



# THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, BACTON

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Issue 2, June 2007

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## AGM, Thursday 14th June 2007

The Annual General Meeting of The Friends of St Mary's, Bacton is to be held in St Mary's Church this coming Thursday starting at 7:30pm. Do come along.

All Members, or indeed anybody with an interest in the upkeep and promotion of the church as a village asset is welcome. We are always interested in new ideas for money raising or for social or educational events. We are particularly keen to meet anybody prepared to help in any way.

The AGM probably won't take more than three quarters of an hour, and we will be serving wine to help proceedings along.

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## Church Ale goes down a treat with Bacton Folk!

At the recent Folk Night, an audience of around a hundred was treated to some excellent folk music from Harvey Andrews, Pluck 'n Squeeze and local duo, Andrew and Chris, whilst pints of traditional Church Ale were once again pulled in the bell tower to quench many a thirst!

The evening proved just how effectively St Mary's can be used to host almost any type of village gathering. It raised over £600.

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## Bacton Fayre

The Friends will, once again, be at the Bacton Fayre on 4th August to showcase what we have achieved so far and to publicise forthcoming events. These will include a pantomime, all being well, in the dark days of winter.

You will also be able to see the winners of the Christmas Card Competition we are again organising this year. The cards will be on sale from November.

Do come and see us.

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# Annual Report of the Trustees for the Year April 2006 to March 2007

The Friends have organised a number of events over the course of the year, which have raised funds, provided educational opportunities and brought local people together in the church building.

A day of Metal Detecting, held on fields in the village, raised £1767, and the participants found a number of interesting objects, including some Roman jewellery.

In conjunction with the other Friends groups in the benefice, we hosted a concert by the Hermitage Choir, a group of Russian singers, raising £377.

During the summer, we again ran a Christmas Card competition, organised through the local primary and middle schools. The cards were exhibited and judged at the annual summer Bacton Fayre, and the winning cards were reproduced and sold during the approach to Christmas, making a profit of £326.

We again paid for a local historian to deliver “hands on” history lessons in the church so that children from our local schools might be better informed about their church building.

We organised and ran, with the local play group, a “Teddy Abseiling” day, when children (and others) were invited to let their Teddy Bears abseil from the top of the Church tower. Each abseiling bear was charged a small sum and then given a certificate of bravery. We divided the funds raised (£238) with the Playgroup,

We organised and ran, helped by a local shop, an evening Fashion Show in the church. This made a creditable £716.

We continued to build our group of financial supporters who make regular payments to our funds, including having a presence at the summer Bacton Fayre.

We were able, through this activity, to raise sufficient funds to continue to make donations to the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Last year, we finished the year with a surplus of over eight thousand pounds, and this year, we have been able to pay for maintenance and repairs to the windows of the church to the value of £7000, and still have reserves of some £5678. We await the PCC’s strategic plan for the future maintenance of the church, and intend to be able to play a significant part in paying for the necessary planned work.

We continue to be grateful to our growing band of members and supporters who help with organising events, who make regular payments to us and of course those who have made cushions for St Mary’s church.

Trustees	Simon Holdich	Susan Middleton
	Richard Middleton	Peggy Boyer
	Andrew Friend	Rose Graham