

# FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS', EMBERTON

Registered Charity No. 1145109



Newsletter 27

December 2023

## 2023 REVIEW OF THE YEAR

### From the Chairman

2023 seems to have passed by with great speed and it seems impossible that we are nearly at Christmas and looking forward to another year. By the end of the year our membership stood at 90—17 of which are Patrons. FOAS membership is not confined to Emberton, but it is true to say that the majority of members live in the village. However, there is always room for more—so if you have a new neighbour, a friend, or a member of your family who is not currently a member; why not encourage them to join up—the subscription year starts in January!

Part of our role, in supporting the Parochial Church Council (PCC), is to encourage as many people as possible to come into All Saints' and enjoy the facilities and resources of the Church. In April, we welcomed "Queen Victoria" to All Saints' and discovered the secrets of her amazing wardrobe! In May, the Friends provided refreshments for all those who came into Church to watch the Coronation Service. In September Noah's Cape performed their traditional folk songs and poetry. Each activity brought people together to share laughter, singing, tears and in the case of the Coronation prayers and solemn rituals.

At our Annual General Meeting in June—an event, now famous for its fine selection of cheese and wine, the Committee presented the reports and accounts for the year, and re-elected and confirmed the existing committee, Officers and Trustees. *Rosemary Towers*

### HOW WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO HELP IN 2023

This year FOAS funds have been used to support the PCC's request to improve the Church lighting. New floodlights have been installed in the Churchyard which improve safety and show the church as a beautiful focal point in the village through the winter months. The cost was approx.

£3,500 and carried out by CLS Electrical Services Ltd, specialists in installing lighting in churches and historical buildings.



We have also agreed to fund replacement high level lighting inside the church, improving the level of light and removing the need to climb long ladders to change light bulbs!

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

We are currently putting together some plans for the following:

**Saturday 16th March** - Kokedma—a planting demonstration by Kathy Brown (of Kathy Brown's Garden in Stevington) followed by Spring Afternoon Tea.

**Saturday 20th April** - Northampton Male Voice Choir, with light refreshments.

**May/June** - Annual General Meeting—date to be confirmed.

**July** - Art and Craft Exhibition and Sale of Goods.

*Our plans for launching a Film Club will be announced in the New Year.*

*During the past year several members passed away and are sadly missed:*

**Audrey Vickery Freda Stanley**  
**Daphne Frost Richard Godber**

## WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR THE FRIENDS?

Contrary to popular belief the Diocese of Oxford and the Church Commissioners do not contribute to the upkeep and development of church buildings—that is left to the members of the church and the wider local community. The role of the Friends is to work alongside the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to maintain and develop the church and churchyard, to encourage and organise a diverse and challenging range of activities for many to enjoy and to provide facilities and resources which will help to ensure that All Saints' remains relevant to future generations.

In the past we have been able to help the PCC create kitchen and toilet facilities, a gathering area, install central heating and provide state-of-the-art audio-visual and presentation equipment. Everyone can feel justly proud of these achievements. Over the next few years the PCC and FOAS will continue to work together to meet the ever-changing requirements to keep All Saints' well-maintained, warm, dry, safe and a wonderful place to worship, laugh, sing, drink coffee, eat cake and share special memories.

## NOAH'S CAPE

At the end of September we enjoyed an excellent evening's entertainment with Noah's Cape, a well known group of solo artists who come together to perform a wide range of songs playing a variety of instruments. All three took turns in singing lead vocals with their trademark three part harmonies shining through.

Humour and poetry was provided by Mark Neil, who is well-known as the Milton Keynes' Poet Laureate. We were also able to buy their CDs, Mark's book, and chat to the performers over a wide range of refreshments.



## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Next year's subscription is due on  
1st January 2024.

For existing members, ordinary membership is  
£12, £20 household, £10 pensioner, Patrons  
£100 a year.

**Subscriptions have not changed since 2011, and  
for new members the committee has agreed:**

Single £15, Joint/Family £25, Patrons £100 pa.

Membership Secretary—Sue McIntosh

## NEW MEMBERS

Do you have new neighbours or friends who would like to become members of FOAS? If so please ask them to contact either Sheila Watts or Sue McIntosh for details.

## Friends of All Saints' Committee

**Rosemary Towers, Chairman**  
rtowers@frostsgroup.com

**Alan Bretherton, Treasurer & Trustee**  
abretherton1@gmail.com

**Sheila Watts, Secretary & Trustee**  
sheilawatts28@gmail.com

**Margaret Phoenix, Trustee**  
phoenix.margaret@gmail.com

**Sue McIntosh, Membership Secretary**  
sue.mcintosh@me.com

**Janet Gamlen, PCC/FOAS link**  
jmgamlen@gmail.com

**Norman Gillam**  
gnauctions2003@hotmail.co.uk

**Vicki McLean**  
victoriam53@outlook.com

[www.embertonparishcouncil.co.uk/  
organisations/friends-of-all-saints/](http://www.embertonparishcouncil.co.uk/organisations/friends-of-all-saints/)

**AND FINALLY.... MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR—let us all look  
forward to 2024 with joy  
and hopefulness.**

To all our members and  
supporters in Emberton and  
further afield.

