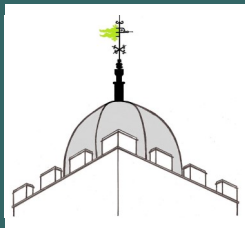




www.alburyoldsaxonchurch.org



The Friends of Albury Old Saxon Church

Newsletter

Registered Charity Number: 1168550

Seventeenth Edition, Spring/Summer 2023





The Chairman's Round-up

Times have still been a little strange, as evidenced by the period that has passed since the last edition of our newsletter. Since lockdowns etc. a lot of routines have been upset, but it's not a bad thing to re-think what you are doing periodically.

However, a building which has stood for 1,000 years, and which has its roots in even more ancient history, might, if it could speak, be a little dismissive of the confusions of the last few years. So I won't lay it on too thick. For the Friends of Albury Old Saxon Church, there has been some new thinking and some careful resumption of the routine, which is probably about right.

It was great to have a good number of people back inside the church for the Carol Service last Christmas, after 2021's fun but exposed effort outside; and the occasional wedding/wedding blessing brings life and promise. Concerts resumed in 2021 and 2022 and it's again worth recording how good *'This is my Theatre'* are with their productions - not that you'll find any rubbish here from anyone! You can find details of everything upcoming elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Friends have never lost sight of the major aim of conserving and where appropriate restoring the wall decoration in the Drummond Chapel. Some years ago the weatherproofing works that were paid for by the fundraising efforts of the Friends and undertaken by the Churches Conservation Trust have now significantly dried out the building, and we are in the process of agreeing a way forward for the next stage. The Friends Trustees will initially be carrying out an autonomous project to conserve some of the areas that obviously need immediate intervention and are likely to carry the main role in funding and overseeing the work in association with the CCT and nationally recognised conservation consultants.

The Old Church continues to attract attention as a unique venue for many purposes including filming and meetings. Earlier this month (April 2023) I was present when the Chairman and Secretary of the CCT and others met there with Lord Parkinson, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, to show him the building and to discuss matters related to their work and the grant system.

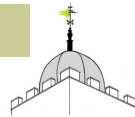
I am very grateful to the other Friends Trustees for the great work they do for this historic building, from day-to-day oversight and care to new initiatives. Roy Hogben has been tireless in spearheading the conservation efforts and the seeking of grant funding, even from extended locations abroad.

In the last couple of years, the Friends have been strengthened by the addition of Charlotte Gummer and Mervyn Badiali as trustees. Both bring experience and skills which will be very useful.

This may well be the last Chairman's letter written by me, though. I will pass on the baton this summer to someone new, but look forward to all that we will continue to do.

All good wishes.

Andrew Pearson - Chairman



Should you see...

Should you see a rainbow
Ending by the church
Alert us all to have a go
With spades in fervent search!
As you know and have been told
That rainbows end in a pot of gold.
So do alert all if you see
That rainbow while it's raining hard
Arching tower and old yew tree
Watering the church graveyard
A pot of gold would wonders do
To the church's upkeep to
Keep safe the building
In good repair.
This lovely building
Needs our care!



God works in such mysterious ways
Perhaps this way our church He saves!

BRIAN ALEXANDER

April 2023



Drummond Chapel Up-Date

You may remember way back in 2007, whilst re-printing the Drummond Chapel brochure, the Trustees discovered that over the previous 165 years the degradation of the painted surfaces needed some extreme remedial work to conserve and restore the interior for future generations.

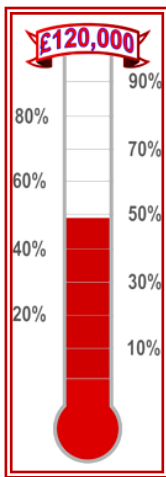
In the spring of 2017 **Phase One** was completed by the Churches Conservation Trust with a budget of £90,000 that was raised by the Friends Group from many generous sources, both local and the New Apostolic Movement in Europe, ensuring that the outside fabric of the church was watertight, the land drainage fit for purpose and the micro-climate within the church stabilised.

Charity status was awarded to the Friends Group in 2016 when it was realised that a good deal of extra fund-raising was required to finally embark on a CCT approved autonomous **Phase Two** project to carry out the highly skilled and specialist work to stabilise the plasterwork and all of the delaminated surfaces, cleaning of the encaustic tiles and the hand-carved screens, restoration and conservation of all of the painted and gilded surfaces of the interior of the Drummond Chapel.

Serious fund-raising continued over the intervening years with some good positive results. However, after much deliberation about applying for a Match-Funding Grant to the Heritage Lottery Fund early in 2022, to enable starting **Phase Two**, it was decided that their strict social stipulations could virtually consume all of their grant and it was therefore better if the Friends Group were to continue under their own direction.



