



Friends of Droxford Church

www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1165874

AGM 2023/2024

Chairman's Report

Overview

Firstly, thank you all for coming and welcome to the FODC 2024 AGM and with a special thankyou to Andy Davis our new Rector (or is it Priest in Charge ?) for attending.

Secondly, a sincere thank you to my fellow Trustees, our partners DCH (Wilfrids Café) and PCC for their support over the last 12 months and to the other FODC members and indeed nonmember volunteers for their hard work in keeping “our show on the road” despite the usual obstacles.

The Election of Trustees follows later in the agenda but just to mention that Nick Capon, who has gallantly served the FODC for many years is standing down and I would like to offer my personal thanks for his help, advice and friendship in my time as chair.

The past year has seen further encouraging improvements in communication and closer working relationships with the community and especially our partners, the PCC and the Droxford Community Hub (Wilfrid's Café).

At this point I believe it important to clarify that DCH (trading as Wilfrids Café) is an independent Community Interest Company, not to be confused with Droxford community hub which encompasses all the activities of the FODC including events that are jointly run with our partners.

June Kershaw will expand on this a little later in the meeting.

The following is a summary of what has been achieved in the past year in relation to the Church building:

Building maintenance

- ❖ Installing the sink in the tower and coat hooks
- ❖ Tower clock and flagpole repairs.
- ❖ Repairing the heating
- ❖ Clearing drains and improving drainage in anticipation of further flash floods.
- Tower cupboard and Nicholson screen final fittings
- Moving of the brass corona light.
- Implementing improved security arrangements.
- Progressing the AV improvements.
- Progressing urgent items on the quinquennial plan.
- Emergency Tower Lighting
- Improving the paths in the churchyard.

Heritage

- ❖ Installing the final donor board.
- ❖ Exhibition of the pew cushions.
- Retrieving further heritage items
- Setting up access to the heritage items in the Community Office.
- Digital Heritage website.
- Working with English Heritage to promote the celebrations of the “Swing Riots” over the next two years, culminating in a big performance for the bi-centenary celebrations in 2030

Community

- ❖ Talk by Tracy Chevalier together with bell ringing demonstration.
- ❖ Art Show at the Country Fair
- ❖ Holding the play Jesus My Boy
- ❖ Fund raising at the Christmas Fair
- Finalising improvements to the FODC website
- Permanent FODC noticeboard.
- DD 80th Anniversary program of events.

Recruitment and Finance

- ❖ One new Trustee joined.
- ❖ Creation and deployment of a dedicated QR code for ease of fund raising.
- **Ongoing recruitment drive and regular donation requests.**

More information - www.FriendsofDroxfordChurch.org.uk.

To repeat my words from the last AGM, we still 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 !!

It is essential that we and our partners continue to “pull together” to ensure that our Church continues to not only remain the local focus of worship but also to develop the community assets that help to provide the finances required to support it’s continued use. As I have said before, our message to all must be **“USE IT OR LOSE IT”**

Forthcoming events.

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Tony Hoile

Chair

Friends of Droxford Church

February 2024