

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2026

News, Events and Progress with projects



Dear Friends,

These newsletters are a bit like busses; you wait ages for one and then two come along together!

Upcoming Projects: A change of plan!

In the Newsletter I sent last month, I referred to a number of projects planned for 2026. Well, The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry. Since then we found out that the water ingress into the south porch is the result of a cracked gable and damaged leadwork. Water has been saturating the supporting timbers and is now running down the arch between the porch and the south aisle at an alarming rate.

We are arranging emergency temporary repairs, but the remedial work is likely to be in excess of £30,000. This comes on the back of the government's decision to remove the VAT exemption on repairs to historic buildings, which immediately raises the cost of repairs to £36,000!

That would completely wipe out our reserves, so we will be energetically seeking grant funding assistance for the project. If we are successful, we still hope to complete some of the other, smaller, projects, prioritising the lead repairs in other parts of the roof.

We also plan to go ahead with the restoration of the lantern and the redecoration of the WC as these are relatively low cost and rely mainly on volunteer labour.

Events

Given the news above, it is even more important that our programme of events is as successful as possible: -

Saturday 7th March in the Village Hall. **the Shillington Gold Cup**, the return of the ever popular fun-packed horse racing evening.

Thursday 30th April (previously advertised as 23rd April)– **The Friends' AGM – Parish Councilor Joe Olding will be giving us an illustrated talk on the exciting Shillington Community Garden Project**

Saturday 11th July in the Village Hall. **A Murder Mystery Evening!**

Saturday 19th September. **A Sing-a-Long film night at All Saints**

Sunday 27th September. **Teddy Bear Hunt at All Saints'**

Sunday Teas each Sunday afternoon from May to the end of September, often enhanced by music and other activities.

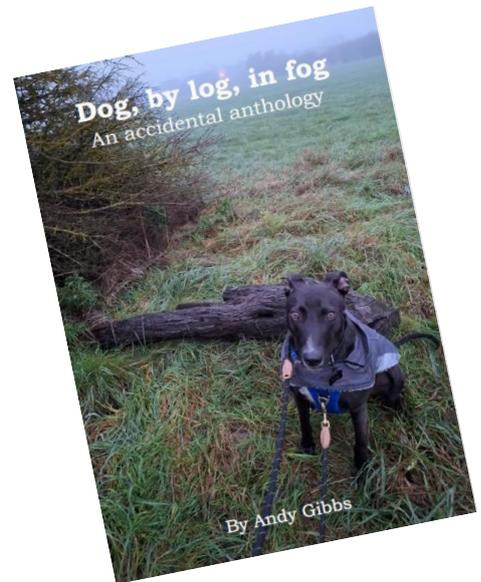
There will also be a series of illustrated talks in the Lady Chapel – see the attached poster.

Other Fundraising

Some of you may know that I pen the occasional poem when walking around the village and surrounding countryside with our lovely dog, Finn. With great assistance from Di Butler, I have now published a selection of the poems.

The books are being sold for charity, with half of the money going to the Friends. If you would like a copy, please do get in touch.

They will also be on sale (just £10 each) at all Friends' events (including Sunday Teas) throughout 2026.



Recruitment

As ever, we are always keen for more people to join our happy little band. If you would like to get involved, please do get in touch. We are on the lookout for: -

- New Committee members,
- People who could help at events and activities,
- 'Specialists' who could help out with specific projects, such as publicity, events management, fundraising or IT.

Let us all pray that the Spring brings both better weather and lots of successful grant applications,

Andy Gibbs

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