

FRIENDS OF LEIGH CHURCH (FOLC) NEWSLETTER



No. 3

MARCH 2018

Dear Members

Welcome to our third FOLC newsletter. We are very pleased to report significant progress in our efforts to help the PCC raise the funds to repair and conserve St Giles church and to build new community facilities that will put the church back at the heart of the community.

FOLC is now a registered charity, no. 1174913. We are able to claim gift aid on all cash donations less than £20 and also on membership subscriptions and donations of £20 and more when the donor is eligible for gift aid (we will contact members about this change).

We are very grateful for your continuing support.

FOLC Committee

Fundraising & Membership

FOLC's first Open Gardens and Heritage Trail in July 2017 raised nearly £800, bringing in over 100 visitors to enjoy our beautiful church and village. We will repeat the event in May this year with some different gardeners keen to be involved. A second Murder Mystery in October raised around £400 then our November Open Art Exhibition raised £630, showcasing amazing local talent. We sold our first specially designed FOLC Christmas cards before and at the Christmas Fair in December, raising £460 from the Fair.

We currently have 190 members and supporters, raising over £2,400 annually in membership subscriptions. If you haven't already done so, and would like to renew your membership in 2018, please contact Sarah Claxton at The Old Vicarage, LoM, 01373 813707.

Over our last financial year FOLC provided over £22,000 to help with grant applications and to fund projects – well done and thanks to everyone who has been involved in any way.

Tower Room Café Opens

Valentine's Day saw the opening of the Tower Room café, for a few weeks before the next tranche of building works. Fourteen visitors came for a chat and enjoyed the facilities on the first day.



The café was open every weekday until the end of February serving drinks and biscuits (and sometimes cake). It will be open again once the nave roof work is completed. It will be manned some of the time but visitors will be welcome to serve their own drinks when not manned. We plan to offer simple food choices in the future.

Opportunity

Would you like to leave a message for posterity within the structure of the new nave roof? Messages should last for a couple of hundred years or more. Let me know if you are interested (Caroline 01373 812889) – suggested donation £10.

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT BINGO

Saturday 17 March

7.30pm

Memorial Hall, Leigh on Mendip

£4 entry incl. light supper

Tickets from 01373 813707/School

Even More Bidding Success

We have helped the PCC to submit 22 grant applications in the last two years and it is great to let you know that 16 of these were successful (73%). The cost of building/providing new community facilities – the Tower room, servery, toilet and furniture has increased from the original estimate but we have now raised nearly £90,000 of the revised estimated £97,800 required. The remaining sum is increasingly challenging as costs continue to rise with time.

Our greatest success was supporting the PCC to win the second round Heritage Lottery Fund bid with a grant of up to £180,000 to repair not just the south side of the nave roof, as originally hoped, but most of the high-level structure of the whole nave, including the north & south lead roof and accompanying structure, as well as the high-level windows (the latter with an additional grant of £7,000). This improved work programme resulted from very competitive tendering throughout.

This means that we will have helped the PCC to achieve around £475,000 of funding towards the overall target.

FOLC has fully met its demanding two-year strategy. In 2018 we will review how best to target the remaining repair and conservation work needed to both the exterior and interior of the church.

Building Works

The first major repair to keep the water out of St Giles church is completed; the lead on the chancel roof has been replaced with new, the roof drainage re-arranged to reduce the chance of a leak and the ground gutters around the east end have been repaired. Work will start shortly on the nave roof, aiming to complete over the summer.

We have progressed the community aspects of the project. We ran drains, water and telecoms to the church and once our Tower Room design was approved in August we started the ceiling, building the Servery and are preparing to start the toilet; hoping to complete these community activities over the next six months. All in all, it's been a very busy period and not without its frustrations, such as delays getting approvals and preferred suppliers declining to tender. Fortunately, your delivery team enjoys challenges and will continue to strive to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Calendar of Events 2018

St Patrick's Night Bingo

SAT 17 MARCH - MEMORIAL HALL

Open Gardens & Heritage Trail

SUN 20 MAY

Ride and Stride

SAT 15 SEPTEMBER - ST GILES CHURCH

Murder Mystery Supper

SAT 20 OCTOBER 7PM - MEMORIAL HALL

Christmas Fair

FRI 7 DECEMBER 6-8PM - MEMORIAL HALL

Christmas Tree Festival

SAT 8 & SUN 9 DECEMBER - ST GILES CHURCH

Building works supported by:



Supported by



LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP
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LOTTERY FUNDED

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