

St. Matthew's Churchyard

10 March 2012

Dear Friend,

Thank you for coming to the community meeting about St. Matthew's Churchyard, on 20 February. It was great to get such a good turnout and to receive so much support. Thank you also to the Brighthouse Echo for their coverage in the paper, both before and after the meeting.

Next Steps

Since our meeting, the St. Matthew's Parish Church Council (PCC) has met and confirmed its support for setting up a Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard. The next steps now are to **form the group**, arrange a **survey** of the churchyard and put together a **development plan**:

- **To form the group** we will need to draft a constitution (i.e. the rules of how it will run) and then take those back to the PCC for approval on 9 May.
- **The survey** will need to cover a wide range of issues, including the condition of the grounds and monuments, the wildlife and plants and the heritage and history. It will also need to find out what permissions will be needed and from who before any work starts. We will seek help with doing this.
- **The development plan** will then need to use the information from the survey to set out a plan of what should be done when, what resources (people, money, equipment, etc.) will be needed and where to get them from, communications, and more.

Steering Group

We are setting up a Steering Group to take forward these actions. This will include me, the Vicar, Kathryn Buck plus, we suggest, 2-3 other people. If you have experience in doing any of these things and would like to offer your help, please get in touch.*

Working Party

In the meantime, we will be holding our first Working Party at the churchyard and you are warmly invited to join us on:

Sunday 25 March
2.00-4.00pm

We will mostly be doing litter picking, before the plants start to take over again, but also hope to do some pruning in a few places. If you would like to take part, please wear gardening gloves and bring pruning shears/secateurs, if you have them.

If the weather is bad on the day, please call me first before setting out to check if it's still on – see my contact details below.*

Your Contact Details

If you have received this letter by post, that means I don't have an email address for you. If you have an email address and are happy to share it, please send an email to me at angela.monaghan@virgin.net to let me know. We'd like to stay in touch and it's so much quicker, easier and cheaper to communicate by email! If you don't, then that's fine.

Likewise, if you have a mobile phone and are happy to share the number with me, then I can send you messages by text, which is also quick and cheap to do. Please text me, with your name, to 07941 286821 with the subject Friends of St. Matthews's Churchyard.

St. Matthew's Churchyard

Can I please reassure everyone that we will only use your contact details to send you information about Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard and will never pass them on to anyone else. If you would like to stop receiving information, then just let me know (see my contact details below*) and I will take you off the list straight away.

Next Meeting

The next Friends meeting will probably take place in mid to late May, after the next PCC meeting. We will be in touch about a date nearer the time.

I have enclosed for your information a copy of the notes from the meeting on 20 February. If you have any comments or ideas then please get in touch.

Thanks again for your support and hope to see you on 25 March.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Monaghan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Angela Monaghan

***My Contact Details:**

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