

LUTON PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY

VICARS

Canon William Davison M.A.	1933 - 1961
The Revd. Harold E Frankham	1961 - 1970
The Revd. Christopher J. Mayfield M.A. M.Sc.	1971 - 1980
The Revd. David J. Banfield A.L.C.D.	1980 - 1990
The Revd. Nicholas P. J. Bell B.Sc.	1991 -

FRIENDS OF LUTON PARISH CHURCH

The formation of a Friends organisation was first contemplated when Canon Davison was Vicar, but he was not enthusiastic. He later stated, "I was not very keen when it was first mooted as I was afraid it might clash with the Gift Day." Several years later he wrote, "It has proved a great success and touched many who would not respond to a Gift Day."

As Vicar, the Reverend Frankham revived the idea in 1964 and was supported by Mr David Peck who was at that time secretary to the Parochial Church Council. After preliminary discussions the Charity was officially launched at a reception given by the Mayor of Luton, Cllr. Beckett, in the Mayor's Parlour on 19 February 1965.

The Deed of Constitution was dated 18 January 1965 and of the original twenty-nine founder members only five were still subscribing in 1994. Seventeen were known to have died since the Charity was founded, only one was still actively involved.

The Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 1965 showed £493-1-0 Income and £339-12-0 Balance in Hand, the main item of expenditure being an illustrated leaflet for issue to prospective subscribers.

FRIENDS OF LUTON PARISH CHURCH

Registered Charity No. 240750

PATRONS

Lord and Lady Hill of Luton	1984 - 1989
Nicholas Phillips D.L.	1990 - 1991
The Right Reverend Christopher Mayfield MA MSc	1993 -

PRESIDENTS

The Rt. Hon. Lord Hill of Luton P.C.	1965 - 1984
David Harland F.R.C.S.	1984 - 1993
Dr. L Burton, M.B., B.S.	1994 -

CHAIRMEN

Hugh Drummond	1965 - 1966
Alan Philpott	1966 - 1968
John Dandy	1968 -

TREASURERS

Eric Flawn	1965 - 1966
John Baker	1967 - 1976
Clifford Bygrave	1976 -

SECRETARIES

William Dunning	1965 - 1966
Brian Woods	1966 - 1969
(David Hales, Assistant	1968 - 1969)
David Hales	1969 - 1981
Michael Dandy	1981 -

FRIENDS OF LUTON PARISH CHURCH

TRUSTEES

Mrs Betty Stephenson	1965 - 1969
Hugh Drummond	1965 - 1966
William Dunning	1965 - 1969
Eric Flawn	1965 - 1967 1969 - 1972
John Dandy	1967 -
Alan Philpott	1969 - 1972
John Baker	1972 - 1980
William Chennells	1972 -
Clifford Bygrave	1972 -
Peter Wardill	1980 -

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Revd Harold Frankham	1965-1970
Bernard Henman	1965-1985
David Peck	1965-1982
Charles Simeons	1965-1974
Mrs Betty Stephenson	1965-1967
Thomas Haines	1968-1989
William Chennells	1969-
Royston Mugridge	1969-1977
The Revd Christopher Mayfield	1971-1980
Clifford Bygrave	1972-
John Childs	1974-
Martin Satchwill	1978-1983
Peter Wardill	1980-
William Pearson	1976-1981
The Revd David Banfield	1980-1990
Alan Felstead	1981-1987
Charles Elliott	1982-1989
Stephen Woodbine	1985-
Alan Noyes	1987-1988
Richard Parkhouse	1988-1990
Peter Greenup	1989-
Trevor Askew	1990-
The Revd Nicholas Bell	1991-

