, (and a few adults), to pin a tail onto one of the devils for a small donation. Donations were also received from the sale of Friends Christmas cards and gift items such as tea towels.



Chaldon Church font 2017

©edward howard

In the Community

Saturday 3rd March 2pm to 4pm

Chaldon Village Hall

Gwyneth Fookes, Vice-President of The Bourne Society, will give an illustrated talk about Old Quarry Hall which was situated just to the west of White Hill on the way up to the Harrow Pub. It was a fairy tale building tucked into the hillside which had a very short life with only three owners, each with an interesting story.

Tickets £5 on the door with tea and cakes for sale afterwards.

A Chaldon History Group event.

Saturday 14th April 11.45am

**The Local Stone Story continues
Westminster Abbey Stone Tour**

11:45 meet for 12 noon start of tour. Tour finishing about 1pm and the option to stay in the Abbey until 2pm. £18 per person. A special tour of the Abbey with one of their guides, exploring and explaining the use of Reigate/ Merstham/ Chaldon stone within the building.

This tour is over-subscribed and a second time /date is being negotiated and an email will be sent out with further information.

CHALDON HISTORY GROUP

The Chaldon History Group has continued to make contributions to the Friends funds during the year.

They have held numerous talks and open house events and have raised over £300.

THANK YOU

TEA AND ENTERTAINMENT WITH THE FOUREFFECT QUARTET

SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

On a cold winter afternoon it was a great pleasure to welcome once again the 4-effects, Lisa, Anita, Liz and Debbie. This very talented Barber-shop group entertained a very appreciative audience for the whole afternoon.

With great skill the group even got the audience to sing with enthusiasm and in tune! At the end we left feeling both relaxed and warm.

The event raised £200 for the Friends church fabric fund.



FUTURE EVENTS FOR 2018

FRIENDS SPRING WALKS 2018

Saturday 28 April 2018.

Clayton Church, Pyecombe Church and the Chattri. South Downs, East Sussex. 6 miles; 4 hours

This walk will start at 10.30 am from the public car park by the Jack and Jill windmills on the South Downs, near Brighton. The car park is off the A273 between Pyecombe and Clayton.

We will walk down to St John the Baptist's Church in Clayton which contains a series of "Doom" wall paintings dating from the 12th Century. We then walk south to visit the Church of the Transfiguration in Pyecombe which is also known as the "Shepherd's Church".

From Pyecombe we will walk back up onto the Downs and visit the Chattri, which is a war grave and memorial to the Indian soldiers who served in the First World War. From there we return across the Downs to Jack and Jill and the car park. There are some climbs and descents on this walk.

Saturday 17 March 2018.

Warlingham, Farleigh and Chelsham Churches Surrey.

6 miles; 3 hours

This walk will start at 10.30 am from All Saint's Church, on Church Road in Warlingham. You can park in the road.

The walk goes from All Saint's to St Mary's Church in Farleigh and then to St Leonard's Church in Chelsham. The walk will be on public footpaths and bridleways in open fields and woodland and there are no steep climbs or descents. We will return to Church Road in Warlingham.



Walkers from our successful visit to Tudeley

AN AFTERNOON OF POETRY (PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT)

A poetry event will be held in Chaldon Church starting at 3.00pm on Saturday 7th April 2018 to which people will be invited to bring and read their favourite poems.

Would people interested in contributing to this event please contact Ted Howard by email at edward5dy@btinternet.com or by telephone on 01883 349225.

FRIENDS FUNDRAISING

In our second year we have over 60 friends, made up from those joined for Life, or Annual Family and Individual Friends and we have raised over £4700 with numerous events over the year that will go towards the fabric of Chaldon Church.

SPREAD THE WORD

If you know of any friends, family or colleagues who would be interested in joining the Friends please do not hesitate to contact us either by email: friendsofchaldonchurch@gmail.com or in writing to Alison Pannett, Hon. Treasurer, 26 Whyteleafe Hill, Whyteleafe Surrey CR3 0AB.