

# THE FRIENDS OF SAFFRON WALDEN PARISH CHURCH

## St Mary the Virgin

THIRD NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019

Welcome to the third Newsletter from the Friends which we hope you will enjoy.

As you know we have a mission to fulfil the duty that is ours of preserving this Church in all its beauty for those who come after and this year we have continued that work

### **Recent Projects completed**

You will have noticed that there are new benches outside the west door of the Church and the Friends have been delighted to sponsor one of them. We hope that they will be regularly used, especially in the summer as all our visitors have the opportunity to sit and admire our magnificent Church.



## 'St Mary's Saffron Walden, A History & Guide'

This new book has sold so well during its first year that we have organised a re-print especially in light of the fact that we are expecting many visitors to the Flower Festival in August. Selling at £5 the book offers huge knowledge of the Church to visitors and to us all as well as providing funds for the Friends to continue their work in our Church.



## Future Projects

- The Friends will be funding **New Carpets** which will appear either side of the Nave making this a much tidier area which I am sure you will agree will make a great improvement
- Discussion of plans for the **Muniments Room** have commenced although work will not be considered until after current, in hand building projects are completed. The Friends have expressed an interest in contributing in some way once more detail is available.
- Work on the re-siting of the **Audley Tomb**. The Friends will contribute to the cost of this major project which we hope to see started this year. It will be such a delight to have the Tomb available for all to see in the north aisle and be a useful educational tour especially for visiting children.
- A new site has been agreed for the **Friends Banner** and work will commence on the new stand this year in order to display this beautiful work of art in all its glory. The new site is in the Remembrance Chapel area where there are already several items donated by the Friends.
- In the long term we are still holding funds to contribute to a **New Lighting Scheme** once it commences- date as yet unknown.

## Ongoing Projects

**Kneelers.** Anyone can donate a kneeler to commemorate a loved one or an occasion and can choose a central design. We charge £40 per kneeler to cover the cost of the canvas and the wool.

The Ladies Sewing Circle meet every Monday morning at 9.30 until 11o'clock at The Priory, Common Hill. Should you be interested in a kneeler or in joining the Sewing Circle please contact Tessa Hawkes. Tel no: 01799 523888



## Events

This year we are organising a **Friends Cathedral Trip** to Peterborough, which we are really excited about.

The trip will be on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June and will include an escorted tour of the Cathedral, our own 1662 Morning Service and a visit to the Museum with some free time for lunch and sightseeing.

We plan for this to be an annual event and will keep you posted on plans for next year.

## Year of Invitation

Last year we launched our '**Year of Invitation**' when we focused on encouraging as many new members as possible to join the Friends. Existing members were asked to try to enrol at least one member each and anyone reading the Posters or the Parish News and feeling inspired we hope will join us. This generated several new members but more are always welcome. Over the years there have been numerous major and minor projects taking place in the Church and many of those have been assisted or totally funded by the Friends and we hope to be able to continue that work well into the future. As a member you will feel part of that process and can have a sense of pride in the work we carry out. The AGM is an ideal time to come along and offer your ideas and Council members are always around and will be happy to hear your thoughts and take them to their next meeting.

## Joining the Friends

We do hope that you have found something of interest in our third newsletter and maybe, if you are not a member already, **then perhaps you would like to join?** There is an application form on the back of our updated leaflet, or you could check the Church website and find us under 'Groups' or ask one of our Council Members.

*A gentle reminder to all our members that subscriptions are due by **31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.***

## **Legacies**

During this last few years we have received legacies totalling £3,250 for which we are most grateful especially as we have just made our largest investment in the Church and there are still large projects which we would like to help fund. If you are interested in making arrangements for a legacy to the Friends please speak to one of the Council officers who will be pleased to assist.

## **Message from our Chairman**

After the major expenditure last year on the Welcome Furniture we are not currently embarking on any new major projects. The new bench opposite the west door is a useful gift in a quiet year.

At the Festival Service last October the altar frontal in memory of Susan Walker was dedicated. It is with sadness but great gratitude that we pay tribute to Margaret Helmore who has recently died. She, like Susan, was a supremely talented member of the Sewing Circle. Margaret worked on so many kneelers, in particular those in the Chancel, Choir and the Memorial Chapel. How grateful are we for the work of those who have brought so much colour into our Church.

*Lawrence Gooderham*

## **The Friends' Prayer**

We thank Thee O Father, for the precious heritage of our Church of St Mary the Virgin, and for the privilege of Enrolment as Friends of Thy House of Prayer.

We pray that, increasingly, we may value, and use this sacred trust, and with loving reverence, care for Thy House.

May it become more and more, a spiritual home, and a means of blessing to this town and neighbourhood.

Guide us as Friends of the Church, in all our efforts for the promotion of Thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Who's who?**

This year at our **AGM** we were able to give a big welcome to our new Patron Lady Braybrooke, to say farewell to our Treasurer Christine Lawrence and thank her for all her hard work and finally to welcome our new Treasurer Sandra Marsh who we are sure will be a great asset to the Friends Council.

**Patron:** Lady Braybrooke | **President :** The Rector Revd. Canon David Tomlinson

Chairman : Lawrence Gooderham, Secretary : Pamela Mugliston, Treasurer : Sandra Marsh

Council Members: Robin Betser, Michael Dix, Kathryn Fiddock, Revd Paula Griffiths, Tessa Hawkes, Joe Hordern, Rosanne Kirkpatrick, Gill Lovegrove, Robin O'Neill, John Read, Anne Rhodes and Denis Tindley.