



Welcome to the 2022 Newsletter from The Friends of Brixworth Church.

As reported in last year's Newsletter, the Quinquennial Survey took place in June 2021 with very pleasing comments by the Architect on the excellent condition of our ancient church. The focus this year has been to ensure the Priority One repairs as recommended by the Architect in his report were completed. Mr Tony Brunton and the Churchwarden have been instrumental in obtaining quotes from appropriately qualified trades people and making the necessary arrangements for them to work on-site. All the repairs were completed within the twelve month period as follows:

- ◇ Repairs to the roof in two places
- ◇ Repairs to three windows
- ◇ Exterior stonework repairs to both upper and lower parts of the church
- ◇ Repairs to the Saxon door in the base of the Tower



In addition to the above, a long awaited repair to the ancient Font in the church was at last undertaken. The drainage system had failed and, even though it was still used for Christenings, the water could not be drained away after. The picture on the left shows the hoist the contractors required to raise the Font due to its weight before the repair could be made.

Church Lighting:

The light fittings in the church were beginning to break down requiring considerable and expensive maintenance. As part of the replacement process a decision was made to upgrade to all LED lighting which provides a brighter light, but are also far more energy efficient and economical to run. Lighting was also installed on the stairs in the Stair Turret to meet safety requirements for the Bellringers when accessing this area.



Finances:

Income for the year totalled £12,462 with the hire of the Heritage Centre and the sale of publications being £6267 of that total. This was a considerable increase in the income in these two areas compared to the previous year. Events held raised a total of £3732, again an increase on the previous year.

Total payments were £15,880 which included £11,968 going to repairs and projects on the fabric of the church. The remaining expenditure relates to ongoing costs related to the day to day running of the Friends.

All Saints' Heritage Centre.

During the year we were once again able to welcome visitors to the Heritage Centre. Working with members of Brixworth History Society who put on a photographic display, the building was open on a Saturday and Sunday afternoon throughout the Summer months for refreshments. Interesting Roman artifacts from the excavation of a Roman Villa just north of the Church in the 1970s were also on display.



Towards the end of the year The Friends were invited to join the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum.

This organisation has given The Friends another platform within the County to promote Brixworth Church and its heritage.



Handrails up to the Apse : You may recall from our last newsletter The Friends were supporting a project to have handrails installed either side of the steps leading up to the Apse. This was to provide safe and permanent handrails for the safety of members of the congregation, and visitors to the church. Unfortunately progress on this project has been slower than expected due to COVID restrictions, however we are pleased to report the handrails were installed during the Summer of 2022. We thank Brixworth Engineering Co. Ltd for designing, making and installing the handrails.

Annual Brixworth Lecture

On Saturday 29th October the Friends of Brixworth Church, in collaboration with the Medieval Research Department, University of Leicester, held our 39th Annual Brixworth Lecture in the church.

Dr. Christine Rauer, University of St. Andrews, spoke on the subject: **'Where was Mercian Spoken? Brixworth, its Old English Dialects and the limits of Anglo-Saxon Mercia.'**

Dr. Rauer covered this interesting subject in an hour giving examples of Mercian features of the language, the periods in history when it was spoken and areas of England where it extended to. She quoted a number of pieces of evidence to show this, which included passages taken from documents such as the translation of St Boniface's letter to Eadburga in the 10th Century.

Dr. Rauer completed her talk by answering questions and also spoke in Mercian which was rewarded with a round of applause from the appreciative audience.



Christmas Tree Festival:

The Annual Christmas Tree Festival was held in the grounds of the Church during the weekend of 10th & 11th of December. Once again the Friends supported this event by decorating the Friend's Rowan Tree in the ground of the Church which was planted in the 1980s.

The Trustees cordially invite you to join them for

FRIENDS' DAY
SATURDAY 3rd JUNE 2023
BRIXWORTH CHURCH

10.30am Service of Thanksgiving
11.10am Coffee served

11.30am Talk: **"A transitioning landscape: Northamptonshire in the Northern territory of the Catuvellauni tribe"** Given by **Michael J Curtis BA(Hons). MA**

1.00pm Buffet lunch

(The 'talk' is open to non-Friends— tickets £10 pp including buffet lunch)

RSVP by 27th May please (numbers required for catering)

Contact: 01604 881810 or brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

ANNUAL BRIXWORTH LECTURE 2023

“Preaching in English in Anglo-Saxon England” by Dr Helen Gittos, Fellow and Tutor in Medieval History,
University of Oxford.

SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2023 AT 5.00pm in Brixworth Church.



Tickets £10 (including pre lecture tea and cake)
can be obtained by email to: brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com

FRIEND'S DAY TALK:

A talk given by

Michael J Curtis BA (Hons), MA.

‘Chair of Northamptonshire Archaeological Society’

“A Transitioning Landscape:

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE IN THE NORTHERN
TERRITORY OF THE CATUVELLAUNI TRIBE”**

Saturday 3rd June

at 11.30am

Brixworth Church NN6 9BZ

(Please note there is no charge for Friends members)

By Ticket only: £10.00 - buffet lunch included

Contact: 01604 880941

Email: brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com

The Trustees look forward to meeting you at the above events.