

## **SEEND CLUB AND ORGANISATIONS ANNUAL REPORTS (2019)**

The following reports are from those organisations that attended the Annual Parish Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Seend Community Centre report**

May 2018 – April 2019 (i.e. period since last Parish meeting)

A brief summary of some of the key achievements and activities during the year:

#### **Maintenance and improvement of facilities**

- New members' bar lighting and furniture (thanks to Rob and John Whalley)
- Rob continues to improve the range of drinks on offer at the bar and uses his expertise to negotiate keen prices from suppliers.
- Popularity of Friday evening opening is still increasing. All members are welcome.
- First Friday coffee mornings now well supported.
- Repainting of the whole building nearly complete (Fritz and the Friday helpers) and we're planning to replace the carpet in the village room upstairs and the passage way to the Members' Bar.
- We have replaced the (broken) CD player in the main hall with a new machine which has Bluetooth compatibility
- Jo McManus has done a wonderful job modernising our website. Do have a look at it.

#### **Finance**

- Dave Purdy has now completed two years as Treasurer. Thanks to him for professional handling of finances and keeping a tight control on expenditure.
- We have run many successful events (see below) but our running costs continue to increase, and we have revised our hire charges for the coming year – the first increase since 2016. We broke even in the past year.

#### **Events (both in-house and external)**

Among the usual range of Community Centre events special mention should be made of the following

- A highly successful ABBA tribute concert in 2018 was followed by an equally supported Queen concert recently. The ABBA band have been invited back for 2020.
- The Beer Festival – as always, a great success and it continues to be a significant contributor to our finances.
- Annual Pantomime – 40 years and still going strong! A huge tribute to Tessa and Anita.
- Oktobeer Fest – Very popular for the second year and we're doing it again this year, actually in October! Special thanks to the Cubberleys and the Schrufts.
- BBQ's – thanks to Karen and Steve for running these. Following their departure, we are delighted that John Wilford and Pete Smethurst have stepped into the breach so that we can continue these highly popular evenings.
- We continue to attract interest from outside organisations to host their own activities. For example, Wiltshire Council now hold weekly seated sports sessions in the main hall.
- And coming up: Another gin tasting event in the autumn and we're reviving the Wine and Food fair in November.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Fritz Scruff has built a beautiful seat to surround the ornamental lamppost on the patio, with a plaque dedicating it to the memory of Max Bolton.
- After many years of helping us in a variety of ways, especially with running our barbecues, we have said farewell (or, hopefully, *au revoir*) to Karen and Steve Cubberley. They have gone to Australia. In their place we have welcomed to the Committee Dawn Smethurst (who has taken over publication of Happenings), John Wilford and Jo McManus.
- Along with similar organisations, we have taken the necessary steps to be compliant with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

And finally the usual plea...

The running costs of the Centre are substantial – and rising. This year we have had to make alternative arrangements for collection of our refuse following termination of the contract by Wiltshire Council. We are running a number of successful and profitable events, but we are not complacent. Rob does a fantastic job in managing the purchase of our bar supplies to ensure our profits are maximised. He is also an expert caterer. Rob now handles the bookings for the Centre so please consult him about arrangements for any event, including access and possible clashes with existing bookings. We need to sustain, or improve our income, so please keep us, and Rob, in mind if you are planning an event.

The Committee consists of volunteers who give a lot of time, effort and expertise to make this happen. We cannot do it all alone. We rely on you not only for suggestions for improvements and events, but more particularly in providing the help to make them happen and supporting them with your attendance.

Thanks to all the Committee, the Friday team helpers, and others.

Hatty Stafford Charles  
Chairman, Seend Community Centre Management Committee

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## **The Royal British Legion Seend Branch report for the Annual Parish Meeting – 20 May 2019**

I'm Robin Heatley, Chairman of the Seend Branch of The Royal British Legion. We have had a busy year again in our efforts to raise funds for this worthy charity. Our main source of income, other than the annual Poppy Appeal, derives from our Annual Lecture in the Spring followed by a Social event in the Autumn.

