



F O L S C News

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Trustees: David Aitken, Chairman - 241335 Phil Godfrey, Treasurer - 241137
Geoff Pringle, Secretary - 241371 Michael Brake - 241222
Caroline Astington - 241159 Kevin Robinson - 241266
Tony Huggard - 241965 Tim Walford - 241224

Chairman's Report

We have had a very quiet year with regards to demands from the PCC for financial assistance and we are very grateful for this. The Quinquennial Report, however, has just been issued. We will await an update from the PCC when they have had the opportunity to go through the detail and estimates obtained for works that are essential to maintain the fabric and structure of our church. If these requirements are found to be minor and can be financed without recourse to our charity, then perhaps it is time for FOLSC to consider other areas where we might be able to help.

I know some members think it is about time that we did something positive with a portion of the funds raised. One item that has been discussed by the PCC over many years is the installation of a toilet and by improving the facilities within the church, it would make it a more versatile focal point as well as the centre for worship within the community. This I know, will cause a certain amount of consternation amongst some. I am, however, frequently berated by persons complaining that we never see anything being done with monies raised and when told we are 'building up the fighting fund', for when heaven help us, the tower needs pointing, it tends to fall on stony ground. Food for thought perhaps and certainly worthy of further discussion when the current status of Holy Trinity is known?

Roger will report on the PCC for us later. I would, however, say that at long last the alarm system seems to be behaving itself, for which I am most grateful, as is Roger I am sure.

The Trustees are finding it increasingly hard to put on events which are different to the normal run of the mill ones. If any of you have ideas please tell us. A behind the scenes tour of Wells Cathedral was organised a few months ago as a members only event and we had to cancel for lack of support. Considering we were only looking for ten members it was a little disappointing. We will organise a repeat visit, if demand exists. I can recommend this event as it is a fascinating journey into the past. We are well on the way to sorting the 2014 programme and one act (although this is currently proving hard to book), will certainly be something completely different for a FOLSC event and for the local community!

Many thanks to all of you who unstintingly support us throughout the year. Without you it would be extremely difficult. I ask you every year but if any of you would like an opportunity to be a trustee; I would be pleased to hear from you. It is always nice to get some new blood and new ideas.

With the advent of emails it makes contacting you a lot easier. If anyone has an email address that we do not have, please forward, we would be most grateful. Unfortunately the parish website is still not up and running so you are unable to pick up any information - keep trying, one day it may come alive.

I cannot close without thanking all Trustees and their respective spouses for the work they put in throughout the year. Again my job is a dream having both Geoff and Phil at my side.

I look forward to seeing you at the **AGM on the 27th February 2014 in the school hall, doors open at 7.00pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm.**

David Aitken, Chairman.

Treasurer's report

2013 has again been a positive year for FOLSC with stable membership income and good results from the three events held. During the year we received £645 in membership subscriptions, £260 in donations and a profit on events of £2,555. Interest from our deposit account continues to reduce with bank rates at an all-time low. Only minor church roof repair costs were incurred. Overall the charity has been able to add £3,362 to reserves which now total £41,248. Membership stands at 26 Life members and 29 annual members making a total of 55. This is an increase of 3 over last year.

We have just received the 5 year survey report on the church which indicates that a program of repairs is required in order to keep the structure in good condition. Although largely minor in nature the total bill is likely to be significant and I am sure that, without assistance from FOLSC, the PCC would have found these difficult to fund. This demonstrates how important our work is in keeping our church something to be proud of.

Final accounts will be presented to the members at the AGM in February.

Phil Godfrey
Hon Treasurer

Notes from the PCC

The report on the Quinquennial survey*, which was carried out on September 20th, is still awaited. The delay is inexcusable but one must only hope that there are no major problems with the fabric of Holy Trinity Church.

The roof alarm system has had its annual service and found to be in good order. The emergency batteries have to be replaced annually.

As a result of a survey on fire risks, two additional fire extinguishers are being installed.

Following the departure of the Team Rector in August 2012, the area has been divided into two Benefices. Long Sutton with Long Load, Pitney, Muchelney and Drayton have Rev. Jane Twitty as priest-in-charge who will also be associate vicar of the adjoining benefice.

