



The Friends of Clapham & Patching Churches

Newsletter February 2020



This being the first newsletter of 2020 we wish you all a happy and healthy new year.

January used to seem dreary and drab until someone then pointed out that from the winter solstice days start to get longer by two minutes a day, a cheering thought.

People seem more active too. There appear to be more cyclists, joggers and walkers with or without dogs about. Is this due to the prospect of spring or the need to shed a few festive pounds? There were plenty of occasions to enjoy mince pies and other treats at festive events that many Friends supported.

Recent Events ...

Christmas Fair

Thanks are extended to Sue Griss and her friends who provided a stall laden with beautiful, seasonal craft items for the fair. Proceeds from the stall were donated to charities, the Friends receiving £100..

Christmas Tree Festival

In December the Friends tree was exhibited at the Christmas tree festival at Findon church.

It was decorated with 'stained glass windows' using cut out Friends logo shapes for the frames. There were also red and black bats (cousins of those that live in our churches?) and a hidden church mouse. A list of works funded by the Friends was displayed.

The tree didn't win but it was fun making the decorations and provided an opportunity to showcase the Friends work.



Not a Member?

If you are interested in joining the **Friends**, please click the web link below to download a membership application form, print it out, fill it in - and send it in to Trish!

Or call: 01903 871044



St Mary the Virgin, circa 1900

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Carols round the coals

The walks from The Old Forge Patching and from Clapham Lodge were well supported. It was a delight for people of all ages to be led by the lovely donkeys from East Clayton. Undaunted by the weather, warmed by blazing braziers, helped along with mince pies, mulled wine and a visit from Santa, Christmas carols were sung with great enthusiasm.



John the donkey, sheltering in Clapham church

Service of Carols and Readings

The service of carols and readings organised by Pauline Prior filled Patching church to capacity, with many Friends present. The singing and music from the choir and musicians was beautiful and when everyone sang we almost raised the roof (thankfully we didn't). Mince pies and mulled wine were enjoyed here too.

Work Parties

Clean and tidy churches and churchyards

Spring Walk in the Woods

Guided walks to explore local woods followed by tea and cake

Flower Festival

Theme of *Hymns & Psalms*, entries from groups and individuals

Barn Dance

Live music and caller for a fun evening

Harvest Supper

AGM

Dates for your diary:

Patching Saturday 29th February 9.30 to 12 noon

Clapham Saturday 7th March 9.30 to 12 noon

Start at **Patching church** - Sunday 19th April 2.15pm

Clapham Church – Sat 13th and Sun 14th June

Village Hall – Friday 31st July

Venue and date to be confirmed (In October)

Village Hall – Sunday 15th November 2.15pm

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