Friends of Kempley Churches

Registered Charity No. 1108735

**Chairman’s Annual Report**

I cannot start this report without first expressing our deep sorrow in losing our chairman, Professor Basil Jarvis who died on the 18th December.

The Constitution of the Friends defines three primary aims: to provide financial and other support for St Mary’s and St Edward’s churches; to identify and disseminate information on the social and religious history of Kempley; and to liase with English Heritage regarding the management of St Mary’s church.

**Fund‐raising Activities**

During the last year, we hosted five tours of the churches, which were conducted by Basil. A further talk was provided for a group of National Trust Staff/volunteers, all of which raised significant funds.

It is noteworthy that last year almost 1500 people signed the book in St Mary’s church, which indicates that we probably had well over 3000 visitors.

The Abertillery Orpheus Male Choir presented another superb concert in September in St Edward’s; afterwards refreshments were served in the Village Hall and spontaneous singing continued well into the late evening. The Trustees would like to thank Lynette Greenway for

again sponsoring this event.

Last December, we again organised a Christmas Concert in St Edward’s church with the Ledbury Singers, which was a great success.

We also provided refreshments for the free‐to‐attend Carols in the Village Hall. This Community activity was well attended and donations raised over £100 for the County Air Ambulance.

The Friends were also involved in the annual Daffodil Weekend activities in March where the Social History Steering Group displayed the research material of ‘The Centenary Sale of Kempley’.

**The Kempley Tardis Project**

During the year the Trustees have continued to fund work on the Kempley Tardis project and have invested in the site to provide user-friendly access by smart phone.

The excellent work on the Memorials in St Mary’s Churchyard, has been completed and been bound into a book which has been lodged at Gloucestershire Archives. For the foreseeable future, the Trustees intend to continue to fund the ongoing maintenance and development of the site at a level similar to that required in the past.

**Other Activities**

The four services of Evensong held monthly at St Mary’s Church over the summer, will continue this year.

Early in the year we negotiated a 3‐year renewal of our legal agreement with English Heritage. As always, much time has been spent on negotiating with them on matters directly related to the maintenance and use of St Mary’s church.

**Future Activities**

In November we a plan to repeat the Abertillery Orpheus Male Choir concert, and in December a repeat of the Christmas Carols in the Village Hall is planned.

Howell Rees 30 May 2019

Chairman of Trustees.