

**THE FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
DONHEAD ST ANDREW**

2019 AGM

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE CALENDAR YEAR 2018

INTRODUCTION

As you have already heard this morning, 2018 has been another successful year for the Friends, building on 2017 which was the pivotal year in progressing the fundraising for the Development Appeal.

The total raised gave the PCC confidence to sign the contract with the main contractor, close the church and then clear the church contents into storage.

This tangible progress gave us all a sense of renewed optimism after the ups and downs of recent years, in respect of both the additional costs and the several causes of delay.

SUMMARY OF COSTS

When we embarked on the Development Project in 2012, we thought we would be spending in the region of £330,000 for the improvements to the church and for the building of the new extension.

Then in 2016 came the torrential rain which revealed that the roof was leaking in four places. Then as the appointed main contractor began to investigate, the discovery that the wrong insulation had been used in the roof, that the interior walls were plastered with the wrong type of plaster and that there was asbestos under the pew platforms and in the boiler house.

Addressing all of that added about £180,000 to the project.

Of course, the PCC had little choice but to add the cost of addressing these urgent repairs to the overall project. It would be simply illogical and extremely foolish not to do so.

Time passed as the PCC dealt with the lengthy discussions about seating, the delays from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, the matter the DAC raised at the eleventh hour of the possibility of bats in the church and the objections to the project presented to the Chancellor of the Diocese.

The direct impact of all of these was to add about £110,000 to the overall cost of the project as a result of increases in materials and labour costs since the original costings were developed.

Then the contractors found more asbestos in the Nave and in an unknown underground chamber on the site of the old vestry. What could the PCC do? Deal with it of course, as quickly and safely as possible at a cost of about £40,000.

All in all the cost of the project has doubled but we have to remember it is a much more comprehensive project than originally envisaged and included extensive repair work on a scale and of an urgency that none of us who have read the 2014 Quinquennial Inspection report could have imagined would be necessary.

FUNDRAISING

Throughout the seven years of the Appeal, as each new higher target took shape, the members of the Friends Committee may have seen their hair turn slightly greyer as we sought to raise more and more funds.

What is interesting is the following:

1. We have done well from Ts and Fs that have a particular focus on helping churches equip themselves with better facilities such as kitchens and loos.
2. We have done well from Ts and Fs that wish to support projects that provide resources to make the church a centre of the local community.
3. We have done well from Ts and Fs that only help churches with either a Grade I or Grade II* listing.
4. We have done well from County and Diocesan Ts and Fs that support projects only in Wiltshire.
5. We have done extremely well from Ts and Fs that focus only on churches that require urgent repairs.

In total over 55% of the money we have has come from these sources. These Ts and Fs were very largely set up to give funding to support these very precise objectives. The money could not have gone to deal with poverty or malnutrition or disease either in this country or overseas.

We have raised the rest from our own efforts. Some £270,000. The reality is that our strenuous efforts over the last seven years have shown the Ts and Fs that we mean business. They have all acknowledged this. As a result they have been generous. Some of them have given two or three times.

The PCC has contributed £75,000 from Fabric Reserves, the sale of a painting and a small share each year from the proceeds of the Church Fetes.

A further £85,000 has come from the appeal to villagers and former villagers.

The Friends have raised £110,000 from events, activities, the Silent Auction at the Church Fete, the Village Produce Stall and selling Christmas cards and limited edition prints.

CHAIR APPEAL

54 chairs have to be funded as part of the main project. So far, 44 of the 70 extra chairs we need have been donated by villagers and former villagers. If you have not yet done so and would like to do so, please talk to Danuta.

THANKS

My task is to thank so many people in the village who have helped in so many ways;

- those who have organised and helped at events and activities
- Elizabeth Campbell and Jane Hill for running the events Box Office
- Roly and Dee Shaw for running the Fine Wine Raffle at events
- Michael and Chris York for the Quiz Supper
- Chris York and Ian Robertson for running the Village Produce Stall
- our very hard-working Friends Committee

- the administrative and distribution skills of our Hon. Secretary, Valerie Walters
- the financial expertise of our Hon. Treasurer, Danuta Tagg
- the support of the PCC Hon. Treasurer, Alistair Stoker
- the technical and digital wizardry of our Web Master, Gerald Tagg and
- over two hundred villagers who have helped over the last year in some way or other.

Thank you all.

We still have about £80,000 to raise but the end of this phase - the building phase - of St Andrew's PCC's strategy for the future of the church is in sight.

We hope to get the church back from the main contractor by the end of July. We will then spend August and September bringing back all the church contents, have all the new furniture and fittings delivered including the chairs and then the organ will be returned. All will then be ready for the re-opening in early October this year. That's our ambition.

We will then be able to move on to the next phase of St Andrew's life as a place where the whole village can gather for worship and activities in a warm, safe, welcoming, well-lit and well-resourced building.

Thank you all for the part you have played in taking us ever closer to delivering the Vision and Mission that was agreed, after extensive consultation in the village, back in 2012.

How time flies!