The overall complexities of the scale of work needed were again discussed and it was decided that the way forward would be best served by splitting **Phase Two** into two separate parts. The first and most practical would be to conserve and restore the lower part of the walls, that can be easily inspected and worked on without any need for ladders. **Certainly the most pressing area for essential remedial work is the painted east wall where the plaster bond has delaminated from the structure of the building.**

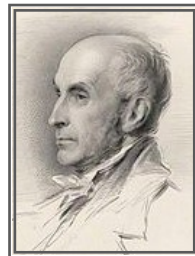


It is considered that the ring-fenced Drummond Chapel funds that are being held (£55,000) will be more than adequate to complete this part of the project. The Working Group of Michael Baxter, Mervyn Badiali and Roy Hogben is currently discussing specifications, time schedules and quotations from ICON accredited conservators. Dependant upon work schedules it is hoped that a start will be made sometime this summer.



New Apostolic Benefactors

Albury was the birthplace in the early 1830's of the Catholic Apostolic movement of which the Member of Parliament, Lord of the Manor, banker and philanthropist, *Henry Drummond*, was a prime mover and founder member. He was ordained as an 'angel' in 1834, and an 'apostle' in 1835. He donated the land and built a chapel and chapter house in Albury, which became the centre of the movement. He continued his financial and spiritual activities for the Catholic Apostolic Church until his death in 1860.



In 1863 there was a fundamental schism in the church and as a result of this the **New Apostolic Church** was created in Germany. Today the New Apostolic movement has a world-wide following of around nine million members, but because of this schism they have no access to their chapel and it is indeed fortunate that the closest point to the actual birth place of their religion is the Drummond Memorial Chapel, where Drummond now lies.



regions. In March 2015 Albury hosted a visit from ten members and again in April 2017 hosted a visit from another thirty-two members.

The enthusiastic response from the New Apostolic Churches that was given to the Albury Friends was more than matched by their magnanimous donations towards *Phase One* of the conservation/restoration of the Drummond Chapel. It was largely their supreme financial contributions that enabled the work of making the essential drainage and envelope of the church watertight to move ahead so quickly.



The Honours Board that is on permanent display in the church carries the names of the exceptionally generous **New Apostolic Church Benefactors of:** North & East Germany, South Germany, North Rhine Westphalia, Berlin-Brandenburg, Geschichte Brockhagen Germany, Marburg Germany, United Kingdom and Switzerland.

As well as group visits there have been personal visits from Rolf and Sabine Behling and Dr Kurt Stegemann and his daughter Yasmin that have proved to be a delightful connection, not only for their generosity but for their constant and lively interest in the church and our country.

We are most grateful to everyone.





Looking Forward to a Cashless Society?

Everything these days revolves around the mobile phone. Gone is the original intrinsic convenience of a mobile phone...it is now a powerful mobile computer and camera that is able to perform a multitude of complex internet solutions and applications and is certainly a precursor to a totally cashless society. Today, who needs money? With a phone and, at the moment, a credit card, one can travel the world without any money problems!



However, for charities this technological change presents a real dilemma. During the couple of years of the pandemic there was an obvious and expected downturn in charitable contributions, but, since then there has been little or no recovery. So often these days casual visitors to the church arrive without any physical money, whereas all would usually have a phone or at least a credit card!

To help alleviate this problem the Friends Trustees are now researching the possibility of installing a contactless charity terminal inside the church.

[Editorial](#)

Flower Power!

We are very lucky to have twenty ladies on our annual Flower Rota. They do a wonderful job ensuring that the Church looks beautiful with flowers from Easter through to the end of September.

Regular floral displays are created on both the Altar and the ancient medieval chest. Christmastime sees the addition of a fully lit and decorated five metre tall Christmas tree from the Albury Estate, a nativity scene and all the windowsills decorated with red poinsettias and candles in readiness for the annual Candlelit Carol Service .

We also use gorgeous scented summer garden flowers to adorn the windowsills and extravagant pedestal displays for the Midsummer Service in June . This year we will be doing an extra special floral red, white and blue display for the Coronation of King Charles III.



We are always looking for new people to join our team. It doesn't matter how good your flower arranging skills are as there is always someone on hand to help, train or advise. We also enjoy a social coffee morning once a year as a thank you to everyone.

If you think that you would enjoy helping us to make the church extra special for our visitors then please contact Stephanie Harley on 07795 596402 .



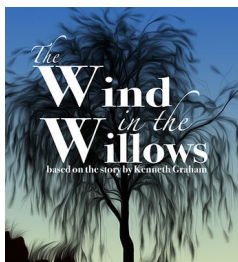
Summer Season



With the amazing talents of
'This Is My Theatre'



Saturday 20 May, 3:00 - 4:30pm

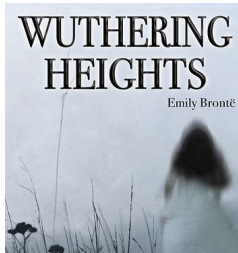


This is an open-air performance so please bring chairs/blankets and picnics to enjoy whilst watching!

