

Ever thought about volunteering for the Friends?

Christmas is approaching and New Year will be hot on its heels. Why not make a New Year resolution to join our band of volunteers? Several members already help at our events, but we always need more. Here we talk to Rosemary Allen, one of our most active volunteers.

‘Time flies when you’re having fun’ could be Rosemary Allen’s motto when she talks about volunteering for the Friends.

Salisbury born and bred, Rosemary and her late husband moved back to the city in 1991 and wanted to get involved in its life. So they joined the Friends.

“I started by delivering the newsletter – my patch was from Churchfields to Lower Bemerton,” she recalls. “Over the years I got to know a lot of people.”



Rosemary Allen (left) with Sue Ash and Veronica Armstrong from the office at the Mayor’s tea dance for the Friends in the Guildhall.

Soon she was decorating the window in the Friends’ old office. Many people will remember her Christmas and Easter displays.

When the Friends began holding regular events, Rosemary’s experience of running the Cathedral’s Sunday morning coffee rota for seven years meant she was a natural for helping at the Friends’ annual volunteers’ tea party in the Canon Treasurer’s garden, the twice-yearly coffee mornings in the Bell Tower Tearooms and one-off events such as the Mayor’s tea dance. She has also been a steward at the annual open gardens event.

“It’s great fun, I so enjoy it,” she says.



Regular volunteers Susan and Trevor Branch, Patrick Thomas and Anthony Weale at the volunteers’ tea party.

Rosemary has some advice for both the recently-retired and the long-retired: “Get involved and keep on volunteering through the bad times, such as when you have been widowed,” she says.

“Volunteering will see you through those bad times.

“And for single people whose life has been their work, retirement can make them feel no longer needed.

“To volunteer is to be needed, and the great thing about it is that it exposes you to a wider circle of people and stops you feeling isolated. I would recommend it to anyone.”

- If you are interested in volunteering for the Friends, contact the office on 01722 335161 or 555190.