

From the Chairman of the Friends of St Lawrence

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Dear Friend,

Every year I am humbled to report that, yet again, your support has generated another successful year for the Friends. We have just held our first committee meeting and have agreed to forward a further £7,500 to the Church towards our pledge of £40,000 for the necessary repairs to the stone tracery around the windows. This takes the total we have raised so far to £30,500.

I have to be realistic though. This pledge was made some 4 years ago and due to the difficulties associated with the Breakspear Room Extension project and a change of Architect the stone tracery project has not yet started and we need to be prepared for a significant increase in costs when the project does get underway. I will, of course, keep you updated as and when further information comes to hand.

Sourcing an acceptable contractor for the restoration and conservation of the Coat of Arms project is proving to be somewhat of a challenge, as work of this nature is very specific, and approved contractors appear to be few and far between. However, we have not lost heart and are still working towards having this work completed.

As ever, you gave great support to our planned events. Some of the highlights included the concert by Caritas Harmony in April, and I am delighted to report the Ladies will be returning to us in December for a Concert with a Christmas feel. Our new event the “Toy and Puzzle Fair” in July was well attended and successful and we plan to have a similar event at some point in the future. Our biannual Supper Quiz was its usual sell-out and the Coffee Morning at the end of November again achieved a best ever result.

We launched our new “Patron of the Friends of St Lawrence” scheme in October which has helped us by attracting some more regular income. There are “enticement” packs at the back of the Church and at all Friends events. Why not give some out to your own friends?

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 the remainder of this year’s planned activities to put in your diaries:

Saturday 24 th February	Photo Workshop (Sold Out)
Saturday 14 th April	Safari Supper
Saturday 23 rd June	1918/2018 Open Garden and Cream Tea (Abbots House Garden)
Wednesday 5 th September	Chinese Night at Aroma Kitchen
Saturday 6 th October	Fish and Chip Supper with Entertainment
Saturday 10 th November	Talk by Anders Bergquist (former Curate of this Parish) on distinguished Local Victorian Archaeologists
Saturday 24 th November	Coffee Morning in the Church Hall (with the MU) – 10am – 1pm
Saturday 15 th December	Caritas Harmony Christmas Concert (Church and Hall from 3pm)

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
February 2018