

FRIENDS OF LEIGH CHURCH (FOLC) NEWSLETTER



MAY 2017

Dear Members

Welcome to our second FOLC newsletter, containing details of past and future fundraising events, news of new patrons, an update on our support to the PCC bidding programme and news of forthcoming building works.

Given our income level over 2015/16 we are now required to register as a charity, which will benefit us greatly (for example with Gift Aid claimable on donations). As part of this process we need to adopt an amended constitution – at a Special General Meeting at 7pm on Monday 5 June in the Memorial Hall – we request that as many Friends attend this approx. ½ hour meeting as possible (free refreshments served from 6.30pm), to guarantee that we can continue with this registration.

We are very grateful for your continuing support, which will ensure that we will not lose the wonderful church building.

FOLC Committee

Fundraising & Membership

Since our last newsletter FOLC has continued to organise events and has raised another £2,000 as follows:

At the end of October 2016 the FOLC Players held a Murder Mystery Supper that kept everyone guessing right to the very end and raised over £520. The Christmas Fair, followed by the Christmas Tree Festival in December 2016, raised over £1,000 and the Spring Fair held in the Memorial Hall in April raised another £500. Once again, a very big thank you to everyone who has supported these events.

We currently have 196 members and supporters, raising over £1,000 in membership subscriptions so far this year. FOLC has provided the PCC with the rest of the funding required to build the Tower

Room, as well as raising funds to furnish and equip it for community use. If you haven't already done so, and would like to renew your membership in 2017, please contact Sarah Claxton at The Old Vicarage, LoM, BA3 5QG.

FOLC are delighted to announce that we have two new patrons to add to our already fabulous team of Grand Designs presenter Kevin McCloud and Mells Park owner the Hon. Michael Samuel.

Aaron and Sam Taylor-Johnson have a property in the area and stay as often as they can, in between their busy acting and directing careers. Aaron is perhaps best known for his roles in the Kick Ass movies, as Quicksilver in Avengers: The Age of Ultron and for his Golden Globe winning performance in Nocturnal Animals. Sam is a renowned artist and also a film director of such titles as Nowhere Boy and Fifty Shades of Grey.



Aaron and Sam commented, "We are delighted to be invited to be patrons of Friends of Leigh Church. St Giles is such a beautiful building and we are very supportive of all the hard work that is going into restoring the fabric and introducing modern facilities for community use".

Special General Meeting

Monday 5 June

7pm

Memorial Hall, Leigh on Mendip

More Bidding Success

A key success has been initial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), for work on the nave roof and high level structures and development of a heritage hub. The development phase (£25,000 grant) is in progress and the second round application goes to HLF later in the year, to secure the full £202,000 award.

18 grant applications (bids) have now been submitted by the joint FOLC/PCC team to fund the community room, servery, toilet facility and utilities (water, sewerage and telephone line). 11 of these have been successful and we are awaiting the outcome of 3. Together with cash raised through membership and FOLC fundraising events, £68,000 of the estimated £71,000 needed for the community facilities has been raised. We hope that these will be in active use by December 2017.

Additional grant applications are planned to draught-proof the wooden west doors and build a small children's library and information point in the recess, to support the planned long-term activities in the church. Attention will then turn to the remaining work needed to conserve and repair the Nave.

Building Works

Delivering the works, following the very successful campaign of grant applications, is now starting with scaffolding recently appearing around the chancel to access the roof in that area for repairs (Listed Places of Worship grant). Planning for similar work on the nave roof is well advanced and tenders will be invited shortly, with the actual works to start next spring, provided the second round grant application is successful!

The detailed design of the Tower Room screen and ceiling is very nearly resolved (there are tricky interfaces of wood, glass and steel with ancient stonework) but we should receive approval soon and this will lead to manufacturing and installation. Bringing in the utilities is also due to start in the near future, with the design for the much needed toilet facility progressing well. With plans well advanced for the kitchen/servery we can see the way ahead to a functioning Tower Room café. It's a busy time, but the works are underway.

Support from a range of funders to the repair, conservation and community programme at St Giles church, as detailed below, is much appreciated by FOLC and the PCC.

Calendar of Events 2017

Open Gardens & Heritage Trail

SAT 15 JULY

Ride and Stride

SAT 9 SEPTEMBER - ST GILES CHURCH

Murder Mystery Supper

SAT 14 OCTOBER 7PM - MEMORIAL HALL

Art Competition and Exhibition

SAT 4 AND SUN 5 NOVEMBER - ST GILES CHURCH

Christmas Fair

FRI 8 DECEMBER 6-8PM - MEMORIAL HALL

Christmas Tree Festival

SAT 9 & SUN 10 DECEMBER - ST GILES CHURCH



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LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP
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