

Application for Membership

I wish to join The Friends of West Mersea Parish Church by paying:
£2 per month or £25 per year by **Banker's Order**.
*I enclose a **cheque** for £25 (or more if wished, £.....) for one year's subscription, payable to **The Friends of West Mersea Parish Church**.
*(delete as applicable)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

E-mail: _____ Tel: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Friends of West Mersea Parish Church - Gift Aid Declaration
(Please complete this part of the form if you are a UK tax payer and wish to "Gift Aid" your subscription.)

I request that The Friends of West Mersea Parish Church treat all my payments to them as gift aid donations.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Friends of West Mersea Parish Church - Bankers Order

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Standing Order.
Insert details of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager _____ Bank/Building Society

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Please pay, until further notice, The Friends of West Mersea Parish Church, Barclays Bank, 10 Yorick Road, West Mersea, CO5 8NG
Sort Code: **20-22-67**, Account Number: **43164136**, the sum of:

*£2 at the beginning of each calendar month

*£25 annually on the _____

*or (please specify amount) _____ *(delete as applicable)

Donor's full name (please print): _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

My Sort Code: _____ My Account Number: _____

This order cancels any existing order in force in favour of The Friends of West Mersea Parish Church.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this entire form to The Membership Secretary, The Friends of West Mersea Parish Church, High Street, West Mersea, CO5 8QD

Web site: www.fwmpc.org.uk

Email: admin@merseacofe.org

BECOME A FRIEND OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL



West Mersea Parish Church
High Street
West Mersea
Essex
CO5 8QD

WEST MERSEA
PARISH CHURCH

The Friends would like to thank Printwize,
James Weaver and Martin Wade
for making this brochure possible

REGISTERED CHARITY

From Sea to Shore and Tower to Town

On Mersea Island, standing prominently at the heart of West Mersea town is the parish church of St Peter and St Paul. Sailors on the River Blackwater see the historic 11th Century tower as a Landmark and know they have arrived somewhere special. Words related to the building such as ragstone, septaria and tessellated give an evocative taste of the history that lies all around.

The church is the most ancient and arguably the most interesting building in West Mersea. Linked to the monastery founded by St Cedd at Bradwell in about 654, there has been a church on the same site in the centre of this fishing and rural community since that time. Our present building is thought to date from around 960, the oldest part being the base of the tower



Evidence of each period in history is shown in various parts of the building such as Roman tiles and brick in the tower and Tudor roof trusses. Irreplaceable artefacts such as Saxon carvings, a stone coffin lid from 13th century and wall paintings from 15th century name but a few of the gems that form part of the building. The founding of five bells by Thomas Gardiner in 1717 reputedly inspired Sabine Baring-Gould to compose 'Now the Day is Over' to fit the five chimes



To single out any one feature, the most recent addition of the Fisherman's stained glass window has to be seen back lit by the sun, reflecting a whorl of azure, orange and gold. Anyone who has a passion for history and ancient buildings cannot fail to be moved by the ambience of this monument.

Why join the Friends?

The Friends of West Mersea Parish Church is an independent non-religious organisation with charitable status, outside of the Parochial Church Council, formed to promote the care, restoration, preservation and improvement of the building. This ancient monument requires ongoing funds to keep it in good repair. The pressures of finance and self-funding require money to be generated by the local community and friends, outside of the regular church going congregation.

The aim of the Friends of St Peter and St Paul is to involve everyone who cares for the beauty and history of the building, whether or not they are religious or a resident of West Mersea. Many people who live on the Island and those that visit are concerned that historic buildings are passed on to future generations in the same good condition that we received them from our ancestors. Becoming a Friend will help achieve this.

The intention of the Friends is not just to ask for money but also to play an active role in the community. Friends will be involved in decision making as to what they would like to see happening at the church and encouraged to participate in helping organise, or just attend, a variety of events throughout the year.



Membership

For £2.00 per month or £25.00 per year you can become a Friend and reap the benefits whilst at the same time helping preserve our heritage. Some will want to just appreciate the look of the building, others to enjoy concerts, exhibitions, social events and hopefully to get involved and feel involved.

