

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

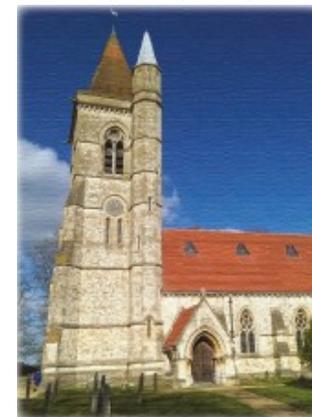
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FRIENDS OF ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

BLACKMOOR AND WHITEHILL

Newsletter

Issue 3



WWW.STMATTHEWSFRIENDS.ORG

With the autumn leaves displaying their amazing colours, I reflect on the last three months and pray that the next month goes slowly, giving me time to enjoy the many celebrations leading up to the season of goodwill, and ultimately Christmas day.

The lead up to Apple Day is always hectic. This year as usual we ran the café in the church. The preparation and set up is almost as exhausting as the work on the actual day, although it is very rewarding. This year we split the takings (after costs) between Friends and the Church.



We also celebrated the first anniversary of the Friends group. It was a time to reflect on the achievements of the group, made in such a short space of time. We have a growing membership list, but are always looking to recruit new members, so please talk to your friends and family about us, as we would love your family to become involved! Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

We have held three fund raising events and are now in a position to make a contribution to essential repair work being carried out to the bell tower, which of course is what we were set up to do.

We enter the new year and the second year of our group with high hopes and expectations.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and successful New Year.

Jilly Prideaux, Chairman



ROUNDELL PALMER'S DESCENDANTS

In the previous Friends of St Matthew's newsletter I recounted how Roundell Palmer, first Earl of Selborne, came to purchase Blackmoor Estate in 1866 and build the church, vicarage and school as

well as other new buildings. This note records how some of his descendants contributed to public life and to Blackmoor.

The second Lord Selborne, known to his family as Willie, was elected Liberal M.P for Petersfield at the age of 26. He held Cabinet office twice, as First Lord of the Admiralty 1900–1905 and as President of the Board of Agriculture, 1915-16. From 1905 to 1910 he served as High Commissioner in South Africa. When he went to that country the wounds of the recent Boer War were still open and smarting but when he left after five years the way was paved for the two communities to come together in the Union of South Africa. His wife Maud was the elder daughter of Prime Minister Lord Salisbury and an ardent Suffragist. As a Conservative she refused to canvass for her Liberal husband, but when the Liberal Unionists merged with the Conservatives harmony within the family was restored.

Their eldest son was my grandfather, the third Earl of Selborne, known as Top. He stood as a candidate in the General Election of January 1910, aged 22, was narrowly defeated, then married my grand mother Grace Ridley in June and stood again in the December 1910 General Election when he was successful. He attributed his victory at the second election to the presence on the platform of his young bride. Winston Churchill appointed him Minister of Economic Warfare in 1942, his main responsibility being for ministerial oversight of the Special Operations Executive (SOE). My grandfather started the fruit farm at Blackmoor in the 1920s. His daughter Mary was Princess Elizabeth's first Lady in Waiting and when her son Charles was christened at St Matthew's Church on 4 November 1945 both Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret attended the service.

On 17 July 1944 The Queen wrote to her mother-in-law Queen Mary:

Mary Palmer seems a most charming girl, well educated, poised intelligent and delightfully natural and unshy....

Bertie likes her very much and she comes from good stock which has served its country well.

Roundell Palmer would have been proud of this royal accolade for his family.

John Selborne

MESSAGE FROM PAUL GODDARD, Reader



What does the term 'friend' mean to you? As a primary school teacher as well as a lay minister, I have the privilege of trying out some of life's big questions on little people who have space in their heads to think about things without being troubled by the 'stuff' that weighs adults down.

'Friends make you laugh,' said one eight-year-old when we were talking recently in a Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lesson. Another suggested that, 'friends help you when you need them.' There were many well-reasoned responses to the question, 'What makes a good friend?' There were also a few that were not for this edition of the 'Friends of St Matthew's Newsletter', but made me smile, regardless!

The one that struck me the most was, 'Friends are there for you; not just when you need them, but always.'

I see children making friendships daily; accepting new class mates and looking after the newest members of the school family, our new Reception Class of 30 four-year-olds. I wonder how many of the children will still be friends in twenty or thirty year's time...

But, can one be a friend of a place? Or an institution?

By receiving this Newsletter, we have all stated that we want to be 'friends' of St Matthew's Church – whatever that means.

Taking the best of the suggestions from my class of eight-year-olds, I think that means that we have chosen to be there for our church and all that she stands for, not just when we need her, but always.

Many turn to the church for baptisms, weddings and funerals – 'hatches, matches and dispatches', as my mother used to say. But the church is there for so much more.

As our community faces a time of great change and challenge, the church remains a place of peace and support. She offers a place for people to meet and worship, to sit and think. In return, as friends, we have to be there for her to support her as she, frankly, gets older.

And so we ask you to help us in ensuring that St Matthew's Church, Blackmoor and Whitehill can continue to be a friend to us, the community. The Church has been a key part of the community since 1869; that is nearly 150 years of friendship. Let's ensure she can be around for the generations that follow us.