

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR WORK OF THE FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S IN 2022/'23

The focus of the Friends continues to be the Quinquennial Inspection Report of 2017. A new Quinquennial report will be produced by our architect later this year (2023); however we hope it will not include too many new items needing our attention.

During the year the committee asked the PCC to widen the Friends' "Terms of Reference" to better reflect the tasks that the Friends were now undertaking. In addition to '*preserving*' the building and churchyard, we are now looking to make the church a more appropriate space for a wide spectrum of uses (what the Diocese calls 're-ordering') and, in addition, we are now able to fund-raise for local charities.

During the year:

The South side of the church was limewashed.

The North side of the Tower was greatly enhanced.

The East curtain wall had another 120 bricks replaced.

PIR lights were fitted in the church.

The gallery balustrade was raised.

The floor of the chancel was grouted.

Improved safety measures were added in the upper Tower.

Improved hand-held guides were put in the church for visitors.

The Bethlehem star was again lit, together with an illuminated Angel, during the Christmas period.

An illuminated crown was raised on the Tower during the Coronation celebrations, which included a Flower-arranging and Art exhibition.

The Ride and Stride day in September raised almost £1000 for The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust (half returned to Friends).

Generous Harvest Festival donations were collected from commercial companies for FIND.

£5,000 was raised for the Felixstowe Salvation Army at Christmas, whose band played at our candle-lit Carol Service.

The churchyard continues to be maintained to a high standard. The mowing Rota now has 40 volunteers.

All the above was achieved with less than £3,000 being withdrawn from savings.

We started 2023 with approximately £29,000 in savings and expect to spend most of it on improvements to the South side of the church in the next few months. Fund-raising will be very necessary later in 2023 and beyond.

The implications of the PCC's 're-ordering' proposals are being worked-on for a Faculty application later in 2023 (Church speak for Planning Permission) and possible implementation from 2024.

Ian Angus 15/05/2023