



Friends' Newsletter

Spring
2007

From our Chairman, Julie Galliard

As Spring approaches once again, I am pleased to report that we have completed some small projects - one inside and one outside the church - while the two larger projects are proceeding well. The steps from the car park, provided by the Friends some years ago, have been relaid to provide more drainage to prevent water collecting on the right hand side. This is to avoid puddles and any ice forming, making the steps safer.

The Friends have paid for the pipe organ case to be painted to complete the refurbishment of the nave. We are grateful to David Armstrong for carrying out this task; he even gave the organ's long standing resident - a small teddy bear - a wash and brush up. The bear is back in pride of place keeping an eye on the choir!

Provision of the frontals for the choir and clergy is well underway. The designs were modified to include three double units and the plans are currently in their final stages of approval. We hope the carpenter can

start in early April. The provision of the gate and arch at the top of the steps at the rear entrance to the church is moving on and the final design, already approved by the Morton family whose generous bequest is going some way to financing the project, is currently being discussed at the PCC. Next step is the architect's drawing. Discussions about improving the facilities for those using the. South Aisle room are continuing.

It is with great sadness I have to report the recent death of Monica Buttress, a very long standing supporter of the Friends of St Johns. She regularly attended the Friends' Day, often bringing friends and relations to the Dinner which she always enjoyed. We all have fond memories of Monica and her regular contributions to the day - not least, her generous provision of the flowers and table decorations.

On a happier note, Pam Habgood has asked me to pass on the Friends' congratulations to Doreen Fletcher, another longstanding

member, who reaches her 90th birthday shortly.

I hope to see many of you at the Friends' Day and Annual Dinner on 28th April. The format remains as always - see details enclosed with this letter. Evensong will be led again this year by Reverend Pam Thorn - with sherry at 6.30 pm. Tickets for the dinner are available now. Please contact me or Beryl Flack for tickets (contact details appear with the Friends' Day information) or return the enclosed slip indicating your attendance. This year, we are inviting you to bring your own wine. Sherry and soft drinks will be provided as before. Our speaker this year is Carolin Gohler of the Cambridge Preservation Trust.

You will see from Nick Moir's article that we are making a link between the Friends' Day celebration and Dedication Sunday. It would be wonderful to see Friends attending the morning service on Sunday 29th April to share in the thanksgiving for all those who support, preserve and beautify the church building.

julie.galliard1@ntlworld.com

From the Reverend Nick Moir

This Friends' Festival will be my last as Vicar, though I hope not my last as a Friend of St John's.... I well remember early on in my time here when the Festival brought together the Four Vicars. It felt rather like an old episode of Dr Who when somehow the different incarnations of the Time Lord were brought together in one time warp!

But I am now to be reincarnated as the Vicar of St Andrew's, Chesterton, a city parish that also retains something of a village character (hurray!). Rosalind and I do, of course, face our move with mixed

emotions: we are excited by what lies ahead but are sad to leave what has been our very happy home for a significant period of our lives (we have spent all but three months of our married life here and, of course, our children are Waterbeach born and bred.)

I look back at what has been achieved with the church fabric over these nine years with some satisfaction. We now have an extended and much improved Church Room; the considerable restoration works (largely to combat the damp) have been completed; the chancel looks

fabulous after its cleaning and decorating; the reordering at the front has given much-valued space, and the redecoration has made a huge difference to the ambience of the church. I do not claim credit for any of this - the music, as it were, has been played by others while I have from time to time waved the baton around. For part of the score the baton is pointed towards the Friends: if the PCC are the strings, carrying much of the tune, then perhaps the Friends are the woodwind, providing the more decorative element, without which the music would be rather too plain and undorned. Michael Williamson, of course, is the brass...

Continued on page 2

from Neil Carlier

1980 seems a long way off, the year when it was a great sadness to leave Waterbeach but memories have not faded altogether. Daphne and I maintain occasional contact with the military and with some of the friends we made during our two year tour as CO of 39 Engineer Regiment.

