



# THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, BACTON

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Issue 1, April 2007

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**W**elcome to this first in an occasional series of newsletters from the Friends of St Mary's Church, Bacton.

We hope to publish these from time to time to keep you informed about what we are doing to safeguard St Mary's for future generations, and to tell you about forthcoming social and fundraising events.

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## Church Ale Revival at St Mary's

**O**n Sunday 13th May we have the first of two musical evenings in the benefice, a Folk Night, which will also see the revival of the mediaeval tradition of the Church Ale, sold to raise funds.

Ours will be a real ale brewed by Cox and Hibbert, although we will be offering soft drinks too.



For the concert we have a first class line-up, the great folk singer and songwriter Harvey Andrews (pictured),

Pluck 'n Squeeze and Andrew & Chris, Bacton's own Andrew Mills and Chris Last, who have entertained us so well in the past.

Doors will open at 6pm, and the concert starts at 7pm.

Tickets - £7.50 for adults, £5 for under 18s - from any committee member or call Simon Holdich on 01449 781054 or Pip Wright on 01449 612278.

**Chairman:**  
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# **FOLK NIGHT**

**at St Mary's Church, Bacton**  
**Sunday, May 13th.**



**featuring**

**Harvey Andrews**  
**Pluck 'n Squeeze**  
**Andrew & Chris**

**Doors open at 6.00pm for the sale of**  
**St Mary's Church Ale**  
**and other refreshments**  
**The concert starts at 7:00pm**  
**Tickets £7.50 (under 18s £5)**

## **Orchestral Concert**

at St Andrew's Church, Cotton,  
7.30pm on Saturday, May 19th

## **Pulham Orchestra**

Programme to include:

Elgar - Pomp and Circumstance March No. 4  
S. Coleridge-Taylor - Petite Suite de Concert  
Mozart - Symphony No. 35 in D major

Tickets (including refreshments) £6, under 18s £4.

**H**ot on the heels of the Folk Night is a concert of popular classical music, in Cotton Church on May 19th.

This is for *all* the churches in the Bacton benefice. It's organised by the Friends of St Andrew's, Wickham Skeith, but we are helping and the amount of money coming to St Mary's, Bacton will depend on the number of tickets we sell.

The orchestra are the excellent Pulham Village Orchestra, led by Martin Wyatt and conducted by Margery Baker.

Tickets are available from committee members or call Simon Holdich on 01449 781054 or Peggy Boyer on 01449 781667

# About The Friends of St Mary's, Bacton...

In the three or so years we've been going, we've staged about half a dozen variety shows or concerts of one sort or another. We've done a fashion show and even a teddy bear abseil. We've had some very generous gifts of money. We've organised three metal detecting days and produced and sold Christmas cards and notelets. In total we've raised more than £20,000.



**Gold Henry V Noble unearthed  
at a metal detecting day.**

Why do we do it? Because all of us, in our own ways, value St Mary's: as a place of worship in some cases; because we were married there, perhaps, or have family buried there. Or for its beauty and the craftsmanship which went into it, or for what it records of the history of Bacton. We also recognised that if we - the people living in Bacton today - wouldn't pay to keep the church in good repair, no one else would.

Where has the money gone? So far, we have helped the Parochial Church Council pay for repairs to several of the windows, especially the clerestory windows, and bought a new boiler. We've also paid for and made the pew cushions. Unfortunately there is going to be more expense (there always is with old buildings), and I think we have to aim to raise about £5,000 a year, every year.

Which brings me to the other strand of what we do. We want to put St Mary's back at the heart of village life and we want in particular to persuade Bacton's young people that it's *their* church, to use and enjoy (and maintain in their turn). That's why we try to involve the young in our activities and why we sponsor a talk in St Mary's for an entire middle school year group, each year.



**Clerestory windows  
after repairs**

Simon Holdich, Chairman

# How You Can Help

You can join us, if you are not already a member. Membership is a loose concept here. Just let us know that you are in sympathy with our aims, and you are one of us.

You can think up fund raising ideas and put them into effect.

You can buy tickets for our entertainments and come and enjoy them. Even better, you can help to *sell* tickets.

And you could join the twenty or so people who have so far signed standing orders in favour of The Friends of St Mary's, Bacton.

If you are not a registered member, but would like to join and be added to our mailing list, please complete the form below:

## Diary Dates

*8th May 7:30pm*  
Meeting of the Friends of  
St Mary's. \*

*13th May, 6:00pm*  
Bacton Folk Night, at  
St Mary's Church.

*19th May, 7:30pm*  
Benefice Concert, at St  
Andrew's Church, Cotton

\* If you would like to come, please call the Secretary to find out where the meeting is being held. Everyone is welcome. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

I would / would not be prepared to donate regular amounts by standing order.

Please return this form to: Andy Friend, August House, Church Road,  
Bacton, Stowmarket, Suffolk. IP14 4LN

Or e-mail your details to: [andy@august-house.net](mailto:andy@august-house.net)