

REGULAR SOCIAL EVENTS FROM ST MATTHEW'S:

Soup Café

Every Monday 12.30–2pm at Whitehill Village Hall
Homemade soups served with crusty bread, followed by tea or coffee. This relies entirely on donations.

Lunch at the Vicarage

Every Wednesday 12noon. If you would like to join Dom and Alice for a simple lunch every Wednesday please call Dom or Alice by Tuesday

Donkey Group

Meets every Thursday at 7.30pm at Eveley Corner Cottage. Mostly a social gathering, though we do help if needed. Contact Jilly for more information

Drop-in

Every Friday 9.30am at Whitehill Village Hall
Homemade cakes, toast and marmalade, tea or coffee. This relies entirely on donations.

We have a Friends area in the church porch, but at present our table looks quite sparse. We are going to put up a board to display photos, both recent and of bygone days, if you have any photos of weddings or christenings or of a loved one who has been buried in the graveyard please get in touch, we would love to display a copy on the board.

CONTACT US

WWW.STMATTHEWSFRIENDS.ORG

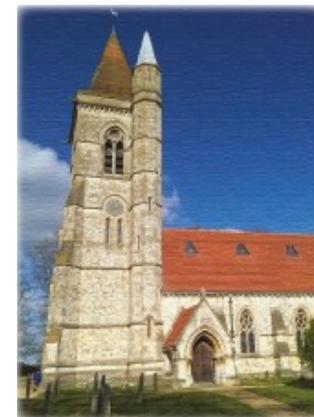
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FRIENDS OF ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

BLACKMOOR AND WHITEHILL

Newsletter

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Welcome to the second 'Friends of St Matthew's Newsletter'. It is a real pleasure to be able to write to you every three months and to let you know how we as a new group are getting on.



It has been a very exciting and busy quarter, the Beetle Drive in May was a huge success, over 80 people came and enjoyed the hilarity of the game, a raffle and a lovely supper. It raised over £1,000.

We are very lucky, we have three local men who come in and care for the churchyard, so when in July we had an open day the church grounds looked beautiful. On the evening of the open day John and Joanna Selborne gave a talk, John about his ancestors and Joanna talked about Alfred Waterhouse, the architect who designed St Matthew's Church and many of the local buildings. It was a wonderful evening, over 118 people came and enjoyed hearing both talks and were then served a finger buffet and wine, all within the church. Amazingly we raised over £2,000, and gained three new Friends. It is a very promising start for us as a new fundraising group.

Our next major event will be Apple Tasting Day on Sunday 9th October. The church as a whole has many stalls, I shall be within the church promoting the 'Friends' and helping with the café at the back of the church. Please do come and see us if you are in the area .

Jilly Prideaux



THE HISTORY OF ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, BLACKMOOR AND WHITEHILL

A chapel existed in Blackmoor as early as 1254 when its tithes, together with those of the mother church at Selborne, were part of the endowment for the vicarage of Selborne. This chapel, however, fell into disuse and by the time that Sir Roundell Palmer MP bought the Blackmoor Estate in 1865 the residents of Blackmoor who were of the Anglican faith had either to attend their parish church of Selborne or the neighbouring church at Greatham.

Sir Roundell was at the time Attorney-General in Lord Russell's government and later served twice as Lord Chancellor in Mr Gladstone's administrations, taking the title Lord Selborne. The second son of a vicar in Oxfordshire, Roundell had made a considerable fortune as a lawyer and wanted to establish himself as a model landowner. Known as Piety Palmer he was the compiler of an anthology of hymns and a staunch supporter of the Church of England.

He recounts in his autobiography written in his old age how he quickly decided that on his newly acquired estate of some 1800 acres he must build a church:

There was one drawback upon these pleasant lines into which our lot had fallen. We were three miles from the church of Selborne and full half that distance from any other. One of my earliest resolutions, after taking possession of our new home, was to build a church in the lower part of Selborne, in which Blackmoor was situated and to have the district made into a new parish.

Roundell employed the architect Alfred Waterhouse to build the church, vicarage, school, and many other new buildings. A lych gate opens the way to the church dedicated in honour of St Matthew, with its square white stone tower roofed with red tiles. The church, consecrated on 18 May 1869 cost in total £10,750.

There is an itemised record in Lord Selborne's own hand of the names of the craftsmen who participated in the church's construction. The mason was Thomas Kemp and the carpenters were Thomas and George Finch. These names remain familiar to this day in Whitehill. Their descendants are, I am sure, as proud of their ancestors' contribution to St Matthew's Church as are the descendants of Roundell Palmer.

John Selborne

MESSAGE FROM REV'D DOMINIC CLARKE, Vicar



Friendship is such an important part of a full and meaningful life and should never be underestimated. In good times and in bad the quality of those friends that each one of us has can be tested and, if we are lucky, good friends can see us through every twist and turn of life offering stability, protection, support and good humour. We always do well if we nurture varied and positive friendships throughout our lives. Friendship also brings new perspectives to all sorts of situations and new ideas too.

Here at St Matthew's Church we are so pleased that you have chosen to be such a good friend to us and in particular in the ways you have supported us financially to enable us to protect and equip the church building for the benefit of our ministry and mission as a congregation. A number of fund raising events recently have been a huge success and have highlighted to all of us what good friends you really are! Many thanks to all who helped to run those events and all who supported them by coming along.

St Matthew's Church is actually formed out of all the people who use the building, those who visit it and those who benefit from the hard work and dedication of parishioners' who reach out into the community of Blackmoor and Whitehill. The church building is a valuable asset for the whole area, in that it is not just a meeting place for the congregation or just a beautiful venue for public events like marriages, Christenings or funerals, but that in itself it points to something far more wonderful: the glory of God and the transforming power of faith in Jesus Christ to effect, change and improve our community and environment. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and thank you for your continued support for this very special building.

Yours,

Dom