

The Friends of St Andrew's, Bedford

St Andrew's Church Centre Office, Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK40 2PF

Tel: 01234 216881

Charity No. 1087979

September 2022

From: Jenny Pegg
c/o St Andrew's Church Office

To: All Members of The Friends of St Andrew's

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SUNDAY 5 MARCH 2023

Tel: 01234 216881

Dear Friends,

Although it has only been 6 months since our last AGM, we decided to rearrange our reporting year so that the AGM now falls in March. So all you lucky people get to see us again sooner than you probably expected to ! The meeting will start a little earlier than previously so we can give you all time to enjoy a leisurely tea before our Special Sung Evensong at 6.00pm. We felt it was a bit rushed last October ?

The AGM will be held on **Sunday 5 March 2023 in the church hall at 3.45pm.** This will be followed by tea at approximately 4.15 to 4.30pm which will, once again, be provided by the Guides for a suggested donation of £4 per head towards their funds. The Special Friends Evensong will follow at 6.00pm, at which we are delighted to welcome back **Duncan Goldthorpe as our guest preacher.** The proceeds from the collection taken at this Evensong will be donated to *The Friends of St Andrew's*. Copies of the Reports and Minutes for the AGM 2023 will be available in the rack outside the Church Office a week or so before the AGM. Further copies will of course also be available at the AGM itself. During the meeting we will ask you to complete a questionnaire about which events you think will be most popular and which you would like to attend yourselves. Thank you for completing this.

Very little has changed since our last AGM in October 2022, but we hope to have news of some new events for 2023 at the March meeting. The Tea Dances have, of course, continued and been a vital source of income. In December we held a Surprise Christmas Quiz instead of the Regency Christmas Talk as the speaker was taken ill at the last minute. On 17th January, we were treated to a very amusing talk by Rev. Kelvin Woolmer about his transition from a policeman to a vicar, and on 23rd February there will be a talk by The Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust (Bike N'Hike). If you look at the noticeboard in the corridor by the Hall, you will see our events advertised including a trip to Peacocks Sales Sales Rooms, a trip to the Bedford School Observatory in November, our annual trip to Tolethorpe, our now annual trip down the Ouse on the John Bunyan with supper together with others.

Happily, no one apart from myself has indicated that they are resigning at this AGM. So, if you are still thinking about being our Secretary, please get in touch with me and I will be delighted to tell you what it all entails. We are sadly also still short of a Deputy Chairman to assist our current Chairman (Ralph Hall).

Please help *The Friends* by renewing your membership, if you haven't already done so (forms again available in the rack outside the Church Office or at the AGM). If you have a friend who would like to join, they will also be most welcome. We are especially grateful to those who are able to gift aid their subscriptions. To renew your membership, please complete the membership form and send it, together with your payment, to either the Church Centre Office or hand it to any committee member.

We hope we can count on your continued support and, since this will be my last letter to you, I wish you all good luck in whatever the future holds for you.

Meanwhile, stay safe.

Jenny Pegg

Secretary