



Registered Charity No. 1160314

The Friends of St Peter's Newsletter

Number 18 – Spring 2022

Introduction by the Chairman of the Trustees

The Trustees are delighted to announce that the inaugural David Pearce Memorial Lecture, which had to be postponed in the spring of 2020 because of the Covid pandemic, has now been rearranged. As originally planned, the lecture will be given by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston CBE who is an Old Berkhamstedian and who was the first person to sail single-handed and non-stop around the world in 1968/9.

This event will be held on Saturday 8th October 2022 at 7.00pm for 7.30pm in Berkhamsted School's Centenary Theatre. It will again be a joint Friends of St Peter's and Berkhamsted Society event and it will be part of the programme to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of St Peter's. Further details, including how to purchase tickets, will be published in due course but in the meantime **PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.**

A very considerable amount of money will be required to replace the copper roofs of St John's Chantry and the south aisle in St Peter's and Christopher Green has written a thoughtful article on raising money to pay for such projects which appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

This issue also contains an article welcoming The Venerable Dr Jane Mainwaring, Archdeacon of St Albans, as our new Patron and articles on both the 800th Anniversary of St Peter's and events in the Rectory Lane Cemetery.

As always, we welcome ideas and suggestions from our members, and indeed other readers, as to what you would like to see the Friends doing for you and for the whole Berkhamsted community. Please do get in touch – my email address is below.

Peter Williamson

Warm Welcome to our new Patron

It is with great pleasure that we announce that The Venerable Dr Jane Mainwaring, Archdeacon of St Albans, has agreed to be the new Patron of The Friends of St Peter's. We hope that she will be able to join some of our events in the future when we can extend the welcome in person.

Jane Mainwaring took up the role of Archdeacon of St Albans in March 2020. The role of an archdeacon is to support the parishes, schools and chaplaincies within a specific archdeaconry. The Archdeaconry of St Albans stretches from Stotfold in the north, to Tring in the West, to Sandridge and Colney Heath in the East and Oxhey and Rickmansworth in the South.



The Venerable Dr Jane Mainwaring

Prior to becoming an archdeacon, Jane was a parish priest within the Diocese of St Albans, being Team Vicar of St Mark's Church, Hitchin and Rural Dean of Hitchin.

Born in London, and brought up in Essex, Jane has lived in a variety of places in England and Wales, but Hertfordshire has been home for the last 19 years. She was ordained in 2000 having previously spent a number of years working with teenagers and young adults in a variety of settings. Jane is married to James, who is a musician, playing mainly in West End shows, and has two children, both at secondary school.

One thing which Jane is constantly asked is how her surname is pronounced. Having married a Welshman, rather than an Englishman, Mainwaring is pronounced phonetically, as opposed to the Dad's Army way! With a surname which is a bit of a mouthful and strange titles before her name, Jane is quite happy just to be called 'Jane'!

Trustees

Patron:

The Venerable Dr Jane Mainwaring, Archdeacon of St Albans

Trustees:

Chairman: Peter Williamson (peter.williamson47@btinternet.com)

Secretary: Cathy Imber (cathy.imber@btopenworld.com)

Treasurer: Steve Elliff (selliff@berkhamstedschool.org)

The Rector of St Peter's (rector@greatberkhamsted.org.uk)

Paul Crosland (peejaycee@yahoo.com)

Christopher Green (green@waitrose.com)

Justin Apthorp (justin@apthorp.me.uk)

Peter Matthews (peter.b.matthews@gmail.com)

James Moir (jamesmqmoir@aol.com)

The Repair of Churches – who pays?

By Christopher Green

Keeping a church in good repair is a costly responsibility. When the heating system at St Peter's was replaced in 2008 it cost over £100,000. More than this will be needed to replace the roof of St John's Chantry, occupied by the organ and the choir, and the roof of the south aisle. These are copper roofs that are reaching the end of their useful lives. When it rains, the organ is at risk and the choir gets wet. The PCC knows it will soon have to find the money to pay for new roofs.