FRIENDS OF LUTON PARISH CHURCH

ANNUAL SERVICE PREACHERS

1969	The Revd. Edward Norfolk Rector of Gt Berkhamsted	
1970	Canon Douglas Webster Canon of St Paul's Cathedral	
1971	Canon James Hickinbotham Principal of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford	
1972	The Revd. Michael Turnbull, MA Vicar of Heslington and Chaplain to York University	Former Curate
1973	The Revd. Wilfred Wilkinson, BD AKC Rector of Clifton, Notts	Former Curate
1974	The Rt. Reverend Robert Runcie, MC MA Bishop of St Albans	
1975	The Very Reverend Harold Frankham Provost of Southwark	Former Vicar
1976	The Revd. Andrew Paine MA Rector of St Michael on Greenfield, Lichfield	Former Curate
1977	The Venerable David Farmbrough, MA Archdeacon of St Albans	
1978	The Revd. Canon David Fricker, BA Rector of St Peter's, Bedford and Rural Dean of Bedford	Former Curate
1979	The Revd. William Brown MA Former Head Master of Bedford School, NSM Field Dalling, Norfolk	
1980	Canon Dr. Wesley Carr, MA PhD Canon of Chelmsford Cathedral	Former Curate
1981	The Venerable Bernard Jacob, MA Archdeacon of Kingston	
1982	The Rt. Reverend Kenneth Pillar, MA Bishop of Hertford	
1983	The Very Reverend Harold Frankham Retired, with permission to officiate in Diocese of Bath & Wells	

1984	The Venerable Michael Turnbull, MA Archdeacon of Rochester	
1985	The Rt. Reverend John Taylor MA Bishop of St Albans	
1986	The Revd. John Witheridge, MA Chaplain to the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury	Former Curate
1987	The Rt. Reverend Christopher Mayfield, MA MSc Bishop of Wolverhampton	Former Vicar
1988	The Very Revd. Peter Moore, MA Dphil Dean of St Albans	
1989	The Very Reverend Dr. Wesley Carr, MA PhD Dean of Bristol	
1990	The Rt. Reverend Michael Turnbull MA Bishop of Rochester	
1991	The Rt. Reverend Christopher Mayfield, MA MSc Bishop of Wolverhampton	
1992	The Venerable David Banfield ALCD Archdeacon of Bristol	Former Vicar
1993	The Revd. John Witheridge, MA Conduct of Eton College	
1994	The Rt. Reverend John Taylor, MA Bishop of St Albans	

FRIENDS OF LUTON PARISH CHURCH

ANNUAL SERVICE LESSON READERS

1969	The Rt. Hon. Lord Hill of Luton	Mr John Baker
1970	“ “	Mr David Hales
1971	“ “	Mr Tom Haines
1972	“ “	Mr Charles Simeons
1973	“ “	Mr William Chennells
1974	“ “	Mr Roy Mugridge
1975	“ “	Mr Clifford Bygrave
1976	“ “	Mr John Dandy
1977	“ “	Mr John Childs
1978	“ “	Mr William Pearson
1979	“ “	Mr David Peck
1980	“ “	Mr Peter Wardill
1981	“ “	Mr Martin Satchwill
1982	“ “	Mr Michael Dandy
1983	“ “	Mr Clifford Bygrave
1984	Mr David Harland	Mr William Chennells
1985	Lieutenant Colonel H C Hanbury	Mr David Harland
	H M Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire	
1986	Mr David Harland	Mr Charles Elliott
1987	“	Mr Stephen Woodbine
1988	“	Mr Peter Wardill
1989	“	Mr John Childs
1990	Lieutenant Colonel H C Hanbury	Mr David Harland
	H M Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire	
1991	Mr David Harland	Mr Peter Greenup
1992	Samuel C Whitbread Esq	Mr Michael Dandy
	H M Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire	
1993	Mr Clifford Bygrave	Mr Stephen Woodbine
1994	Dr Lindsey Burton	Mr John Dandy

1966

£295-16-0 paid to P.C.C. to defray the cost of repairs to defective stonework around windows in South Aisle.

