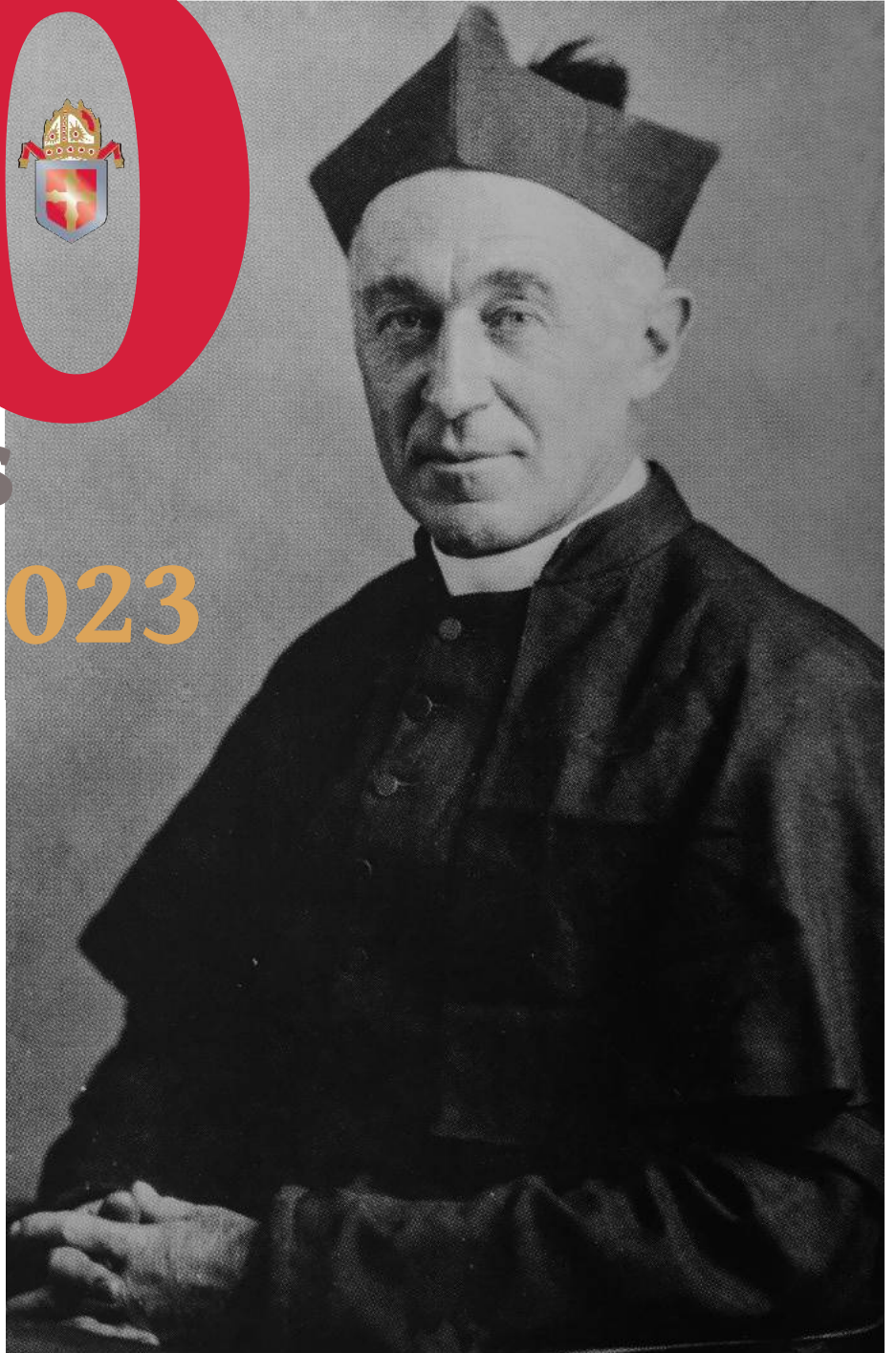


900



years

1933 - 2023



**THE FRIENDS OF TEWKESBURY ABBEY
FIRST COUNCIL**

FIRST FRIEND & PATRON

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER
KG KT KP PC GCB GCMG GCVO

PRESIDENT

THE RIGHT REV THE LORD BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER

VICE PRESIDENTS

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BEAUFORT KG PC GCVO
THE VEN THE ARCHDEACON OF GLOUCESTER
THE VEN THE ARCHDEACON OF CHELTENHAM
V W YORKE

ELECTED MEMBERS

W ST CLAIR BADDELEY LLD
W MEATH BAKER
W G BANNISTER
MAJOR SIR F W B CRIPPS DSO
F W GODFREY
B C GRAY
A E HEALING
MISS G HILL
R M HOLLAND-MARTIN CB FSA
Dr M R JAMES OM LITT D FBA
W H KNOWLES FSA
SIR E A LECHMERE Bart
N G MOORE
MUSGRAVE MORRIS
F E ROBESON
G McN RUSHFORTH FSA
Rev PF WIGAN
V W YORKE

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Rev E P GOUGH

VICAR:

**SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION
OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS:** H R POWYS

CHURCHWARDENS: A BAKER
T W MOORE

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL: Mrs M E HEWETT
N G KITCHING
G L HONE JP



The Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey

Annual Report - Spring 2023

Aims and Constitution of The Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey

The purpose of The Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey is to assist the Parochial Church Council in maintaining the fabric of the Abbey, and its services and activities, and adorning and preserving it, together with its furnishings, vestments and ornaments, for posterity.

The Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey shall also be free to devote a part of their fund to the preservation and improvement of the properties forming part of the ancient possessions of the Monastery now vested in the Trust known as the Abbey Lawn Trust, provided that the ultimate control of the use to which such monies are put remains with the Trustees.

The management of the affairs of the Friends is in the hands of a Council. The Vicar and Churchwardens of the Abbey are ex-officio members of the Council; the Parochial Church Council nominates two representatives. Other places on the Council are filled by election at the Annual General Meeting of the Friends.

The Friends' Prayer

O God who for the glory of this thine earthly house
didst move thy servant Edward Pountney Gough to found
the fellowship of the Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey,
wherein we are gathered
faithfully to protect and adorn its beauty;
grant, we beseech thee, that,
we being zealous in the service of thy sanctuary,
all who worship here may perceive the excellence of thy majesty
and be filled with the fruits of thy Holy Spirit.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord who liveth and reigneth with thee
and the same Spirit, one God, world without end.
Amen

Photo credits.

Front Cover: Revd. Edward Pountney Gough, from the photograph displayed in the Sacristy

Back Cover: The East End of the Abbey, June 2022 (*I White*) surrounded by archive photographs taken in 1933

Thank you to all the Friends who have provided photographs for use in this report.

The Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey

Annual Report 2023

Incorporating accounts for the year ended December 2022

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The Council and Officers of The Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey 2022-23

President: The Bishop of Gloucester

Vice Presidents: The Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire

The Bishop of Tewkesbury

The Archdeacon of Gloucester

The Archdeacon of Cheltenham

Chairman: Mr GL Finch

Vice Chairman Dr I White

Council 2022-2025: Mr N Bennett (*Honorary Treasurer*)

Dr A Crowther

Mrs S Lancelot

Mr RHM Sweet

Council 2021-2024 Mr D Bagley (*co-opted 2022*)

Mr R Bellairs

Mr S Evans

Mrs M O'Leary (*resigned July 2022*)

Mrs L Parsons

Council 2020-2023: Mrs S Coulton

Mrs J Raywood (*Young Friends' Coordinator*)

Mrs J Smail (*Friends' Table*)

The Revd CE Whitney

Ex-Officio: The Vicar of Tewkesbury, The Revd Canon Dr Paul Williams (*until September 2022*)

The Churchwardens: Mr J Parkes

Mrs N Oakes

PCC Representatives: Mrs J Davis

Dr J Lancelot

Secretary and Administrator: Mrs KE Vincent

Bankers: Lloyds plc, High Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 5RZ

