

## Friends of St Mary's Church Comberton Trust 2017

On behalf of the Trust, may I wish you Seasons Greetings for this December and for the New Year.

My role, as the Trust Treasurer, is to pay in donations and grant monies, pay out any expenses and transfer monies to the Church PCC to cover their expenditure in relation to repairing the Church fabric. Unfortunately for the next few years, the Trust also has to raise money to pay back an interest-free loan that was used to cover the costs after the second theft of lead from the Church roof. We have a target to raise at least £35,000 in the next few years.

We are awaiting revised costs for the work involved in bring the Church fabric (the building and associated fittings, bits and pieces) up to specification – the diocese does a regular five year architect inspection which highlights things both large and small that are in need of prompt attention. Once we have these costs then we can raise the money needed; then in agreement with the PCC, schedule to transfer monies to cover these repairs. We have already identified a mechanism to the PCC for Listed Buildings used as Places of Worship which will allow the VAT to be recouped by them for most of these items, and indeed for other maintenance costs that the PCC always spends.

Already this year we have given St. Mary's PCC nearly £3370 to cover works undertaken in the past twelve months.

We received a wonderful grant of £2000 for roof and other repairs from CCF (Cambridgeshire Community Foundation). This donation was made on behalf of the Ridgeon family.

We have also received a grant from the All Churches Trust for £1000 following a successful application made on our behalf by Malcolm Wright. If you would like to help him with our **Big Grant Push in 2018** please contact David Hughes, Meadowside 26 Swaynes Lane, Comberton CB23 7EF; Tel: 01223 263355 or email Chairman @ friends-of-st-marys.org.uk.

This magazine covers the end of our first year as a Trust. We therefore will have a record of the monies that the Trust has received and due from grants, from our donors at our events, those giving one-off and better still setting up Standing Orders. As I write this, the Friends Account stands at over £8050. This means that after our first year anniversary I can apply to register the Trust as a viable Charity which brings us a Charity Number and significant advantage in seeking grants.

We have already been granted Charitable Status by HMRC which means that, at the end of this year, I can claim back 20% as Gift Aid on most of the donations, including those put into our cash buckets at events. This allowed us to join TheGivingMachine shopping scheme.

So if you would like to help us financially with a one-off donation, setting up a standing order or donating something that we could use at an Auction of Promises then please contact me. These would be a great Christmas / New Year's present to protect St Mary's Church building for the village.

Likewise your own help - even for just a couple of hours - would be really welcome next year as we need a few people to help submit grant applications, create publicity and newsletters, set up events and think up novel fund raising projects.

Please do checkout our website [www.friends-of-st-marys.org.uk](http://www.friends-of-st-marys.org.uk) to read about events held this year and for next year, to use TheGivingMachine shopping portal to give us money at no cost to you, or to download Gift Aid or Standing Order forms.

Richard Elleray

Treasurer – The Friends of St Mary's Church Comberton Trust

Tel: 262433 or email treasurer @ friends-of-st-marys.org.uk