



Friends of All Saints' Church Cuddesdon

Newsletter No. 1 March 2024

From the Chair

What a delight it is, as chairperson of the **Friends Of All Saints' Church, (FOASC)**, to welcome you as a Friend and to thank you for joining this growing, if embryonic, group.

Our aim is to draw together people with a shared sense of community, who care about our church building. With your support we intend to raise funds in order to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of this historic building.

We have already enjoyed serving wine (mulled and straight) to firework watchers, print enthusiasts and carol singers. This added to the enjoyment of the events and raised a modest amount in donations. Our thanks to the donor of the wine at the fireworks.

We are now planning for 2024, to include:

- a jazz evening in partnership with Cuddesdon Village Hall,
- a talk and guided tour of All Saints' lychgate and church, with refreshments,
- an open garden tour around the village with cream teas.

Details can be found on the Events Page of this newsletter.

Please encourage others to join us. There is no membership fee, but of course, donations are much appreciated. We also welcome volunteers at our events and any ideas and feedback you may have.

Our vision of a successful event is primarily one of shared enjoyment, coupled with the opportunity to raise funds toward the ongoing restoration work to the fabric of our church.

On behalf of the committee, I again welcome you to The Friends Association and look forward to greeting you in person at our next event!

Anne Stern

From the Vicar

Dear Friends

I am delighted that you have decided to support The Friends of All Saints' Church.

All Saints' Church is very dear to me, personally, and has played an important part in my faith journey and vocation. It was inside All Saints' that I felt called to train for ordination at the college in Cuddesdon, and it was also there that I felt called to apply for my current post as Vicar of Garsington, Cuddesdon and Horspath.

I'm sure that many of you will have your own important stories of christenings, weddings, funerals and other significant events in All Saints' Church.

Your support will help ensure that future generations can enjoy the beautiful building too, and build their own stories of faith, worship, community and life events.

Thank you for your support

God bless

Reverend Karen

Reverend Karen Charman

Vicar of The Benefice of Garsington, Cuddesdon and Horspath

Diocese of Oxford



From the Treasurer

Welcome to Friends! The committee have been working to bring the Friends together for over a year now, and we are starting to see the results. We have been involved in a number of events over the last 6 months, as our Chair has already mentioned.

So far we have raised in excess of £2,500, which is a great result and testament to the support around the village and further abroad. This is from one-off donations, regular subscriptions and events.

If you want to join Friends and get on the mailing list then do please pick up a leaflet from the Church or one of our events, or alternatively email me at:

treasurer.foasc@outlook.com

There is no membership fee or further obligations. Should you wish to donate then just let a member of the committee know or pay directly to:

All Saints Parochial Church Council Cuddesdon
Sort Code: 20-65-21 Account: 80001376 Ref: Friends

Our bank account is managed on our behalf by the PCC and all funds are ring-fenced for our projects.

Please contact me should you wish to utilise Gift Aid, which adds 25% to any donations for us.

Philip Spinks

Friends of All Saints' Committee Members

Chair	Anne Stern
Secretary	Lynda Ware
Treasurer	Philip Spinks
Events	Gillie Ruscombe-King Caroline Flockton

We are keen to recruit another committee member who is IT savvy

The First Project

The Friends of All Saints Committee is obtaining architects estimates, arranging fund raising events and tracking down the grants necessary to repair and maintain the historic lychgate.

The Friends' aim is to secure All Saints for the generations to come and the need to fund work on the lychgate certainly fits that criterion. The lack of roof gutters has resulted in years of dripping water damage. Various patch up jobs have taken place, most of which need removing and replacing, and so on.....

The story behind the lychgate is fascinating. We are very fortunate, and grateful, to Mark Chapman to lead us through its global story at our first programmed event, on April 26th,

All Saints Lychgate, Past, Present and ?Future

Details on the following Events Page.

The committee is grateful for the donations we have received so far. The bank balance was beginning to look healthy, that is, until we received the first estimate for the lychgate restoration!

However, being an optimistic bunch and having great expectations of our members' fund raising (and successful grant applications) we press on. We will keep you informed.



The lychgate showing an example of the rotting wood.

Curious Cockerels, Precarious Porches



Designing a logo for The Friends of All Saints' Church

It seems to me that a logo should be understandable at a glance, a stand-alone distillation of the organisation it represents. Visual simplicity is good, ideally an image that even the most unskilled hand could approximate quite easily given a crayon and the back of an envelope, but this can also lead to generic and meaningless icons. The corporate world is awash with swirly circular logos, no doubt magnificently expensive, that suggest profound meaning whilst actually, like all tales told by idiots, signifying nothing. Shrewsbury Town FC apparently paid a vast amount to a design agency for a new lion-themed logo for the club, only to discover the same big cat as a copyright-free design a few pages into a Google image search.

