



FRIENDS OF ST OSMUND'S CHURCH – MELBURY OSMOND
NEWSLETTER 2019-2020

A YEAR OF CHANGE FOR THE FRIENDS, WITH MORE CHANGE AHEAD

In the past financial year 2019-2020 the Friends paid £2000 to the PCC to help pay for the installation of a new walkway and safety ladder in the church tower. £1000 was also paid for the cleaning and repair of the church windows. This £3000 brings the total funds provided by the Friends to assist in "the preservation of the fabric of the Church and Churchyard", (our principal objective), to £42,450 in the past 24 years. Following this "year of change", which showed an excess of expenditure over income of £504, the sum of £23,200 remains in the care of the Friends to assist future essential projects. Income has been lower this year, with fewer bequests and donations, but the Friends remain in a position to fulfil their valuable support role in ensuring the financial stability of St Osmund's church.

The "100 Club", which raises £500 each year, has continued to be run, but it now needs volunteer(s) to take over as a regular coordinators. Fortunately, owing to sterling efforts by Nick Kettlewell, all current membership numbers were taken up at the 2019 Summer Show and the first 2019-2020 seasonal draw was held in September. We now require fresh permanent support to run the "100 Club" if it is to continue, as the Chairman/Treasurer and Secretary, mainly for health reasons, do not wish to continue with its coordination beyond the 2019-2020 season.

The traditional "travel talk" was given in January by Julian Forshaw, Melbury's own British Airways Captain, and was entitled "Reminiscences of an Aerial Coach Driver". The talk proved most interesting and entertaining; a variety of soups from around the World were served, and a net total of £405 was raised. The number of those attending from the village and nearby continues to gradually fall each year and brings into question the viability of the travel talk unless additional support can be encouraged. In any case, as with the "100 Club", the organisation of future "travel talks" will please have to pass on from the Chairman/Treasurer and Secretary to new volunteers.

You will see from the accompanying form, which includes sections on donations, subscriptions and Gift Aid, Barbara Harris is our Membership Secretary and can be contacted at Charity Cottage, Melbury Osmond, Dorchester, DT2 0LS.

Many thanks to all who have assisted the Friends financially as well as to those who have given their time and energies to ensure that the Friends have remained active in the village. Hopefully, the Committee may look forward to your continued support.

Chairman

NB. Because of the Covid-19 lockdown the 2020 AGM of the Friends will be postponed until the Government's isolation rules are relaxed. When that happens will all members of the Friends please try to attend, as well as those in the village who value having a well kept church at its centre. Thank you.