Our 2018 lecture was given by Mrs Jean Parsons entitled 'A Peculiar Occupation in Guernsey' where she recounted her experiences as a child growing up in Guernsey during the German occupation of the Channel Islands during World War 2.

In June we held our Annual Drumhead Service on the Lye Field. This is in line with Armed Forces Day and is an opportunity for us to show our support for the men and women who make up our Armed Forces community today.

In August I travelled to Belgium with our Standard Bearer to represent Seend Branch at the biggest ceremonial event in the history of the Royal British Legion. Men and women from over 1100 branches throughout the UK paraded through the town of Ypres and our Standard Bearer, Kevin Toft, carried the Wiltshire County Standard. I was privileged to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate memorial bearing a message to 'the fallen' from Freya Love, a child from Seend School. It was a very moving and unforgettable experience.

At our Annual General Meeting in October, our Chairman Col Nigel Knocker stood down after 18 years in the Chair and kindly agreed become our Branch President, a position which hasn't been filled for over 15 years. Two other long serving members, our Treasurer Neil Yockney and Secretary Marion Whitehead stood down and have been replaced by Ric Ellinger and Kevin Toft.

We carried out our Annual Poppy Appeal and the usual tins and boxes were distributed throughout the parish. This takes quite a bit of organising by all concerned and we were rewarded with gifts and donations of just under £2400.00 which was a great effort from all concerned.

On Remembrance Sunday we paraded to the village war memorial where we were joined by representatives from the Parish Council, the school, the WI and the scouts and guides and wreaths were laid to honour and remember the fallen from both World Wars. The church service was especially poignant last year as Remembrance Sunday fell actually on 11 November, exactly 100 years since the cessation of hostilities in 1918.

In January, following a Seend Parish Council initiative, we were pleased to contribute funds for the placing of a bench adjacent to the War memorial in the churchyard to remember those from the village who gave their lives during the First World War.

In February, we were invited by the Seend Fawltly Players to organise the raffle on the last night of the village pantomime, the proceeds of which were kindly donated to RBL funds.

Last month, 67 people attended our 2019 lecture entitled 'What makes Putin tick', given by Air Chief Marshall Sir John Cheshire who was United Kingdom Air Attaché in Moscow from 1987 – 1990.

We are a very active branch and I am pleased to report that we have just been awarded The Stillwell Cup for small Branch efficiency in 2018. We are currently planning our fund-raising events for the coming year which will include a coach trip next month on 8 June to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Our membership currently stands at 64. We are always keen to recruit new members to this very worthwhile organisation and if you wish to join the Seend Branch of the Royal British Legion, please contact myself or our Membership Secretary, Dave Beaumont. Membership is open to all; you do not have to have served in any branch of the armed forces.

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### **Seend Fawltly Players – Tessa Doe**

We had a lot of fun putting on our 40<sup>th</sup> annual village pantomime, our third version of 'Snow White'. It was a great team effort and several people told us it was our best ever panto. To celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> show, we exhibited photos and cast lists from all previous 39 productions and invited ex-members to join us on stage each evening for a rendition of 'We've Been Together Now For 40 Years'. The show's proceeds were not far short of £1000, with which we were able to purchase a recycled plastic, maintenance free, children's multi-coloured picnic table which is now in the new play area on the Lye Field. We also made a contribution towards a special motorised wheelchair for Linzie Reason, who was a Fawltly Player in her teens, and we subsidised the well-received 'St George's Day and Shakespeare's Birthday Party' held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April so that it made a profit of £238 for the Community Centre. On October 12<sup>th</sup> we shall be providing some of the entertainment for Seend WI's centenary celebration. Our 41<sup>st</sup> pantomime will be on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020.

