

FRIENDS OF
ST. WENEFREDE'S CHURCH
BICKLEY



Dear Friends

I am always surprised when our AGM comes around bringing another year of the Friends to a close, yet here we are again. It has been another wonderfully positive year for the Friends with our focus on our first major fundraising event, our Summer Garden Trail on the 9th and 10th July. We have also made substantial progress, in collaboration with the Church and PCC, in understanding exactly how our collected funds can be used to maintain the fabric, fittings and grounds of St. Wenefrede's. I am truly excited to be able to update you all on these advances from the last year.



In liaison with the PCC we have started to prioritise and document the investments required in the Church fabric over the coming years. A few requirements were found to be immediate and without question required our attention. Most, however, can now be carefully planned for the future. The Friends will see a mixture of requirements for our support in the years to come, ranging from the pragmatic maintenance of our estate, such as the pointing of the stonework, to the preservation of the aesthetic and historic aspects of the Church, such as repair of the (same age as and original to the Church!) altar frontals.



This year the Friends have been able to support the Church in reviewing its electrics and undertaking some required remedial work. I recognise that this sort of work can appear somewhat mundane. It is certainly less attractive than more visible projects such as the repair of the altar frontals. It is, however, critical to the continued use of the Church that the "basics" are always covered, something I see as core to the work of our society.

Now on to our main event. Seven local families in Hetherson Green, Bickley and Cholmondeley have volunteered their gardens and joined with other volunteers in offering a huge amount of time and effort to create what will be a delightful summer event for our local community. We are advertising broadly in the area and online and hope to welcome a great number of people to our Church and event. The gardens and Church are open for the Summer Garden Trail on 9th and 10th July 2016. More information can be found overleaf.

The trail starts at St. Wenefrede's Church where trail maps and tickets can be purchased.

Plant and gift stalls will be available at the Church as well as refreshments at "Tea With The Chickens" in Hetherson Green.

Gates open at 10:30 with final entry at 15:30 for a 16:30 close.

Tickets are £6 for entry to all gardens over the two days with free entry for under 16s.

Additional information will be published on our newly updated website at

<http://www.stwenefredesbickley.org>

and on our Facebook events page — <http://bit.ly/1ttOv7u>



We look forward to welcoming you all.

My thanks, as always go to each member of the Friends for your continued support of our organisation and Saint Wenefrede's Church. We have another exciting year ahead.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Summer Garden Trail and my best wishes to you all for the year to come.

David Wyndham Lewis
Chair

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