The regular congregation remains fairly constant. 183 people attended services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Carol Service, held a few days earlier, saw the largest congregation for many years with a few people standing. The organ and choir were a joy to behold and the school choir attended to this act of worship. There is no doubt that the church unites the village, for which we must all be grateful.

The Advent Adventure took the church to the people for ten minutes each evening and was well supported, despite the weather!

Roger Cox
Church Warden

* We are pleased to report the survey report has now been received. **Editor**

What a Year – Memories from 2013

Somerset Born, Somerset Bred - Quiz Night

Saturday, 20th April was the date when FOLSC proved the old adage “Somerset Born and Somerset Bred, strong in the arm and weak in the ‘ead” does not apply here in Long Sutton!



The hall was packed with a capacity audience to compete in a West Country themed quiz with a twist, the first fundraiser of our 2013 season. Question masters Aitken and Pringle challenged an appreciative audience with 90 questions over 9 themed rounds ranging from history on your doorstep, sport, films, parochial, wildlife and concluding with Pot Luck!

The slick presentation was supported by audio and visual clues and as ever with FOLSC supporters the musical clips were accompanied by full audience participation! The high standard of the audience’s knowledge was astounding with the top three teams all scoring in excess of 100 and the winners the “Fry-Jots” scoring an impressive 109 out of a maximum of 132 available points! This event delivered a fantastic profit for the fighting fund of £1,003 and a great start for the 2013 season.



Our Flagship event for 2013 was the **Caribbean Summer Party** and the trustees even managed to arrange a steamy hot night to reflect our theme. The party held on **Saturday, 20th July** at the Grain Barn, Upton (by kind permission of Michael Brake) surpassed all expectations and what a night we had!



Members and supporters turned out in force for another sell out event. The barn was bedecked with massive palm trees and bunting, our band 'Red Hot Steel' performed some stunning music and the audience needed no encouragement to 'jump-up on da dance floor!' Many guests turned out in an array of costumes including several bewhiskered pirates, the Commodore of the Fleet, Our Man in Havana, a walking palm tree and even a turtle! The pig roast with West Indian sauces was washed down with barrels of local ale and a vat of Cap'n Jackie's wonderful punch! The evening was rounded off with the great 'Rasta Phil's' super cool disco. It was generally agreed the evening met the combined FOLSC aims of raising money for a great cause whilst having fun and a further £775 was securely banked.



Our final outing of 2013 was our West Country themed **Cabaret Evening** held on **Saturday, 9th November**. Devon born and bred entertainer and comedian '**Tank Sherman**' promised us an evening to remember and he was as good as his word. Tank is a main stream comedian who just loves telling jokes and stories and with audience involvement he soon had a packed Long Sutton village hall eating out of his hand.



His opening quick fire jokes and longer gags with a twist kept us on our toes and set the tone for a hilarious show. Tank then introduced us to the glamorous Lindsey Collard, a Torquay based singer with the voice of an angel. She captivated the audience with a range of old and new numbers ranging from Michael Bubl  to Doris Day via Peter Noone and 'Herman's Hermits'. In true FOLSC tradition the audience proved word perfect in accompanying Lindsey in a beautiful rendition of 'Key Sera Sera.'



Following the interval Tank returned to the stage for a slick set of stunning original material much of it self penned. Even 'Bora' the resident chocolate lab at Long Sutton's store got a mention in the act! Lindsey then sang a further set but time had run away and Tank wrapped up the evening for us. We understand the laughter could be heard on the Village Green and the event proved a fine way to round off a most successful 2013 season with a profit on the night of £760. Many thanks to both members and other regular supporters without whom non of this would be possible!