Independent Examiner: James Howard FCCA, ACA, Haines Watts Worcester Limited
First Floor, Saggars House, Princes Drive, Worcester WR1 2PG

Postal Address: c/o Tewkesbury Abbey Office, Church Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 5RZ
The Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey is a Registered Charity, No. 211236, governed by a constitution created in 1933, amended 2nd July 1989, and further amended on 7th July 2013

Words of Greeting from our President, The Right Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester



I am delighted to contribute words of welcome to the Annual Report in this, the 90th anniversary year of The Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey. Happy birthday! I greatly look forward to joining you for your celebration at Friends' Festival on July 2nd. As President I am pleased to take this opportunity to acknowledge all that The Friends have done in support of the Abbey. Throughout the 90 years of their existence they have generously contributed to the conservation of this magnificent building built to the glory of God. This has included many restoration campaign appeals, beginning with that for the repair of the central tower in the 1930s. In more recent years they have provided financial assistance for the new lighting and sound installations, which have enhanced the experience of worshipper and visitor alike. They have also provided match funding for the repair of the roof of the Camera Cantorum, an example of the often unseen on-going maintenance of the Abbey fabric; and gave the Tewkesbury triptych by Silvia Dimitrova in the Chapel of St Edmund, which reflects their constitutional objective of "beautifying" the Abbey. We owe The Friends our gratitude for all that they have done and I send my very best wishes to you all for your continued work as you look forward in due time to celebrating your centenary.

Chairman's Report

A 90th birthday in any family is an occasion to celebrate and as part of the Abbey family The Friends are intending to make the most of this remarkable milestone. Much of this year's Report is devoted to an account of all that has been done over four score years and ten to fulfil our constitutional responsibility to help the PCC to ensure the preservation and beautification of our remarkable building and to support much of what happens within its walls. This year's Friends' Festival will also be rather special. As you'll see from the programme for the day on page 31, we are delighted to welcome our President, Bishop Rachel, to preside at the Sung Eucharist in the morning and to welcome back our former Vicar, Very Revd Michael Tavinor, as our preacher. The Lord Lieutenant, as one of our Vice-Presidents has also agreed to join us for part of the day and to share in our celebration.

We have seen many changes since I wrote in last year's Annual Report. Most notable, of course, was the loss of Paul and Catherine Williams, as they left Tewkesbury after almost twenty years, to take up a new life in Norfolk. The Abbey's loss has been Sandringham's gain and many of us will have seen Fr Paul as he participated in Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Committal Service in St George's Chapel, Windsor, a few short weeks after taking up his new appointment. We have much to be thankful for in Fr Paul's ministry to us, not least in the very active part he played in the affairs of The Friends, "the Abbey's fan club", as he called us. He will be greatly missed, but we wish him and Catherine well in their new surroundings and send best wishes not just to them but also to Alice, Sam and Harry, with thanks for all they gave us during their time in Abbey House. As I write this, it is scarcely a fortnight

since the announcement was made of the appointment of Revd Canon Nick Davies as our new Vicar. We send our very best wishes to him and his family as they prepare to join us.

Other personnel have changed too, notably two of our Officers. Andrew Crowther stood down as Vice-Chairman at the AGM last year after many years of devoted service. We thank him for all his hard work and wise counsel over that time and welcome, in his place, Dr Ian White, who has already made his mark on our organisation. The same is true also of Nigel Bennett, who took over from Hugh Sweet as our Treasurer. The two of them have worked together to ensure a smooth handover and we will express our thanks to both of them at the AGM for the preparation of our accounts for 2022, a summary of which can be found on pages 24 and 25.

Despite the changes we have maintained our customary level of support for the PCC and have continued our programme of talks and visits. Last year's Fitzhamon Lecture, by Professor James Clark on "The Last Monks of Medieval Tewkesbury" was well attended and greatly appreciated. The same was true of our autumn lecture when Tim Bridges spoke to a "full house" about George Gilbert Scott - "hero or villain?" This year's Fitzhamon Lecture, "The Heraldry of The Founders' Book" delivered by Dr Adrian Ailes is a treat in prospect at the time of writing; we are fortunate indeed to be able to call on the services of such distinguished speakers to address us and extend our understanding of the Abbey. We've also enjoyed two remarkable, but very varied, outings: to Coventry (Cathedral and Sikh Gurdwara) following last year's Friends' Festival, and to Malvern in February for a guided tour at Nicholson's Organ Works followed by an organ recital at Little Malvern Priory, given by Dr James Lancelot, whom we are delighted to have as a PCC representative on Council. Thanks go to James, to his wife, Sylvia, to Rafael Bellairs and the rest of the Events Committee for keeping us well supplied with fascinating and instructive activities.



Dr James Lancelot prepares to play the organ at Little Malvern Priory on the Friends' visit in February 2023

We have supported the PCC with a grant of £75,000 towards the Fabric Fund and have helped fund essential repair and maintenance work in the Visitor Centre. It continues to be a source of frustration that the intended work to improve the entrance at the North Porch remains stalled. We very much hope that this project will move forward in the near future. Once it does we will decide how best to re-launch the 2021 Appeal, which has raised more than half of its target of £202,100. Thanks again to those who continue to donate to the Appeal. Our membership numbers remain fairly steady, but we would very much like to see them increase. If you know of anyone who may be encouraged to join us please do so. Membership application forms are available in the Abbey and may be downloaded from the Friends' website. We have set ourselves the modest target of recruiting an extra 90 members to celebrate our 90 years.

We have been collaborating more closely in partnership with the PCC and Tewkesbury Abbey Foundation to ensure that the Abbey is well supported both financially and practically. Working together is key to this so that we can avoid both duplication of effort and the possibility of working at cross-purposes. The Foundation currently focuses on funding the musical life of the Abbey and supporting the work of Celebrate; it also lends support to the PCC in the processing of grant applications. In due course it aims to provide financial resources to assist significantly with the day to day running of the building and organisation. The Friends is a membership organisation, which has traditionally had the preservation of the Abbey fabric at the heart of its objectives. For the time being it is likely that we shall continue that focus and, in particular, seek to deploy our funds in major projects, often through the provision of match funding when seeking grants from external bodies.

So the work of The Friends continues. As we approach another AGM, I am mindful of the commitment and effort of all members of Council, who constitute our Charity Trustees. As Chairman I rely so much on the contribution of so many. In particular I offer thanks, on behalf of you all, to our Officers; to Ian White our Vice-Chairman; to Nigel Bennett, our Treasurer and, above all, to Karen Vincent our indefatigable Secretary and Administrator, who does so much to ensure the smooth and efficient running of our organisation. Finally I offer my thanks to you, our members, whose generosity and support makes possible the work we do to maintain and preserve the Abbey for future generations. We hope to see many of you at our anniversary Friends' Festival.

A newspaper article in 1934 recording the launch of The Friends' first Appeal, for the restoration of the Tower, speaks of the newly formed Friends in these terms: "The Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey are a company of those who wish to bear their part in handing down to posterity a national heritage unimpaired and enriched." I think we can take pride in the knowledge that in the years following our foundation, we have succeeded in doing just that. Happy birthday!

Graham Finch, Chairman

Churchwarden's Report

Congratulations to the Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey on your 90th Anniversary. Your 90th year, 2022 – 2023 has seen the return of the Abbey to pre-Covid normality. Highlights were the return of our popular Christmas Eve Christingle service, offering Communion in both kinds from Ash Wednesday, and marvellously well attended Holy Week and Easter services.

None of this would have been possible without our team of retired clergy and ministry team who have so ably covered all our eucharist services and daily offices, funerals, weddings and seasonal services throughout the year. The Churchwardens would like to thank all those who have kept the Abbey running throughout the interregnum so far. Without the dedication, effort and hard work of so many we would not have come through the vacancy as well as we believe we have. Thank you all.

