

Friends of St Mary's Winkfield (FOSMW)

Chairman's Report year ending December 2020

FOSMW has continued to work during lockdown. It was agreed at the FOSMW AGM in February 2020 that the next project would be an improved sound system for St Mary's Church. Several contractors were contacted, visited the church and provided quotations. A local church with a sound system installed by the company preferred by the Trustees was visited. The church concerned was extremely pleased with the installation and ongoing assistance from the company.

The Trustees accepted a quotation for 8 speakers at a cost £5,478.23 and details were passed to the Diocesan Advisory Council for approval and this was received on 2 March 2021. The contractors were advised and installation began on Friday 12 March and was completed today. There was a short training session this afternoon. We are most grateful to the Mercers company who allowed us to retain the grant allocated for the organ restoration.

Our next project will be an overhaul of the Electrical system with the remaining Mercers Grant of £4,521.23 available for the project. Additional fund raising for this will begin as soon as possible.

All other fund raising events scheduled for 2020 were cancelled. New dates for the Autumn Fayre and Music and Merriment concert 2021 are now once again in the diary. The Autumn Fayre is Saturday 4 September and the Music and Merriment concert Saturday 4 December. Details will be available soon.

We do need more members to help us look after our wonderful church and a recruitment letter is being prepared and will be distributed locally.

FOSMW is a successful fundraising organisation for the benefit of the Parish and we urge all with an interest in the welfare of St Mary's Church to join its membership. The membership is now 39 (not including family members). We have, sadly, lost six of our members during the year. Marian Hopkins, Joyce Underwood, Monica Cooley, Sybil Smythe, Huw Mordecai and Raymond Grace, all very loyal members of FOSMW. Our thoughts are with their families.

The 'Friends of St Mary's Winkfield' is a registered Charity (1162342), and all fundraising is for the maintenance and preservation of St Mary's church and its resources, thereby financially contributing to the Parish by carrying some of its costs.

The management and administration of the Friends is wholly carried out by voluntary effort, with minimum expenditure on external services.

All FOSMW activities are publicised on the Friends' webpage www.fosmw.com which also contains many items relevant to members and non-members, including notices of services and current/historical reporting of information. The former includes a page devoted to the pandemic. There is a link to the parish website (www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk) and vice versa. The FOSMW website also hosts the web-pages (www.fosmw.com/parishmag) for the Winkfield Parish News (i.e. the parish magazine) on behalf of the PCC, and these include a page for parish magazine advertisers.

Lesley Philpot
Chairman