

## AUCTION OF PROMISES A Huge Thank You.

If you've visited St Marks Church in recent weeks hopefully you will have noticed the new path from the Lych gate to the Church. Whilst the rural nature of the path remains, in fact the surface is made of resin bonded stone. This new path has been laid up to the porch eliminating a small step, so that the entry into the church can be easily negotiated by both wheelchairs, buggies and prams, as well as helping people with difficulty walking on uneven paths, making the Church easily accessible to all throughout the year.

The final part of the project is the re setting of the flag stone step at the entrance of the main door to ensure a level surface. This is soon to be completed.



The money for this project was raised by the 'Auction of Promises' event, held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February in the Church Hall. It was a huge success raising approximately £6,000 on the evening. It was an extremely entertaining evening thanks to the talented Auctioneer Tom Lofts, who not only made the auction engaging and witty, but also helped ensure that each Promise reached its maximum value, often beyond its true worth.



One of the top selling Promises was a week in a six bedroom house in the Pyrenees Atlantiques. It was so popular, that the owners most generously offered a repeat Promise with the holiday house eventually selling three times. Other promises which were repeated with gentle encouragement from the auctioneer included the baking batch of three cakes to six cakes, the simnel cake to two cakes and the lift to Heathrow and back also doubled. One of the high spots of the auction was when the Auctioneer encouraged the Reverend Alison Craven to get the bids going for her offer of 'Holy Ironing', and the amount so generously given, means she will probably be ironing until Christmas!



We would so like to thank the local community who really pulled together to make the evening a success from organising the event, producing marketing material, creating flower and bunting displays to decorate the hall, and

providing delicious food. We would also like to thank our own talented band who played gentle background music.

Thank you to all who contributed the promises and those who bid for them so generously. Over fifty promises were given. Our thanks also to Keith Witham and Surrey County Council for the grant towards the cost of the path.

The Vicar commented: "We were enormously thrilled by the generosity of our local community. There are many people we need to thank, who all played a vital role in helping us raise the money. The new path is important in

helping us to ensure that access to our beautiful Church is available to all. It may well mean that someone who is less able, will soon to be able to attend the Church.

The Promises Auction Team

