

# THE FRIENDS OF SAFFRON WALDEN PARISH CHURCH

## St Mary the Virgin

### SEVENTH NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023

Welcome to the Seventh Newsletter from the Friends which will in future remain in this format.

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.

This year saw the loss of our Chairman the late Lawrence Gooderham which was a shock to us all, he will be sorely missed. Lawrence had been associated with The Friends and the Church as a whole for over 40 years and with an excellent memory had been a real asset to us newer members. Your Council are working on some form of memorial in his memory, we will keep you informed.

Denis Tindley, as you know, has taken over as Chairman and this newsletter takes the opportunity to welcome him into that post and we are sure he will steer us along the right course for the future. We also take this opportunity to welcome Chris Knight to the Friends Council.

### **Recent Projects completed**

This year saw fewer projects as we gather funds ready to help with larger projects looming for the Church. We did however complete the following:

**Baptism Noticeboard** The Baptism Team were delighted with their new Noticeboard and I am sure that you will have seen it and the display of feet showing all the children who were baptised in the 2022/23. The details are updated for each Mothering Sunday and you will possibly note that even more children were baptised 2022/23 which is a lovely sign of hope for the future.



**Framed Prints** Last autumn we were sent some prints from the family of the late Rev'd Sinker who was the incumbent during the 40's and 60's. Two of these have now been framed and hang in the upstairs small meeting hall in the Parish Rooms. I am sure that you will feel they brighten up that room considerably. Copies of the colour print on the left is available for sale at £5 each. They are too large to display in Church on our Bookstand but ask any Council Member and they will make one available for you.

### **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. Preliminary discussions are taking place so things are happening and we will keep you posted ( see the article in the March edition of the Parish News). I am sure you all agree that this is a much needed project to bring our lighting in the Church up to modern standards.

### **Ongoing Projects**

**Kneelers.** Anyone can commission 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

### ***'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.

### **"This is the Only Moment"**

A new book for our stand. A selection of "Poems from a Journey" written by Paula Griffiths who is kindly donating the proceeds of the sales to The Friends. Thank you Paula.

### **Events**

#### **Cathedral Visits**

We had two visit in the spring and summer to **Ely Cathedral** on 28<sup>th</sup> April and **Bury St Edmunds Cathedral** on 22<sup>nd</sup> June . Both proved to be a great success with interesting tours of the Cathedrals and the opportunity to explore each town in the afternoons.

In September we finally made the trip to **Lincoln Cathedral** on a lovely sunny day. Sadly our Queen died the day before our visit so the official tour of the Cathedral was cancelled however we were able to walk around in the silence with just short readings from time to time to give us all time to reflect. After an amazing lunch we visited the Castle to see part of the Magna Carta, the prison cells and their chapel, more things to reflect upon.

**NB:** Photos from these visits were in the Parish News and also available on the website.

This year's visit will be to **Southwark Cathedral** on Tues 25<sup>th</sup> July and will include a lunch we can all enjoy together and the afternoon free to explore everything that the area has to offer. Check your emails and book as quickly as you can before remaining places are offered to the general congregation.

We are also looking at a Visit to Norwich Cathedral in November which we will link with time for Christmas shopping or site seeing whichever you prefer. More news to follow.

## **Newsflash Summer Event**

We are considering holding a Summer Event at the end of June or early July eg a Strawberry Tea , either in the grounds of the Church or in the Parish Rooms maybe, which we hope will raise some funds and very importantly offer an opportunity for us to socialise not only with our members but with the congregation and people from the town. This could only happen with your participation so if you would like to be involved could you please get in touch. Pamela 521697 or [pjmteddybear@btinternet.com](mailto:pjmteddybear@btinternet.com)

## **Joining the Friends**

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. September 2022 brought lots of enthusiasm for the future and ideas which are currently being discussed so watch for emails.

We do hope that you have found something of interest in our seventh 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. A new Legacy Leaflet is being prepared for our Bookstall please pick one up.

## **Message from our Chairman**

Dear Friends

This is my first message to you in my role as Chairman of the Friends. I feel very privileged and humbled to have been elected and to follow in the footsteps of Lawrence who did such a magnificent job over many years. My induction has been made so much easier by the great support I have received from Pamela.

It is pleasing to see that after 3 years, congregations at services in St Mary's are beginning to increase and we are welcoming new worshippers. I am convinced that many of our current parishioners have little awareness or appreciation of the contribution that the Friends make to the life and fabric of our Parish Church. Therefore I feel our focus must be on raising our profile and increasing our membership. Pamela and I will be grateful for your support for all our plans and activities.

With my best wishes

Denis

### **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.

**AGM** We look forward to seeing you all at the Patronal Service , followed by the AGM in the Parish Rooms in September , date to be confirmed, watch the website and Grapevines

### **Who's who?**

**Patron:** Lady Braybrooke

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

Chairman : Denis Tindley, Secretary : Pamela Mugliston, Treasurer : Sandra Marsh

Council Members: Robin Betser, Tessa Hawkes, Joe Hordern, Gill Lovegrove, Robin O'Neill, and our new member Chris Knight.