Although the Abbey financial situation remains difficult there has been some recovery in commercial activities with the Tea Room, Abbey Shop, some successful concerts and the development of regular

tours of the Abbey. However, we face challenges in the year ahead. The Abbey's statutory five-year Electrical Condition Report was given an 'unsatisfactory' finding. Remedial work will take 5 weeks, and the Abbey will have to be closed for most, if not all, of this time. Early October to early November has been identified as the time most suitable for this. The installation of the stone floor plaque commemorating the 900th Anniversary of the Abbey consecration will be scheduled for the same time.

The Fabric committee and our Estate Manager are working steadily to address the issues raised in the Architect's Quinquennial Inspection and regular maintenance items. This includes necessary repairs to the Abbey tower masonry and investigating deterioration to masonry at lower levels in the ambulatory and within the chantry chapels that might be accelerating more quickly than expected. After recently leaning so heavily on financial support from the Friends new major projects have been put on hold and wherever possible grant funding applications are being made. The Abbey has been successful in its bid for Home Office security grants, with full funding and approval for the installation of a new infrared camera system for the south side of the Abbey.

Much of the year was spent on the process of appointing a new vicar. Writing the Parish Profile, informed by an extensive parish survey, was a useful and informative process. We welcome the appointment of Revd Canon Nick Davies as the Vicar of Tewkesbury Abbey with Walton Cardiff and Twyning and the Celebrate Community. Fr. Nick is currently Team Rector for South Cheltenham where he leads a team of eight clergy and lay leaders serving five churches representing the breadth of the Church of England and where he is much appreciated for his pastoral care and his delight in liturgy and worship. He grew up in Surrey and holds degrees in Biblical Studies from Sheffield University, Systematic Theology from Edinburgh University and Pastoral Theology from Anglia Ruskin University. Prior to ordination Fr. Nick had a career in communications and fundraising in the voluntary sector, working for Christian Aid and Save the Children. He trained for the priesthood at Westcott House in Cambridge, has served in the Diocese of Gloucester since 2012 and was made an honorary Canon of Gloucester Cathedral in 2021. Fr. Nick is married to Helen and they have two school-aged children. His Institution and Induction will take place on Thursday 7 September at 7.30pm in Tewkesbury Abbey. We look forward to welcoming Father Nick and his family to Tewkesbury.



Revd Canon Nick Davies

John Parkes retires as Churchwarden in May and I would like to thank him for all his work for the Abbey, not least for his able chairing of the Fabric Committee, guiding them through several major projects during these years.

Our grateful thanks to the Friends for their 90 years of support and once more, congratulations on your 90th Anniversary year.

Nancy Oakes, Churchwarden

90 Years of Friendship

1930s

Vicar: Canon Edward Pountney Gough

Chairman: Mr V W Yorke

90
years
1933-2023



A chance conversation in 1931 with his friend Leonard Hone about the foundation of The Friends of Winchester Cathedral led Canon Gough, then Vicar of Tewkesbury, to consider the possibility of establishing a similar body for the Abbey. In October 1932 Canon Gough called a public meeting to suggest precisely this course of action. The proposal met with general agreement and preparations were set in train to put together a Constitution and governing Council. The Constitution was approved and the first Council elected in 1933.

The first Chairman of the Friends was Mr V W Yorke. HRH The Duke of Gloucester accepted an invitation to become its first Patron.

The objectives of The Friends were - and remain - to assist the PCC in maintaining the fabric of the Abbey and its services and activities and adorning and preserving it, together with its furnishings, vestments and ornaments, for posterity.



The first contributions made by The Friends were the binding of the Churchwardens' Account Book for 1563-1703 and work to repair the vaulting of the Beauchamp Chantry (including the replacement of wooden beams with steel ones).

The First Appeal

In 1934 it was decided to launch an appeal in the following year to fund work on the Abbey's exterior: "A survey of the exterior stonework made by Mr T Overbury FRIBA showed that urgent work was required on the tower, eastern chapels, nave crossing and pierced parapet of the choir. It was estimated that £25,000 would be needed for necessary repairs to the fabric and the Council decided to issue an appeal during 1935."



The appeal was undertaken by The Friends and duly launched early in 1935 with HRH The Duke of Gloucester as Sponsor, alongside the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Beaufort, Mr V Yorke and the Vicar. During the year a sum of £6,194.14s.7d was raised and work began on strengthening the piers that support the tower. To mark the completion of the work on the tower in 1939 a tablet was installed and unveiled on the south side of the south-west pier of the tower.

Further work continued over the following years and finally completed in 1942.

Other expenditure was on lighting for the nave, an electric blower for the Milton organ and the purchase of relics: hair from Isabella le Despencer, part of a vestment and gold lace belonging to Abbot Cheltenham and 2 pairs of 14th century gloves. These items remain in the possession of the Abbey.

A series of Tewkesbury Festivals was held between 1935 and 1939. These Festivals, organised by local writer John Moore, were part of the fund-raising effort for the 1935 Appeal.

1940s Vicars: Canon Gough (until 1942); Rev Brian Mews (later Purefoy)

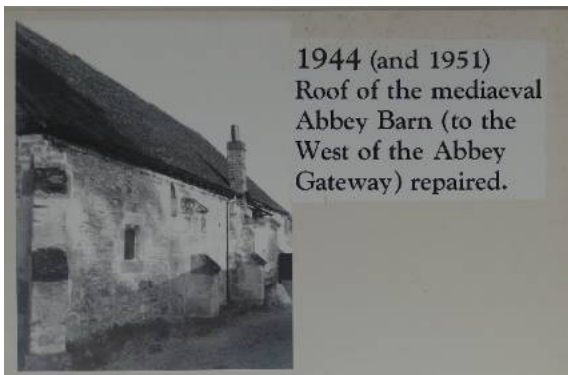
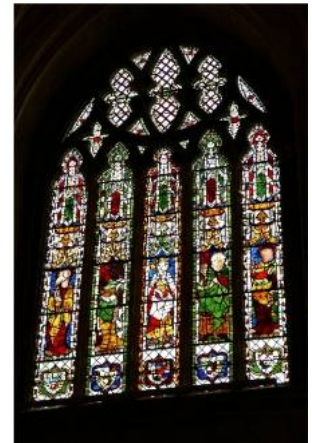
Chairman: Mr V W Yorke

Tewkesbury at War

The fourteenth century windows in the Choir were removed in 1942 and taken to Forthampton for safety. They were returned and reinstalled in 1946.

The Friends purchased Fire Service equipment.

When work was possible once more The Friends contributed to the repair of the eastern chapels, completing the renovation funded by the 1935 Appeal. The roof of the Abbey barn was repaired, a grant was made to Abbey Lawn Trust for the reconditioning of the Abbey cottages and the Gage Gates were repaired and repainted.



1944 (and 1951)
Roof of the mediaeval
Abbey Barn (to the
West of the Abbey
Gateway) repaired.

Excavation of the site of the former Lady Chapel also took place in this decade.

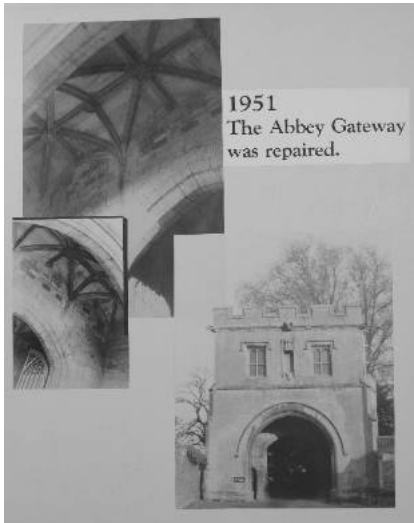
Significant work was undertaken to restore, reorder and enlarge the Milton Organ between 1947 and 1951. According to the accounts, The Friends contributed £1,000 to the Organ Fund in 1948, £750 in 1950 and £750 in 1951. In 1952 a further sum of £1,000 was loaned to the Fund.

