

# The Flame

**In our second edition of the Flame newsletter the vicar wrote, 'the potential of the Friends of St Aidan is enormous, both in terms of a virtual community of people who hold our church and churchyard as a special place in their hearts, and as a source of support, resourcing and encouragement for those who bear the day to day responsibility for their upkeep'.**

We are now in the fifth year since the formation of the Friends of St Aidan, and are delighted to report the following projects have been supported and completed:

- The votive candle stand by the Shrine to St Aidan
- The restoration of the St Barnabas' Window
- The restoration of the Apex Cross on the roof of the north transept



## Annual meeting 2014

The annual meeting for 2014 was held on the Feast Day of St Aidan, 31 August, in the church. We discussed the events which had taken place during 2013-2014.

- The dinner held in the Castle Hotel (The Middle) in November 2013
- Musical performances in the church: St Andrews University Madrigal Choir, Andy and Margaret Watchorn, and a Baroque Concert
- The completion of the restoration of the Apex Cross

The following ideas/suggestions were then discussed;

- The possibility of a project for The Rediscovery of the 1832 Crypt, to view the Forster Coffins
- The ongoing project to restore the church gates
- Cleaning the church due to the mess being caused by the swallows nesting in the church entrance. We discussed the possibility of engaging with a professional company should the cleaning become too onerous for the current volunteer
- Keeping the graveyard tidy, strimming around the headstones - some of the male Friends agreed to help if required
- The possibility of some form of lighting along the path to the church, maybe solar-powered
- Noel Page, a local resident and shop owner, had agreed to run in the Great North Run in September 2014 to raise funds

## Fundraising

On Friday 17 October, an 'Evening for Friends with Friends' was held in the Castle Hotel (The Middle) in Bamburgh. Over seventy people attended, a tasty two course dinner was served, there were some splendid raffle prizes and we were entertained with music by a local band, 'Whisky Butler'. A fun evening was enjoyed by all and we raised over £800.



Noel Page successfully completed the Great North Run in September 2014, raising over £1000; a big 'WELL DONE' to Noel.

## Musical Events

### The St Andrews University Madrigal Group

We are very fortunate to enjoy annually, a musical performance by the St Andrews University Madrigal Group. The group was formed in 1946 by the late Evelyn Webb, then a student at the University of St Andrews. This student choir consists of sixteen singers and the culmination of each year's work is the annual summer tour, which includes a visit to St Aidan's Church, Bamburgh, in May. The Church becomes alive as they delight us with a variety of their madrigals along with unaccompanied vocal music from all periods.



### Andy and Margaret Watchorn

Another regular event held in St Aidan's Church for the benefit of the Friends of St Aidan, is a concert by Andy and Margaret Watchorn. They have many years of experience playing the Northumbrian Pipes and fiddle, they delight us not only with their wonderful music, but also by giving an interesting history of the instruments they play. If you missed seeing them in July, they will be performing again on Thursday 3 September 2015, at 7.30pm.



## Projects

The restoration of the church entrance gates is planned to start on 27 August 2015. Hatchments provide a valuable part of the history and atmosphere of our church and demonstrate admiration and respect for the past. Plans are in progress for funding the restoration of one of the Hatchments.



## Event

**St Aidan's Church and Friends**  
are holding a 'Harvest Luncheon' at Budle Hall, Bamburgh  
on Saturday 3 October 2015, 12.30pm for 1.00pm

Tickets are £15 and include a glass of wine.

Tickets can be obtained from Sheila Bacon, 01668 214585, Gillian Bardgett, 214164, Linda Kirby 214589 or any member of the PCC.