

Fundraising for St Mary's Church



BERENICE SMITH



Several events have been held to raise funds for The Church (running the Church) and for The Friends of St Mary's (restoring the fabric of the building). There is still a large amount of work to be done to keep the church in a safe condition and prevent further deterioration. Over the last 10 years we have conserved the tower and re-roofed the nave. We must now deal with the last large part of the upper works – the chancel roof. No work has been done on the chancel structure since 1911 and the lead roof is over 200 years old. Including this, we will have spent £556,000 on major projects in this period

We have had some grant successes recently with awards from Garfield Weston (£3,500), Viridor (£10,000) and Friends of Essex Churches (£10,000). More applications are in hand but we remain significantly short of the total of £196,000 needed to do the chancel roof, staircase and other works planned for early 2013. As at the end of September we are £30,000 short of the target.

In June we held a ladies tea afternoon which raised just over £200 for the Friends of St Mary's. Ladies dressed up in their glad rags and enjoyed tea comprising sandwiches, scones with jam and cream followed by a variety of cakes.

A flower festival combined with paintings and photographs was held in August. About 180 people came to look around the Church which was beautifully decorated with flowers thanks to Valerie Bright and members of the flower club. The flowers were partly sponsored by local businesses and we are grateful to R and R Sagers, Newport Stores, Premier Garage, Hilbery Turf and H.Manley (builders). Church members and the local art group provided the photos and paintings. This event raised £700 over three days.

In November a talent show is being held and will have taken place by the time *Newport News* is published; watch this space for a report in the next issue.

In 2013 we are planning Newport Open Gardens for the weekend July 20th and 21st to raise funds for The Friends of St Mary's. If anyone thinks they would like to open their garden please contact me on 541498 and I will explain what is involved. There are some stunning gardens large and small in Newport and we would love to see them. A BBQ will be running at the Church so good weather is guaranteed!

Regular events are being planned to which everyone is welcome. These include a men's breakfast club, ladies afternoon teas and Saturday afternoon beetle drives. The beetle drives will be held every other month in Church House, and refreshments will be provided. Please join us for a relaxed and sociable afternoon. Notices of dates will be put on the

village notice board, in Church House window and at the Post Office. For further details of any of these events please contact Cheryl Monk (fundraising co-ordinator) either by email cheryljm@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01799 541463. **NN**

ABOVE LEFT: LADIES TEA AFTERNOON
ABOVE: FLOWER FESTIVAL



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