

## **ANNUAL CLERGY MEETING REPORT - APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> 2016**

### **FRIENDS OF BRIXWORTH CHURCH**

Good morning – introduce myself.

The Friends of All Saints' Church Brixworth is a registered charity whose objectives are to:

*“ Maintain, improve, supplement and keep in good repair the fabric, fittings, furniture and furnishings of the Parish Church of Brixworth and its churchyard and Heritage Centre. The Friends of All Saints' also aim to foster interest in the Parish church from near and far, not only as a place of worship but also for its significance to the area's local heritage.”*

I am pleased to report that since speaking to you last year the Friends have had a successful year of fundraising events therefore enabling us to financial assist the church with some significant improvements and maintenance projects.

- A significant contribution was made to the redecoration of the church.
- A broken surface water drain at the entrance to the main gate was replaced and the path repaired. Thus ensuring there was no trip hazard for people entering the church grounds.
- Repairs to one of the floodlights were also funded by the Friends.
- A contribution by the Friends continues to be made to the ongoing maintenance and servicing of the heating system in the church.
- A contribution is also being made to the maintenance of trees in the churchyard to ensure they are safe.

Last year the Friends launched an appeal to raise funds for the refurbishment of the church organ. Thank you if you have sponsored organ pipes already. Approximately £18000 is required for this work to commence (hopefully within the next two years), and the Friends are actively working to raise a significant amount of this, either through events or grants.

It has been over 20 years since the Heritage Centre was opened. Since then the building has been well used by visitors to the church, as a community facility for groups and clubs meetings and for church use. Over the last six months work has taken place to upgrade the lighting, heating, kitchen facilities and decoration of the building. I hope those of you have been in the Heritage Centre recently notice there is a big improvement to this facility.

In light of Charity Commission changes the Trustees are currently undertaking a review of the Constitution of the Friends to ensure the charity will have the appropriate policies and procedures in place to achieve its objectives for many years to come.

However, the need to reinvigorate the membership, both in numbers and in participation, is still an ongoing objective. Though our membership figures remain fairly consistent, persuading people to sign up as a member is still a challenge. If you are not already a member and feel that what we do to help keep the church in good repair is something worthwhile please consider joining the Friends. Annual membership is £10.00 for a single membership and £12.00 for a joint membership. I can provide you with an application form.

Fundraising is still our primary objective in the coming months.

Our next event is on 12<sup>th</sup> May - an Antiques Road Show and Valuation in the church from 12.00 to 4.00pm. Please search your attics or dig out that heirloom you thought just might be worth something to bring along. It might be worth your while! Further details to follow.

The Friends' will be holding their AGM on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 11.00 in the Brixworth Centre. This will be followed by a Service of Thanksgiving and an organ recital in the church. Those of you who are members will be receiving your Annual Report very soon.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting in June.

Thank you.