

Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard

Number 2

May 2012

Dear Friend,

Since the last newsletter in March, we have had a successful working party, held our first steering group meeting and completed part of the churchyard survey. Read on for more details....

Working Party



Huge thanks to everyone who turned out to our first working party on Sunday 25 March. We were fortunate to have beautiful weather (a bit too hot if anything!) and lots of helpers and we were successful in clearing about 25 bags of rubbish and a small section of graves in the back (new) part of the churchyard. The Halifax Courier also came and took a few pictures (see left).

You are warmly invited to join our next working party on:

**Sunday 10 June
1.30-3.30pm**

We will be starting work on clearing a section near the entrance on Till Carr Lane. Please come dressed for tackling brambles and bring thick gardening gloves and pruners/secateurs if you have them.

We will also be offering **headstone rubbing** for children - if you have children/grandchildren who would be interested in this then please bring them along. And we will have a **refreshments stall** - any offers of help or baking would be really welcome!

If the weather is bad, please call or text 07941 286821 first to check if it's still on.

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Survey

The Living Churchyards Project (part of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust) has started on a survey of the churchyard. Two of their skilled volunteers – Tony Street and Julian Roberts (see right) – spent a couple of hours at the churchyard on a chilly May morning and will be coming back to complete their work on 5 June. They are recording all the species of plants, birds and wildlife they find and advising us on how best to proceed. Many thanks to both of them for sharing their time and knowledge with us.



Steering Group

A small Steering Group, comprising Rev Kathryn Buck, Mike Wood, Colin Painten, John Brooke and Angela Monaghan met on 26 April and is now drawing up the group's constitution and developing the management plan for the churchyard. We will be working closely with the Parish Church Council (PCC) at all stages.

If anyone else would like to get involved in the Steering Group, they would be most welcome.

Your Contact Details

If you have received this letter by post, that means we 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 angela.monaghan@virgin.net to let us 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.

We will only ever 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 please let us know.

Comments, ideas and suggestions always welcome!
Contact: 07941 286821 or angela.monaghan@virgin.net