Buckets collect the water from leaks in the roof of St John's Chantry

What are the potential funding sources? Historically, individual parishes had the power to tax their parishioners and did so when money was needed for repairs. This was often contentious but even royal courtiers couldn't escape the Church's penalties if they failed to pay the parish rate. In Berkhamsted in the 1630s, Francis Wethered of Ashlyns Hall and Comptroller of the King's Works to Charles I failed to pay the parish rate and was excommunicated by the Archdeacon. We live now in very different times. When the need to undertake repairs arises the church community is on its own. It has to identify funding sources and devise its own strategy to attract the money it needs. In fact, it's not quite on its own. One of the roles of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) is to help parishes develop their funding strategies, and there are bodies such as the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust dedicated to the care of church buildings. What is conspicuously lacking is funding support from central government.

Church buildings form a major part of the nation's architectural heritage – nearly half of Grade I listed buildings are churches - but there is no guaranteed source of government funding for church repairs.

The only help that the government provides is by way of the so-called Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme which is not really a grant scheme at all. It's a scheme that allows custodians of listed buildings to reclaim the VAT payable on repair work.

Although there is no guaranteed source of funding to which a parish can turn, there are several possible sources that it can consider when dealing with the cost of maintaining and repairing the church building.

The Fabric Fund

The most prudent course is to set aside a portion of income regularly in a designated fabric fund. This is an ideal that's often difficult to achieve or even to justify. Congregations may have other priorities that speak more clearly of Christian values. A survey in 2018 found that over 33,000 social action projects in Britain, from food banks to debt counselling were run or supported by churches. Such projects are often dealing with immediate and distressing problems. The fact that the church building may need a new roof in twenty year's time can be a hard case to argue.

Sale of assets

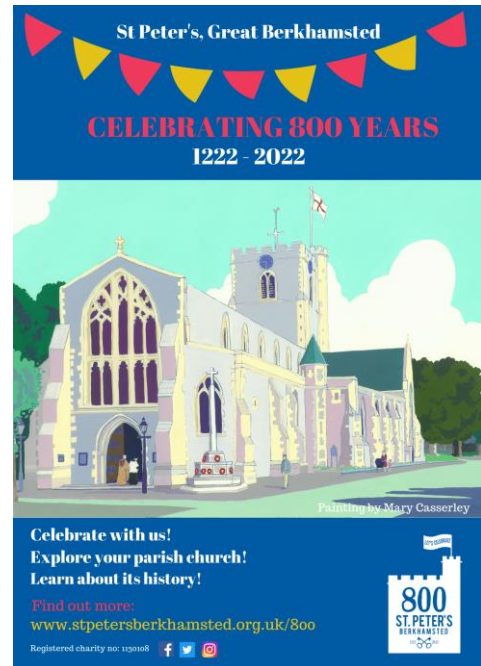
The assets of individual churches range from residential properties and halls to works of art and items of historic silverware. Why not sell some to raise money to pay for repairs? Although major repairs are relatively infrequent, they are part of a regular pattern of expenditure on the care of the church building. As in life more generally, selling assets to meet a funding shortfall in a regular pattern of expenditure is rarely the wisest course of action. In any case parishes are not free to sell such assets. They are subject to the advice of the DAC and ultimately to the decision of the Chancellor of the Diocese. In practice sale of items realising relatively small sums – a few thousand pounds – are unlikely to be authorised to fund fabric repairs, and large sums realised from the sale of assets will almost always be directed towards the creation of new facilities rather than repair of the old.

Grants

For major works costing hundreds of thousands of pounds the only potential source is the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Originally the HLF had a dedicated fund for church related work. That no longer exists and parishes must compete with other interests for HLF funds. There are three main strands to HLF funding based on the amount of the awards available - £3k-10k, £10k-250k, £250k-5million. In all three programmes the declared purpose is the same '... for projects that connect people and communities to the national, regional and local heritage of the UK'. There is a very real expectation that any outcome from an award will include tangible benefits for people and communities.

The 800th Anniversary of St Peter's

The celebrations to mark the 800th anniversary of the building of St Peter's church begin at Easter. There is a full programme of events planned from April until the end of November, and all are welcome to join in and celebrate this special birthday.



More details and the full list of events planned can be found at the back of the church or at: <https://www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/800th/>

Think of all the historic events the church has seen For example, did you know:

The Magna Carta was signed only seven years before the building of St Peter's was completed in 1222.