A painting of St Mary's Church donated by the artist Mr. Stuart Wood of T & E Neville Ltd. to be sold on behalf of the Charity.

Agreed on 15th November that a Flower Festival be held in the church during July 1967 and Mr J Dandy asked to form sub-committee.

Wine and cheese party held at Winch Hill House, Warden End at invitation of Lord and Lady Hill on 24th November raised £88-2-8.

1,500 Christmas cards produced and sold during the year for net profit of £29-15-3.

1967

A Garden Party held in the garden of "Whitehill" by courtesy of Mrs Durler on 10th June raised £31-0-0.

A Flower Festival held in church on 7th, 8th and 9th July. Choral Evensong sung by the choir on the Friday. On the Saturday a concert was given by The Cavendish Consort and organist Christopher Bowers Broadbent. Four services on the Sunday. The Festival was supported by the Luton Floral Arrangement Society and the Director of Parks, County Borough of Luton.

Organising Committee:	Mrs F Bedford	Mrs S H Goodman
	Mrs G W Washbrook	Mr J R Baker
	Mrs H E Curtis	Mr J Dandy
	Mrs E Dawson	Mr D W Hales

The proceeds of £264-7-0 were shared with the Luton, Dunstable and District Spastics Society.

Mrs Marjorie Brooks gave several slide lectures to local organisations in aid of the Charity.

The annual general meeting was held on 2nd October at Wenlock School. The guest speaker was Mr J B Forrest of Frederick Gibberd and Partners, whose subject was "Work in design and construction of Liverpool R.C. Cathedral". Forty-five Subscribers were present.

The sale of Christmas cards, two types, raised £31-2-3.

The Luton Girls Choir gave a concert in the church and donated to the Charity £70-0-0 from the sale of programmes.

1968

Early in the year the Rotherham School Band and the Police Choir gave a concert in the College of Technology which raised £8-15-4 and gave the Charity helpful publicity.

A Coffee Morning was held in Luton Town Hall on 29th February and earned £50-15-10.

The Annual General Meeting held at Luton College of Technology on 10th October was attended by forty-one Subscribers and over two hundred visitors. The guest speaker was Mr. Malcolm Muggeridge.

On Sunday, 13th October a number of Subscribers attended Matins in the church.

1969

A concert by the Rotherham High School Band and vocalists was held in the Hall of Luton College on 13th February and raised £24-9-9.

This year's Coffee Morning in the Town Hall resulted in a profit of £97-0-0 and a Wine and Cheese reception held during June in the garden of Mr & Mrs David Harland at "St John's", Woburn Sands raised £66-3-8.

The guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting on 30th October in the Church Hall was The Very Reverend Martin Sullivan M.A., Dean of St. Paul's. Attendance on this occasion was disappointingly low.

The sale of Christmas cards left over from previous years produced £89-10-10.

1970

The Coffee Morning held in the Town Hall on 26th February raised £120-0-0.

A Festival of Flowers was held in the church on 24th, 25th and 26th April with support of the Luton Floral Arrangement Society and the County Borough of Luton Parks Department. There were 118 individual displays of flowers and three main displays by the Parks Department, together with the following exhibits loaned for the Festival:

Treasures of Straw	County Borough of Luton Museum and Art Gallery
Books: Flowers and Flower Arrangements	County Borough of Luton Public Library
Wild Flowers	Dr J G Dony
Silver Plate	The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers Luton Parish Church
Hats	The Millinery Guild The South of England Hat Manufacturers Federation

There were 250 helpers of whom 90 were stewards who welcomed more than seven thousand visitors. Eleven guest organists gave recitals during the Festival. On the Friday there were three millinery parades and on the Saturday a sale of hats at midday.

The proceeds totalled £460, a third of which was donated to the Friends of the Hospitals of Luton and Dunstable, the cheque being presented at a party in the Cassell Memorial Hall in Lilley hosted by the Friends' Chairman and his wife on 23rd June.

