



The Friends of Christ Church, Eaton

**Chair's Report to the Fifth Annual Meeting,
6 September 2024**





Witchert Chorale

Social Events

Monies raised by the Friends come from generous donations and collections but there were several wonderful events this year.

The Friends' fourth Annual Meeting and Reception took place on 8 September 2023, offering another opportunity to meet and socialise – an important element of the Friends' work.

The most significant event was our celebration of Christ Church's 150th Anniversary on 26 November 2023 in a service led by the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Reverend Graham Usher, and attended by the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress and Sheriff of Norwich. An anthem by Simon Lole was commissioned and two of our Patrons, Rachel Hore and David Taylor, wrote new words to a familiar hymn for service.

The whole weekend – from Friday, 24 November to Monday, 27 November, was devoted to the celebrations, which included a very successful and well-attended Fantastic Fish Exhibition in the church, with over 1,000 fish of all shapes and sizes made by local groups and individuals, ranging from school children to residents of local retirement homes.

This year we held another of our popular Quiz and Chips events on 16 March organised by Carrie Phoenix and Sarah Scott – tickets sold out fast – and the Witchert Chorale, directed by David Quinn, staged a concert, *Passion Flowers*, on 23 March in the church. This was co-ordinated by our new Team member, Alison Court.

Both events were highly successful and raised a substantial amount of money for the Friends, as well as offering further opportunities to meet and socialise.



Fantastic Fish Exhibition



Fantastic Fish Exhibition



Quiz & Chips



Anniversary VIPs

2023/24 Project

Fundraising for the 2022/2023 project continued into 2024 because of the rising costs of the work (the result of lengthy delays because of water metering and pipework issues and further hampered by the COVID lockdowns).

The project was the installation of a hard-standing path for the Garden of Remembrance on the south side

of the church, involving replacing the loose pea shingle, thereby making it easier and safer for visitors to access the garden, particularly those with mobility issues. The wooden edging to the flowerbed was also replaced. The Garden has been enhanced by additional planting, in line with our ambition to become increasingly eco-friendly – we now have a Silver Award from A Rocha and are working towards a Gold Award.

The Friends of Christ Church was set up in January 2018 to help support the work of preserving and maintaining the church and its surrounds and to engage more fully with the local community.

The money we raise is used solely to preserve this important part of our local heritage by keeping the building in good condition for the use, enjoyment and appreciation of everyone, whether a churchgoer or not. Monies are kept in a restricted fund for this purpose.

You are most welcome to continue to support our work as we move into 2025, either by BACS to Account Name: Eaton Christ Church PCC, Sort Code 20-62-53 Account No. 53731987 marked Friends of Christ Church” or by cheque (payable to Eaton, Christ Church PCC) sending to the Parishes Office at 41 Church Lane, NR4 6NW and marked with the same reference. Please note that our bank now charges us for every cheque it processes.



We are supported by wonderful Patrons:

Mark Jeffries, Rachel Hore, David Taylor and David Walker.

I would also like to thank the hard-working members of the Management Team which I lead: Carrie Phoenix, Roger Glenwright, Vivien Humber, Catherine Jeffries and John Ladd and a new Team member, Alison Court, who joined us this year.

Finally my thanks to all the Friends – both long-standing and recent members. We greatly value your support and look forward to seeing you at future events.

David Scott

Chair, Management Team, Friends of Christ Church Eaton
September 2024

**The Friends of Christ Church, Eaton,
is a sub-committee of the Church Council.
Email: friends@christchurch-eaton.org.uk
Charity number: 1130553**

