

Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard

Number 5

June 2013

Staying in Touch

Apart from reading this newsletter, which will be sent out every 3-4 months, you can stay in touch:

- by 'Liking' our Facebook page – www.facebook.com/lightcliffchurchyard
- on Twitter @FOSMchurchyard
- by phone on 07941 286821
- by email on lightcliffchurchyard@gmail.com

We hope to see or hear from you soon.

Best wishes,

Angela Monaghan

Chair

Comments, ideas and suggestions always welcome!

Contact: 07941 286821 or lightcliffchurchyard@gmail.com

Membership Application Form 2013

I wish to become a member of The Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard and confirm that I support the **aims** of the group, as set out in the constitution.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ **Postcode:** _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____ **Mobile:** _____

NB: Your details will be held on file and only used to communicate with you about The Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard. They will never be passed on without your permission. Your details will be removed from file at any time, on request.

Please return this form by email to lightcliffchurchyard@gmail.com
or by post to Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard, 50 Smith House Lane, Brighouse HD6 2LF

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Dear Friend,

We began 2013 with our Inaugural General Meeting, held on 10 January, which brought the Friends officially into existence – thanks to all those who attended.

At the meeting we agreed the **Development Plan** which has six aims for 2013:

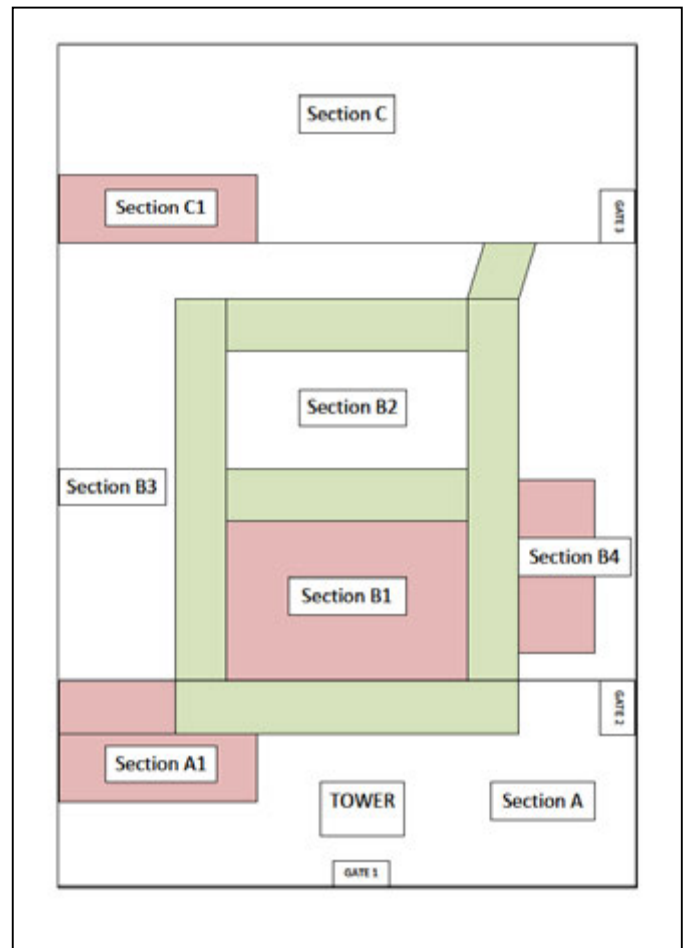
1. Clear sections A1 and B1 (see plan to right. NB: this is not to scale);
2. Maintain improvements to sections B4 and C1;
3. Improve the gate areas;
4. Keep paths clear;
5. Develop good communications and Information;
6. Survey all stonework.

Some of the clearance work will be done through working parties, but we also plan to bring in outside help to do some of the very heavy work, and for this we will need to fundraise first.

Working Parties

The first working party of 2013 will take place on:

**Sunday 10 February
2.00-4.00pm**



If you would like to join us, please meet at the churchyard at 2.00pm. We will be clearing section A1 (see photo below), which has a lot of brambles, so please wear warm, long-sleeved clothing and bring any of the following tools, if you have them (don't worry if you don't – we will have some to borrow):



secateurs, loppers, forks, tree saws, gardening gloves. It will probably be muddy too, so wellies are advisable!

Future working parties will be 2-4pm on:

- Sun 28 April
- Sun 30 June
- Sun 8 September

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Big Garden Birdwatch

A big thank you to the 5 friends who spent an hour counting birds at the churchyard on a cold but beautiful Sunday 26 February, as part of the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. We saw lots of long-tailed tits and greenfinches, along with blackbirds, robins, collared doves, crows, rooks, blue tits, chaffinches, magpies, woodpigeons and a treecreeper.

Our results have now been sent in to the RSPB, as part of their annual survey, and we are hoping to do a more detailed bird survey next month.

(Pictured right: Katherine, Alan and Sue counting birds in the churchyard.)



Visit to St. Chad's Churchyard, Headingley

We are organising a trip to St. Chad's in Headingley, Leeds, on **Saturday 9 March** to see what a successful churchyard renovation can do. We will be meeting at St. Matthew's Churchyard and leaving at 10.00am. If you would like to join us, to gain inspiration and ideas, then please contact Angela on 07941 286821 or click 'Going' on the event on our Facebook page – www.facebook.com/lightcliffchurchyard.

Dates for Your Diary

In addition to the events described above, we have a few other future events which may interest you:

- **Dawn Chorus Walk** – Tony Street, a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust volunteer, will be leading a Dawn Chorus Walk through the churchyard on **Saturday 18 May** starting at **4.30am**. This will be followed by breakfast at the church hall. Cost: donation
- **Open Churchyard** – on Sunday 9 June from 1.00-4.00pm we will be running Open Churchyard as part of 'Cherishing Churchyards Week'. Further details nearer the time, but will probably include guided walks, headstone rubbing and refreshments.
- **Talk** - on **Wednesday 6 March at 7.30pm**, Chris Helme will recall the lives of some of the local people buried in St. Matthew's Churchyard. This talk is organised by the Lightcliffe and District Local History Society and takes place at Lightcliffe CE Primary School. Entrance cost £2.00. For more information go to www.lightcliffehistory.org.uk

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What's Your Interest in the Churchyard?

We would love to know what your interest is in St. Matthew's Churchyard. Perhaps you have family members buried there, or walk through it with your dogs regularly, or are interested in local history, or want to preserve the area for wildlife. Or perhaps some other reason altogether? Please take a minute to send us an email on lightcliffchurchyard@gmail.com or call/leave a message on 07941 286821 and let us know! It will help us to take your interests into account when planning future activities.

Friends' Committee

At the General Meeting, the members elected a committee to run the group and those **committee members** are Charles Brickdale, John Brooke, Rev Kathryn Buck (Vicar), Angela Monaghan (Chair), Ian Philp and Michael Wood. The Committee will be working on behalf of the Friends to ensure we achieve our aims, and this will include fundraising, planning and communications. There are still vacancies on the Committee and, in particular, we need a Secretary and Treasurer. If you would like to join us, please contact Angela on 07941 286821 or lightcliffchurchyard@gmail.com.

Become a Member!

If you haven't already done so, please consider becoming a member of the Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard. There is no charge. To join, please complete the membership form below.

What a Difference a Day Makes

These two photos were taken 24 hours apart, on 13 and 14 January 2013.

