

# THE FRIENDS OF SAFFRON WALDEN PARISH CHURCH

## St Mary the Virgin

### SIXTH NEWSLETTER SPRING 2022

Welcome to the Sixth Newsletter from the Friends and the second in a reduced format due to inactivity caused by the pandemic but we hope you will enjoy the read.

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**

This year there are a few small projects to report on as we are gradually being able to move forward

**Flower Pedestals** We have purchased two new pedestals and had one refurbished so that the our Flower Arranging Ladies can show off their wonderful displays to their best advantage. I am sure you would agree that we owe them all a big thank you for all their work during the year.

**Oak Biers/Funeral Trestles** Two new biers replace the old ones which were becoming no longer fit for the purpose. The new ones, being oak, should last for a number of years to come.

**Server Chair Cushions.** The Ladies Sewing Circle have made two new splendid cushions for the Server Chairs which have been received with gratitude and are much appreciated.

**Chalice Covers.** New and replacement storage covers have been provided for all the chalices.

**Kneelers.** The Ladies continue with their work making more kneelers for us all and for those wishing to have a memorial. You will have noticed the return of the cushions after being stored away during the pandemic. Despite regular spraying there was a small amount of moth and mice damage but that is all in hand and it is great to see them all lining the pews again for our comfort.

### **Projects in Hand**

**Notice board.** We have a new notice board in hand, to match the current wooden ones with the green baize. This new board will be for the sole use of the Baptism Team. You will have noticed the display of hands each year depicting the baptisms that have taken place in the previous year. The current board is not really fit for the purpose and we will be pleased when the new board is in place.

**Magnifying Mirror** We have received a request for a magnifying mirror trolley in order to see the ceiling displays more clearly . We are currently trying to source a supplier and hope that we may get some advice on our Cathedral trips this year.

### **Future Projects**

**New Lighting Scheme.** In the long term we are still holding funds to contribute to this huge project as soon as it commences.

### **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 are again meeting 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**

**Cathedral Visits.** As you all know we had two attempts to arrange a visit to **Lincoln Cathedral** during the pandemic but both had to be aborted for obvious reasons, however we hope to make a new date for the autumn of this year and we will keep you posted.

In the meantime we are off to **Ely Cathedral** on 28<sup>th</sup> April and **Bury St Edmunds Cathedral** on 22<sup>nd</sup> June both trips have proved to be popular and are fully booked with reserve lists. We should have news and photos for the next Newsletter.

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

This book continues to sell well on our Bookstall along with the posters and post cards. Hopefully this summer will bring more tourists and sales will blossom again.

### **Year of Invitation**

Many of you will remember the Year of Invitation which we launched back in 2019 which proved to be quite successful. Existing members were asked to try to enrol at least one member each and anyone reading the Parish News, the Grapevine and the Church website reading about our various activities might feel inspired and we hope will join us.

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 sixth 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.*

## **Legacies**

During the last few years we have received several legacies for which we are most grateful especially as 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**

One of the most important aspects of the Friends has been much in evidence during the last few difficult years where our ability to take on very necessary small items of work, which always had the agreement of the PCC and would not have been possible without our help.

We have recently lost several long-standing members of the Friends who are all sadly missed. The death of Michael Dix has been a great loss to me as he and I became good friends during his long period as Treasurer.

Several of us grow older and we would very much welcome new members of all ages and particularly young people to carry on the good work. Please join us to become involved in all of our projects large and small.

Lawrence Gooderham

**AGM** We look forward to seeing you all at the Patronal Service , followed by the AGM in the Parish Rooms on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **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 :** The Rector Revd. Jeremy Trew

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

Council Members: Robin Betser, Tessa Hawkes, Joe Hordern, Gill Lovegrove, Robin O'Neill, and Denis Tindley.