



Friends of Westmill Church

June 2011

See back page for details of "FOWC"

The Church Roof. Very bad news.

During the 8th 9th & 10th of May a very detailed inspection of the entire Church Roof was carried out with the aid of a long reach cherry picker. The findings were rather disturbing. It was always known that the North Side of the roof (the side you can't see from the road) was in a bad state. The recent inspection has also revealed major problems on the south side, with rotting timbers and many unstable tiles. The Churchwardens, together with the Church Architect, are now preparing paperwork to apply for Faculties and grants so that repairs can be carried out sooner rather than later. This has now become a matter of urgency. As you can also imagine the repair costs are now going to be much greater than was originally expected.

Now for the good news.

Over 20 parishioners met in the Village Hall on Thursday 9th June to plan the final details for our Flower & Music Festival which is being held on 9th & 10 July. (If after reading this newsletter you would like to offer help in any way with our Festival PLEASE contact one of our committee members whose names are all on the back page of this newsletter)

Details so far for the 9th & 10th are as follows. The Church will be fully decorated with flowers and open to the public on Saturday & Sunday from noon to 5 pm each day. On Saturday afternoon various stalls will be arranged in the Churchyard, (Books, Cakes, Bottles, Grand Draw, Guessing the weight of the Cow) Brian Peters will be demonstrating his Model Railway layout in the Village Hall. Afternoon teas will be served in Mrs. Mildren's beautiful garden (Sissons) at the top of the Village Green. In the Children's room of the Church will be a photo exhibition displaying photos of our village. Visitors will be asked to pick their 12 favorite photos. From those selected a 2012 calendar will be produced to sell for the benefit of our Charity. At 7.30 p.m. on Saturday evening a Music Concert will be held in the Church when local musicians and singers

will entertain us. Due to the restricted number of seats in the Church this will be a ticket only event. The programme for the evening will be varied, ranging from Jazz to Classical and popular songs. Ticket sellers will be calling shortly and will give more details of the evening's events.

On Sunday 10th the Church will be open from noon for visitors to view the flowers. During the afternoon 4 local organists will each give approximately half an hour recital of their favorite organ music. Teas will be served in the Churchyard. David House from Tillers End has kindly loaned us his large marquee to erect in the Churchyard so that during the entire weekend visitors can take cover from either the heat or the rain. On Sunday evening at 6.p.m. there will be Songs of Praise, when the hymns sung will have been chosen by local people from a questionnaire which is enclosed with these notes. Please complete & return questionnaire to the Church & place in box provided by 30th June.

Although we are concentrating on the forthcoming Flower & Music Festival. We must not forget our "Bread & Butter" income from the Roof Club Fund. Thanks to Jan & Liz we are now averaging 160 numbers, drawn each month, enabling our treasurer to bank £160 monthly into our bank account. The draw takes place on the first Tuesday in each month in the Sword Inn Hand at 8.30.p.m. Do come and join us to see if you are a winner. Let Jan or Liz know if you know of anybody who might like to join the club.

We now look forward to your support during the 9th & 10th of July: we hope we can all enjoy a fun and fundraising weekend for the benefit of our decaying Church.

PLEASE READ THE HELP LIST OVERPAGE AND WHERE POSSIBLE OFFER YOUR HELP;- Making cakes, giving books, giving items for the Grand Draw and Bottle stalls or helping Sally with the flowers. Sarah would love to hear from anybody with Musical talent. Nigel wants as many photos and pictures both of old and new Westmill and of past or present residents.

HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP

You may recall seeing this sheet before, the request is the same as last time those people listed below would be very grateful for your help? Perhaps in providing books, making cakes, providing bottles for the bottle stall, or prizes for the Grand draw. Can you sing or play an instrument? Sally will need help to tidy the Church after preparing her flower arrangements. We will be able to find a job for all volunteers.

LET'S MAKE 9TH & 10TH JULY A GOOD FUN & FUND RAISING WEEKEND

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH. Either to offer flowers, foliage or help arrange, or tidy up when the Church has been decorated contact **Sally Cousins**

MUSIC DURING THE WEEKEND if you play a musical instrument or sing or know somebody who does contact **Sarah Hill**

TEAS AND REFRESHMENT BOTH SATURDAY IN SISSONS GARDEN & SUNDAY CHURCHYARD.

Olga & Ray partridge, Sue Phipps, Hilary Harding need help to serve wash up etc.,

PRIZES FOR BOTTLE STALL TOMBOLA Bottles of wine, jars of jam, tins of Coke, in other words anything in a bottle, jar or tin. **Jan James & Michael McRae** will be pleased to collect later

BOOK STALL All the good reads that you have now finished, and would like others to read let **Jaqui McRae, Muriel Parsons or Judy Thody** know what you have available

CAKE STALL Ladies nearer the time start baking scones, cakes and other goodies and let **Helen Cowler** know what you are prepared to offer for her to sell on the ever popular Cake Stall.

GRAND DRAW prizes for the Grand Draw and help selling the tickets contact **Jane Sloan or Liz Holland**.

PHOTO EXHIBITION If you have already indicated you have some Photos of Westmill please let Nigel have them soon. Photos past and present of our Village are all required, for our exhibition. From your photos we hope to compile a Calendar for 2012.

Details and photos to Nigel Leaney by email to nigel.leaney@ex2k.co.uk or photos to Michael Thody or John King.