The use of Instagram and apps in general means that roundness is often favoured in modern logos. The profile pictures on Insta (as well as WhatsApp and others) are circular, whilst app icons are squares with rounded corners. In both cases, they are essentially button-shaped, formed by function in a touch-screen medium to respond to an inquisitive fingertip. But when one considers it, this shape is not new. Signet rings, seals of office, medals, coins, badges, all familiar long before the discovery of electricity never mind the smartphone, tend towards rotundity. There is a completeness in circularity, a perfect simplicity of form. It is not that the logo has shaped itself to the technology of social media, but that designers have taken on norms that were already perfectly integrated into human communication.

When considering designs for the Friend Of All Saints' logo, we looked at others that had been made for similar groups. Often they would contain an isolated architectural detail; a representation of a Norman arch, a Saxon arch, a spire, a cross. All valid images of course, but again, like those corporate circles, they sometimes felt quite generic. When I think of walking through the lychgate, up the crooked path to All Saints', I think of the startlingly wonky porch, with its bow-legged right-hand pillar that looks as if the roof wanted to fall asleep where it stood and forgot to warn the walls below to catch it.

To my mind, this unevenness in the structure hints at once both of endurance over time and also of human fallibility. Imagining this perspective as a central motif with the Friends of All Saints lettering circled around it, I was reminded of the painted plates of C17th potter Thomas Toft whose method of 'slip-trailing', using coloured liquid clay to effect his designs, gives them a bold and splendid eccentricity. Like the porch, if his work were regularised and 'corrected', it would lose its charming humanity.

Once the basic idea was in place, I took several photos of the west end of the church. Having chosen one that gave as direct an elevation view as possible, I printed it off, drew over the outlines with a big black pen (extrapolating where the north flank is obscured by trees!), and then traced over this using the perspex top of my record player with a torch underneath as a lightbox. My day job as a furniture maker means that I find I am most creative working with physical objects; I am resolutely old-school, pen-, paper- and scissors-based in my design work. Once happy with the central motif, I drew up the lettering on a second sheet of paper. With the exception of some guideline circles done with a compass, it was laid out and inked in by eye alone, the Toftian quirks of the freehand approach lending it a kindred spirit with the precarious porch. In actual fact, I drew the logo version with a slightly (but only slightly!) exaggerated list to starboard as I felt it really added character; it would be immediately familiar to anyone who knows All Saints' church. Once happy with both elements, I cut a big hole out of the middle of the lettering sheet, glued the two together and - apart from a little bit of tweaking and cleaning after scanning the image - that was pretty much it.

A couple of years ago I was fortunate enough to be commissioned to design and build the memorial bench that now stands on the far side of the recreation ground in memory of Ken and Sandra Montgomery, one seat looking out to the Chilterns, the other back towards the village. The chance to design the logo for this group that aims to do so much to support All Saints, has been another very satisfying opportunity to do something for the village which I hope may be considered both useful and beautiful.

Josh Howard-Saunders, October 2023

Forthcoming Events 2024

Friday April 26th All Saints' Church Lychgate, Past, Present and ?Future

An entertaining, and surprisingly global, talk by The Revd Canon Professor Mark Chapman.

Meet at the Lychgate at 6.15pm when Mark will start his informative talk before moving into the church for wine and cheese and more fascinating history.

An entertaining, educational and definitely social evening is promised. A donation of £5.00 per person is suggested.

Saturday May 11th Village fete with Friends' stall

Always really popular, as it is the first village fete of the summer. This year there will be the added attraction of a Friends stall!

Coasters, note pads and more, all with the Friends logo, will be on sale. They will be reasonably priced, unmissable reminders of happy days in Cuddesdon!

Sunday May 12th Jazz at Cuddesdon

At last, another much anticipated Jazz Evening in Cuddesdon Village Hall

Friends committee will join with the Village Hall committee to organise another fabulous evening of jazz.

Always a sell-out. Watch out for tickets!

Sunday June 30th Cuddesdon Open Gardens.

Maps will be available at the lychgate.

Make sure you collect a letter at each garden for your chance to win a prize! Return to the churchyard for cream teas.

Tickets: £5.00 per person, £10 per family