1950s Vicar: Canon Brian Purefoy

Chairmen: VW Yorke (until 1954);
Hon HW Baldwin (1954 -1957);
Capt P Hayman (1957 - 1965)

The restoration of the figure of the Kneeling Knight, which had commenced pre-war in 1938, was completed in 1950. The first Friends' Christmas card featured an image of the newly restored figure.





The Abbey gatehouse and barn were repaired as were the South Transept, the roofs of Abbey cottages and the north porch.

In 1956 another Abbey Restoration Appeal was launched. The target sum was £50,000 to be applied to the restoration of deteriorating stonework, lead roofs and "a serious infestation of deathwatch beetle".



A mobile mirror for viewing the nave roof bosses was presented by The Friends and is still in use almost 70 years later.

The clock in the Abbey Tower was rebuilt with an electric winding mechanism.

The Gage Gates were repaired and repainted (again).

In 1959 Darsie Rawlins' statue of the Madonna and Child was installed in the niche above the entrance to the North Porch.



1960s

Vicars: Canon Brian Purefoy (until 1963);

Rev Cosmo Pouncey

Chairmen: Capt P Hayman (until 1965);

Mr Peter Healing (1966 - 1988)

At the beginning of the decade the main concern was the state of the bells in the Abbey Tower, which, according to The Friends' Annual Report "need restoring and have become infamous throughout the bell-ringing world". A fund was established for this purpose to which The Friends made a significant contribution. "Between 1960 and 1962, the old seventeenth- and early eighteenth- century bells, originally cast by Rudhall of Gloucester, were preserved as chimes for the Abbey clock. The other bells were recast by John Taylor and Company Limited of Loughborough." (C E Whitney)

Funding was provided for a new, more efficient sound system.

Contributions were made towards the restoration of Abbey House, which became the official vicarage by Deed of Conveyance, signed in 1965. The PCC subsequently purchased Abbey Lodge, the former vicarage. Canon and Mrs Pouncey did not move into Abbey House until just before Christmas 1967.

In 1967 £2,500 was spent on repairs to the window in the South Transept - the Collins Memorial Window.

In 1969 an "industrial vacuum cleaner and a knapsack cleaner" were purchased by The Friends, perhaps to ensure that the Abbey was "spick and span" in time for the recording of BBC Songs of Praise in October that year.

1970s

Vicar: Canon Cosmo Pouncey

Chairman: Mr Peter Healing



1971 was a major year in the life of the Abbey. It marked the 850th anniversary of the consecration and the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Tewkesbury. On Thursday 8th April that year, Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, distributed the Royal Maundy in the Abbey. Other celebrations during the year included a *Son et Lumiere*, Festival services, plays and lectures.

Another significant development was the establishment in 1973 of the Abbey Choir School by Miles Amherst. It sang its first Choral Evensong on 8th May 1974. Weekday Choral Evensong during term time was provided by the Abbey School Choir until its dissolution in 2006 when the school closed. Subsequently the boy choristers transferred to Dean Close School in Cheltenham where, along with a group of Lay Clerks, they became the Schola Cantorum which, with the addition recently of girl choristers, has continued to provide weekday Choral Evensong until the present day.



An Appeal was launched in 1971 to fund a major restoration of the Grove Organ, a project which occupied the following eight years, reaching completion in 1979. The Friends made a significant contribution to this fund.

Further sound equipment was provided by The Friends between 1973 and 1975.

Repairs to St Margaret's Chapel were funded in 1977.

The Gage Gates were restored and repainted (again!). They were removed in 1972, worked on by Mr Alan Knight and eventually returned in 1976.

In 1977 The Friends paid a visit to Oxford, including the Bodleian Library, presumably to be shown *The Founders' Book*, which is held there. Appropriately, The Friends' Christmas card for that year featured an illustration from *The Founders' Book*.



1980s

Vicar: Rev Michael Moxon (1981 - 1990)

Chairmen: Mr Peter Healing (until 1988);
Mrs Anne Cadbury (1988 - 2014)



The Friends funded a good number of projects through this decade, including provision of uplighting for the nave roof bosses (which visitors could illuminate for a set time by putting a coin in the box provided), a contribution of £500 to the Tower floodlighting, repairs to the south aisle roof, provision of a secure storeroom off the Lady Chapel, refurbishment of the sacristy and the gift of a new set of white vestments.

Major work was undertaken on the Founder's Chantry, the Beauchamp Chantry and the High Altar sedilia to which The Friends contributed 50%.

Rewiring was needed in the nave and the Gurney stoves were converted to gas. The Friends also contributed to the improvement of drainage in the Abbey grounds.

A new constitution for The Friends was drawn up in 1988.

The Rev Michael Moxon left to take up a post as a Canon of Windsor in 1989.

1990s

Vicar: Rev Michael Tavinor

Chairman: Mrs Anne Cadbury

Repair of windows in St. James's Chapel (the Abbey Shop), the rebuilding of the altar in St Faith's Chapel and repairs to the south east pinnacle of the Tower in the first year of the decade were all undertaken with support from The Friends.

Following an exhibition of ecclesiastical art in 1992, The Friends bought from it both the altar, designed by Bryant Feddon for the Chapel of St Catherine and St John the Baptist ("I am that I am") and the statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace, created by Anthony Robinson, which was installed in the ambulatory behind the High Altar.



The Friends also contributed to the cost of the statue of St Dunstan, carved by Anthony Wagner, placed in St Dunstan's Chapel in 1993.

A contribution was also made towards the cost of major restoration, undertaken by Bruce Induni and a team from the University of Bournemouth, of the tomb of Hugh Despencer III and Elizabeth Montacute on the north side of the High Altar and also of the tomb of Sir Guy de Brien which stands on the opposite side of the ambulatory outside the Chapel of St Margaret.

A major Abbey Appeal was launched in 1992 with the aim of raising two million pounds in order to rebuild the Milton Organ, to re-roof and renovate the eastern chapels around the ambulatory and to convert the Abbey Halls into the Abbey Visitor Centre. The Friends made a significant contribution to the Appeal on its launch at a service attended by HRH Princess Margaret. The work occupied the following five years, being completed in 1997, at which point Princess Margaret returned for the Thanksgiving Service.

Another major project, funded by a private legacy but supported by The Friends was the cleaning and conservation of the nave vault and its bosses.

The 1990s was a busy decade in the Abbey. In addition to the projects already mentioned, storage cupboards, decorated with the words "Read, Learn, Mark, Digest" were installed in the north-west corner of the nave, a beam and dossal curtain were provided behind the High Altar, new chairs and hassocks were supplied for the nave and the medieval glass in the window of the sacristy was repaired and restored. The Friends supported all this work.

At the end of the decade the Gage Gates were, yet again, restored and repainted.

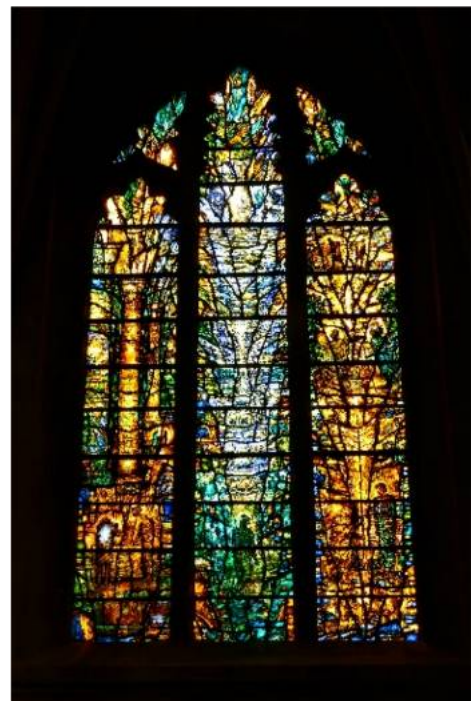
2000s

Vicars: Canon Michael Tavinor (until 2002);

Canon Paul Williams (2003-2022)

Chairman: Mrs Anne Cadbury

In 1102 Abbot Giralduus arrived in Tewkesbury with 57 monks from the monastery at Cranbourne to establish the first monastic community at the Abbey here. To commemorate that event it was agreed that two new stained glass windows should be commissioned for the Chapel of St Catherine and St John the Baptist. The Friends committed the funding for this and, following a competition, at which Anne Cadbury was one of the judges, a design by Tom Denny was selected. The windows were installed and dedicated on 19th October 2002.



