

THE FRIENDS OF SAFFRON WALDEN PARISH CHURCH

St Mary the Virgin

SECOND NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018

Welcome to the second 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 donated to a major project, the largest amount in any one donation since we were formed back in 1933.

Recent Projects completed

Welcome Furniture

Our largest contribution this last year was almost £30,000 towards the major Building Project taking place in the Church and that money paid for all the Welcome Furniture and the North Aisle magazine cupboard. The Welcome furniture can be seen as soon as you enter the West Door and is quite magnificent. This is the highest amount the Friends have contributed to any single project in their history and for that we are very proud. We are sure that you will agree it was money well spent as the furniture has been so beautifully crafted and is proving to be a great asset to the Church.





The cupboards under the shelving look as though they are part of the original construction - wonderful!

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

As you will see from the Friends Bookstand, the revised edition of this book is now available at a mere £5, worth every penny. Huge thanks go to John Read for all his hard work and patience in the production of the book and to all his many helpers along the way. Profits from the book will go towards future projects sponsored by the Friends. The book will also be available to purchase at the Parish Office during opening hours, if supplies have temporarily run out on the stand, and also at the TIC in the Market Square from 1st April. Your support will be greatly appreciated.



Leche Tomb

The translation work for the Leche Tomb has been completed and is in place. We hope that you find this adds to interesting focal points within the Church.



Future Projects

Discussion of plans for the **Muniments Room** have commenced although work will not be considered until after the current Building Project is 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** is a future project and will not take place until after the Major Building Project is complete but the Friends will contribute towards the costs.

Plans for a stand for the new **Friends Banner** are still in hand and we hope to have this completed in this coming year.

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. It was the Rev. Peter Harlow, 40 years ago, whose idea it was that we needed a touch of colour in the Church. He suggested banners and kneelers and for anyone who was interested to come to a meeting at the Rectory and about eight of us assembled.

The advice we were given was to keep to very few colours, the contrast would come from the variety of stitches. Also not to make it too easy with large stitches as people only get bored if there is not challenge!

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.

We 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

Year of Invitation

This year we launched our '**Year of Invitation**' when we are focusing on encouraging as many new members as possible to join the Friends. Existing members are 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. 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 second 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 leaflet, or you could check the Church website www.stmarysaffronwalden.org 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

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

This newsletter features the Welcome Furniture which has been paid for out of the resources of the Friends. When I was Secretary in the 1970's we were responsible for the financing of the inner West Doors. In the 1990's we, with the generous help of others, produced the Chapel of Remembrance.

Now 20 years on we can take pleasure in another major achievement which, I hope you agree, is a lovely addition to our Church and its life.

Looking back to the 1970's our Church was beautiful but somewhat austere. So much colour has been brought into the Church by the continuing work of the Sewing Circle and the projects which I have mentioned having brought good modern craftsmanship of which we, in our day, can be proud.

It is with great pleasure that I can announce Lady Brookbrooke has agreed to become our new Patron.

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 : The Rector Revd. Canon David Tomlinson

Chairman : Lawrence Gooderham Secretary : Pamela Mugliston Treasurer : Christine Lawrence

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.