Quinquennial Quotations

The 2013 Quinquennial report has just been issued! The PCC have given the trustees an opportunity to read through the very detailed survey and whilst much of it contains rather mundane 'house keeping notes', it also highlights other more important jobs that will need to be done to protect the fabric of our church. My overriding feeling, having finished the report last night, was one of awe at this historic building, complete with much of its original contents, which remains at the very heart of our village. I have selected a range of statements, extracted from the architect's report, as detailed below. Whilst we generally know some of the key features of our church, I for one was unaware we boasted **'the finest 15th century pulpit in England'**! Run your eyes down my personal highlights and perhaps you will join with me in marvelling at the jewel we have in our midst. Hopefully this will encourage you to continue your support of FOLSC in our ongoing endeavours to ensure Holy Trinity Church is secured for our children and our children's children in perpetuity.

'A very fine 15th Century Perpendicular church which is remarkable as it remains largely unaltered and has avoided significant restoration (like so many) in the 19th century'.

'Holy Trinity church is known in the Diocese as being one of the most complete mediaeval churches with original furnishings surviving from an early period. Amongst these is the most striking and delightful painted screen extending across the east end separating the nave from the aisles from the side chapels and chancel. Carved from oak and in remarkably robust condition, with all west facing surfaces brightly painted'.

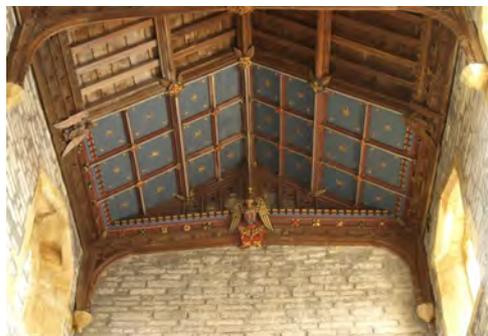


'The screen forms a set with the medieval carved pulpit containing 19th Century carved figures. The earlier medieval carvings and architectural detail remains intact and in good condition. The pulpit was dated by Mr Lucas's own hand after a drawing executed during the 19th century restoration. His notes recorded: 'The pulpit was made in 1430 and restored by W King Lucas in 1872. The statues were obtained by Mr Lucas and put into the niches last year 1910. It is the finest 15th Century pulpit in England. It took me 13 weeks to restore it.'

'Internally the 15th century font, rood screen and pulpit survive in good condition with little structural alteration. The font has a Jacobean cover, the figures were added to the pulpit niches in 19th Century and the rood paintwork was 'recoloured' at a similar time. These are marginal changes in the life of the objects and do not detract from their quality'.

'The West Elevation contains a number of interesting architectural details including small canopied niches within the lower levels, two substantial niches either side of the ringing chamber window and the central pierced panel within the belfry is clearly dated 1622'.

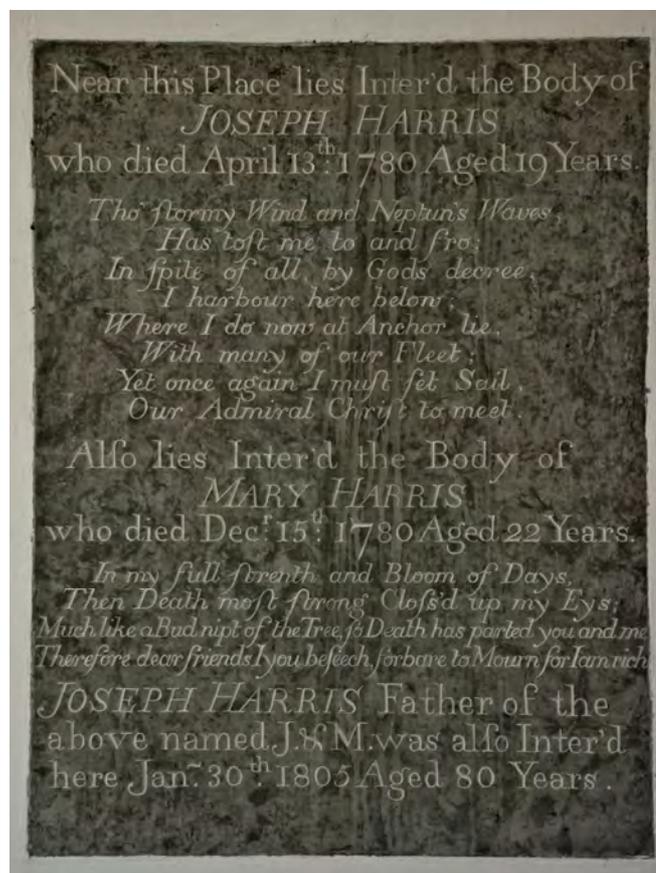
'Each intersection within the nave ceiling is crowned by a carved boss. The last quadrant of the ceiling closest to the chancel arch is decorated and painted to celebrate approaching the screen and looks well with the very fine screen below'.



