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FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH
SUNBURY-ON-THAMES
(Registered Charity No. 1048888)



NEWSLETTER
Autumn Issue 2018

Dear Member

Well, that was more like a summer (weather-wise)! However, the plants in the garden seem to think it is spring and are now coming into bloom after the hot spell but doubtless as we slide very quickly into October, the night frosts will quickly get them back on track !

Since our last Newsletter, on the **23rd May** we had our **AGM**. The A.G.M. was attended by the 'steady few' who voted in those Members of the Committee of Trustees who were up for re-election. (No new Members I regret to say, but it is not too late to be co-opted on, just contact any Committee Member !). We voted on and adopted the F.O.S.M. Data Privacy Policy Statement. The new Fabric Chairman Stephen Spencer, then gave us a report on future projects for the upkeep of our beautiful Church, repeating the thanks of the Vicar for our donation of £15,000. which we (The Friends) were able to give towards the recent restoration of the art work in the Apse and Chancel. After which we had an interesting talk on the work in progress on the Kempton Steam Railway given by Douglas Dick, one of the enthusiastic volunteers who give their time and expertise to restoring this local feature of a by-gone age.

Then we had the Heritage Open Day, which for us this year was on the 15th of September, with the usual format of opening the Church and inviting the Sunbury & Shepperton Local History Society to bring along their display of photos and memorabilia of old Sunbury and area. We had a very good turn-out with lots of interest shown, particularly in the old Church records and at the S&SLHS stand with folks bringing their interesting queries and stories. The tea /coffee etc did a roaring trade and there was a steady stream of people (young and not so young!) climbing up to the Bells to look at and try them out under the watchful eyes of Tower Captain, Dennis Brock and Ann. Mollie even managed to enrol 2 new Members! So the folk manning the various areas were kept quite busy. It was such a good opportunity to spend time browsing at leisure looking at the various monumental inscriptions, stained glass etc in a bit more depth. Plus, of course, the restoration work, newly completed, on the painted canvases of the Seraphs and Christ the King on the Apse wall and the Sgraffito murals in the Chancel. A big thank you to those who helped and of course, to those who came !

On Saturday **6th October at 7pm.**, we are looking forward to introducing a concert given by the Barfield Handbell Ringers. They are a band of Ringers, who perform on 51/2 octaves of bells with enthusiasm and skill. So do come and learn about and listen to their unique sound. Tickets and further information available from Ann on 01932 785035 or Mollie on 01932785807 More details on our website: www.fosmsunbury.org.uk. or barfieldbells@bt.com

And then, continuing our musical theme, on Saturday the **1st December** we look forward to our Harp and mince pie evening. A harpist will be coming to talk about the harp and to play for us, while we enjoy a glass of mulled wine and mince pies! Look out for local publicity and /or see our website.

Hot off the press! On 23rd February, we hope to be able to welcome back Kathryn Harries the internationally renowned soprano and Director of the National Opera Studio, and her friends. Watch this space !

We look forward to welcoming you to these fund-raising events. Your support is essential in our efforts to continue to maintain our lovely Church building as a fitting memorial to those who have gone before us.(Since 1752, in fact !) If you would like to know a bit more about the history of our Church, just pick up a copy of 'The History of St. Mary's' from the stand at the back of the Church (or 'phone 01932 784432), which will introduce you to the 'bare bones'.

Enjoy the rest of the year and, as the Christmas stock has started arriving in the shops, we wish you a happy, healthy and blessed Christmas !