

## From the Chairman of the Friends of St Lawrence

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Dear Friend,

Thank you! You helped to make 2019 the most successful year in our history. Last year I reported that we would be able to fulfil our pledge of £40,000 towards the stonework repairs. Due to our continuing success, we were eventually able to increase that to £50,000. A truly amazing result. Those of you who visit the Church will see the project was completed at the end of November and we should all be proud that we have reversed the damage done using incorrect materials in the past.

In the latest newsletter you will have seen the culmination of the Royal Coat of Arms conservation. The result did not disappoint, and the revitalised Arms sits proudly back above the South West Door, awaiting lighting improvements so we can see it in its true glory.

During the stonework repairs it was noticed the Pebble dash on the South Wall is falling away and needs urgent attention. This was not part of the stonework project. The plan is to remove it completely and return the affected walls to their original state. So, that is the next project we have agreed to support. We have pledged to provide £10,000 by the end of this year and we are already over halfway to achieving that.

This year the committee said farewell to Sue Coultrup, but only farewell. Sue has been on the Friends committee for more years than she cares to remember and has been instrumental in creating many of the events which continue to be so successful. Sue also had overall responsibility for our catering arrangements and was one of our Trustees for the last few years. We will miss her positive contribution to committee meetings and all the things she did for the Friends, but I am delighted to say she has not gone far and is continuing to support albeit from the back benches. Thank you for everything Sue.

A word about a couple of events to look forward to this year. The Open Garden on 4<sup>th</sup> July will be part of the Abbots Langley Festival (ALF) and due to the date will have an “Independence Day” theme. The BBQ will be cooking most of the day, along with the other usual goodies. We also have a new event – an Afternoon Tea with Prosecco on 12<sup>th</sup> September. As so many of our events seem to have food firmly at the centre of what we do, it sounds like another fun event.

The members of the Friends Committee are Revd Dr Peter Waddell, Dorothy Deane, Lynn Mason, Wendy Meldrum, Jan Taylor, Bill Sanderson, Pat Colwell and myself. The official Trustees of the Friends registered charity are Peter, Jan, Lynn, Bill and Pat. I offer my sincere thanks to the Committee and everyone who contributes, in whatever way, to our continuing commitment to keep our magnificent Church in good order.

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

Safari Supper –	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> April – starting in the Church Hall at 6.30pm
Caritas Harmony Concert -	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> June – in the Church at 7pm (ALF)
Open Garden/Independence Day –	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> July - Abbots House Gardens (ALF) from midday
Chinese Night –	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September – venue to be confirmed
Afternoon Tea & Prosecco -	Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> September – Church Hall (afternoon)
The famous Fish and Chip Supper –	Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> October – Church Hall (evening)
Coffee Morning –	Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 10am-1pm

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

Kind regards,  
**Andy**  
February 2020