

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.

Drop-in

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

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

House Group

Meets once a month. Lively discussions and refreshments.
Contact Gavin Thomas on 01420 487554

Upcoming events: Contact us for details, or see the website

30th September - Concert by Winchester Quiristers
8th October - Blackmoor Apple Day
25th November - Barn Dance

CONTACT US

WWW.STMATTHEWSFRIENDS.ORG

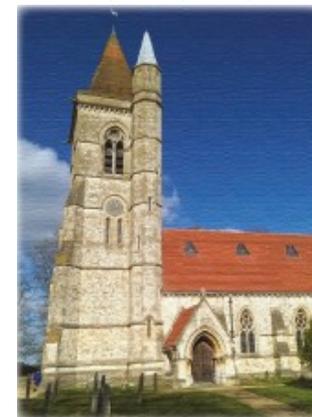
Jilly Prideaux Friends Chairman	01420 487647 Jilly.eveley@btinternet.com
Torben Houlberg Friends Treasurer	01420 472434 torben@houlberg.co.uk
Tracey Kirkby Friends Secretary	01420 479291 stmatthewsfriends@gmail.com
Davina Hudson Soup Café & Drop-in	01420 475764 48davina@gmail.com
Rev'd Dom Clarke Vicar	01420 473548 dom@st-matthews.org
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FRIENDS OF ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

BLACKMOOR AND WHITEHILL

Newsletter

Issue 6



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Time flies, next month we will be celebrating our second birthday and during that time we have raised nearly £27,000; an achievement few of us envisaged at the inauguration. In the process we have had much fun and found new friends.

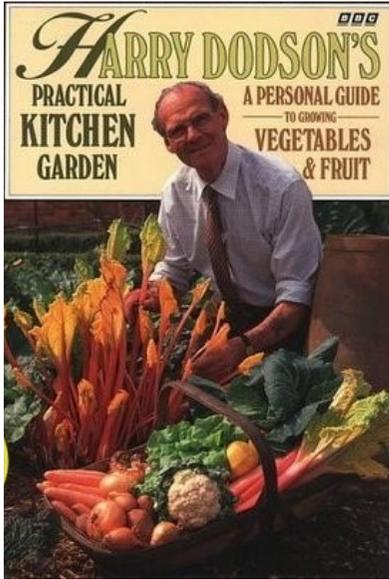
Fundraising is a lot of fun and as we grow as a group and get involved at any level the fun part grows. Meetings turn into great events by themselves and are much enjoyed by all and the work at the events themselves is shared and enjoyed. Mind you, with Jilly in charge, enjoyment is mandatory and even then it is natural and spontaneous.

As friends supporting the Church we have a responsibility for carrying out a professional job when involved in raising money for projects. We have before us a number of new projects presently being prioritised by the Fabric Committee of St Matthew's Church (improving the sound system, new kitchen & toilet, renovating the clock and repairing the Chancel floor just to name a few projects under consideration) and I know you will all help 'The



Friends' to do their bit to ensure that the required funds are raised to pay for those projects. We will keep you posted about progress through 2017 and 2018 **AND TO EVERYONE, MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

*Torben Houlberg,
FCA Treasurer*



HARRY DODSON

Harry Dodson became a household name in 1987 when the TV series *The Victorian Kitchen Garden* was first shown on BBC2. The highly popular programmes were followed by *The Victorian Kitchen* in which Harry paired with Ruth Mott to bring food from the garden to the dinner table.

Harry moved to Blackmoor from Surrey with his mother when he was six years old on the death of his father. He attended Blackmoor School and as a

teenager was a member of the St Matthew's bell ringers team. When he left school aged fourteen he first worked for his uncle Fred Norris who was head gardener to the Earl of Selborne. As a 'garden boy' he earned 7s9d (39p) a week.

By the age of 27 he had secured the post of head gardener at Chilton Foliat in Berkshire and was to stay there working in the garden until his death in July 2005 at the age of 85.

After his death his ashes remained with an undertaker who had no instructions on where they were to be buried. Earlier this year it was established that he wished to be buried in his mother's grave at St Matthew's. A service of burial of his ashes was held in Blackmoor Churchyard on 19th June 2017 preceded by a well attended short church service.

The new gravestone in the churchyard now commemorates Harry's mother Annie Dodson, his wife Kathleen Dodson as well as Harry himself. Harry's last wish has finally been fulfilled.

John Selborne

REV'D APRIL RICHARDS, VICAR OF ST MATTHEW'S 1997-2006



I am writing this as we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration; seeing the glory of God in the world, in other people, in our hearts.

Celebrating the Eucharist at St Matthew's was to experience transfiguration. As you, the congregation look East at the glory of the risen Christ, I as celebrant look West at the crucified Christ. There for all to see is our faith beautifully illustrated.

Here at Brixworth we have a wonderful 7th century Saxon Church which attracts architects, archaeologists and historians from all over the world. At the moment we are struggling to provide a servery for refreshments after services, events and visiting parties also toilets. However, the obstacles are huge. We have to keep our focus on that which will bring more of God's glory into our lives and the lives of all who visit us. We need to provide services for the soul and the body. We pray that God will bless our endeavours.

I look back with nostalgia to St Matthew's with its prayerful atmosphere, uplifting worship and practical facilities. But most of all I thank God for the people God has brought to our churches and through whom the Good News of the Kingdom will reach out and touch the hearts of others and so infuse the whole world with the glory of God.