The splendid north door is particularly fine and a good example of an early medieval door, complete with ancient hinges and ironmongery. The south door, probably slightly later and smaller in scale also remains in good working condition. These are both great examples of early doors'.

I hope you may agree with me this is quite a list and something all of us should be very proud to support.

**Geoff Pringle
Hon Secretary**



THE HARRIS MEMORIAL

This touching and rather poignant memorial tablet (it is not a tomb) is on the south wall of the chancel, east of the arch beyond the organ. It records three members of the Harris family, son Joseph, daughter Mary and father, also Joseph. The latter died, or was buried, some 25 years after his children. It may seem very hard to us in the 21st century that the deaths of two children should be visited on one family, within a single year, but this was not uncommon in the 18th century. This did not make them any easier to bear of course, but they were not as exceptional as they would be today.

A search in the parish records for Long Sutton confirmed the burials, but revealed no record of baptisms or marriages, which implies that the family moved to Long Sutton after the births of the children. The mother of the children is not mentioned, but it is clear that the tablet, as it now exists, was not put there by the father, whose burial in 1805 is recorded. This suggests that the mother was the instigator. A further search in the records, shows the burial of a Mary Harris on 7 January 1810. Since it was quite usual for children to be named after their parents, it seems a reasonable assumption that this Mary was the mother, and was responsible for the tablet being placed in the chancel.

Eight lines of poetry, touching and elegant, commemorating Joseph junior, indicate that he was a sailor. He may have been invalided out of the service, since it is unlikely that he died at sea, or he would not have been buried in Long Sutton. Mention of "our Fleet", suggests that he was in the Royal Navy, since the merchant marine did not normally refer to Fleets. A search in the Navy List failed to show a Joseph Harris serving in about 1776-80 (only one is listed up to 1914), but he may have been an ordinary seaman, who do not appear on the List, and no mention of a rank on his memorial confirms this. Of course the "Fleet" might just be a poetic invention.

The verse commemorating Mary does not give any indication of her life, or the manner of her death. It is not written in as regular a metre as Joseph's, which is in couplets of 8 and 6 syllables successively, a classic English metre, used by Chapman in his translation of Homer, where it appears as one line of 14 syllables (the "14er"). There is something odd too, about the layout of poor Mary's verse. The last 2 lines as they appear, should actually be laid out as 4 lines:-

*Much like a bud nipt of(f) the tree,
So Death has parted you and me.
Therefore dear friends I you beseech
Forbear to mourn for I am rich.*

If the mason inscribing the stone had laid it out like that, there would have been no room for Joseph senior to be commemorated underneath. Whether he was added as an afterthought, or the mason was instructed to leave a space for him, the conclusion seems to be that the mason did not do a very good job of the layout and had to scramble to make room for Joseph senior.

Despite the lack of any further family details, and the oddity of Mary's inscription, the tablet is a charming feature of the church. It is beautifully incised, and the restraint of the poems does not disguise Mary's grief at the deaths of her children and husband.

**Christopher Dams
January 2014**

Does anyone know if the graves are still to be found? They are described as being "near this place", i.e. near the memorial.

Electronic Communications

As mentioned last year, we are endeavouring to make as many of our official communications by email, both for efficiency, speed and of course to save a tree! If you are one of those for whom we do not have email contact details and have received this letter in paper form, we would be extremely grateful if you could drop a short email to folsc@tarsethouse.com simply confirming your name so we can update our data base. If of course you are not online, we will continue to communicate in the conventional manner!

