



THE FRIENDS OF ST EADBURGHAS

Registered Charity No. 502369

Chairman's Report for the 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

At the time of writing, we are waiting to go ahead with some of the work detailed in the architect's Quinquennial Report. This will include some roof repairs including moss removal and some replacement rainwater pipework. During the year, we planted a cherry tree in memory of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and this year's tree project is to remove the dead sycamore trunk and replace it with an oak tree to commemorate the life and long reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

Earlier this year, following faculty approval, we arranged for the early 17th C Charles I wooden panel to be conserved – sadly, this meant that we had to close the church from December to mid-March because of the internal scaffolding. The finished work has been replaced high on the chancel arch wall and looks superb, highlighted by a pair of new low energy spotlights. At the same time, we installed some additional loudspeakers for the organ and repaired a section of internal wall that had been damaged some time ago by heavy rainfall. We were extremely fortunate to attract grant funding for all this work, without which we would not have been able to proceed.

Our Friends membership now stands at over 120, up from 110 last year. We do not require an annual subscription and, as a non-denominational charity, we are always delighted to hear from anyone who wishes to support our cause.

Regarding Events, this year we enjoyed an excellent A Capella performance by Da Capo followed by a delightful 'cello recital by 14-year-old Millie Hesketh from Chipping Campden School.

Our volunteers have continued to maintain the old churchyard every Thursday morning at 10.30 and, of course, keep the inside of the church clean and refreshed with fresh flowers for our many visitors. New helpers always welcome please.

In addition to our AGM held mid-year, the Trustees continue to meet twice annually and have been represented on the PCC by Gill Hammond who keeps us briefed on any matters relevant to the 'The Old Church'.

The Friends of St Eadburgha's sole objective is to assist the PCC, physically and financially, with the maintenance and preservation of our precious heritage – the only Grade 1 listed building in Broadway. Our close relationship with St Michael's is of course vital and we are grateful to The Rev'd. Shellie Ward, the churchwardens and the PCC for continuing to work with us in achieving our aim of maintaining our much-appreciated building and churchyard.

Phil Whatmough, Chairman, March 2023

01386 852120 philwhatmough1@talktalk.net