

## REGULAR SOCIAL EVENTS FROM ST MATTHEW'S:

### Soup Café

Every Monday 12.30–1.30pm at Whitehill Village Hall.

Homemade soups served with crusty bread, followed by tea or coffee. This relies entirely on donations.

### Drop-in

Every Friday from 10am 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

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Contact us for details, or see the website

7<sup>th</sup> July - Open Gardens  
28th July - Karaoke evening

[WWW.STMATTHEWSFRIENDS.ORG](http://WWW.STMATTHEWSFRIENDS.ORG)

## CONTACT US:

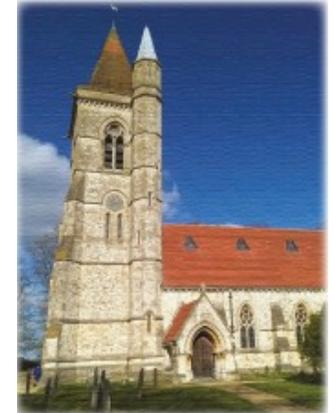
<b>Friends Chairman</b> Jilly Prideaux	01420 487647 Jilly.eveley@btinternet.com
<b>Friends Treasurer</b> Torben Houlberg	01420 472434 torben@houlberg.co.uk
<b>Friends Secretary</b> Tracey Kirkby	01420 479291 stmatthewsfriends@gmail.com
<b>Soup Café &amp; Drop-in</b> Davina Hudson	01420 475764 48davina@gmail.com
<b>Vicar</b> Rev'd Alice Wood	01420 472656 alice@st-matthews.org
<b>Vicar</b> Rev'd Dom Clarke	01420 473548 dom@st-matthews.org

## FRIENDS OF ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

BLACKMOOR AND WHITEHILL

## Newsletter

Issue 8, Summer 2018



[WWW.STMATTHEWSFRIENDS.ORG](http://WWW.STMATTHEWSFRIENDS.ORG)

In March 2017 I challenged the congregation of St Matthew's Blackmoor and Whitehill to sponsor me for each additional cathedral I could walk to before 23 April 2017, the anniversary of the start to my cathedral walks. I had by then walked from Blackmoor to eleven cathedrals, the farthest being Rochester. I planned to end my walks at Canterbury Cathedral which proved to be my eighteenth cathedral. The response was so generous that I resolved to walk to the remaining twenty four cathedrals by Easter 2018.

This was duly accomplished. On Easter Day, accompanied by seventeen members of my family (plus two dogs), I arrived at Exeter Cathedral, completing my last linked walk which was from Truro Cathedral. The anthem at the Processional Choral Evensong was Handel's Halleluyah Chorus. Halleluyah indeed!

*John Selborne*



## WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR DONATIONS?

If you've been to a church service recently, you will have enjoyed the benefits of our new sound system, the bright and comfortable chairs, and not least the pew cushions.

They have all been purchased with help from the 'Friends' and this is exactly what we want to do – to make our Church bright and cheerful and welcoming to all.

Without your support none of this would have been possible.

Unfortunately, some of the projects in the pipeline are beyond the sole capacity of the 'Friends' to handle. The repair of the chancel floor (as reported in our previous newsletter) is a major project, and whilst The Friends can offer some help, other grants will also be needed.



The next big 'Friends' project we are considering is the refurbishment of the kitchen, including relocating the toilet to make it accessible for disabled persons. Again, this will be a highly visible improvement for our Church and will no doubt be welcomed by all.



## A LETTER FROM JOHN STONE.

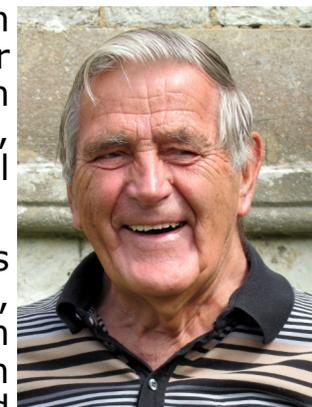
### *'Friends' isn't all about the money...*

You have heard the expression "Church family" I am sure. Our family is fantastic. I have been convinced of this for a long time, but if you haven't then I can tell you a story.

Several months ago I was diagnosed with prostate cancer, something quite common in men of my age. For a while I was on the hospital's "watching and waiting" list with regular blood tests and the occasional MRI scans. Then my Eurologist thought he ought to do something about it and I was booked onto a four week (every day) course of radiotherapy at Basingstoke Hospital, which I knew would make me very tired. At first the hospital promised transport, but later reneged on this saying I didn't have enough points.

This is where our fantastic Church family stepped in. Organised by Jilly (who is very good at this sort of thing) many volunteers came forward to drive me to and from the hospital, for which I was very, very grateful. With the travelling, waiting and treatment time, each trip was three and a half hours or more so it was quite a commitment. It is all over now, I am still very tired, but I'm hoping for the all clear in July.

Thank you very much. You are a good bunch!



*John*