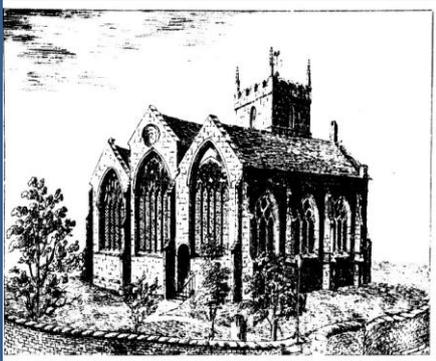


Quarterly Newsletter for the Friends of St Denys

Spring 2017



Welcome to our first of a series of regular quarterly bulletins for the community of Friends of St Denys. Please let us have your feedback on the newsletter – what is of interest to you and what isn't! And if you have any ideas of what else should be included, do tell us. You can email us: stdenyschurchyork@gmail.com

2016, an important year at St Denys

Background: early in 2016 St Denys PCC made a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to address major concerns with the built fabric of our beloved Church – the north aisle was very evidently moving away from the main structure! This being a challenge to congregation, community AND conservationists of important heritage, we determined that a process of engaging community friends, alongside the urgent and important exploratory building works agenda, was a priority. And it encouraged us to seek the help of our friends ie YOU!

Across the year we have built on our reputation as a friendly, welcoming church community, and on earlier outreach work, particularly in York's Walmgate area. We intend to make the Church more accessible to our good neighbours and to those from further afield....and to celebrate its heritage and future place in the story that is York.

Opening our Doors

January 2016

Residents Festival: a joyous weekend of hospitality & heritage; dance & music.

Summer/Autumn

Open Church days:

“welcomers” from the congregation open church three half days per week;

Autumn onwards

Two local groups share our space & hospitality

January 2016

Launching Friends of St Denys: welcome & signing up of many new friends to aid our mission to conserve for the future our splendid community church

October 2016

50+ Festival: song, poetry & dance; parade in Fossgate/ Walmgate; hospitality & heritage

January 2017

Residents Festival: more hospitality and heritage tours plus organ recitals

Concerts for the Community

- September 2016 **Rhayader Male Voice Choir:** acclaimed Welsh visitors, generously supporting our fundraising ambition
- December 2016 **Diamond Darlings:** well loved vintage & modern songs joyously filling the pews and the aisles

Friendraising and Fundraising: across the year, outwith our regular worship, we welcomed some 1083++ local, UK-wide and international visitors. And, from donations & creative activity, we successfully raised an additional **£2794** for the North Aisle fund

Worship for All

Regular services, Sundays at 10 with BSL signed service first Sunday of month plus Wednesday mornings at 9.30

- December 2016 **Carol Service:** well-supported community event drawing in many neighbours and friends

Saving our Church!

- April 2016 **Phase1 Heritage Lottery Monies** secured to be deployed on investigation of risk
- October 2016 **Historic England at-Risk Register:** St Denys added! vindicating our positive programme for renewal

LOOKING AHEAD

- February 2017 **New organ scholar appointed to St Denys**
- February 2017 **Shakespeare in Love:** love poetry & songs for St Valentine's Day
- February 14th St Denys Church 8pm, £5 on door
- March 2017 **Joska & Anthony in concert:** performing live music from around the world, instrumental pieces (original & jazz) plus popular songs.
- March 4th St Denys 7.30-9.30pm, £5 on door
- April 2017 **St Crux fundraiser** April 29th 10-4
- April 2017 **Phase2 Heritage Lottery Monies** anticipated, at which point renovation works can commence

AND FINALLY.....

All of us at St Denys owe a huge debt of gratitude to our friends; to sister parishes; to our neighbours in the community; and to our local businesses...thank you; thank you; thank you!

We look forward to seeing you again...

In love and hope from all at St Denys...