### **Spotlight Magazine – Tessa Doe**

We continue to produce 10 issues of the magazine per year, delivered free to each household in Seend and Bulkington thanks to income from advertisements and also donations from our readers. The Seend Trust part of Seend Trust and Community Centre now holds an archive of back copies from the last five decades of Spotlight, thanks to Walter Mayell and Pam Muller. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help Spotlight in an editorial capacity can talk to me or Sue Isaac, potential printers should report to Joanna Goddard and distributors to Fiona Johnson.

### **Seend Poetry Group – Tessa Doe**

The group meets every six weeks or so in each other's homes to read poetry on a chosen topic (which can feature poetry by anyone from Chaucer to Pam Ayres) whilst enjoying wine and nibbles. Some of us also write on that topic if the mood takes us.

### **Seend WEA Group – Tessa Doe**

We had two excellent WEA Day Schools in the past year – one on 20<sup>th</sup> century female artists and one on Shakespeare's life and works. The next Day School on Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> will be outside the remit of the WEA as one of our favourite tutors, Paul Chapman, no longer works for them but is coming to us independently to teach us all about Stanley Spencer. We shall probably return to the WEA fold for a Day School next spring.

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### **Seend and District Ramblers 2019 report for APM - Sandy James**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting took place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March where an account of the years ramblings and activities were reported. All walks were well attended by members averaging between 15 and 18 walkers each time. Walks have included Seend, Shearwater, Yatesbury, Shaw, Chitterne, Chalfield Manor, Keevil, Rushall and Fyfield Down, all experiencing areas of our beautiful countryside.

The skittles evening in July, which is now looking like an annual event, was great fun and well supported with a very enjoyable 'American Supper'.

Once again glorious weather accompanied our evening walk in August, a circular walk took us back to The Golden Fleece, Shaw, where 24 members enjoyed a fabulous meal.

24 members, in October, took part in the Annual weekend away based at 'The Valley of Rocks Hotel' Lynton on Exmoor. Good walks, good weather and good company were enjoyed by all.

In November The Greyhound, Bromham was the venue for an evening of great food, company and ramblings, of a different nature!

After 25 years Lin Salter, our Secretary and Gerald Salter, our Chairman have decided to hand over the reigns to other members, they have both served the club for over 25 years and a massive thank you was given to them for all their hard work over the years. They will remain on the committee as Brenda Jones takes on Chairperson and Sandy James becomes Secretary alongside Wendy Miller as Treasurer.

We are all looking forward to another year of Rambling and social activities making new members very welcome, keep your eye on 'Spotlight' for details.

### **Seend Footpath Working Party May 2018 – May 2019 - Penny England**

During 2018 the working party have cleared several footpaths ( Footpath nos 6, 22, 27 and 38) This involved cutting back overhanging branches, nettles and brambles and clearing vegetation around the WI seat as requested. We have around 15 volunteers to call on and I would like to this opportunity to thank all those involved for their help and hard work.

We do rely on people reporting overgrown paths and will respond to any requests, working closely with Carol Vince, Parish Footpath Officer. Since September, however, we haven't been very active but as we are now approaching the growing season and lighter evenings, we hope that we will soon reunite to maintain local footpaths as necessary. So please report any problems to Carol and we will mobilise the volunteers into action !

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### **Seend Book Club report on 2018 – Jane Goman**

We are called the Seend Book Club as there are one or two other book clubs in the village. So this is the official title we use when ordering books from the library. I like to support the library when possible but most of our members use kindles and some prefer to buy their own copies. In 2018 we had 12 members. We have to restrict our number to 12 because we take it in turn to meet in each others' houses in the evening over a glass of wine and nibbles.

Last year we read 7 books as we usually meet every other month. We read all sorts of books, biographies, travel, novels etc. The choice is usually made by suggestions from our members, based on what they are reading and enjoying. Sometimes we opt for a particular book that is currently in the news.

We all enjoy our meetings tremendously, even when the particular book is unpopular with some.

