

ST MARY'S FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

February 2015.

Dear Friends

Many of you will already know of the large bequest left by Mrs Jill Colledge, following her death towards the end of 2013. After years of fundraising for both the General and Building Funds, the PCC will now be in the fortunate position of having an income to cover all church running costs as well as money for improvements. We are most grateful to Jill for this legacy to the PCC. It has been decided that there will still be church fundraising events, but these will be run in aid of, and with the help of, other village and local organizations; it will be a pleasure to be able to be generous rather than always asking for funds to keep the church running and in good repair. The generosity of the local community, together with St Mary's Friends of whom Jill was a member, has been outstanding over the past few years and the PCC has been extremely grateful for the way your contribution has helped us keep the church building in good order. However, it has not been easy to maintain contact with you all, without someone else to take over as secretary, for which I appealed in 2012, and the fact that we will now be in a much more healthy financial position, the PCC has agreed to close down St Mary's Friends. Any subscriptions still remaining as Standing Orders into the Building Fund will continue to be used for church improvements.

THE COLLEDGE MEMORIAL FUND

The funds left to us by Jill will all be invested and the income used for the running of the church and, as Jill particularly wished, for the fabric of the church. The present PCC is adamant that Jill's legacy should help the church in perpetuity, with the capital maintained at a level to keep pace with inflation as far as is possible.

UPDATE

At the time of my last Newsletter in July 2012 we were in the process of installing the new heating and lighting, including rewiring the entire church. We initially had six chandeliers installed and a further two, with a half chandelier attached above the War Memorial Board in the West end; this work was completed in February 2013 without having to pay VAT (at the time of my last newsletter the law was unclear). The lighting particularly has made an enormous improvement to the inside of the church and the heating is considerably better than it was before.

We are about to embark on repointing areas of the tower which became important when water was getting into the Vice Turret during the very wet winter last year. A working group has also been looking into installing a toilet and servery and, if possible, a warm meeting room and tidy storage area. There are other things that we would like to do such as restoring the lettering round the walls, some of which is barely legible anymore, and better carpeting has been suggested.

There is also work that needs to be done in Birchwood, particularly repointing the perimeter wall and removing the ivy. Also renewing the guttering which is in hand.

We have produced forms, available in the church porch, asking for suggested ways of improving the church as we would like as many opinions from the local community as possible. Please feel free to fill in a form if you have any ideas and have not already done so.

Thank you all again for your support in the past which has always been most appreciated by the Church Wardens and the Parochial Church Council.

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