

From the Chairman of the Friends of St Lawrence

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Dear Friend,

A quick look back on 2016, which proved to be yet another successful year for the Friends.

In accordance with the terms of the Friends Trust Deed, the incumbent automatically becomes an ex-officio Trustee and we have been delighted to welcome the new Vicar, Revd Dr Peter Waddell onto the Friends Committee.

As you know, the Friends have been asked to support the necessary repairs to the stone tracery around the windows, and we have pledged to raise £40,000 towards this project – the largest single pledge we have ever made. As at the end of 2015 we had contributed £15,500. We have yet to finalise our 2016 donation, but I expect this to take the funds raised to date to well in excess of £20,000.

In addition we still intend to fund refurbishment of the Coat of Arms and have a ring-fenced legacy for this project. Refurbishment of such an item requires lengthy discussions with conservator-restorers, the Diocese, the Church of England Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, and other parties, so it is not a straightforward project. However, I hope to be able to report progress at the end of 2017.

As ever, you gave great support to our planned events. Some of the highlights included our “Open Gardens” in June and we extend grateful thanks to the Tomson’s for again allowing us to use their wonderful garden at the Abbots House. We gave the Coffee Morning at the end of November a more Christmassy feel and this helped in achieving a best ever result. The Friends Choir presented a very well received and financially successful Christmas Concert.

Please keep a look out for the launch of a “Patron of the Friends of St Lawrence” scheme which we are planning to roll out in the second half of this year.

The members of the Friends Committee are Revd Dr Peter Waddell, Susan Coultrup, Dorothy Deane, Wendy Meldrum, Jan Taylor, Pat Colwell, Mark Palmer, and myself. The official Trustees of the Friends registered charity are Peter, Jan, Sue, Mark and Pat. I offer my sincere thanks to the Committee and everyone who contributes, in whatever way, to our continuing commitment to keep our lovely church in good order.

Here are this year’s planned activities to put in your diaries:

Monday 6 th February	Curry Night at Abbots Tandoori
Saturday 11 th March	Talk by Tony Eaton – “What if...? - 7.30pm in the Church Hall
Saturday 29 th April	Concert by Caritas Harmony Ladies Choir – 7pm in the Church
Saturday 3 rd June	Safari Supper
Saturday 8 th July	Toy and Puzzle Fair in the Church Hall, time TBA
Wednesday 6 th September	Chinese Night at TBA
Saturday 7 th October	Quiz Supper in the Church Hall, time TBA
Saturday 25 th November	Coffee Morning in the Church Hall (with the MU) – 10am – 1pm

Please put these dates in your diary now!

Thank you for your support and please don’t hesitate to contact any member of the Committee for further information.

Kind regards,
Andy
January 2017