

Annual Newsletter

2017
2018



**Remembering
Jack Sapsworth MBE - P2**



**Buildings News from
Ralph Gough - P3**



**The civic nature of Luton
Parish Church - P4**

Dates for your diary



Annual Friends of Luton Parish Church Concert

Friday 30th June 7pm St Mary's Church

Join us for this annual celebration featuring the Luton Youth Concert Band, Luton Youth Funk Band and the Luton Youth Junior Band.

The programme will include the Jack Sapsworth Fanfare, Dr Who, Fantastic Beasts, Irish Tune from County Derry and Toccata.

The conductor is Simon Router.

No cost to come along, wine is included during the interval and a collection is taken at the end in aid of the Friends. It will be a pleasure to see you there!

Annual Friends of Luton Parish Church Service

*Sunday 15th October 2017 10.30am
St Mary's Church*

The annual service visiting preacher this year is: Bishop Michael Turnbull CBE retired Bishop of Durham

Annual General Meeting

The Friends AGM in 2018 will be held on Monday 16th April 2018, 6pm at St Mary's Church. All Friends are most welcome to attend!



About us

Jack Sapsworth MBE by Clifford Bygrave

We have recently been notified of the untimely death of Jack Sapsworth.

Jack Sapsworth joined the Committee of the Friends of Luton Parish Church as an Executive Member, a number of years ago, at the invitation of the Committee, when his untiring work for the Charity was recognised.

He was a keen participator and generous supporter in all of the affairs of the Charity and prepared to undertake any duties the Chairman requested.

The Annual Concert which the Charity arranges each summer, was at Jack's initiative, and he kept the link between the Charity and the Luton Schools' Band, who have provided the Concert for number of years.

Until his illness he was a regular attender at all Committee meetings, and more latterly when his illness prevented his regular attendance, he was always keen to be kept aware of our work, and how he could participate.



Jack will be sadly missed, not only by Lyn and his close family, but by all who have benefitted from his tireless

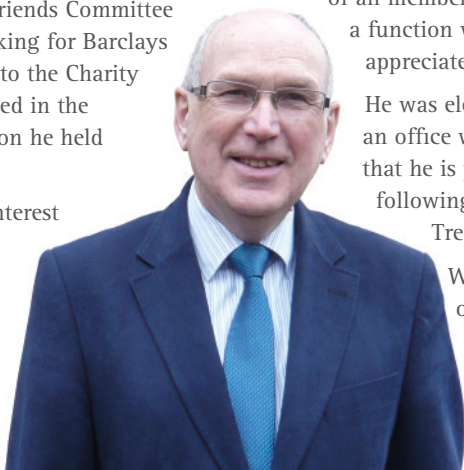
work for this and other Charities, and his keen involvement in his many outside interests.

Trevor Askew by Clifford Bygrave

At the Annual General Meeting in April 2017, Trevor Askew has indicated that he would wish to stand down as Treasurer of the Friends.

Trevor joined the Friends Committee in 1988 whilst working for Barclays Bank, and brought to the Charity his experience gained in the management position he held there.

Following a keen interest in the Committee affairs, he readily accepted the office of Treasurer at the Annual Meeting in 1998, when a proposal was



made to fill a vacancy caused by the retirement from that office of Clifford Bygrave.

Trevor also volunteered to maintain the data base of Subscribers, and was always prepared to arrange for the circulation of all members communications, a function which we have much appreciated.

He was elected a Trustee in 2010, an office which he has indicated that he is prepared to maintain, following his retirement as Treasurer.

We are most appreciative of his work and commitment over a number of years and offer our grateful thanks.

John Childs

by Clifford Bygrave

We are sorry to announce that John Childs has decided to retire as an Executive Member of the Committee, due to ill health.

We are sorry to lose him from our discussions, where he has been regular participator over many years.

John joined the Committee at the invitation of John Dandy, since which time, he has always been hands-on in the supporting the administration of any of the past functions held.

John was not only a supporter of the Friends, but was also a Trustee of another Charity, which took a keen interest in our work, and readily assisted with requests for financial support.

We wish John well in his medical interventions, and trust that he will soon be restored to good health.

Wills and Legacies *by Nic Pestell*

For people who may find it difficult to make significant gifts to charities such as "The Friends of Luton Parish Church" during their lifetime, making this Charity a beneficiary in your Will is a way of ensuring that money which you no longer need is put to good use and, at the same time, you may reduce your estate's liability to Inheritance Tax.

