

# Annual Newsletter 2023



From our Treasurer  
John Spurgeon

We would love to welcome you on board as a subscriber - as little as £12pa for an individual or £20 for a couple/family (but we hope you will want to give more!).

Ways of doing this are:

- Standing Order - You give instructions to your bank for a regular gift (download our leaflet from our website for a suitable form).  
Friends of Luton Parish Church, Sort code 20-53-97, Account number 90358223
- Gift Aid - If you are a UK taxpayer we can benefit by boosting your gift by 25% at no extra cost to yourself
- Give.net (Stewardship) - They deal with all the tax issues themselves! Visit [give.net](http://give.net) or visit our website [www.friendsoflutonparishchurch.org/help/](http://www.friendsoflutonparishchurch.org/help/) (for single or regular gift): "How can you help>Donate/raise funds.

Help us to be able to face the challenges of maintaining this beautiful building in the middle of our town! Thank you.

## Dates for your diary

### Annual General Meeting

**Monday 17th April 2023 - 6pm**

All Friends of Luton Parish Church are warmly invited to attend the AGM of the Friends at 6pm on Monday 17th April 2023. This will be held at the church.

### Annual Concert

**Friday 7th July 2023 - 7pm**

After a break of four years due to the Covid pandemic, we are so delighted to announce the return of the excellent Simon Router, conductor of the Luton Youth Concert Band, and no fewer than four other Luton Music Service ensembles for the Annual Concert on Friday 7th July 2023 at 7pm. There is no charge for admittance but a collection in aid of the Friends of Luton Parish Church will be taken. Refreshments will be served in the interval.

### Annual Service

**Sunday 15th October 2023 - 9am at St Mary's Church**

A service of thanksgiving for the work of the Friends of Luton Parish Church. The speaker will be confirmed shortly.

Stay on after the service for a historical tour of Luton's medieval jewel by our resident expert Peter Adams.

## Friends of Luton Parish Church Trustees



Nic Pestell  
Chair



Nicki Denton-Masih  
Secretary



John Spurgeon  
Treasurer



Andrew Beale  
Communications

## Wills and Legacies *by Nicki Denton-Masih*



**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.**

Nicki Denton-Masih at Machins Solicitors, Luton, would be delighted to help set up your will with a 25% discount. Email [nicki.denton-masih@machins.co.uk](mailto:nicki.denton-masih@machins.co.uk)



**Clifford Bygrave**  
**54 years’ dedicated service to the Friends of Luton Parish Church**

*by Nic Pestell*

**This year marks the 54th anniversary and retirement of our Chairman, Clifford Bygrave, joining the Executive Committee of the Friends of Luton Parish Church.**

Back in 1968, the Chairman of the Friends was Mr John Dandy who was a local businessman and a member of St Mary’s. Mr Dandy had been instrumental in setting up the charity just a few years previously and approached Clifford who was then a

young partner in the Luton accountancy firm, Arthur Young McClelland Moores & Co (which developed into and became part of the global accountancy firm now known as Ernst & Young) to ask whether he would be prepared to join the Committee. In 1972, Clifford was then appointed as a Trustee of the Friends and served as Treasurer from 1976 to 1998. During those early years of the Friends in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s, Clifford recalls that the Committee and the Trustees met at the offices of Gibbs & Dandy and, later, these meetings took place at Clifford’s own offices at Ernst & Young at Capability Green during David Cheetham’s term as Chairman. Those early years were not without their difficulties, particularly following the decay of the North porch in

the early 1970’s when some decisions had to be made, but the Friends were able to support St Mary’s and a sum of approximately £14,000 was granted to help with the restoration (in those days not an insignificant sum). On David’s retirement in 2010, Clifford took up the mantle of Chairman and, particularly given his high level of accountancy and charitable trust knowledge and experience, he has served us well and diligently over the last twelve years as Chairman and indeed during these last 54 years as an active member of the Executive Committee and Trustee. **We therefore take this opportunity to acknowledge this work and to give him our thanks and best wishes for the future.**

## Contact the Friends!

You can email the team on:  
[friends@stmarysluton.org](mailto:friends@stmarysluton.org)

Find out more on our excellent website:  
[www.friendsoflutonparishchurch.org](http://www.friendsoflutonparishchurch.org)

Email the individual trustees and executive committee members as follows:

### Trustees

**Trustees Chair** - Nic Pestell  
[nic.pestell@machins.co.uk](mailto:nic.pestell@machins.co.uk)

**Communications** - Andrew Beale  
[andrewbeale@bealeshotels.co.uk](mailto:andrewbeale@bealeshotels.co.uk)

**Secretary** - Nicki Denton-Masih  
[nicki.denton-masih@machins.co.uk](mailto:nicki.denton-masih@machins.co.uk)

**Treasurer** - John Spurgeon  
[john.spurgeon506@btinternet.com](mailto:john.spurgeon506@btinternet.com)

Join the Friends on [www.give.net/20193962](http://www.give.net/20193962)

Download the brochure and application form at:  
[www.friendsoflutonparishchurch.org/assets/files/downloads/FriendsofLutonParishChurch.pdf](http://www.friendsoflutonparishchurch.org/assets/files/downloads/FriendsofLutonParishChurch.pdf)

### Executive Committee

All the trustees plus:

**Committee member** - Anthony Moss  
[anthonymoss@stmarysluton.org](mailto:anthonymoss@stmarysluton.org)

**St Mary’s Parish Church Vicar** - Mike Jones  
[mikejones@stmarysluton.org](mailto:mikejones@stmarysluton.org)