



Registered Charity No. 1108735

## **Chairman's Annual Report 2022**

### **Objectives and Activities**

The Friends has the responsibility of co-operating with English Heritage in respect of the management of the 12C church of St Mary, Kempley and with the PCC of St Edward's Church, Kempley, in promoting activities in support of the churches and with other local organisations (e.g. The Kempley Village Hall Trust) in researching the social and religious history of Kempley, its churches and the parish. It has no direct maintenance responsibilities for the Churches or their associated property.

### **Review of the year**

- The Trustees met formally on four occasions during the year to discuss business relevant to the activities of the charity.
- The Trustees met formally with the new Free Sites Manager of English Heritage in the Church, to discuss matters relating to the maintenance and use of St Mary's Church, and to arrange for suitable grass cutting by contractors to ensure the future of the wild daffodils.
- For the first time for many years St Mary's Church has been open to visitors daily from 10am - 6pm March to October and from 10am - 4pm November to February.
- The Trustees have adopted a new Logo for the Friends of Kempley Churches, which is a daffodil emblem, which is also used by other groups in the village, such as the Village Hall, the Parish Council and the Daffodil Weekend Committee.
- The Trustees have been involved with the organization of the 'Remembrance Service' at the Centenary Memorial Stone on the Village Green since the stone was installed in 2014. Kempley Parish Council, the owners of the stone, have formally requested an agreement with the Trustees to organize future services.
- Communal carol singing in the Village Hall was a great success as this event has been cancelled in previous years due to the Coronavirus restrictions.
- The Trustees provided a talk on the social and religious history of Kempley and its churches to a visiting group from Swansea early in the year, and will be repeating it for a group of historians from Randwick in May. Further Group visits are planned for 2 separate groups from Australia, one in May and another in June.
- During the summer months, the Trustees collaborated with Kempley PCC and the Leadon Vale Benefice Ministry team to provide Services of Evensong in the 12C Church of St Mary. These services were well attended both by locals and visitors from far afield.

- Negotiations are continuing with both English Heritage and Airband Community Internet Ltd., in order to have fast fibre broadband installed in St. Mary's Church.
- English Heritage have installed monitoring devices within St Mary's church, to record the variation in temperature and humidity within the Nave and Chancel to investigate the effects on the wall paintings.
- The Trustees are currently reviewing the Friends of Kempley Churches website, as it is over 10 years old, and are in negotiations with GMT of Newent to upgrade to a more modern system that will facilitate the additions the team wish to make. We are currently in conversation with a possible Webmaster to guide us through this procedure.
- Apart from the annual internal and external window cleaning at both churches, the Trustees funded the replacement of the mats in the entrance porch of St Mary's Church. We have also installed a further Memorial Bench in the churchyard.

**And Finally....**

Our thanks go to Lynette Greenway for maintaining excellent financial records to date, Thanks also to Geraldine Rees, our Membership Secretary, for her continuing attention to administrative matters, and all the Trustees for their advice, support and commitment.

Thanks also goes to Kate Blandford for her work as the key holder for St Mary's and everyone else who has contributed to the work of the friends, including the ladies who catered for us today.

DHR/2022