



The Friends of Clapham & Patching Churches

Newsletter November 2019

Autumn.

The clocks have gone back, the days are shorter but with fluctuating weather my garden isn't sure what the season is. The autumn leaves falling from the trees are landing on new spring shoots. Thinking of the outdoors reminds me of all the work the **Friends** undertake at the work parties; removing ivy, weeding, cutting grass, trimming and pruning hedges. Inside the churches, there is plenty of general cleaning plus painting hinges, preserving woodwork, repairing damaged structure. We also have to clean up after our delightful resident bats and much more. The things we do in the interests of posterity, all worthwhile to protect the heritage of our churches and retain them as places of worship for future generations.



Volunteers at the Clapham clear up

Recent Events

Murder Mystery Evening

The murder mystery event in August was great fun for everyone. The acting talent of all the daring volunteers who took on the roles of characters was most impressive. They all played their parts with panache and humour. Clapham and Patching's got talent.

*** Change to our web address – now: www.focpc.org.uk ***

Harvest Supper

Paul at The Fox again impressed us with his ability to provide a first class meal. The Harvest Supper was a lovely evening at which we were given pictures to ponder. There was a picture quiz compiled by Haydn and our opinion was sought on pictures of the churches, collected by Richard Prior. After the photographs depicting the 'essence' of each church were viewed and accompanying captions considered, John Haskey analysed the responses. The most popular photograph of each village's church along with a caption, has been sent to Ecclesiastical Insurance's pixel competition. There is a cash prize for the church with the winning entry. Fingers crossed.

Harvest Auction

The Harvest Festival at Patching and the following auction were well attended by members of the **Friends**. Auctioneer, Richard Prior managed the event with his usual élan. Competition for the fresh and preserved fruit and vegetables and baked good was high. The amount raised was £256 which has been donated to Prostate Cancer UK



Flying High

What do Churchwardens do when not engaged in church matters? Not many indulge in a wing walk which is what Gail is photographed doing. The experience was a birthday gift.

The Annual General Meeting.

This was held in the village hall on October 29th. It was well attended. Business was completed briskly followed by some fun as we all tried to understand how to play Card Bingo. The meeting continued with delicious cake and tea.

There remain vacancies on the committee, so if you would like to contribute in a positive way, then please contact our chairman Gail Smith on 871669



Christmas Fair

Christmas Tree Festival

Carols around the Coals

Carol Service

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 24th Nov 12noon to 3pm at the Village Hall

Sat 7th Dec 10am to 4pm and

Sun 8th Dec 11am to 4pm at **Findon** church

Patching Mon 16th Dec 6.15pm at the Forge & walk with the donkey to the churchyard.

Clapham Wed 18th Dec 6.00pm at Clapham Lodge to process with the donkey to the church

Patching Sun 22nd Dec 6pm



*** Change to our web address – now: www.focpc.org.uk ***