Mole will experience adventure like never before! Join him as he learns the joys and dangers of living outside of his hole and forges friendships with the logical Rat, formidable Badger and who can forget the outrageous Toad of Toad Hall.

Closely adapted from the original and best-selling children's book by Kenneth Grahame and combined with traditional folk music, this will delight children and adults alike this summer!

Thursday 8 June, 7:00 - 8:30pm

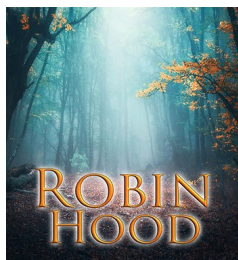


"He's more myself than I am. Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same."

When Mr Earnshaw returns to Wuthering Heights with an orphan boy, worlds collide. Amid these wild moors, a bond is formed between this once unloved child Heathcliff and Earnshaw's own daughter Catherine, sparking revenge, passion and obsession.

A beautiful and haunting adaptation that will make audiences fall in love with Emily Brontë's novel all over again.

Tuesday 8 August, 7:00 - 8:30pm

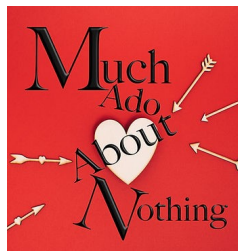


This is an open-air performance so please bring chairs/blankets and picnics to enjoy whilst watching!

Based on the traditional tales of the outlaw of Sherwood Forest, with sword fights galore. Join the legendary Robin Hood as he takes on the Sheriff of Nottingham, steals from the rich to give to the poor and finds love on the way.

All ages will love this contemporary telling of this much loved hero with live music, song...did we mention the sword fights?

Thursday 7 September, 7:00 - 8:30pm



Who doesn't love love? Well you might be surprised!

In Shakespeare's raucous comedy, deception is rife as wedding bells sound in the air, testing not only the young lovers Hero and Claudio, but also the steadfastly single Beatrice and Benedick!

With plots, pranks and live music throughout, you will fall in love all over again with Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* this Summer!

Tickets available from: www.thisismytheatre.com

(Friends discount of £3.00 - code "CCT Friend" at final on-line payment)



Diary of Services and Events 2023

Saturday, 6 May: Church decorated for Coronation of King Charles III

Saturday, 20 May: *“Wind in the Willows”* by Kenneth Grahame. Picnic-in-the-park at 3:00pm. Performed by ‘This Is My Theatre Group’ - [book online](#).

Thursday, 8 June: *“Wuthering Heights”* by Emily Brontë. In the Saxon Church at 7:00pm. ‘This is My Theatre Group’ - [book online](#).

Sunday, 25 June: **Midsummer Service** at the Saxon Church 11:00am. followed by wine and light refreshments.

Monday, 26 June: The Friends AGM in the Saxon Church 6:00pm.

Sunday, 6 August: The Friends *“Strawberry Tea Party”* - The summer highlight! 3:00 - 5:00pm. At Daphne Foulsham’s Vale End Garden.

Tuesday, 8 August: *“Robin Hood”* Open air performance based on the traditional stories by ‘This Is My Theatre Group’ 7:00pm. Around the Saxon Church. Relax and enjoy some action and a picnic-in-the-park - [book online](#).

Thursday, 7 September: *“Much Ado About Nothing”* by William Shakespeare. In the Saxon Church. 7:00 pm - [book online](#).

Saturday/Sunday, 9/10 September: **Heritage Weekend.** In the Saxon Church 10:00am - 5:00pm.

Sunday, 17 December: Annual **Candlelit Carol Service.** In the Saxon Church at 5:00pm. Mulled wine & warm mince pies will help keep out the cold!

The Friends Charity Trustees

(Registered Charity Number: 1168550)

The Duke of Northumberland, Patron of the Friends Charity

Rev. Andrew Pearson (Chairman)	chairman@alburyoldsaxonchurch.org	07887 360061
Sally Godfrey (Hon. Secretary)	secretary@alburyoldsaxonchurch.org	01483 203452
Linda Floyd (Hon. Treasurer)	treasurer@alburyoldsaxonchurch.org	01483 302782
Daphne Foulsham (Minutes Sec.)	daphnefoulsham@gmail.com	01483 202594
Monica Cassels (Publications)	monicacassels@yahoo.co.uk	01483 202962
Stephanie Harley (Events)	stephanie.harley@btinternet.com	01483 229045
Michael Baxter (Albury Estate)	mbaxter@alburyestate.co.uk	01483 202323
Chris Hammond (Fund Raising)	cj.hammond26@outlook.com	01483 202579
Charlotte Gummer (Trustee)	4cegummer@gmail.com	01483 203806
Mervyn Badiali (Heritage)	mervynbadiali@gmail.com	07506 877227
Roy Hogben (Ed./Fund Raising)	royhogben@alburypark.com	01483 202636