When the church building was completed, King Henry III was on the throne and the church has stood through the reigns of 34 monarchs.

St Peter's pre-dates the granting of Royal Charters to both Cambridge and Oxford universities (though both universities were founded just before it).

Also St Peter's pre-dates the first elected English parliament and over a hundred years before English became the official language of that parliament.

From 1369 - 1386, St Peter's had eight rectors, the shortest lasting only nine days.

During the Civil War, Royalist soldiers were imprisoned in St Peter's.

In 1809, a cannon was hoisted onto the roof and fired to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of King George III.

The clock on the tower was added in 1838 to celebrate the accession of Queen Victoria the previous year. It's still ticking today!

For repairs to the fabric of a church building considerable ingenuity may be needed to incorporate this into a grant application. For major projects the HLF application is a two-stage procedure, with the first stage funding the cost of all the preparatory work needed to ensure the effective implementation of the project, and the second stage funding the actual implementation. The management of a large HLF grant is a major administrative undertaking.

Grants are also offered by a wide variety of charities. In approaching this source of funding the first task is to identify which charities can make awards for repairs to churches – many cannot. The sums available from charitable sources are mainly small relative to the cost of major repairs. Most are probably in the range up to £20,000. So, for a major repair, several charities must be approached, each with its own application procedure. Putting applications together and keeping track of correspondence with funding bodies is a significant administrative task. Moreover, seeking grants is unlikely to be the only strand in a fund-raising strategy. It's likely to go forward alongside a wider appeal for funds.

Appeals

At the heart of an appeal is a direct approach to the church community and usually to the wider community as well, asking for money. In an emergency a straightforward request for money can often be successful, and it may be possible to spread part of the cost by inviting loans. To raise larger sums an appeal may have to be sustained for two or three years. For it to be successful the public must be kept aware of it. Coffee mornings, fetes, sponsored events, concerts, recitals, these are the life-blood of appeals. Large numbers of people must be motivated and involved. Strong leadership and effective coordination are essential ingredients for a successful appeal.

Raising the money to pay for major repairs to church buildings is never easy. The money is out there but finding it and securing it will always involve a great deal of hard work.



Damage to the roof in the Lady Chapel in St Peter's caused by leaks in the roof.

Rectory Lane Cemetery News



Primroses on the top terrace of the cemetery

Spring has well and truly sprung in Rectory Lane Cemetery, and visitor numbers have increased. The digital people counters at the gates register a rate of 90,000 people per annum.



Swing Gate Lane schoolchildren at the foundation stone

Swing Gate School made a second visit to the cemetery recently, and there was great excitement as the children looked for the graves of the straw plaiter, the inventor of the Braille typewriter, the boatbuilder, the chemical industrialist whose sheep dip was used throughout the sheep-keeping empire and the countess' foundation stone.



An open session for grave adopters was held on March 20th. There are now over 50 people who volunteer their time to adopt a grave and plant flowers on them. There are many more graves which can be brought back to life and colour so if you are interested in finding out more, just get in touch with the Ranger at: team@rectorylanecemetery.org.uk

Saturday 18th June 09.30 - 16.30

BerkoFest Book Festival - Children's Programme

Children's authors, storytelling and trails - ideal for the whole family. Refreshments will be available. Raising funds for both Rectory Lane Cemetery and BerkoFest.

Become a Friend

To join the Friends please use this application form (or a photocopy of it). Alternatively, you can download an application form from the Friends website:

www.stpetersberkhamstedfriends.org.uk

Personal Details:

Title:
Full Name:
Address:
Postcode:
Telephone:
Email:

Subscriptions

Individual	£12
Family	£20
Corporate	£50

Gift Aid

My subscription payments **should/should not** be treated as Gift Aid donations (delete as appropriate)

Bankers Standing Order

Bank Name:
Bank Address:
Postcode:

Please pay The Friends of St Peter's Church Great Berkhamsted, A/c No. 64109216, NatWest Bank (60-02-21) the sum of:

£	Amount in words
---	-----------------

Beginning on :

Date:

and annually thereafter until further notice, charging my account:

Account Name:
Sort Code:
Account Number:

Date:

Signature:

Please return this form to: Paul Crosland, 11 Upper Hall Park, Berkhamsted, HP4 2NW