On 22nd August a Wine and Cheese party was held at "Queensfield", Silsoe at the invitation of Mr & Mrs L G Bowles and made a profit of £81-17-8.

Friends were invited to attend the 11.00 a.m. service on Sunday 1st November at which the Mayor was present.

An Open Meeting was held in the Church on 16th November, when the speaker was David Kossoff. A collection totalled £54-14-6.

1971

A Coffee Morning in the Town Hall on 25th March raised £102.

On 5th October a Wine and Cheese party was held at Luton Hoo by courtesy of Lady Zia Wernher. This was a joint effort by the Friends and the St. John Ambulance Luton Corps Appeals Committee and both received £257.50.

An Open Meeting was held in the Church Hall on 28th October. The speaker was Mr C L Mathews, director of excavations, the Manshead Archaeological Society of Dunstable.

1972

The Coffee Morning this year was held in the church Hall on 6th March and made a profit of £80.98.

On 16th March Dr. Kenneth Abbott, professor of music to the R.A.F. and a former director of music at St. Mary's, gave an organ recital in the church. This was arranged by the Luton Music Club. A collection for the Friends totalled £26.

During the year artist Edward Callam, RDI, FRSA, MSIA generously made available an oil painting of St. Mary's, the sale of which raised £70. Author Arthur HAILEY, a former resident of Luton, donated two autographed copies of "Wheels" for sale on behalf of the Charity.

At the July meeting of the Executive Committee, Mr D Hales and Mr R Mugridge were thanked for their help in making known the work of the Friends by lecturing to many social and cultural organisations.

1973

A Coffee Morning in the Church Hall on 22nd February raised £134.

A Fashion Display, sponsored by Button Bros Ltd was held in the Church Hall on 28th March, with attendances of 84 at 2.30 p.m. and 136 at 7.45 p.m. Seven local ladies and two gentlemen were volunteer models. Hats worn by them were provided by the South of England Hat Manufacturers Federation. £228.30 was earned by this event.

It was agreed that 1,000 greetings cards be ordered from Judges Ltd. These incorporated a photograph of the Church reproduced by courtesy of Miss Carol Gibbs.

Another Flower Festival in 1974 was planned.

1974

No Coffee Morning was held this year.

A Flower Festival with the theme "Flowers and Industry" was arranged for the three days commencing on Friday, 14th June with an invitation preview on the Thursday evening.

Flowers were arranged by arrangers from a wide area, under the direction of the late James Mead and there were one hundred separate displays in addition to two provided by the Borough of Luton Recreation Services. On the Friday evening Choral Evensong was sung by the Choir of the Chapel Royal of St. Peter ad Vincula, H.M. Tower of Luton. The Society of Church Bellringers run a Quarter Peal on the Saturday morning as well as ringing before the morning and evening services on the Sunday.

The Festival was organised in conjunction with the St. John Ambulance Southern Area Appeals Committee and the Friends' share of the proceeds totalled £1,132.95. This encouraging result was due to the efforts of three hundred and thirty helpers and to the co-operation of a number of local firms who provided displays of their products.

1975

The Annual Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale was held in the Church Hall on 6th March and raised £183.

On 24th September David Kossoff visited St Mary's for an evening of his radio and T.V. Bible stories "As according to Kossoff". This was followed by wine and refreshments served in the Church Hall. The event was well supported and resulted in a profit of £204.

The Preacher at the Annual Service on 26th October was the Very Reverend Harold Frankham, Provost of Southwark, who ten years earlier had initiated the formation of The Friends.

1976

As this was the Borough of Luton Centenary Year when many local organisations would be involved with the celebrations, it was decided to limit fund-raising to the Coffee Morning. This was held in the Church Hall on 4th March and raised £223.

1977

The Coffee Morning raised £315 on 3rd March.

