



Friends of St David's Little Dewchurch

www.stdavidslittledechurch.org.uk

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

Newsletter No 7 May 2008

Welcome to this latest edition.

For those with Internet access, the St David's website stdavidslittledechurch.org.uk is regularly updated. Recent additions include HMS Charybdis (see below) and a new page on birds of the churchyard.

Through the Preedy Project, a secure door to the vestry will shortly be installed and a new church guide leaflet produced (details overleaf).

It's BONUS BALL RENEWAL again - form below.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

The churchwardens

EVENTS in 2008

- 14 June** Safari Supper
- 12 July** Churchyard Celebration Day
- 14 Sept** Village Fete and Soap Box Derby
- 18 Oct** Harvest Supper
- 19 Oct** Harvest Festival Service

Film Shows in the Hall

- 26 Sept** film tba
- 24 Oct , 14 Nov, 5 Dec** films tba

HMS Charybdis (a light cruiser, Dido class, launched 17th September 1940)

Beneath the World War I memorial tablet on the north wall of St David's is a brass plaque commemorating the only recorded Little Dewchurch'ian to be lost in World War II. John Hansard died when HMS Charybdis was sunk in 1943. (The plaque says 1944 as John Kinross has recently noticed so it will need to be changed!). Here is a small extract from information on the Internet — to get full details go to the Church page on the St David's website and click on the link.

On 23rd October 1943 HMS Charybdis was sunk off Guernsey. Within days the bodies of 21 Royal Navy and Royal Marines had washed up on the Guernsey coast. Although the Germans decided to bury the men with full military honours, the Islanders seized upon this as an opportunity to show their loyalty to Britain and their respect for the men who died. In all 5,000 Guernsey people attended the funerals, bringing with them 900 wreaths. This was a very effective demonstration of anti-Nazi feeling and it proved to be a turning point in the German occupation of the Island. In all, 464 men died and 107 survived in this tragedy, the biggest single Channel loss of the war.

A Charybdis Weekend is held in Guernsey each year to commemorate not only the sailors and marines who lost their lives, but also the bravery of the Islanders.

Friends of St. David's Bonus Ball Lottery Applications for June to August - deadline 28 May

The next quarter of this Lottery will commence on **Wednesday 4th June 2008** and continue until **Wednesday 27th August 2008**, 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 28 May.

Your numbers remain the same and will continue to do so till the end of August 2008.

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 Day Saturday 12 July: 2 to 6pm

Do please keep this free – and come to the churchyard for another **Churchyard Celebration Day**. There will be displays of reptiles again by Nigel Hand and we will search the churchyard for slow-worms and grass snakes. We hope an archaeology expert will be with us again. Andrea Gilpin from Caring for God’s Acre will be with us again with a variety of interesting activities for the children. And we hope to be able to provide demonstrations of dry stone walling. More details later.

Churchyard Wall: We are in the process of applying for a faculty to undertake the re-building of the wall currently only stock fenced on the boundary with Sunnybanks and we hope the process will be quick enough for the work to be done this summer.



We already have approval from the diocese (the Diocesan Advisory Committee). It will be re-built on the old foundations of the wall that fell in the 1960s. The funds for this will

come out of the grant we have had for the churchyard project.

Churchyard Work-parties: we have June 14 and July 19 scheduled – these will particularly be for cutting and clearing the hay. If possible, it would be good to leave the cut grass out to dry for a few days so that it could then be used by local people for hay for their animals.

Wildflower Hay: If you know anyone who would like some wildflower hay please let the churchwardens know.

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

The Preedy Project

New Door to the Vestry – with a faculty granted, we hope it will all be completed by the end of June. With the vestry secured, we will be in a position to open the church each day so visitors and those wishing for a quiet place for personal prayer and reflection will be able to use and look round the church when they want to. We are marking all valuables with the new ‘SmartWater’ security markers and will display a sign to tell everyone that. We would ask everyone who goes past the church to just look in - this reduces the risk of anyone trying to do anything untoward.

New Church Guide Leaflet – within the next 2-3 weeks we will have a small colour guide leaflet for visitors to the church. Both these will be paid for out of the Preedy Paintings Restoration Project grant.

**Bonus Ball Application:
4 June 2008 to 27 August 2008**

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.....