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### **Seend Fund Report**

During the last year the Seend Fund trustees have been able to donate money to eight people with very varied requests for help including medical needs, student rent and an educational trip. These have totaled £2,790. We have also made our yearly mandatory payment to the P. C. C. of just over £775. We decided to extend the area covered by the Fund to Bulkington and Poulshot as these are close neighbours who do not have a similar charity to call on. We were very grateful to receive a £1,000 donation from the estate of Adrian Stanford via his nephew Major General Richard Stanford.

I have a copy of our accounts if anyone wishes to look at them. Please keep telling people about the Seend Fund if you think we may be able to help.

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### **Seend Shuttle Report**

Thanks to all the volunteers who keep the Seend Shuttle on the road we have had another year when it has been well used and much appreciated. To give you a few figures: the school run has covered 1988 miles with 4436 passengers, the other service runs over 5148 miles have carried 2791 passengers and private hires travelling 5037 miles have taken 1150 passengers.

I have the detailed accounts with me. Many of the figures are similar to last year though the annual grant from Wiltshire council has been reduced by about £800. We have just spent nearly £1000 on engine repairs but otherwise the bus has had few problems. However when it does start wearing out we are in the happy position of having accumulated over £55,000 so should be able to afford a new one. We are very grateful to the Parish council for their annual donation of £400.

I reported last year on the questions being asked in government about whether community buses qualify as commercial businesses. This has been much discussed and is due to go for judicial review in June. For now we are allowed to continue as we are. We think the government probably has other things on its mind at present!

One of our long term school run drivers Les Warren has had to retire a little earlier than he hoped so we need to give him a huge thank you for all the hours he has put in. We are very glad to have David Hawkins joining the school run team. As you know we are always happy to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer in any way.

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### **Theatre Club – Sylvia Ewin**

Membership is down a little this year – just over 90 members.

We try to offer a variety of events – usually 8 or 9 a year – and visit venues such as Theatre Royal Bath, Salisbury Playhouse, The Watermill at Newbury, The Wharf in Devizes and The Bristol Hippodrome.

Run by a committee of 5 but with a great deal of the work done by Sylvia Ewin, our Chairman, who is not here tonight – hence me reporting.

We remain financially secure with an annual subscription of just £5 and continue to pass all discounts for group bookings direct to the members.

The use of email has reduced our running costs as we now print very few notices and post only 2 or 3. But travel costs continue to rise and increasingly we have to subsidise coach hire.

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### **Seend Playgroup – Rose Dick**

Our numbers have increased this term with 22 children on our register. We are now staying open and will be returning in September with 15 on the register. All the children are looking forward to the opening of the play park and keep looking over the fence.

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### **Seend Link Scheme – Garry Reason (Chair)**

I would first like to express my apologies for being unable to attend the Parish Council meeting in person. As the new chair of Seend Link I would have been keen to attend to personally express my thanks for your support.

The new committee consisting of myself as chair, Ric Ellinger as treasurer and Chris Brooker as coordinator took on their responsibilities on the 25/3/19 and I would like to thank Chris Gosling and his committee for their dedication to the scheme over the last 3 years.

In terms of activity 2018 was a very similar year to 2017. Although the Health related journeys increased, the non-health related journeys decreased considerably. Good neighbour tasks were also down however the overall (estimated) hours worked by all volunteers and that includes the committee was about the same.

Health Related Journeys:	97	1813 Miles
Non Health Related Journeys:	3	25 Miles
Total Miles:		1838 Miles (Estimated)

Good Neighbour Tasks	28
Volunteers Hours	371 (waiting times not included)

Recruiting drivers continues to be a problem (there have been three retirements in the last 18 months). However, the new committee have registered as drivers and we have 2 additional new drivers confirmed, 1 other in process of checks. Recruitment will be an ongoing priority and remains the key limiting factor for increasing awareness and use of the scheme.

Bath City council are considering banning or charging all vehicles from entering or transiting through the city centre, and there is currently a study being conducted to assess what services might be affected by that course of action. If that comes into force then the impact on services such as the Links could be quite considerable. The issue is being monitored by the committee through Wiltshire Community First.

