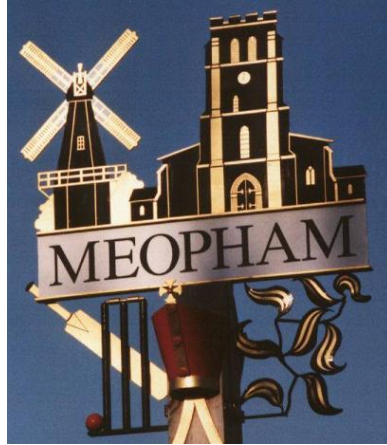


THE FRIENDS OF MEOPHAM PARISH CHURCH



YOUR CHURCH FOR OUR COMMUNITY



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1151922

**Registered Office: The St John's Centre, Wrotham Road, Meopham,
DA13 0AA. Contacts: Mrs Ally Merry on 01474 813106
by email: ally@stjohnsmeopham.co.uk**



The friends of are a group of people who raise funds for the preservation, maintenance and enhancement of Meopham Parish Church and its churchyard.

All are welcome to join the Friends and we have both members of the Church congregation as well as non-parishioners amongst our number.

We raise funds through membership subscription and fundraising events such as quiz nights, boot fairs, antique valuation day, Christmas Fayre and other social activities.

We differ from members of the church congregation who contribute mainly to the running costs of the church (e.g. gas and electricity) as we raise money specifically for items of a capital nature.

Here are some examples of capital items we have helped to procure over the last few years:

Purchase of acrylic screens for the church windows to stop drafts.

Refurbishment of the church rooms toilets.

Replacement of the church tower louvers.

Replacement of the existing church boiler as the old boiler was unrepairable.

Two oak side boards for the church entrance area. These are used for the storage of literature, postcards and other items for sale as well as a new visitors' book. These side boards replaced a much smaller shabby table.

The new computer system for the church office including new computers, network linkage, new data facilities and church accounting software. This has enabled staff to work more flexibly as well as increasing security and time saving.

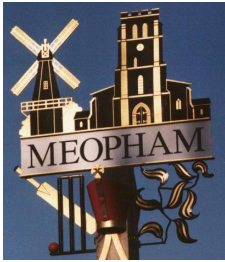
The new church lectern, with funds generously donated to use for this specific purpose. This is made of olive ash and designed to fit in with the style and design of the modern movable altar.

The wooden candle stand for the altar which is also made of olive ash and again matches in with the altar and lectern. This has replaced an unsatisfactory arrangement of terracotta candle holders on a plastic board.

A new security system in the church including two security cameras which replaced the old obsolete ones. The Church is often open but unmanned so security is essential.

Membership of the Friends is by subscription - £15.00 per person or £25.00 per couple. If you would like to join the Friends or find out more of what we do please contact Mrs Ally Merry on 01474 813106 or email ally@stjohnsmeopham.co.uk

The Friends is a Registered Charity number 1151922.



OUR CHURCH YOUR HERITAGE

St John the Baptist Church has been at the heart of Meopham for well over 1000 years. The church was built nearly 700 years ago in 1325 to replace a 12th century building. This replaced an earlier timber one that could have been built as early as the 590s.

RESTORING AND RENEWING

St John's stands on the same footprint it was built on in the 14th century and retains all its most important structural features. The tower belfry and porches are later additions.



PRESERVING AND ENHANCING

St John's is a Grade 1 Listed historic building that still in the 21st century serves the purposes for which it was originally built. This 'treasure' must be preserved and enhanced for future generations.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

The bold and visionary 2011 internal restoration of St John's has recreated the public space of the nave as it was originally designed in the 14th century. Churches then were designed to put faith, creativity and community into the same frame. This unique setting for worship, art, music and performance means the building can again 'belong' to everybody - worshippers, visitors, friends....



