

THE FRIENDS OF SAFFRON WALDEN PARISH CHURCH

St Mary the Virgin

FOURTH NEWSLETTER SPRING 2020

Welcome to the fourth 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

Banner Stand

We finally have a dedicated banner stand for the beautiful banner made by the Ladies of the Sewing Circle way back in 2017. The stand was made at Glendale Forge with a lot of love and attention to detail. It has a brass plaque on the front giving our details for all to see. I am sure you will have noticed that it proudly stands in the South Chapel area which houses many items sponsored by the Friends over the years. Surrounded by flowers it was a highlight of the Flower Festival held in August 2019 as you will see from this photo. Several Friends members helped with stewarding at the Festival.



New Carpets for the Nave

The new carpets either side of the Nave are now in place and make this a pleasing area as you approach the Chancel steps.



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

This new book continues to sell well and is a feature of the Friends Bookstand along with our postcards and prints. We look forward to good sales this year especially during the summer months.

Future Projects

Cushions have been requested for the seats on the new carpets in the nave. These will be made by the Ladies of the Sewing Circle and will be much appreciated when complete.

No further news on plans for the **Muniments Room** but this could be a very exciting project so watch this space. We look forward to being involved.

Work on the re-siting of the **Audley Tomb**. No further news except we hope to see work 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.

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 kneelers are a beautiful feature as you walk down the aisle and are well used.

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

On the 6th June a group of Friends set off for **Peterborough Cathedral** in glorious sunshine. We had a coffee in the Cathedral Cafe and then split into two groups for a tour of the Cathedral. Peterborough Cathedral is an impressive building with many internal points of interest. It is one of the finest Norman Cathedrals in England. Founded as a monastic community in 654AD and then became one of the most significant medieval abbeys in the country. It was the burial place of two queens and the scene of Civil War upheavals.



Most of the group had lunch in the Cathedral Cafe, some in other parts of the town and after a walk around we all met up to visit the Museum. This tour began with an escorted visit to the herbal garden which had served the kitchens when the building was a hospital. Exhibits ranged from settings showing how the surgery of the hospital would have looked to what is happening now in this buzzing city. The first house recorded on the site was in the 16th century, it became a hospital in 1856 and then a museum in 1931 with the Art Gallery added in 1939.

This year we are visiting **Lincoln Cathedral and Castle** on Monday 8th June and we look forward to another exciting and interesting day as well as enjoying some fellowship together.



Although our **Year of Invitation** is over we hope that you will continue to encourage new members to join. Over the years we have contributed or totally funded many projects at St Mary's 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 fourth 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 31st March.*

Legacies

Over the years we have received legacies which have helped both large and small projects, for which we are most grateful. 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

With great sadness we said goodbye to our Rector David Tomlinson who had been our President for the last 11 years. He always encouraged the work of the Friends and agreed that our Festival Service at Evensong in May should be incorporated in the 10am Patronal Service in September. He used our prayers in the Service and dedicated banners, kneelers and other work completed by the Friends during the year. The Building Project at the West End of the Church will always be a legacy to him and is so much in line with our objectives of 'carrying out improvements and adornments to the Church' and to which we were able to make a substantial financial contribution.

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?

Patron: Lady Braybrooke

President : Position vacant

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

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