The new committee will be developing thoughts over the coming weeks on how to expand the service further.

Finally, I would like to thank Seend Parish council for their ongoing support which enables the Seend Link Scheme to continue to operate, we are extremely grateful.

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**SHORT ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**OF THE PARISH OF SEEND**  
**within the Wellsprings Benefice *within the Diocese of Salisbury***  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

The Church of the Holy Cross is situated in the village of Seend. It is part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. It forms part of the Wellsprings Benefice of Bulkington, Poulshot, Potterne, Seend and Worton and Marston.

Correspondence address: 1 Somerset Close, Seend, Melksham SN12 6QH (PCC Secretary).

<b>Rector:</b>	The Rev'd. Ali Bridewell (appointed December 2017)
<b>Associate Priest</b>	The Rev'd Joshva John
<b>Retired Priest:</b>	The Rev'd. Jane Knowles The Rev'd Maureen Allchin
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Mrs Tina Yockney Mr Len Murray
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mr Neil Yockney
<b>PCC Secretary:</b>	Mrs Anne Ewing

### **CHARITABLE STATUS**

The PCC is a Charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. HMRC Charities Reference Number: X86050.

### **THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PCC**

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibilities for the care and maintenance of the church building and churchyard. In the past year the church has maintained a regular pattern of worship on Sundays and has sought to ensure that the church remains an accessible place of welcome, prayer and fellowship for the whole community.

Our Mission Statement is **“Gathered for Worship, called to serve, challenged to grow”**.

### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

This has remained fairly static although over the last 10 years there has been a slow decline in attendance. The majority of regular worshippers are over 60 but in the last 12 months we are seeing more young people attend through Cafe Church which is proving a successful new mission. We have seen a slight rise in baptisms which is also encouraging. The average weekly attendance is 32 but the number increases significantly for festivals and celebrations when the church is well supported by the community.

Our church service pattern has been maintained as last year following the pattern of: 1st Sunday: Holy Communion (Trad), Café Church, Morning Praise; 2nd Sunday: Parish Eucharist; 3rd Sunday: Holy Communion (Trad), Evensong (Trad); 4th Sunday: Parish Eucharist; 5th Sunday: Benefice Service.

### **ELECTORAL ROLL**

Prior to the APCM a completely new Electoral Roll was prepared in accordance with Diocesan guidelines. The electoral roll now stands at 71 members of which 57 are resident within the Parish. Regretfully 3 members of the

church died last year and a further 14 came off the list principally, but not entirely, due to moving out of the parish. However we do have 9 new members.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT - SUMMARY**

**Receipts for the year 2018 totaled £76,652 (£58,347).** There was one legacy this year.

Main points to note are:

1. Regular giving through Gift Aid amounted to £20,130 (£23,406).
2. Tax recovered on Gift Aided donations amounted to: 2018 Claim in progress (£5,144).
3. Grants and Donations received amounted to: £17,579 (£3,348), including: VAT Rebate (DCMS Scheme), Seend Fund, Friends of Seend Church (for chairs), Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, and Donations £6,000.
4. Salisbury Diocese Board of Finance Loan of £45,000.
5. Receipts from Activities generating funds – a total of £1,638 (£11,516) gross including: Summer Concert, History of Seend Talk, and Fete Teas events. There was no Seend Open Gardens, or Church-run Burns Night in 2018.
6. Spotlight – Total receipts amounted to £5,034 (£4,690) including Donations: £2,306 (£1,966) and Advertising revenue: £2,728 (£2,274).
7. Inter Parish Income – £2,712 (£2,553). Includes Benefice Administrator and some clergy expenses.
8. Income from investments – £1,862 (£2,013).