The PCC decided to erect a new illuminated walkway in the nave roof space in order to more easily facilitate maintenance in that area. The Friends supplied much of the funding. Later a similar walkway was introduced into the roof space above the Choir.



In 2003 the West Window underwent major repair, both of the masonry and the stained glass. This necessitated the removal of the window for a long period, including through the winter. The congregation was not only relieved but delighted when it was re-installed in all its glory.



The Friends provided funding for a new cope chest, designed by Neil Birdsall, the Abbey Architect, and made by Tim Jeffree. The Cope Chest was highly commended in the Wood Awards for 2005. One of the first objects to be stored within it was the Florentine Cope, which had been recently restored by Wendy Toulson with funding from The Friends.

Other projects supported by The Friends included the refurbishment of the Chapels of St Edmund and St Dunstan; the restoration of the crucifix above the pulpit; the restoration of the white and gold High Altar frontal (The Friends' frontal!) and the provision of a further quantity of chairs and hassocks in the nave.

In 2005 another major appeal was announced, yet again for £2 million in order to fund a range of major projects. The Friends made a generous donation of £100,000 to get the appeal started and supported it with a similar sum later. Among the projects funded by the appeal were major work on the masonry of the central tower and both north and south transepts, the re-leading of the tower roof, the provision of ramps in both nave aisles and from the south ambulatory into the Choir, repairs to the north path and an improvement scheme for the exterior pavement at the west end, which incorporated the Abbey crest.

In 2008 work began on the Benefactors' Kneeler Project. Under the expert guidance of The Rev Richard Watson-Williams, formerly Secretary of The Friends, a group of dedicated needleworkers stitched a number of kneelers featuring the heraldic arms of families who had provided benefactions to the Abbey during the middle ages. Whenever possible work was done while the Abbey was open and visitors were encouraged to add a stitch or two. The kneelers were completed and dedicated in 2011 and occupy the step at the head of the nave. Subsequently the same team stitched new cushions for the stone benches in St Edmund's Chapel, which were dedicated in 2019. All this needlework was financed by The Friends.

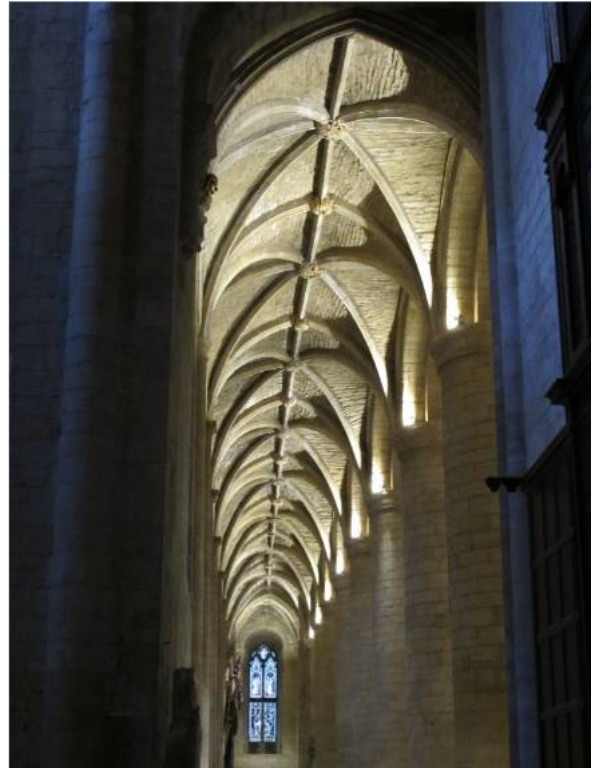
2010s

Vicar: Canon Paul Williams

Chairmen: Mrs Anne Cadbury (until 2014);
Mr Graham Finch (2014 to the present)

Major work, financially supported by The Friends but with grants from other bodies, took place to replace both the interior lighting and the sound system. Bruce Kirk of Light Perceptions consulted widely among the congregation during the process of designing the new lighting installation. The result enhanced the building both architecturally and liturgically and was greeted with universal approval and delight. At the same time a new sound system, designed and installed by Sound Advice, replaced its predecessor which was rapidly proving to be inadequate to the needs of the Abbey's many services, events and activities. Both systems were completed in 2013.

The Friends were then called upon to help fund significant restoration on the exterior masonry of the south side of the nave. The cloister wall was decaying quite seriously and work needed to be done to consolidate and conserve it.



The final projects under Anne Cadbury's chairmanship were the restoration of the Ismay Banner (the Garter Banner of Lord Ismay, Chief of Staff to Winston Churchill during World War II) and the commissioning of a triptych for the altar of St Edmund's Chapel. The latter was an icon, written by Sylvia Demitrova of Bath, depicting the saints of east and west, featuring on one side Tewkesbury Abbey and on the other the heavenly Jerusalem, with allusions to the musical angels of the nave roof bosses on the two wings of the altarpiece.



The ensemble was completed following Anne's retirement with a pair of candlesticks featuring the arrows with which St Edmund was martyred placed on the altar in thanksgiving for her many years of dedicated service to the Abbey and, in particular, to The Friends.



The PCC was in need of a Conservation Management Plan for the building and The Friends paid for the scoping phase towards that; they also funded a geophysical survey of the Abbey grounds. The production of an actual CMP was undertaken in



conjunction with the University of Exeter. The University recruited a PhD student with the intention that the final thesis would be on aspects of the Abbey's history and archaeology and would feed into a Conservation Management Plan. The successful candidate was Ellie March, who has been working since 2018 and is known as The Friends' Scholar. At the present time Ellie is writing up her PhD; we look forward to its completion.

A further major restoration of the Milton Organ was deemed necessary in 2017 and work was undertaken by Nicholson's of Malvern, part funded by The Friends.

The final major project financially supported by The Friends prior to the Covid 19 pandemic was the repair and restoration of the Camera Cantorum roof.



Two important developments in the life of The Friends took place in the second half of the decade. First was the establishment of a programme of events and visits, something that had been attempted previously, but had not met with great success. A new Events Committee provided us with a number of talks and lectures and also arranged visits in both winter and summer.

The inauguration of our annual series of *Fitzhamon Lectures has been a particular delight. Already a number of distinguished speakers and academics have delivered lectures on a range of topics, all related to some aspect of the Abbey's monastic

2020s

Vicar: Canon Paul Williams (until 2022)

Chairman: Mr Graham Finch

The decade began under the restrictions of the pandemic, with the Abbey community and the work of The Friends continuing to be disrupted. We learned in January 2020 of the sad death of Mrs Anne Cadbury on New Year's Day, which was a cause of great sorrow.

The prevailing restrictions on any kind of social gathering meant that the planned celebrations of the 900th anniversary of the consecration (and 550th of the Battle of Tewkesbury) had to be drastically reduced. The only events that were possible were a remarkable *son et lumiere* "immersive experience", which took place in November and two anniversary dinners in the nave. The Friends' contribution was likewise much reduced. Professor John Harper's Fitzhamon Lecture about the ceremonies and liturgy of the 1121 consecration was delivered by Zoom rather than in person and a socially distanced Friends' Festival and AGM was held in July 2021, at which the facsimile copy of *The Founders' Book* was launched.



Partly because of the pandemic the Abbey's need for financial support remained challenging. In 2022 The Friends were able to make an exceptional grant to the PCC Fabric Fund of £100,000 to facilitate post-Covid recovery.

