

FOSM Annual Report 2017

The Friends of St. Mary's lodged a Declaration of Trust on 1st December 2016 and became a Charity (No.1176591) on 9th January 2018.

The First Trustees are John Crang, Godfrey Curtis, Richard Elleray and David Hughes

Donations and support in the second half of 2016 allowed us to donate £3369 to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) in March 2017. We entered 2017 with a Target of raising £35,000 over 5 years. We hoped that this would cover Roof Lead Repair Loan and general repairs identified in the 2014 Quinquennial (5 yearly) Inspection Report. Please see our "Trifold" Explanatory Document for details

Purcell's prepared a Specification for the "Phase 1" work required and went out for tenders with a deadline of mid January 2018. No hard figures were available by the end of 2017 but we had the clear assurance that the Church Commissioners would cover the costs relating to the Chancel.

Through 2017 Malcolm Wright sent out letters to ten or more individuals or trusts. The Ridgeon Family Trust gave £2000, and two further grants were received from AllChurches Trust £1000 and the Jack Patston Trust £2500.

As soon as the PCC awards the Contract for Building repairs we will have the data we need to make 2018 our Big Grant Push Year.

A concert in May, a Wine & Cheese Launch in June, both in St. Mary's Church, and in October a piano recital at Manor Farm all contributed to our fund raising. We have displayed a stand in St Mary's Church at the Church Fete and at the St. Mary's Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall, selling notelets and art cards depicting St. Mary's Church. We have also displayed a 3D Model of Grade Listed Buildings in Comberton Village (St Mary's is Grade I Listed) and a pictorial display of urgent Church repairs (Trifold above refers). We hope to convert these items into portable displays.

We are grateful to Contact for their support in regularly including our articles.

David R Hughes

Chairman of Trustees