



THE FRIENDS OF SAFFRON WALDEN PARISH CHURCH

St Mary the Virgin

NINTH NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025

Welcome to the Ninth Newsletter from the Friends.

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 to do that work.

Our new Friends Notice Board has been busy advertising all the events this last year, with displays and photos changing regularly.

Recent Projects completed

The monthly archive display, using our new display cabinet, goes down really well and has raised a lot of interest.

We purchased a new Advent Candle this year which stood on the repaired (thank you John Mumford) display table and has stubby candles rather than the thin tall ones and it looked splendid throughout Advent (thank you Jane Knight and the team)

Future Projects

It is good news that the PCC has agreed to proceed with the Lighting Project, starting in mid-September when the bats have left the Church. I am delighted that we have been able to donate £60,000. The project has a shortfall of £38,000 at the time of writing (largely due to the curtailment of the VAT rebate) and our donation should help to encourage potential donors and grant givers. The Lighting Project was very dear to Lawrence Gooderham, our previous Chairman.

Noticeboards We have been approached by the Communications Team to refurbish, or where necessary replace, the A-frame and flat notice boards which appear around the Church from time to time. These will in future have a uniform design and some will have a plastic sleeve for advertising a mixture of Church events during the course of the year.

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. Work has commenced on a kneeler for the Friends so watch this space!

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 selection of "Poems from a Journey" written by Paula Griffiths who is kindly donating the proceeds of the sales to The Friends. These continue to sell well. Thank you Paula.

Gifted Etching

We were gifted an etching of the inside of St Mary's by local artist David Arnosohn which we put up for blind bidding and it was sold for £50 to Mark Vernon who made his bid at the Christmas Fair. We hope you enjoy the etching Mark.

Events

Cathedral Visits

This years visits were firstly to **Rochester Cathedral** on 8th April which of course has a very long history and an interesting story. It is said to be Britains second largest Cathedral. We lunched together and then went our separate ways, in the sunshine, to explore. Rochester stands on the Medway and has a Norman Castle directly opposite the Cathedral plus a High Street of interesting architectural features.

On 30th August we went to **St Albans Cathedral** for a morning tour, equally stunning and in beautiful grounds. We then travelled to Ware for lunch on the river and then through the restaurant garden onto a boat that took us on a sunny and leisurely and informative 2 hour trip which I think we all enjoyed.



Summer Event

We held our first **Bring and Share Lunch** on 30th June in the Parish Rooms after the 10.30am service and 30 Friends attended. This lunch was to welcome and get to know all new members and a few attended. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event and it was proposed that it would take place again next year.

Adventures in Iraq Richard and Paula Winters gave an interesting talk on their recent visit to Iraq. These intrepid travellers took us with them as they travelled through this ancient country and raised lots of interest from the questions asked afterwards. Thank you Richard and Paula.

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. We do hope that you have found something of interest in our ninth 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 were due by 31st 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 available on the Friends Bookstand.

Message from our Chairman

We will be sad to bid farewell to Joe and Pauline Hordern when they move to Yorkshire at the end of April to be nearer their daughter. Joe has been a member of Council for over 20 years, and his wise counsel, experience and commitment have made a major contribution to our work. We will miss them both and they go with our thanks and best wishes for their future happiness.

We now have an established annual programme of cathedral visits, talks and lunches: that these are so successful is mainly due to the organisational skills and determination of our secretary, Pamela. Thank you, Pamela, and my thanks to all members who help and participate in these enjoyable events

One of our main aims must be to grow our membership: please encourage other members of our Church community and anybody you know who is interested in the future wellbeing of St Mary's to join. The subscription is very modest!

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: Tessa Hawkes, Joe Hordern, Robin O'Neill, Chris Knight, Rebekah Auty and Vivian Falk.