



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024

AGM 25th April 7.30pm

Fundraising and events for 2024

Progress on restoration projects

Dear Friends,

I'm delighted to let you know that a vicar has been appointed to serve the new joint benefice of Shillington, Stondon, Arlesey and Astwick. Rev Jenna Dearden, who is currently completing her curacy in Dunstable will start with us at the end of July. We wish her well in the role and will look forward to welcoming her to some of our events.

We have continued our run of 'sold out' events with the very successful 70s vinyl disco (which raised £1,462) in November, and the Skittles night in the village hall on 5th February. We are hugely appreciative of all your support including your membership donations which underpin our grant applications. The Crown Public House also kindly donated £175 entry fees from their latest Quiz night towards the next section of the Churchyard wall.

Special thanks are due to Zoe Glenister who has made a donation of £4,300 in memory of her husband Paul who died last year. Paul had a strong interest in ancient buildings, and All Saints in particular, and was a firm supporter of the Friends. We are most grateful.

The Friends Committee members once again provided a Christmas Tree for the village, encouraging donations to Herts Young Homeless. This year was more eventful than usual with the tree twice being blown over by the high winds! We thought the heavy base and spike into the ground would be sufficient, but had to anchor it even more securely – a lesson for next time!

Annual General meeting 7.30pm on Thursday 25th April in the church.

After his epic Penny Farthing ride in support of the Bike & Hike in September, **Andrew Elliman will be our guest speaker:** talking about 'Resilience' around his time on Everest, the earthquake of 2015, the World's highest dinner party in 2018, and swimming the English Channel from being a non-swimmer in 2018! Andrew's talk will follow the formal AGM business (which will be kept brief), and a glass of wine. Do join us if you can and bring your friends to be inspired!

Other Dates for your diaries:

May 5 to September Sunday teas 3pm-5pm in and outside church when weather permits.

June 2-9 John Bunyan trail – Rev Simon Tibbs, who is temporarily supporting the churches in our benefice, is planning to walk the Bunyan trail over this week raising profile and money for the Friends. Simon is inviting anyone who would like to join him for any part of the walk. We are looking at other ways of supporting and developing the idea such as social media blogs, pictures etc and will send out more information nearer the time. Let us know if you would like to join a small planning group.

Saturday 29th June ShillingFest – we will be supporting it with the raffle and Friends' side shows.

Saturday 8th September – Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust Bike&Hike – all invited to join a walking team and a cycling team – volunteers needed!

Sunday 29th September (TBC) Childrens' Bear hunt around the village.

Friday & Saturday 18/19 October – 'Joy to the World 5' – By popular request, Joy Robertson, who masterminded our 24 Hour Music event last year, has agreed to mount another 'Joy to the World' event – a combination of local music and visual record of our community and village life.

If you'd like to be involved in this event, or know anyone who would, please contact Joy direct by email on jcmr@hotmail.co.uk

Details of all the events will be published in the Parish Magazine, the Village Hub and Friends Websites, on posters and our Facebook page 'Friends of All Saints Church Shillington'.

Restoration and Maintenance projects:

Along with the never-ending **repairs to the roof** to tackle the latest leaks, in the Autumn we completed restoration of another section of **the graveyard wall** between the 9 steps and the main path up to the church. This year we will do the next section down to the Yew tree which is suffering badly with stones falling out.

The stonemasons have started to prepare the shaped blocks needed to repair **the stone arch over the North Door**. We are waiting to hear the outcome of our application to the National Churches Trust before work on site begins when the weather allows.

A new need has been identified to repair cracks in **the arch above the 'bellringers' window** (the one with the ringing charts in the stained glass). Our list of projects is always long, and we are eternally grateful for your support!

Committee Chair

As I mentioned last year, Maggie and I will shortly be moving to Devon and I will be standing down from the Friends Committee. I am delighted to say that Andy Gibbs has agreed to be nominated by the committee to take over the chair at this year's AGM.

I know that all of our generous and loyal Friends will continue to support the Committee and our events.

With best wishes,

Peter Lambert 01462 713663 / pglambert@fastmail.com

PS: You will have had recently a **subscription renewal** letter from Joy Robertson. If you haven't already responded please do so now before you forget!

Cheques to Friends of All Saints Church, Joy Robertson 18 Vicarage Close SG5 3LS
or on-line: HSBC, Friends of All Saints Church: Sort Code 40 24 20: Account no 71596985