

# The Friends of St Breaca Church

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

November 2015

## Launch of Friends a success!

One evening in May, five like-minded people launched The Friends of St Breaca Church.

Chris Dale, Trefor Bowen, Jane Stone, Malcolm Hersee and the Revd Dr Peter Johnson invited people to join the launch evening, with guest speaker Martin Matthews, fine food supplied by local parishioners, and held in the most wonderful venue, St Breaca Church.

There was a great turn out, with many people signing up to be



Friends and regular donors.

We hope more people will join our Friends community, so that the very fabric of this wonderful building and heart of the village will remain for future generations.

There is now a Friends website [www.breagechurchfriends.org.uk](http://www.breagechurchfriends.org.uk), so you can keep in touch with news and events, as well as view the picture gallery and read about the paintings and the history of the church. Take a look, and let us know what you think.

## **Garden Party**

The Friends held a garden party at the Old Vicarage on 12 July, by kind invitation of Bob and Sandra Calleja.

The wet weather didn't dampen spirits with many people braving the elements and enjoying a lovely cream tea, beautiful gardens and good company.

Unfortunately, the maypole dancing had to be cancelled as it was too slippery for the children to perform safely.

We had some very kind donations for our raffle: a voucher from Trevena Cross Garden Centre; a meal for two from The Queens Arms; a Friends T-shirt from Urban Gypset in Helston; a bottle of whisky; a free-range chicken from Dale's Butchers in Helston; and a spa foot treatment package.

The event raised almost £200, despite the wet weather and the clash with the Wimbledon men's final.

## **What is The Friends for?**

The Friends of St Breaca Church was founded in 2015 to unite all those, in the local community and further afield, who wish to be

connected with the Church of St Breaca in the village of Breage, in West Cornwall.

Funds raised by and for the Friends are used for the restoration, repair, upkeep and insurance of the fabric of the church and its contents. Thus, the Friends plays an important role in ensuring that future generations can enjoy all that St Breaca Church has to offer.

The Friends, through this newsletter and the website, provides members with information about the Church of St Breaca, including its activities, history and conservation needs.

## **A broken window pane**

The first call on The Friends funds was to replace a window pane that had fallen out and smashed. This cost The Friends £60.

## **No bats in the belfry**

The first stage of our roof project, part-funded by the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund, was to carry out a survey to establish whether any bats live in the church. Fortunately, there are none, so the work can proceed.

We hope the project proper will get under way early in 2016.

## Conserving the murals

The Church of England has recognised the Breage Church murals as one of its 100 Church Treasures nationwide selected for special conservation work. A detailed survey of the paintings was carried out in 2014, and a grant has been awarded for the conservation work itself. Once the roof project has been carried out, the work on the paintings will be able to start.

## St Christopher

Breage Church has a wonderful painting of St Christopher. But who was he?

St Christopher's popularity comes from his role as patron saint of travellers and from a superstition that if you looked at his image you would not die that day. This is why in some churches (including Breage) his painting is on the wall opposite the entrance so that his image would be the first thing you see, and why people wear medallions with his picture on them.

Legend says that Christopher was a huge man, and tells us that he worshipped the Devil until he noticed that the Devil was frightened at the sight of a cross by the roadside; he then

converted to Christianity. As part of his duties as a Christian he helped travellers to cross a flooded river, using a lantern to light their way. One day, a child came to the river. Christopher carried him across, but found him surprisingly heavy. The child told him that he was Jesus and that he had carried the weight of the world on his shoulders, and the weight of the creator of the world ('Christopher' translates as 'carrier of Christ'). The child gave Christopher a staff, which flowered the next day as proof that his words were true. Christopher preached in Lycia, before being martyred by beheading.

## Polglase and Johns families

Two sisters from Michigan visited Breage recently, and were delighted to find the gravestone of their great-great-great grandparents, Robert and Eliza Polglase. They also know that their great-great grandfather Thomas Johns died in Wheal Vor Mine in 1845. They would like to get in touch with other members of their family. Please contact Chris Dale (details on page 4) if you may be related and would like to get in touch.

## Church open for lights switch-on

The Friends of St Breaca will be serving mulled wine and mince pies in church on the evening of 5 December, after the Breage Christmas lights are switched on. Tea, coffee and juice will also be available. Everyone is welcome.

## Friends events in 2016

### Anniversary event in May

The Friends was launched on 20 May 2015. We will hold an event in church sometime in May to mark the first anniversary.

### Summer concert

During summer 2016, we plan to hold a concert in church. Details of this and other events will be available on our website, and publicised locally.



## Join the Friends

You can help secure the future of our village church in Breage by joining The Friends of St Breaca Church. There is no fixed subscription, but we suggest a minimum annual sum of £10. If you would like to join, please ask Chris Dale for an application form.

## Help the Friends

Would you like to help out at Friends events? Or help with background tasks like keeping the membership register or website up to date? Or perhaps you feel you could bring something to the work of the Friends committee, helping to plan events and fundraising?

Whatever kind of involvement you would like, the first step is to have a chat with Chris Dale, chair of the Friends committee. We welcome any help you are able to offer.

## Contact details

All enquiries should be made to:

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