

FRIENDS OF ST HELEN'S CHURCH

Holy Trinity Parish Office, Old Town, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6BG

Email: friends@st-helenschurch.co.uk

The Friends of St Helen's Church was formed in 2017. The church is the most ancient building in the village and is listed Grade II*. There is a constant need for large sums of money to be spent on its upkeep and maintenance. By 2017 funds were severely depleted; in 2010 £150,000 had been spent restoring the tower. In common with many country churches, the congregation was small and the burden of upkeep was falling on fewer and fewer people. However the church is a **significant building, valued by many people in the village** who do not necessarily attend church services who would not wish to see the building fall into disrepair.

The **constitution** of Friends of St Helen's (FOSH) states the purpose of the Friends is "to advance the restoration, preservation, repair and maintenance, improvement and beautification of St Helen's Church and of the monuments, fittings, stained glass furniture, ornaments and chattels in the church and churchyard also to include the War Memorial". To this end the Friends may raise funds through any lawful means.

Substantial **repairs** have been carried out since 2017, including a major repair to the porch roof, repair and refurbishment of iron guttering, internal redecoration, woodworm treatment of roof timbers and cleaning and renovation of the **War Memorial**. Funds have been raised by an auction of promises, concerts and village sales all of which has been **fun** as well as fruitful. Most importantly a list of **Supporters** has been recruited.

Our current Trustees are:

Revd Patrick Taylor, Vicar
Revd Kay Dyer
Angela Wylam
Winston North
Jo Eaton Johnson

and a vacancy exists for a further trustee. Please come forward if you could help in this way.

To those of you who are established supporters; THANK YOU. We truly appreciate what you enable us to do for the fabric of St. Helen's. To anyone who is reading this we would like to express our gratitude; since 2017 every individual in Clifford Chambers has displayed their support in one way or another; by donating time, skills or by attending or purchasing something at one of our events, and we really want you to know how much this helped.

If you feel you could become a Supporter, the various annual subscriptions are as follows:

Platinum Supporter	£100.00
Gold Supporter	£50.00
Silver Supporter	£25.00

Whether becoming an annual Supporter or just making a donation you can pay directly into our bank account, or by cheque or standing order:

Bank:	HSBC
Account Name:	Friends of St. Helens Church
Sort Code:	40 43 19
Account Number:	42245043

You can also drop in a donation to any of the trustees or post a cheque to:

The Friends of St. Helen's Church
Holy Trinity Church Parish Office, Old Town, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG

:

If you want to discuss becoming a **Supporter** or making a donation, please contact our Secretary, Angela Wylam: telephone (01789) 268156 email: awylam@btinternet.com

As a Registered Charity, (Registration Number 1173391), "The Friends" can claim an additional 25p for every £1 donated through **Gift Aid**.

If you shop online, please consider signing up to the online fundraising scheme **www.easyfundraising.org.uk** and selecting us as your chosen charity. This will not cost you a penny more than your usual online shop and is completely secure. The online retailers donate a small percentage of your total expenditure to us. If you need help setting this up do get in touch.

Future Plans: The plans the St Helen's Team had to install a kitchen and toilet which would have cost £50,000plus had to be put on hold during the pandemic. There is still the likelihood that the 35 year old heating system will have to be replaced, certainly before next winter. Small jobs have been undertaken: woodworm in the vestry has been successfully cleared and treated. Obstructive trees in the churchyard have been removed and grass seed with a wildflower mixture has been sown. Names missing from the War Memorial are to be included in a suitable way and the Friends look forward to helping with this..

Obviously as a charity, **fundraising for the fabric of St. Helen's** is our key objective, but aside from donating money there are other things you can do to **offer your support**. What we desperately need now are people skills; if you believe you could spare some time in helping to organise events or fundraising activities please let us know.

With all best wishes,

Angela

On behalf of the Trustees