



Friends' Newsletter Autumn 2005

From Our New Chairman, Julie Galliard

The combined persuasive powers of John Martin and Michael Williamson, together with the encouragement (or was it relief?) of the rest of the committee, resulted in my being elected to the chairmanship of the Friends of St John's in May this year. I attend St John's regularly, but am a relative newcomer to the village, having only arrived here from north-west Norfolk in 1998. Since then, I have served on the PCC, been a member of the Events committee and continue to support 'behind the scenes' at many of the various social and fund raising events organised for, and by, the church members.

The chairmanship of your committee is a task I undertake with a certain amount of trepidation – James Morgan is a hard act to follow! For the last fifteen years he has devoted a great deal of time and energy to the Friends, leading on projects and overseeing their execution to ensure the church is enhanced and beautified in all manner of ways. I know you will all join me in thanking him for his long service, his hard work and the considerable expertise he brought to the leadership of the Friends

and its committee.

We also say farewell to two other committee members who have given of their time and talents unstintingly over the years. Pam Habgood, the secretary of the Friends since its inception in 1988 and Shirley Randall, a staunch member of the committee, have both decided to retire. Our grateful thanks go to both of them for their hard work, delicious culinary items and generosity in support of the Friends.

At the AGM in May, Beryl Flack and David Adamson were elected to the vacancies on the committee. John Martin has taken on the important role of secretary, ably supported by his PA named Kate!

Following the AGM in May, 38 people attended the annual Friends' Dinner – another magnificent buffet - which was followed by Alan Wyatt's entertaining and informative talk - 'Sounds Interesting' - which featured just a few of his extensive collection of musical instruments. He delighted us with his anecdotes and demonstrations, delivered in his own inimitable style. Many reminisced happily when the old gramophone was played but the

highlight had to be the stunning finale – a solo performance on the saw! Quite amazing!

Your committee have decided that the next major project will be the restoration of the window in the Tower at St John's. It dates from 1871 and is recognised as an early work by Charles Kempe and therefore of some historical importance. Negotiations are currently underway with the Church Fabric Committee and the PCC as to the best way to undertake the restoration. I hope to be able to give you more news in the next newsletter.

Finally, my thanks to all of you - the projects could not be completed without your ongoing support. Remember this is **your** newsletter; it would be fantastic if some of you could contribute articles for it. They don't have to be lengthy or word perfect. Any items would be most welcome. Send to me at julie.galliard@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or direct to the newsletter compiler, Michael Williamson at mijan@zetnet.co.uk. If you prefer to handwrite, post them to me at 29, Lode Avenue, Waterbeach, CB5 9PX. I look forward to hearing from you.

from Trevor Thorn

... Both of this Parish

Which is how Banns of marriage end if both bride and groom are local.

When Pam and I were married, there was no calling of Banns as we were both divorced and were to be married in a registry office. Despite both of us being regular communicant members of the church

at which we worshipped, we could not be married there, so I suppose that had someone at that time even hinted that a quarter of a century later we might be Reader and Curate in a village we had never heard of would have seemed the height of absurdity.

So what differences has this made? Well, first, it didn't happen

rapidly. I made two somewhat hesitant starts to becoming a Reader (now also known as Licensed Lay Minister). The first because there seemed to be uncertainty about whether a divorced and remarried man was acceptable as a Reader and the second time because I was unwilling to succumb to a very didactic training model which seemed to give no credence to the possibility that

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A Churchwarden's job is never done (it's only just started)

My association with St. John's goes back over 30 years. As a child living in Station Road I attended Sunday school on Sunday afternoons at the Methodist chapel (where the Salvation Army is now located). When the chapel closed I joined St. John's and I was confirmed here, after confirmation classes with the Reverend Scott-Joynt. A couple of years later I headed off to London to university and I only visited St. Johns after that when home at Christmas and on family visits.

Six years ago I moved back to Waterbeach with my husband Michael and our two children Chris and Caroline, now 17 and 13 respectively. We built a house next to my mother on land I had played on as a child. I had really come back to my roots. We found a very warm welcome at St. John's and the fellowship of friends here certainly made it easier for us to settle into our new life in the village.

Since then I have helped with the children and youth work and have served on the PCC. I was persuaded to stand as Churchwarden in April this year and was elected to office along with Ros Wright.

One of our first tasks is to oversee the redecoration of the nave, which had already been planned by our predecessors Jane and David. The painters move in on October 3rd and we will have a much lighter and brighter church within 8 weeks from then.

At the same time we will be decorating the outside of the church room and repairing the church wall by the front gate where it was recently hit by a speeding car.

These first few months as Churchwarden have been a fairly steep learning curve, but I am enjoying learning more about our beautiful church and being part of a long line of Churchwardens who have cared for it over the years.

Dorothy Druitt

From Trevor Thorn

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anyone knew anything about the basics of faith: not good!

But seven years before we moved up to Waterbeach in 1998, I was back on the path of Reader Training and was licensed three years later in Chelmsford Diocese.

Moving to Waterbeach held a major uncertainty. Would the Vicar want a (nother) Reader? Thankfully he did. By this time, Pam and I often worked together on material for services and Pam felt it would be good to gain more understanding of our faith by also training as a Reader. Nick had other ideas! He felt it would be good if Pam trained for the Priesthood.

That took more than a bit of processing for both Pam and me but it felt that as the idea had been broached, it should at least be explored. Even then, the 23 years old history of our divorces reared its head again. Pam had to have "An Archbishop of Canterbury's faculty" (as if he hadn't enough on his plate!).

That hurdle was jumped and Pam has told her story elsewhere.

Now we have a partnership that is different to any we envisaged but is richly rewarding. We are able to contribute quite different viewpoints to any issue under discussion. Pam will come to those with her experience of Teaching, Social work, children's hospice management and hospital chaplaincy. I come from a basically money background – banker, then fundraiser. This makes for some interesting exchanges.

And other changes? Well uncovering yet another clerical collar as I open a drawer is still a surprise. But then the whole journey has been full of all sorts of surprises. But then as most of us know, many journeys with God are simply full of amazing surprises.

Annual Dinner

2006

Diary date

Sat

6th May 2006

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