The purchase by The Friends (with thanks to two major bequests) of live-streaming equipment in 2021 made possible the Abbey's continuing ministry through its YouTube channel. This was a source of great comfort and joy to many who were unable to enjoy in-person worship and has proved an invaluable tool in furthering the Abbey's outreach. It has been one of the few good things to have come out of the dislocation caused by the pandemic.

Friends' Festival 2022 was a joyous occasion. Once again the full programme was possible and the occasion also saw the publication of Fr Charles Whitney's "A History of Tewkesbury Abbey: Celebrating 900 Years".

Other work continues. With financial support from The Friends much was done to improve the condition of the Visitor Centre: its roof was repaired, its basement ceiling made good, the fire doors throughout the building made secure, and the windows and surrounding masonry on the first floor were renovated.

Throughout their existence The Friends have, from time to time, supported the Flower Guild, St Mary's Sewing Guild, the work of the Vergers and the musical life of the Abbey, including the sponsorship of two Choral Scholarships for Schola Cantorum.

We stand ready to support the Abbey well into the future, whatever it might bring.

Graham Finch & Ian White, with thanks to the Abbey Archivist, Mr. Pat Webley

Friends' Events



When Council members are asked to select their Committee choice in September each year the Events Committee is always the most popular option!

The social and educational aspects of membership are a major draw for many Friends and the committee is enthusiastic and diligent in providing opportunities to



combine these factors in a series of events during the year. The Friends' Festival visit to Coventry on 4th July 2022 united the splendour of Coventry Cathedral with the chance to learn more about Sikhism at a nearby Gurdwara.

A lot of work goes in to the preparations for each event. For events held at the Abbey the provision of refreshments is a major undertaking and the

Committee is most grateful to local Friends who assist with this, and the Abbey's verger team who set up the room and any equipment to be used.



On 28th October Mr Tim Bridges gave the autumn lecture,

entitled 'Sir George Gilbert Scott – Hero or Villain?' In this photograph he can be seen on the left, talking to the Chairman, Graham Finch, and Vice-Chair, Ian White. The Friends are most grateful to the lecturers for sharing their extensive knowledge with such ability and enthusiasm, the evenings are most entertaining and it is no surprise that the hall is always full.





For those who are not local to the Tewkesbury area we try to ensure that a recording is taken of the lectures and with the new website we are hoping to make more of these available to the Friends, with accompanying slide presentations when copyright restrictions allow. We also hope to make it possible for 'absent Friends' to join us remotely when an online booking system is fully functional. In the meantime we have sought to enhance the experience for those attending lectures in the parish hall with use of the Abbey's

portable sound system and the Friends' provision of a wall screen. Both of these can be seen in the photograph which was taken at the most recent event. On 22nd April Dr Adrian Ailes, Honorary Research Associate attached to the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Bristol, gave the Annual Fitzhamon Lecture on 'The Heraldry of The Founders' Book of Tewkesbury Abbey'. This was fascinating and many of those present reported that they immediately wanted to consult their copies of the recently published facsimile edition of the Founders' Book to explore further.



Looking to the future ...

A major effect of the pandemic has been the loss of momentum for the **Young Friends** and their own programme of activities and events. Helping out with the set-up for the main events has been



most welcome but is unlikely to be a major enticement for recruiting more children and young people to become involved with Tewkesbury Abbey! This should change in the summer when the Knitted Monks will once again be active in the Abbey, and a plan is being put together for an 'investigate the Abbey' event for the Young Friends led by The Friends' Scholar, Ellie March. A number of the first Young Friends are now off to University and they will be granted Complimentary Membership of the Friends whilst they remain in education so that their connection can be maintained.

A flyer is enclosed with this report inviting you to join the Friends' Trip to Leicester on 3rd July, and our Fitzhamon Lecture on 24th April 2024 will be on Robert Fitzhamon, delivered by Professor Judith Green, Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at the University of Edinburgh. Look out for posters, emails and the website for more details of this and other events. We look forward to seeing you!

Rafael Bellairs (Chair of Events Committee), Joanne Raywood (Young Friends Co-ordinator) & Karen Vincent (Friends' Administrator)

Membership Updates

The Friends have welcomed the following new members during 2022:

Life members

Mr Nigel Bennett	Mr Maurice Chamberlain	Mrs Christine Chamberlain
Mrs Hilary Crowder	Mr Ian Crowder	Mr John Smith
Mr Aymeric Salmon	Rev Canon Dr Paul Williams	Revd Catherine Williams

Annual members

Mr Mark Barnett	Mr Douglas Chome Wilson	Mrs Constance Cullingford
Mrs Karen Feighan	Ms Tracy Gascoine	Mr Martin Heywood-Thomas
Mr L Hoskins	Mr Robert Jeens	Mr John Mitchelson
Mr Neil Platts	Mr Matthew Roff	

We also remember those Friends who died, or whose deaths were notified, during 2022:

Mr Nicholas Coleman	Mr Rodney Dews	Lt Col John Evans
Mrs Grace Evans	Mrs Sue Hale	Mr David Hayes
Mr Chris Hordern	Mr Arthur Lawrence	Mrs Mavis Lawrence
Rev Peter Powell	Mr Basil Wilby	Mrs Doreen Winkless

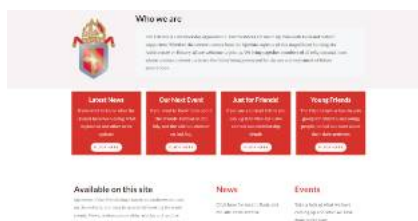
A new website for the Friends

The Friends' website was launched in 2018 and is now looking a little tired and outdated. Dr Ian White and I have been working on a new site which will become active during the summer, to bring things up



to date and provide exclusive content to Friends. The current site has served us well as a resource for providing information but had limited function for interaction with Friends. It was also designed more for desktop style computers, before tablets and smartphones became the most popular devices for accessing the internet. The

new website is being designed to improve navigation with clearer menus and click-button links. Most importantly the new site will provide a 'Member Zone' for Friends giving exclusive access to articles, reports, photos and media, as well as access to basic membership details (for example contact details) which the Friend



will be able to update if required. It is hoped that the ability to take electronic payments through the site will be added soon, so that bookings for events can be made, donations and subscriptions can be made, and new Friends can join. Security is going to be a strong feature of the new design.

As soon as the new site is available all Friends for whom we hold an email address will be contacted with an invitation to access the site and explore the new features. If you receive our emails you can be assured that we have your current email, but if you have an email and do not hear from us please get in touch, we do not want you to miss out on the new benefits of being a Friend.

Karen Vincent, Friends' Administrator

Treasurer's Report

2022 was not the easiest financial year as the country gradually emerged from the COVID pandemic and the financial markets retreated. We can be thankful that our position was largely stable.

There was little opportunity to increase membership, but we have been able to maintain our historic level of income. Equally the return on our investments did not increase. By contrast funding to the PCC to cover running costs and necessary repairs rose to £168,434.

Therefore steps will be taken in 2023 to increase our income and hold expenses in check. To this end we are actively working with the PCC and Foundation to ensure we can share costs and seek to raise funds co-operatively.

Our aims are to -

- increase membership and therefore income
- maximise dividend income
- raise additional funds
- control expenditure to a minimum

All of these will help maintain and preserve The Abbey and its ability to be a functioning Church. Annual and Life membership subscription rates were increased with effect from 1st January 2020 and these will remain unchanged for the foreseeable future. Some of our longer-standing Annual members have yet to increase their annual standing order (to a minimum of £20/year/member) and we would request that this change be made. Thank you to all who give more than the minimum, and to the many Life members who continue to make donations.

The value of all legacies to the Friends cannot be overestimated and such bequests have frequently enabled the Friends to fund, or provide match funding for, a particular project. Some legacies boost the investments held, the income from which helps to provide the grants for day-to-day maintenance at the Abbey. If you have not already done so please consider leaving something to the Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey in your will. Such a gift may also have tax advantages as The Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 211236).