On 19th March a concert was given in the Church by the choir of Bushmead School and the Denbigh High School Band together with the Denbigh High School Recorder and Madrigal Groups. The profit was £90.

The Church flower arrangers organised a demonstration of flower arranging on 30th June and contributed £75 to the Charity.

On 28th September a Hat Fashions and Hair Styles display was held in the Church Hall by courtesy of Marion White Ltd and The South of England Hat Manufacturers' Federation. It was well supported and raised £209.

The Rotary Club of Luton in its Golden Jubilee Year attended the service on the morning of 30th October and donated the offertory, £49, to the Charity.

1978

The Coffee Morning on 2nd March raised £229.

From 7th March to 24th April a window display at 65-67 George Street, Luton publicised the work of the charity. This was made possible by courtesy of the Midland Bank.

Donations received during this year included £61.75, the proceeds of a Coffee Morning held by the Luton Floral Arrangement Society and £84 being half the collection taken at the Luton Schools Music Festival.

The Luton Branch of the Western Trust and Savings Ltd held a competition to guess the number of 1p coins in a bottle and presented the £50 contents to the Chairman at a ceremony in their premises.

On 10th June Mr & Mrs Roy Palmer held a Wine and Cheese Party at their home, "Woodings" in Marston Moreteyne which produced £158.

£5,000 was received as first payment of a legacy.

1979

A further £8,000 was received as final payment of a legacy.

The Coffee Morning on 1 March raised £282.

In May the Mayor's Charity Fund donated £500, and the collection at a Service of Thanksgiving arranged by the Luton Old People's Welfare Committee contributed £30.

1980

On 6th March the Coffee Morning raised £321.

During the year through the generosity of Mr Eric Meadow a colour photograph of St Mary's Church was incorporated into a greetings card and an order placed for 1,500 cards with envelopes at a cost of £132. Sales during the following two years produced £33 profit.

1981

The Coffee Morning on 12th March raised £367.

Donations received included £50 from the Inner Wheel Club of Luton, £45 given by Miss Josie Bass following a Schools Music Festival held in the church and also the collection taken at the Civic Service.

1982

£391 was the result of the Coffee Morning on 11th March.

An Exhibition of paintings and sculpture by Miss Dora Barrett was held at 'Highlands' in Kinsbourne Green on 1st and 2nd October. This was staffed by Friends who welcomed over two hundred visitors during the two days. The proceeds, £300, were shared with Guide Dogs for the Blind.

1983

£387 was raised on 24th March at a Coffee Morning.

The Mayor donated £80 from the collection taken at the Civic Service held in the church on 12th June.

1984

At the Annual General Meeting on 29th March the Rt Hon Lord Hill of Luton was presented with an album of photographs, by Mr Eric Meadows, of the interior and exterior of St Mary's Church upon his retirement as President.

The Coffee Morning held on 16th March raised £404.

The Chairman was invited to the Town Hall during May to receive a cheque for £150 from the Mayor's Charity Fund

1985

The proceeds of the Coffee Morning held on 17th March totalled £518.

The Mayor requested that the Civic Service offertory be donated to the Charity.

Other donations came from the Luton Floral Arrangement Society, Peter Janes Memorial Trust, Lea Valley Scout District and the Worshipful Company of Builders Merchants. As the result of a sponsored walk the Rotary Club of Luton North contributed £300.

From 23rd September to 12th October a display of photographs showing some of the restoration work paid for by the Charity was arranged in the first floor picture gallery of the Central Library. Over twenty large photographs were on view by courtesy of Mr Eric Meadows.

At the Annual General Meeting it was reported that payments made by the Charity since its inception had exceeded £60,000.

1986

On 18th March the Coffee Morning resulted in a profit of £555.

During the year the Mayor donated £250 from the Mayor's Charity Fund.

At the Executive Committee Meeting on 8th December, the Secretary reported that the application for Registration under the Data Protection Act 1984 had been accepted.

1987

£592 was raised at the Coffee Morning on 19th March.