**Payments for the year 2018 totaled £146,470 (£76,413).** The significant increase was due to the re-ordering works as shown below. The following significant items are included:

1. The 2018 Diocesan Share – £22,869 (£25,511) was paid in full.
2. Reordering Project – £94,701 (£23,291). The major part of the improvements was completed in 2018 and included: Architects & other professional fees: £11,038 (£11,975), Gaigers fee for construction of WC and kitchenette £81,611, other miscellaneous costs: £2,053.
3. Church Insurance costs - £3,789 (£3,878).
4. Oil for church heating – £1,455 (£1,272).
5. Upkeep of churchyard - £3,162 (£4,208).
6. Spotlight – Expenditure on Production £3,109 (£3,285).

### **In Summary:**

**In 2018 the total Payments including Parish Share for the Holy Cross Church, Seend, amounted to £146,470 (£76,413). Deducting the Reordering project costs this equates to:**

**£996 (£1,022) per week or £142 (£146) per day.**

## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT**

This year has been one of challenges, exciting change, new approaches following the licensing of our new priest, Revd Ali Bridewell, as Rector for the parishes of Seend, Bulkington, Poulshot, Worton with Marsden and Potterne, . The new benefice was named The Wellsprings Benefice..

An extensive search for a House for Duty Priest was eventually rewarded by a response from three applicants and following this we welcomed The Revd Dr Canon Joshva John and his family into the new Vicarage in Seend. His licensing took place at Holy Cross Church on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

The Church Reordering culminated in the Dedication Service which took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July. This Improvement Project included the removal of the front row of pews and some at the back, the installation of a kitchenette with hot and cold running water and a WC in the churchyard. As the church had no mains water, this had to be laid from the High Street. This project has taken literally years to come to fruition but thanks to the hard work and perseverance of Anne Ewing it has finally become a reality.

During the year we had a Parish Pilgrimage, a Pet Service, special services over Easter and Christmas including a foot washing ceremony on Maundy Thursday preceded by a shared supper. The Church was full to capacity for the Remembrance Day Service, attended by Members of the Armed Forces, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and school pupils and of course members of the RBL. All our Christmas Services were well attended with Christmas Day numbers up.

There have been 8 Baptisms, 6 Weddings, 8 Burial of Ashes and 6 Funerals held in the church this year.

The Story Tellers continue to visit the school fortnightly throughout the terms. The Children seem to enjoy our visits and we look forward to being with them.

### **BELL RINGING REPORT**

2018 was the commemorative year marking 100 years since the Armistice and a national campaign called 'Ringing Remembers' was launched in memory of the 1,400 ringers who died in the Great War. The idea was to recruit the same number of new ringers during the year and have them ready to ring at the services of Remembrance in November. Altogether 2,792 recruits took up the challenge, including Ann Blake and Jeremy Parnell in our own tower. It was with a sense of pride that they took their place among the rest of our ringers at the service of Remembrance last year at Holy Cross, they got a badge too! A certificate on the wall of the ringing chamber lists all the ringers that took part that day. Our quarterly ringing for the Fallen continues until the beginning of 2019. We have had visitors from far afield who have discovered that we were ringing for their ancestors and wanted to be part of it so have come along to listen. We always start with a prayer, a poem from one of the war poets and then the list of names of those we are commemorating that quarter are read out. As it has naturally fallen on the same Sunday as Evensong it has been nice to relax in the peace of those services afterwards. We will miss the experience,

Charlie Mayell (one time Tower Captain who died in November 2017) left provision in his will for the regular Seend ringers to enjoy a meal out on him. We had a splendid evening and took Charlie with us (a framed photograph) and placed him at the head of the table, happy memories were shared by all.

The bells sound out to tell villagers there is something going on in their church. Not all of them choose to come and join in but they can't help but hear the bells and hopefully know we pray for them.

### **FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH**

Since 2012 the Church Friends have helped in the funding of numerous church projects including the repair of roof pinnacles, the replacement of pew seat runners, providing new ropes for the church bells and the new stacking chairs.

Thanks to the continuing generosity of members to the Church Friends the account currently stands at approximately £7,000

We currently have 59 members but would ideally like to double this number!