At the end of my initial year I would very much like to thank Hugh Sweet for his time to handover. Also to Graham Finch and Karen Vincent for so much guidance and support. Finally to the Finance and Investment Committee for their patience with a novice Treasurer.

Nigel Bennett, Treasurer

Summarised Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions, donations and legacies	25,266	57,440
Investment income	26,367	25,561
Cards, Events, Young Friends	<u>6,428</u>	<u>2,008</u>
Total Income	58,061	85,009
EXPENDITURE		
Grants	168,434	143,809
Other Expenditure	<u>8,695</u>	<u>6,568</u>
Total Expenditure	177,129	150,377
Gains/(losses) on investments	(75,896)	99,121
Net income/(expenditure)	(194,964)	33,753
Total funds brought forward	975,716	941,963
Total funds carried forward	<u>780,752</u>	<u>975,716</u>

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Investments	638,846	789,742
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stocks of books and cards	364	607
Debtors	5,923	25,219
Cash at bank and on deposit	<u>137,816</u>	<u>162,760</u>
	144,103	188,586
Creditors	(2,197)	(2,612)
Net Current Assets	<u>141,906</u>	<u>185,974</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>780,752</u>	<u>975,716</u>
FUNDS		
Unrestricted Funds	505,166	699,419
Restricted Funds	126,631	127,342
Endowment Funds	<u>148,955</u>	<u>148,955</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>780,752</u>	<u>975,716</u>

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 3rd July 2022 at 2.30pm

Those present included: Marion Beagley, Nigel Bennett, Hilary Crowder, Ian Crowder, Andrew Crowther, Rosemary David, Janet Davis, Ann Dawe, Steve Evans, Graham Finch, James Garrett, Glenny Garrett, Mary Green, Maddy Greenland, Rosemary Harvey, Pat Horsley, James Lancelot, Sylvia Lancelot, Nick Lewis, Ellie March, Austin Meares, Valerie Meares, Joanne Raywood, Wendy Roberts, Janice Smail, John Smith, Hugh Sweet, Kimball Talbot, Mary Talbot, Karen Vincent, Marc Vincent, Pat Webley, Ian White, Charles Whitney, Catherine Williams, Paul Williams, Margaret Wilson

Apologies: Tony Barrett, Jennifer Barrett, Alan Beagley, Rafael Bellairs, Christine Bennett, Hugh Bennett, Neil Birdsall, Jane Crowther, Sue Evans, Patricia Fearnley, Esme Gedge, Janet Harvey, Susanna Isaac, Deborah Leah, Matthew Lewis, Libby Lewis, Keith Maudsley, Margaret Maudsley, Maggie O'Leary, John Parkes, Linda Parsons, Patricia Purkiss, Jim Roberts, John Thorne, Marsha White, Robin Wilson

1. The Chair of the Friends, Graham Finch, welcomed everyone to the AGM.

2. Mr. Finch read the list of those Friends who have died since our last AGM and a minute's silence was held in remembrance of them

Mr JR Brett	Mr Rodney Dews	Lt Col John Evans
Mrs Grace Evans	Mr Chris Hordern	Mr David Hayes
Mrs Mavis Lawrence	Miss Gill Smith	Mrs Doreen Winkless

3. The Revd. Canon Dr. Paul Williams read the Friends' Meeting Prayer. Mr. Finch noted that Fr. Paul had written the prayer for the Friends and this would be the last occasion he would read it.

4. Mr. Finch thanked all who were responsible for that morning's uplifting Choral Eucharist, and also thanked the Vergers for their work and commitment during a very busy weekend. He thanked all who had helped to prepare the Bring and Share lunch, the Young Friends for helping to set up the hall, and Mrs. Ruth Bagley for the providing the cakes for the afternoon tea. There was a round of applause in appreciation.

5. Minutes of AGM held on 4th July 2021

All were in favour of accepting the minutes of the meeting as presented in the Annual Report. No corrections were required and there were no matters arising.

6. Chairman's Report

Mr. Finch thanked Mrs Karen Vincent for the production and delivery of the Annual Report.

Mrs Janice Smail was thanked for the running of the Friends' Table in the Abbey, with post-pandemic sales doing well, possibly because the shop has reduced opening hours.

Mrs Joanne Raywood was thanked for all her work with the Young Friends, and for maintaining contact during the pandemic. She hopes to re-establish momentum for activities soon.

Mr. Finch reported that the Friends' finances remain very healthy, thanks to the commitment of the Treasurer and the Finance and Investment Committee. The Friends have been able to support the Abbey PCC through very challenging times, including an extraordinary grant to the Fabric Fund of £100,000 and £85,000 for the essential repairs to the visitor centre windows. The Friends have renewed the support for Schola Cantorum with

funding for two scholarships, and continued support for the Friends' Scholar, Ellie March, who has extended her studies. Mr. Finch stressed the care and deliberation taken in the consideration of the requests for funding; not all decisions are unanimous which is a sign of a healthy Council.

Having relied upon Zoom for meetings and events during the pandemic Mr. Finch was pleased to report that a regular in-person pattern had been re-established. It had been possible to hold the Fitzhamon Lecture in person in April and it had sold out two weeks in advance, and a full coach would be travelling to Coventry on 4th July for the Friends' Visit. Mr. Finch paid tribute to the Events Committee for the quality and presentation of all they organised. He particularly thanked Mrs. Patricia Purkiss who had served as chair of the committee for a number of years and who was standing down from Council this year.

The Membership and Communications Committee is not particularly glamorous and Mr. Finch thanked its members for dealing with administration matters of some complexity including a review of the Privacy Policy, developing the website and the production of newsletters and reports. The committee is currently focusing on membership recruitment.

Largely due to the pandemic the 2021 Appeal has turned out to be a little disappointing, although Mr. Finch considered that raising more than £120,000 was remarkable in the circumstances. The scheme for improving the north entrance, and enhancing disability access, remains in abeyance and the PCC must reassess whether to push forward with changes. It has been decided to leave the appeal open with the hope that it will be relaunched for a time-limited period when there is a very specific project acceptable to the Diocesan Advisory Council. Mr. Finch thanked all who have donated to the appeal.

Mr. Finch thanked all Council members and officers with particular reference to those who were completing their three-year terms of service at this year's AGM: Patricia Purkiss, Hugh Sweet, Sylvia Lancelot and Ian White. Mrs. Purkiss has completed two terms and under the Constitution must now step down.

7. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Mrs. Vincent read out the nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and as there no other nominations declared that the nominees were duly elected.

For Chair: Mr. Graham Finch, proposed by Mrs. Karen Vincent and seconded by Revd. Charles Whitney
For Vice-Chair: Dr. Ian White, proposed by Revd. Charles Whitney and seconded by Mrs. Karen Vincent

Mr. Finch thanked everyone for the confidence shown in his chairmanship, and his gratitude to Dr. White for being willing to stand as Vice-Chair.

8. Nominations for Council

There were four vacancies for Council and four nominations had been received so the following were elected unopposed and greeted with applause:

Mr. Nigel Bennett
Mrs. Sylvia Lancelot
Mr. Hugh Sweet
Dr. Andrew Crowther

Mr. Finch reported that the previous day he had been contacted by Mrs. Maggie O'Leary who, for family and health reasons, had resigned from the Council. Mr. Finch conveyed the best wishes of the Friends to her. It was too late to elect a successor at this meeting, but the Constitution permitted the Council to co-opt another member and have this decision ratified at the next AGM.

9. Election of Treasurer

There had been one nomination so Mr Nigel Bennett (proposed by Mrs. Janet Davis, seconded by Mr. Graham Finch) was elected unopposed and greeted with applause. Mr. Finch thanked Mr. Bennett for being willing to take on the role.

10. Appointment of Examiners

Mr. Hugh Sweet proposed that the current examiners, Haines Watts Worcester Limited, be retained in this role. They have been the examiners for the last 3 years, and the Council has been content with the work done and the fees charged. With one abstention all voted in favour of this appointment.

11. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Sweet welcomed and thanked Mr. Bennett for agreeing to take over as Treasurer, and to be assured of his support in the role.

The Summary accounts had been tabulated in the annual report and Mr. Sweet informed those present that a full copy of the accounts is available upon request.

Mr. Sweet reported that the investments have performed well, particularly in the last year but with some reduction in the last 6 months. It had been necessary to draw substantial sums from the the investments to meet commitments. The Friends are reliant on bequests and legacies to maintain investments and to keep the Friends going.

In 2021 some £144,000 had been granted to the PCC for various projects, and in 2022 £121,500 had already been granted with a further £113,000 committed. More requests are likely, and the general picture is that more money is going out rather than is coming in. Whilst it is the Friends' purpose to meet these needs, the Friends are not a bottomless pit and will have few funds available if this is maintained.

Although annual subscriptions were increased in 2019, quite a few members have not increased their standing orders. However, it was also noted that a number of annual Friends give more than the minimum subscription amount, and several life members donate regularly, a number extremely generously.

Mr. Sweet concluded by thanking Mr. Finch, Mrs. Vincent, the Council, and the Finance and Investment Committee for their support during his service as Friends' Treasurer, and Mr. Finch responded with thanks to Mr. Sweet. All present applauded.

Mr. Finch proposed that those present receive the accounts and all voted in favour.

12. Vicar's News

Revd. Canon Dr. Paul Williams said that he would never leave Tewkesbury unless there is a job to be done, and there is a job to be done, and it is right for him to move to serve Queen and country. He recalled the words of a former Chair of the Friends, Mrs. Anne Cadbury, who said that when you are young you have all the energy and none of the wisdom, and when old all the wisdom and none of the energy. He thanked those present for their Friendship to the Abbey, during the last two years in particular, and in partnership with the Foundation he is confident that the future for Tewkesbury Abbey is secure. He concluded by saying that it has been a real honour to serve Tewkesbury Abbey and he thanks God that the Friends are there for the Abbey's next chapter and a golden future.

13. Any Other Business

Mr. Finch concluded the meeting by saying that there were thanks to be made and farewells to say.

Mrs. Vincent was presented with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of her work as Secretary and Administrator.

Flowers would also be given to Mrs. Purkiss who was unable to be present at the meeting. She was one of the original co-chairs of the Events Committee. Talks and visits were meticulously planned and pastoral care exercised towards all. Nothing was ever too much trouble for her. The Friends wish her well for a slightly less stressful future.

Mr. Sweet stands down as Treasurer after exactly 11 years having succeeded Rob Davies on Sun 3rd July 2011, and agreeing to extend his intended 10 year tenure on account of the pandemic. Reference was made to his accounting skills and the sheer amount of work conducted over the years. It was noted that his vigilance had protected the Friends from fraudulent activity on several occasions, and he had been diligent in the processing of new members. Mr. Sweet had always been accessible, patient and courteous, and he was leaving the Finances in excellent shape. Mr. Finch expressed delight that Mr. Sweet would now be serving a term on Council. A gift was presented to applause, and Mr. Sweet replied that he had never received such reports at school or University.

Dr. Andrew Crowther is only the fifth Vice Chair of the Friends, having been first elected in 1994 and serving for 28 years, almost a third of the total lifetime of the Friends and supporting Mrs. Cadbury for some 20 years. Mr. Finch made mention of Dr. Crowther's great loyalty to the Friends, the confidence in him of both the Council and the membership, and the great esteem in which he is held. He has deputised as Chairman when required and fully immersed himself in the life of the Friends - meeting and greeting, acting as secretary to the Standing Committee, guiding in decision-making and being available with practical skills. It would be impossible to thank Dr. Crowther for all that he has done. Mr. Finch expressed gratitude that Dr. Crowther would now be serving a term on Council. A gift was presented to applause and Dr. Crowther replied that he had very much enjoyed his time on Friends' Council.

Mr. Finch recalled that when Revd. Paul Williams joined the Abbey in January 2003 many things were different on the Friends' Council. The nature, governance and ethos of the Friends has changed in the years since then and the Vicar had been instrumental in facilitating these changes. As an ex-officio member of Council the Vicar does not have a choice but for 19 years Revd. Williams has attended Council and committees and supported the Friends in every way. The relationship between Vicar and Friends is not always easy but Mr. Finch was pleased to report that at Tewkesbury the work has been harmoniously in partnership, with the Vicar, PCC and Friends working together out of mutual trust and respect. The flourishing of the Friends is one of Revd. Williams' lasting legacies.

To loud applause Mr. Finch presented Honorary Life Membership of the Friends to Revd. Canon Dr. Paul Williams and to his wife. Revd. Catherine Williams, and also two volumes of the Pevsner Guides to Norfolk. In reply Revd. Williams said that he had really enjoyed his time in Tewkesbury and will leave part of his heart here and thanked the Friends for the support, good wishes and prayers for himself and the family.

14. Date of Next AGM

This will be held on Sunday 2nd July 2023, the year being the 90th Anniversary of the Inception of the Council of the Friends, whose first constitution dates from 1933.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 15.42

Elections to Council 2023

Revd. Charles Whitney, Mrs Janice Smail, Mrs Joanne Raywood and Mrs Sue Coulton all complete their three year term of service as Members of Council this year, and we thank them for their contributions to the life of the Friends. For Fr. Charles, Janice and Joanne this marks the completion of their second term of three years and under the terms of the Friends' Constitution they must now step down as Trustees for a twelve month period. Janice will continue to run the Friends' Table in the Abbey and Joanne will remain the lead co-ordinator for the Young Friends although now as part of a small team.

The Friends are looking to elect four members of Council this year, alongside the annual elections for Chairman and Vice-Chairman. A nomination form is enclosed with this report. This has been amended from that used previously to make it clear that Members of Council are Trustees of a charity registered in England and Wales, and to ensure that our procedures are compliant with current Charity Commission regulations.

If you would like to be a member of the Friends' Council please do not wait to be asked! If you are a current Friend you are eligible to stand, and you need to be nominated and seconded by others who are also Friends. Please speak to a current member of Council (see page 4) if you would like to know more.

During the next 2-3 years the Council will need to focus on

- Fundraising
- Membership recruitment
- Technical developments (sound and vision at events, developing the website)
- Safeguarding
- Finance and Investments

so if you have skills and experience in one of these – or if you just love Tewkesbury Abbey! – do consider becoming a member of Council. As a final incentive, the cake at Council meetings is always plentiful and delicious!

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting

The Friends' Meeting Prayer

Apologies and Opening Remarks

Minutes of the AGM held on 3rd July 2022

Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Election of Council Members

Election of Treasurer

Appointment of Examiners

Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022

Churchwardens' News

Any Other Business

Date of Festival and AGM 2024 – Sunday 7th July

The Friends' Meeting Prayer

God our Creator, grant that your love may be present at our meeting,
so that what we say and do may be for the good of Tewkesbury Abbey and its Friends.

May we receive fresh encouragement in our labours, catch a wider vision,
and dedicate ourselves anew to the work to which you have called us.

We ask this in the name of Him who came not to be served, but to serve,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Programme for the Friends' Festival – Sunday 2nd July 2023

Edward Gillespie OBE, Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire
plans to join us for part of the day

- 10.30am** **Choral Eucharist**
President: The Right Reverend Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester
Preacher: The Very Reverend Michael Tavinor, former Dean of Hereford Cathedral
- 12.30pm** **Bring and Share Lunch**
Please take your contribution to the Tea Room before the morning service.
Wine and soft-drinks will be provided.
- 2.00pm** **Annual General Meeting** to be held in the Parish Hall, followed by
c.2.30pm **'90 Years of Friendship' - a presentation**
- 4.00pm** **Afternoon Tea**
- 5.00pm** **Festival Evensong**

