



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023

Events coming up

Progress with projects

Dear Friends,

I must start with a huge **Thank You** to everyone who helped make **24-hour Music Marathon** such a great success – musicians, refreshment providers, all those who worked behind the scenes, and of course everyone who supported by attending different sessions in person or online and contributed so generously.

£2,710 was added to our funds and our profile was raised through the number of organisations who participated. It was great to see the church so well used.

Sunday teas are going exceptionally well again this year and helped by free live music on occasions, have already raised £1500. Teas will continue to the end of September, and we have more live music on **20th August** and **24th September**. (See below)

We launched the **new village hub** and **Websites** for the Friends, the Church and History Society in the village hall on May 20th with a good attendance, with many people staying for the whole afternoon. The new websites were demonstrated and there was lots of interest in the Photo Archive, the village trail, school local history panels and video tour of the church. The photo archive is being catalogued and will be available through the village hub <https://shillington-hub.org.uk>. The Friends' Website is found at <https://foas-shillington.org.uk>. Please share it with others and use it for up-to-date information on our events, making donations etc.

We were also pleased to be part of **Shillingfest** on 24th June raising £142 on the raffle as well as supporting the church stalls. Next year we plan to run one or two activity stalls of our own to make the most of the opportunity Shillingfest presents.

Flying Teddies on 16th July was great fun, despite the windy weather preventing the use of the parachutes which might have taken the teddies far and wide! Lots of children enjoyed watching their soft toys whiz down on the invisible zip wire, and plenty of tea and cakes were consumed, raising another £445.

After great progress with our **restoration work** last year, completing the West Wall project and a section of the churchyard wall, we have been held up this year waiting for grant outcomes and then for stonemasons who can only work with lime mortar in the summer months. We are still hoping to do the next section of **the churchyard wall** this summer, as well as some smaller repairs to stonework and plaster, and to see some further repairs to the lead roof. Restoring the **stone arch over the North Door** will now be next year but the stonemasons will start indoor work on cutting the stones during the winter.

Forthcoming events:

Free Music at Sunday Teas

- **20th August The Verne Trio** – Piano, Clarinet & Violin playing an eclectic mix of folk and well known classics
- **24th September – ‘Oldplay’** : Fred and Chris Coombes with their wonderful back catalogue from the 60’s and 70’s

Saturday 9th September – Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Bike & Hike

Following the fun enjoyed by our walking group to Pirton and Hexton last year we will repeat the formula with 6, 8 and 10m options all starting together from All Saints at 10.00. **Do join us for the walk**, get others together for a bike ride or do your own thing plotting your own route to visit as many churches as possible. **If you can’t join in, please sponsor those who are taking part – see below ****. The Historic Churches Trust has given huge support to our projects over the years (£5,000 currently granted for the North Door) so we owe them our support. 50% of what we raise will come back directly to our funds.

Contact: Peter Farmer 712576 or Helen Smith 711714 for more information

Saturday November 11th 70’s Vinyl Disco with Mark Johnson

7.30 in the Village Hall £10 including supper. Licensed bar.

Mark Johnson wowed us with his disco music at 6.30 in the morning at the Music Marathon! So come along, enjoy the vibe and dance the night away!

To reserve your tickets call: Peter 712576 or Denise 07414 515683

Details of all these events will also be published in the Parish Magazine, on our website, on posters and our Facebook page ‘Friends of All Saints Church Shillington’.

Finally, thank you so much for all your support. We look forward to seeing you at one or more of the forthcoming events.

With best wishes,

Peter Lambert 01462 713663 / pglambert@fastmail.com

Chairman, Friends of All Saints

****Hike Donations:** cheques to Friends of All Saints Church, 18 Vicarage Close, Shillington SG5 3LS; or on-line: HSBC, Friends of All Saints Church: Sort Code 40 24 20: Account no 71596985; or at <https://foas-shillington.org>;