After Waterbeach I was detached to IBM for an exchange posting before becoming involved in various appointments in the Ministry of Defence (MOD). These gave me the opportunity to help with the MOD London Christian Fellowship where we successfully held a number of outreach events with the help of Luis Palau and David Watson. After two very happy years at Minley it was back to being a student again at the Royal College of Defence Studies before finding ourselves in the Falkland Islands where I was appointed as the Commander of British Forces in the South Atlantic. This was a fascinating posting with, on the one hand a watchful eye on the Argentinians, and the other on the needs of all the service persons mostly on three months postings. It was difficult dealing with a new Chaplain every three months for this was too short a time to make any real impact. When they were not looking I used some Engineers to move the Church into the centre of the Airfield accommodation and established a branch of the Mission to Military Garrisons to offer an alternative to hard drinking in the NAAFI facilities! Before leaving the Islands I was asked to chair a committee to generate funds to renovate the Cathedral in Stanley. It was a joy for both of us to revisit the South Atlantic with the Archbishop of Canterbury to rededicate the Ca-

thedral once the restoration work had been completed. At the same time I assumed the role as President of the Officers' Christian Union now called Armed Forces Christian Union. This involved a number of invitations to preach in various churches but unlike Tony Kendall I am not a lay reader!!

After two more postings I retired from the Army in 1992 and was appointed as the Director (Chief Executive) of Haig Homes, a charity established to provide family accommodation for the ex-service person in need. It was a pleasure to be able to assist those who had served their Country in this way. 10 years later I retired for the second time. 'Retired' was the wrong word as I was soon involved as a board member on a number of charities mainly associated with Christian work. I also found myself as a governor of Monkton Combe School - a school with a great Christian background. This coupled with membership of the finance committee of St Peters' Church, Farnborough and of the management committee of a local housing association keeps me out of mischief. In my spare moments I am steering through a first time sewerage scheme for a village in Cornwall purely on a voluntary basis. Daphne has been equally busy with spells at helping with riding for the disabled, chairing a prayer group for members of the Armed Forces and, believe it or not, becoming a bus driver to take elderly people from our village on a weekly shopping run!

Our visits back to Waterbeach are infrequent but when we do come many happy memories flood back into our minds. It is so encouraging to hear that St John's is flourishing and we do wish God's blessing to you all.

From The Revd. Nick Moir

(continued from page 1)

So while the PCC were sorting out the damp, the Friends applied themselves to the beautiful restoration of the south-east window and the provision of a very attractive display board in the porch - and are now working hard towards installing a fine gateway to the car park and

some well-designed fronts for the choir when in the nave.

The orchestra in its different sections has worked well together and long may it continue to do so. Beautifying our buildings, as someone said, is like preaching sermons in stone - it speaks of the beauty of the God we worship and the gospel we proclaim.

DEDICATION SUNDAY

29th April 2007

Two things have been going through my mind in the last year or two: first, that it would be good to make a link between the Friends' Festival and the service on the following morning, and, secondly, that our autumn observance of a Dedication Festival has rather lapsed due to pressure from other events and causes.

It occurred to me that there would be merit in combining the two things and in commemorating the church's Dedication on the same weekend as the Friends' Festival. So that is what we going to do this year!

The Sunday service will follow the readings and other 'propers' of the Dedication with a focus on thanksgiving for the generations, including our own, who have shaped and beautified the sacred space in which we worship. This should involve not only the Friends, but the PCC's Fabric Committee, the flower arrangers, brass cleaners, those who mow the lawn, and so on.

Here is an opportunity for the whole church to give thanks for our heritage from the past and to offer to God our efforts today to beautify this House of Prayer.

Nick Moir

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many thanks to all who have paid their 2007 subscriptions. If yours is still outstanding, would you consider paying by standing order, if you don't already do so? A form is included for you to use. Please return all forms/subscriptions to Cecily Beeton, 1 Cambridge Road, Waterbeach, CB25 9NJ.

Thank you.