

Friends of St.Mary's (FOSM)

Chairman's Short Annual Report 2018

In January 2018 the FOSM Trust was granted Charity Status (No. 1176591)

In April we enlarged our leading group by appointing Brian McCabe Trustee (confirmed by EGM), and three other villagers each contributing various expertise.

Collaborating with locally owned ImpulsePop we converted our pictorial "Restoration Phase One-Urgent" chart and our "Village Listed Buildings 3-D model" into suitable form to produce two Pop-up publicity banners (at no cost to FOSM!)

After instruction by the PCC, Purcells took their Quinquennial Inspection Report (QIR 2014) and created a Specification for the urgent work which then went out to Tender. The Herringbone quote for £52,000 was accepted by St. Marys Church PCC.

Our estimate from QIR 2014 had given FOSM a figure of approximately £26,000 which, added to the cost of lead theft, made our fund raising target of £35,000 over 6 years. Restoration work was begun in July 2018 and signed off at the end of September. A final bill for the work of £46,389 was paid, of which the Church Commissioners paid 40%, Church Care gave £3,000 and FOSM contributed £14,000.

The PCC makes an annual payment to the Diocese for its part of the Lordsbridge Team 'Ministry Share', i.e. clergy salaries. They have very little left over for other costs.

In 2017 our Grants Officer led appeals to various Trusts for Grants. Through a local contact we obtained a significant grant from the Ridgeon Family Trust. Other on-line applications in 2018 were found to be time consuming. It became clear that successful applicants must demonstrate how the Community will benefit. As a result of this activity South Cambridge District Council awarded the PCC a grant of £1,000 from its Community Chest. By October 2018 the FOSM had raised over £20,000 in 2 years. An appropriate Record of all our Donations so far is under discussion.

At the October 2018 Trustees meeting we agreed that we should be involved in supporting the PCC proposal to improve Disabled Access into Church (for

Community Benefit). This limited work would also involve Churchyard wall repairs on the Northwest corner.

In 2018 3 pieces were submitted to the Comberton Contact village magazine, and we organised and advertised 4 events in 5 months. These were Song Cycle in April, Bedford Gallery Quire Workshop in June, Open Gardens in July and Accord in October. Also in October, Village Voices held a concert in St. Mary's, which included the Meridian School Choir. They donated 50% of their fundraising to the FOSM. Thank you Village Voices.

In September our Grants Officer switched from FOSM fundraising to helping raise funds for the 20th Anniversary of Comberton Twinning Association. We thank him enormously and wish them every success.

St. Mary's Church Organ was dedicated on 1st August 1919 as our Village War Memorial. Individuals have worked on the funding for the Organ Restoration outside of FOSM. Work should commence in January 2019, completing by Easter 2019. What fun to have an Organ Recital and other events for fundraising this coming summer and autumn!

Looking forward beyond 2018, the Quinquennial Inspection is expected in 2019. This will pick up on restoration of the perimeter churchyard wall and the external ironwork.

The Nave roof still leaks onto the pews. We have been told unofficially that restoration, with new lead replacing 100 year old lead, could cost £60-£70K.

I shall be sad to step down as Chairman of FOSM on 10th January 2019 but it is good to know we have achieved so much. The target for the next two years- £4,000 per annum to complete the Lead Theft loan repayment and also to keep fundraising to support the PCC paying for outstanding Fabric Repair.

St. Mary's Church definitely needs the Friends to continue their fund raising activities and I will remain a Trustee to give my ongoing support.

I am grateful to Richard, Godfrey, John, Brian, and the rest of the FOSM team for our work together. I am particularly grateful for the organisational and keyboard support of my wife! Good luck.

David R Hughes

Chairman FOSM

5th January 2019