A ROTA OF SITTERS AT THE CHURCH ENTRANCE An easy job sitting in the Church Entrance offering visitors a leaflet and guarding the donations jar. (There will be no entrance charge just a donation)

Let **Winston Pickup** know if you are willing to offer an hour or two at the door.

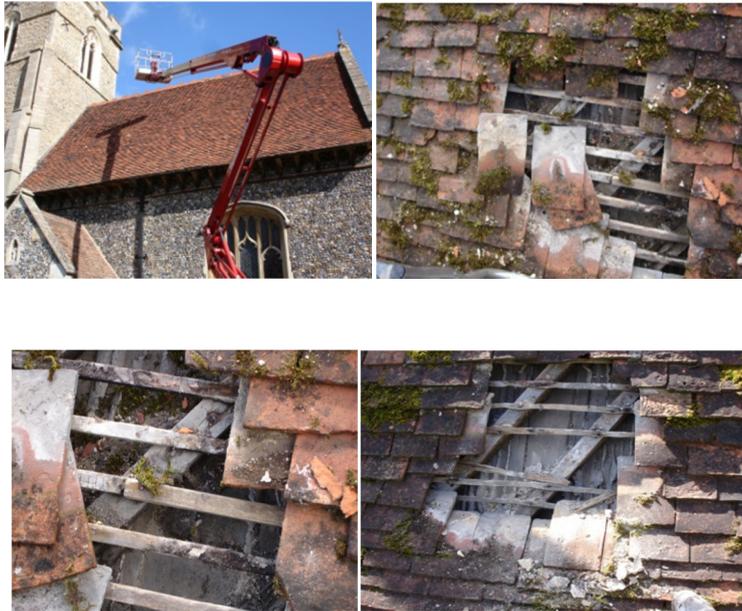
COW WEIGHT GUESING A weekend or two before the 9th & 10th and also during the weekend itself visitors will be asked to guess the weight of "Buttercup" a life size model cow. Help will be needed to move "Buttercup" to the A10 Farm Shop & the Co op Car Park during June to help promote our 9th & 10th event. Contact **Michael Thody**

CAR PARK David McMullen has kindly offered the meadows next to the Church for visitor's car parking; "Traffic Wardens" will be needed to arrange tidy car parking. Contact **John Bowtell** if you fancy being a "Westmill Policeman"

MARQUEE ERECTING David House from Tillers End has offered us his large marquee to erect in the churchyard, (It might rain on the day) we hope to erect the marquee on the Wednesday evening (July 6th) need some strong men to collect from the farm and put up. Contact **Michael Thody** for this job.

The above are just a few of the tasks when help will be needed, if you can think of other ideas to raise more money for our cause, please contact any member of our committee whose names are on the back of the enclosed leaflet. Thanks for reading these notes; we are now looking forward to your support on 9th & 10th July.

STOP PRESS: - A recent inspection of the Church Roof has revealed considerably more damage than was first expected. David McMullen who had these pictures taken has kindly agreed for us to publish some of them to show the extent of the roof damage. The pictures were taken from the cage of the Cherry Picker during the time of the inspection.



There is considerable damage to both North & South facing roofs.

It would seem from the above pictures that our efforts to raise funds are very necessary, and urgent

This picture shows Kevin Foscett in Paris (Kevin has the yellow top)



Kevin had just completed a sponsored Bike ride on behalf of Friends of Westmill Church from Dieppe to Paris and back. So far he has raised over £350.

I know there were some people who said they would sponsor him, but may have forgotten. It's not too late we have not closed the books yet!

Any further sponsorship money please to Winston Pickup at Lower Gaylors Barn or Michael Thody at Green Acre.

WELL DONE KEVIN THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Friends of Westmill Church

ADDENDUM

Just as this Newsletter went to press we were informed of new possible costs for repair from the Church Architect following the detailed roof inspection that we refer to earlier in this newsletter. The Architect now feels that the expected costs will be between £130,000 & £150,000; this figure is of course much higher than we had previously thought.

At the first meeting of the “Friends of Westmill Church” we set ourselves a target of £20,000 to raise during 2011. We are delighted to inform you that we have already exceeded that figure.

Our Bank Account now at the beginning of June stands at just over £22,000. This is a tremendous effort from a small village like ours and we are most grateful to all of those of you who have helped us to this figure. It seems from the above new information we still have a huge mountain to climb. PLEASE continue to give as generously as possible at the forthcoming fund raising events.

Thank you

Michael Thody.

Friends of Westmill Church. (FOWC)

U.K. Registered Charity No 1141322

The Five Trustees are:-

Diane Bowtell
Rev Ian Hill
David Mills
Winston Pickup
Michael Thody

Committee Members for 2011 are:-

Michael Thody	Chairman
Diane Bowtell	Secretary
Winston Pickup	Treasurer
Sally Cousins	
Hilary Harding	Churchwarden
Liz Holland	
Jan James	
Nigel Leaney	Webmaster
Sue Phipps	Churchwarden

Bank account: - Barclays Bank Buntingford.

Auditor: - David Smyth, Senior Partner, WKH Accountants, Royston, Herts.

Website www.friendsofwestmillchurch.org.uk

Friends of Westmill Church wish to thank:

John Waters of Ware ***for providing our large banners***

Austin's Funeral Services ***for prize money for Cow weight guessing***