The Charity was offered the use of the fountain in the Arndale Centre for a collection from 8th - 20th June. The coins thrown into the pool amounted to £107.98.

The Inner Wheel Club of Luton Chiltern was responsible for presenting a Cavalcade of Historical Costumes in the church on 19th September and donated £500.

1988

The Coffee Morning on 20th March raised £611.

A collection in the fountain in the Arndale Centre from 5th - 17th September resulted in over six thousand coins (£150.58) being contributed.

1989

Upon the winding up of the Luton St. Mary's Club £2,755 was donated to the Charity by the Club trustees.

Another sum received was the collection, amounting to £174, taken at a County Council service held in the church.

The Coffee Morning on 21st March resulted in a profit of £658.

On 17th November the President and Chairman attended the Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey for the Life of Lord Hill of Luton and the Chairman attended the funeral of Lady Hill seven days later.

1990

£610 was raised by the Coffee Morning held on 22nd March.

During August and September a display of photographs loaned by Mr Eric Meadows was staged in Luton Museum. These showed various aspects of restoration work undertaken at the church for which funds had been allocated by the Charity.

The Annual Service in October marked the twenty-fifth year of the work of the Friends and was attended by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, the Mayor and Mayoress of Luton and the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, together with the Patron, President, Committee Members and many Friends.

1991

The Coffee Morning held on 23rd March resulted in a profit of £763.

During two weeks in September the Charity was allocated the use of the pool in the Arndale Centre in Luton and four posters showing photographs of the church under restoration resulted in over six thousand coins being cast into the water. They totalled £167.82.

1992

During the year a private charitable Trust donated £15,000, the largest single gift received by the Charity.

The Coffee Morning held on 24th March resulted in a profit of £786.

1993

On 24th March the Coffee Morning raised £804.

For two weeks in October the Charity was granted by Luton Arndale Centre the use of the Flamingo Pool into which 7,004 coins totalling £163 were thrown.

The Charity Commissioners agreed that the original subscription of one guinea might be increased to five pounds and this applied to new Subscribers from 1st July.

1994

The Coffee Morning held on 23rd March resulted in a profit of £801.

Since 1966 by the end of this year payments of almost £200,000 had been made to the Parochial Church Council of the Parish Church of St Mary Luton to be applied by such Parochial Church council for the preservation, repair, restoration, improvement and ornamentation of the fabric of the Parish Church of St Mary Luton.

Confirmation had also been given that the Charity would also finance the cost of interior re-decorations to the Church. This work was completed at the year end but funds not remitted until January 1995. The total cost of that work amounted to £22,333.

FRIENDS OF LUTON PARISH CHURCH

EXAMPLES OF WORK UNDERTAKEN SINCE 1965
FOR WHICH PAYMENTS WERE MADE BY THE CHARITY
TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

		£
1966	Restoration of church windows	295
1968	North Aisle roof repairs	373
1971	Repairs to Tower turrets	1,550
1974	Repairs to West Wall	1,650
1975	Repairs to West Wall	2,000
1976	Repairs to West Wall	524
1977	Repairs to North Porch	9,660
1978	Repairs to North Porch	4,218
1979	Repairs to North Porch	7,015
1979	Repairs to exterior wall of Turret staircase	3,417
1980	Repairs to South Wall	5,000
1981	Repairs to South Wall	1,100
1983	Renewal of electrical installation	12,000
1985	Repairs to stone cross on North Transept roof	375
1988	North Transept wall and buttress repairs	12,713
1989	North Aisle roof and South Wall repairs	21,380
1991	Spire repairs	3,000
	South Transept repairs	26,790
1992	Spire repairs	7,300
1993	Improvements to North Porch	2,134
	Contribution to cost of restoring vandalised East Window	6,168
	Replacing stonework around windows in South Transept	15,069
1994	Replacing stonework around windows in South Transept	28,819