



Friends of St David's Little Dewchurch

www.stdavidslittledewchurch.org.uk

Dedicated to the preservation of this lovely old church building and its churchyard

Newsletter No 8 (Feb 2009)

Welcome to this latest edition.

Opening the Church

With the new vestry door allowing us to lock away valuable items, the PCC are considering opening the church each day between about 9am and 6pm (or dusk if earlier) so visitors and any who want to go into the church for quiet and prayer can do so without difficulty.

HELP WANTED:

If you would be willing to help on a rota to open the church in the morning and close in the evening, please contact one of the churchwardens.

It's BONUS BALL RENEWAL again - form below.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

The churchwardens

EVENTS in 2009

21 Feb	Pancake Coffee Morning
25 April	St George's Day walk and lunch
11 July	Safari Supper
12 Sept	Quiz Evening
17 Oct	Harvest Supper
18 Oct	Harvest Festival Service
5 Dec	Christmas Coffee Morning

Film Shows in the Hall

27 Feb	Mamma Mia
27 Mar	Son of Rambow
24 Apr	The Duchess

Churchyard Update

Visitors in 2009

The Caring for God's Acre Churchyard Task Team continue to come once a quarter to help us. They have recently put up round the churchyard 5 bird boxes they have made for us - so we hope we will get an increase in birds nesting here this year. We will be playing host to a group from the Gwent Wildlife Trust on 28 May - they have heard about the work we've done in the churchyard and are coming to see it and find out about what we've done and continue to do to look after the churchyard each year for wildlife and as a sacred space.

It's always good news to hear of people wanting to

visit the church and we hope the churchyard will continue to be an attraction.

Do please encourage any contacts you have to come individually or as a group

- we'd be very happy to welcome them.



The re-built churchyard wall

New Interpretation Board: We also hope to put up a new notice board with information about the churchyard down near the new wall near the car park.

Friends of St. David's Bonus Ball Lottery

Applications for March to May - deadline 25 February

The next quarter of this Lottery will commence on **Wednesday 4th March 2009** and continue until **Wednesday 27th May 2009**, continuing with existing numbers.

The prize: £25 to the holder of the Bonus Ball Number in the Wednesday National Lottery - plus a **£25 bonus** in the first week if the winner has paid the subscription by 25 February.

Your numbers remain the same and will continue to do so till the end of August 2009.

To renew (for those who are not paying by bankers order or otherwise pre-paid), please send the slip overleaf with your cheque/ banker's order to Richard King.

Churchyard and Preedy Projects



Churchyard Project:

In September 2008, the rebuilding of the churchyard wall from the car park to the Memorial wall was completed by Terry



Mead from Abergavenny and it looks very smart now.

The school also played a part: the Infant and Junior classes each made a time capsule. Both classes came down to the churchyard to see Terry lay the capsules in the wall and learn about walling.

In the end, the costs of the wall turned out a bit higher than planned so the Friends contributed some money towards it, for which we are very grateful.

Time capsule in the wall

The Preedy Project: We have now installed a lovely oak door to the vestry under the tower, designed by our architect Richard Lamb and built by Alan Preece from Gloucester. This will allow us to lock valuables in the vestry and open up the church for visitors. The **St David's visitor leaflet was produced last summer** - a colourful guide to the highlights of the building. These two projects are now complete.



The new vestry door

St David's Quinquennial Inspection

Every five years our church architect reports on the state of the fabric of our building and churchyard - his Quinquennial Inspection Report. Richard Lamb from Hook Mason undertook the inspection last November and we are delighted to report that he did not find any serious problems. There are the usual things to be done, and some additional safety bars and rails in the tower now it is used regularly for bell ringing. The biggest potential job is the suggestion to install a French Drain round the church to help reduce the damp in the walls.

CONTACTS

Team Vicar/Team Office
Mark Johnson 353717
Churchwardens:
Richard King 840421
Colin Jones 840495
Fabric and churchyard
Colin Jones 840495
Secretary to the Friends
Margaret Jones 840309

The Church Organ

The old 1904 organ is showing signs of age and it is both expensive and difficult to maintain.

We have had two smaller lower cost maintenance organs demonstrated to us in the last few months - a very good electronic keyboard from Yamaha and a full digital organ from the leading manufacturer Allen.

The Allen organ would be more expensive but sounded much more in keeping with the surroundings and the PCC were unanimous in voting for that - provided we can raise the extra money!

The Allen would cost between £6000 and £7000. The PCC will be meeting shortly and will discuss what to do next.

**Bonus Ball Application:
4 March 2009 to 27 May 2009**

Please send to: Richard King
Woodlea
Little Dewchurch
Hereford, HR2 6PS

Please include me/us in the Friends of St.David's Bonus Ball Lottery

I/We enclose £..... (£13 for each person) - *make cheques payable to:* -Friends of St. David's

OR please ask for a Banker's Order form (to save filling further forms!)

Name(s)
(Capitals Please)

Address Signed.....