



The Friends of Christ Church, Eaton

**Chair's Report to the Fourth Annual Meeting,
8 September 2023**



The last year has seen a continued return to normality after the COVID lockdowns and I am delighted to report that the number of Friends of Christ Church continues to grow.



Completed path

2022/23 Project

Our 2022/23 project has been to install a hard-standing path for the Garden of Remembrance on the south side of the church, replacing the loose pea shingle and making it easier and safer for visitors to access the Garden, especially those with mobility issues. It was also agreed that the wooden edging in the Garden of Remembrance, which was rotting, should be replaced with something which was both environmentally friendly and durable.

I am delighted to tell you that the work was finally completed, and the path successfully installed, in July this year.

As you will be aware, we had hoped the project would be completed last year, but we faced significant challenges and delays due to water meters and pipework issues, requiring lengthy negotiations with Anglian Water, which pushed the project into 2023.



Path under construction

Due to rising costs as a result of the lengthy delay the final cost of the project rose to £8,766 (including VAT). With the 2022 donations already received, we have raised £2,000 towards this so far and, as ever, our aim is to contribute as much as we can towards the total.



Plant Sale



Plant Sale



Quiz and Chips



Quiz and Chips



The AGM 2022

Social Events

The majority of monies raised in 2022 came from generous donations and collections but, as we moved into 2023, we held two fundraising events: a Quiz and Chips Night on 11 March and a Plant Sale on 20 May. The Quiz and Chips night raised £519 and the Plant Sale £612.

The social events included the successful and well-attended 2022 Annual Meeting and Reception on 7 September and they offered an opportunity to meet together and socialise once more – an important element of the Friends' work.

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 therefore kept in a restricted fund.

In 2022 it was agreed that all monies held (from fundraising, subscriptions, GiftAid reclaim) would be released from the restricted funds for projects it helped to fund (repairing the chancel arch and south aisle walls, repairs to the boiler room and the chancel windows) and this has been done.

You can still support our 2022/23 Project if you would like to do so, either by BACS to Account Name: Eaton Christ Church PCC, Sort Code 20-62-53, Account No: 53731987 marked "Friends of Christ Church – 2022 Project".

Or by cheque (payable to "Eaton, Christ Church PCC") sending it to the Parishes' Office at 41 Church Lane, NR4 6NW marked with the same reference "Friends of Christ Church – 2022 Project". Please be aware that our bank now charges us for every cheque it processes.

We are supported by wonderful Patrons:

Mark Jeffries, Rachel Hore, David Taylor and our new Patron, 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 to express our grateful thanks to Sarah Scott and Ros Wright, who both stepped down during the year. They will be greatly missed.

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 2023

**The Friends of Christ Church, Eaton,
is a sub-committee of the Church Council.**
Charity number: 1130553

