

**AGM 2021/2022**

**Chairman’s Report**

**Overview**

Despite ongoing constraints imposed by Covid restrictions until earlier this year, the FODC in co-operation with the PCC and DCH have continued to carry out our responsibilities across all three major objectives, Building Fabric Repair and Maintenance, Heritage Development and Community Involvement.

A major factor that has influenced our priorities over the past year, and indeed into the future, in all three of our objectives is the realization that, with Church attendance falling, funds available for investing in the Church are failing to meet costs, even for basic routine and reactive maintenance.

As a result the FODC and its partners have, as many will know, developed a “Strategy Plan” following consultation meetings with local community organizations and individual residents who contributed ideas and suggestions of how we might engage in a positive way to increase community use of the church and its facilities.

This view is endorsed by many ecclesiastical charities and by an increasing number of senior church spokesmen and has the full support of our own rector, Father Tony Forrest.

I do hope that the enthusiastic response received so far will encourage others to consider becoming FODC members and volunteers to be a force in preserving our beautiful church for generations to come.

We have much to do, and would welcome any assistance whether it be administrative, trade based or anyone with a talent for fund raising, event planning or just ideas.

The following is a summary of what has been achieved in the past year:

**Objectives**

**Building maintenance**

* Chancel roof repair and installation of CCTV on the roof.
* Flood mitigation strategy developed and liaison with the PC for drainage inspection and clearance.
* Preparation of a 5-year maintenance plan and discussions with the PCC over priorities.
* Boxing in of the electrics and redecorations in the Community room (funded by DCH)
* Replacement of the fencing by the Eastern boundary.
* Liaison, research and advising on vandalism within the Churchyard.

**Current Year 2022/2023**

* Re-ordering of the Tower and installation of cupboards therein.
* Boiler and heating system service and further work
* Discussions regarding the location of the Nicholson screen.
* Church sign and noticeboard

**Heritage**

* Pamphlet display on the Church, Meon Valley Trail etc.
* Articles in the Bridge, our parish magazine.
* Donor board.
* Discussions with a metal detectorist
* Discussions regarding the cataloging, organizing and putting on a display of Droxford Church prayer cushions.

**Community**

* Shantyhead’s event.
* Participation and providing advice on the neighbouring parish green proposals.
* New notice board with details of social media for the village
* Beat surgeries for the PCSO.
* Pamphlet display for walkers, cyclists and other visitors.
* Communication routes established and ensuing extensive discussions with the PCC and DCH.
* Educational display at the village picnic August 2021 (omitted from last year’s report)

**Current year 2022/2023**

* Art Exhibition June 2022

**AGM –** 5 May 2022

**Country Fair –** Participation over the Jubilee weekend with Trustees supporting different aspects at the Fair.

**Fund raising and Finance**

* Shantyheads event.
* New auditor.
* Discussions on a recruitment drive together with a 200 club style of membership.

**Current year 2022/2023**

* Obtaining a “sumup” device
* Art Exhibition June 2022
* Print and card sales

**Strategic 5-yr Plan**

* Trustee planning meetings 8 January and 7 March 2022
* Stake holders day 19 February.
* Village presentation day 26 March

**More information -**  [www.FriendsofDroxfordChurch.org.uk](http://www.FriendsofDroxfordChurch.org.uk/).

Tony Hoile

Chair

Friends of Droxford Church

April 2022