Some seven out of ten adults who die in this country fail to make a Will, and if you do not make a Will, then your estate will be divided up according to how the law dictates it should, and not necessarily as you would have wished.

It is always advisable to instruct a Solicitor to make sure your Will

is properly drawn up, valid and enforceable, and to ensure that your Will reflects your wishes.

If you already have a Will, it is possible to include a legacy to The Friends in your Will by having a codicil drawn up, and this is a simple and inexpensive process.

If you would like to leave a legacy to The Friends of Luton Parish Church, your Solicitor might find the following wording useful:

"I give to the Friends of Luton Parish Church (registered Charity Number 240750) the sum of pounds (£.....) for its general purposes"



25% off setting up your will with Machins Solicitors

Nic Pestell at Machins Solicitors, Luton, would be delighted to help set up your will with a 25% discount. Email: nic.pestell@machins.co.uk



News from the Buildings Committee for St Mary's Church *by Ralph Gough*

The church remains in good structural condition, and we are in contact with the church architect to ensure it remains so. The heating has not coped very well with the latest cold spell, and this is being reviewed.

You may see some activity in the churchyard in the coming months, where we will be resiting the rubbish bins, which are currently an eyesore on

the corner of St Mary's Road and the Carnival Centre. The bins will be placed within the ring of bushes close to the boundary fence, where they will be hidden (eventually) by the bushes. There will be an eco-friendly path to a new gate in the fence for their collection on bin day, and there will probably be a security cage inside the ring of bushes. No timetable has yet been set.





The civic nature of Luton Parish Church

by Revd Mike Jones

Here are some of the events taking place in the church during 2017.

Luton Parish Church's role in the town and the county

St Mary's Church is not only a thriving church on Sundays with four services (9am Contemplative, 10.30am Morning Service, 1.30pm Shona Service, and 7pm Church at Seven) but serves the Luton and Bedfordshire community in a wide number of different ways.

The Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire's service for voluntary organisations (*May*)

The High Sheriff of Bedfordshire's investiture service (*September*)

The University of Bedfordshire's graduation ceremonies (*March, July and November*)

Luton Choral Society (four concerts)

Organ recitals (eleven concerts)

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music exams

Commemoration of the Reformation (Catholic and protestant churches together)

Transforming Luton with Luton Churches together (eleven meetings)

Centre for Peace and Reconciliation in Luton – Headquarters

Luton Unite youth ball

As the Friends of Luton Parish Church, we are proud to support the structure of this beautiful church in order to facilitate such a wide range of civic activities for the benefit of the whole of Luton and Bedfordshire.

Contact the Friends!

You can email the team on friends@stmarysluton.org

Find out more on our excellent new website www.friendsoflutonparishchurch.org

Join the Friends on www.give.net/20193962

Download the brochure and application form at www.friendsoflutonparishchurch.org/assets/files/downloadsFriendsOfLutonParishChurch.pdf

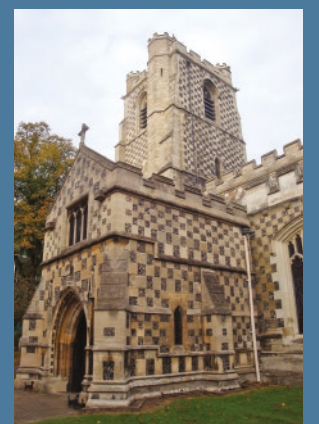
Email the individual trustees and executive committee members as follows:

Trustees

Chair - Clifford Bygrave - rustlingscb@gmail.com
 Secretary - Nic Pestell - nic.pestell@machins.co.uk
 Communications - Andrew Beale - andrewbeale@bealeshotels.co.uk
 Trustee - Trevor Askew - trevaskew@madasafish.com

Executive Committee

Treasurer - John Spurgeon - john.spurgeon506@btinternet.com
 Member - Ralph Gough - ralph.gough@gmail.com
 St Mary's Parish Church Vicar - Mike Jones - mikejones@stmarysluton.org
 St Mary's Parish Church Curate - Andrew Gardner - andygardner@stmarysluton.org



Would you like to help this wonderful building by serving on the committee of the Friends of Luton Parish Church?

Contact Clifford Bygrave in the first instance on rustlingscb@gmail.com