



## **FRIENDS OF ST OSMUND'S CHURCH-MELBURY OSMOND**

### **NEWSLETTER 2021-2022**

#### **FRIENDS ACKNOWLEDGE POSITIVE CHANGE IN FINANCES FOR ST OSMUND'S**

Following a large and generous bequest in mid 2021 to St Osmund's Church (via the Parochial Church Council) the Friends, temporarily, need to refocus aspects of their original Mission and Purpose; as already approved by the Charity Commission.

As many will have been aware from the Friends' Annual newsletters and accounts over the past 27 years the "principal objective" of the Friends has been "to raise funds for the maintenance and preservation of the fabric of the Church and Churchyard". Under our mandate for operation the Friends are also empowered to "help the General Public" and to "extend interest in the Church and in its well-being (in and ) beyond the confines of the Parish itself". To this end, which for convenience I will call "Community Relations", the Friends will, for the foreseeable future, emphasise more on promoting the Church as a venue for social gatherings and events for the benefit of the community in general; particularly around such notable occasions as Christmas and New Year holidays as well as over Easter and Harvest Festival. These are such times when the Church has displays, flowers and other decorations in place which can be enjoyed by all on a social basis with perhaps some refreshments and suitable music provided.

Individual and Family Membership of the Friends by supporters will continue to be encouraged and welcomed as always, but appeals for extra donations and the holding of fundraising events will not be emphasised. To those who very generously have set up substantial standing order payments to the Friends we say "many thanks" and we fully understand if you would prefer to reduce or defer the donation element of these standing orders for the time being. It is also important to emphasise that the substantial bequest to the Church may rapidly be spent on various extensive projects and it is realistic to suppose that in a few years time the Friends' primary role may return to that of raising funds rather than Community Relations.

The Friends still retain substantial funds at their disposal in order to support the PCC in any "flagship" projects of maintenance and for improvements to the Church. Notification of such projects will underline the Friends' continuing role in support of St Osmund's as we go forward. The annual accounts of the Friends as at 31 March 2022 are on the reverse of this Newsletter.

You will see from the accompanying Membership form that Barbara Harris is our Membership Secretary and can be contacted at Charity Cottage, Melbury Osmond, Dorchester, DT2 0LS.

Chairman

NB The 2022 Annual General Meeting of The Friends will be held probably in the month of July and notices will be posted in the village announcing the date, place and time.

The present Committee of the Friends is now down to six trustees and all are in their 70's or 80's. Younger villagers and those "lucky people" who have recently moved here are kindly requested to become involved. The duties are by no means onerous and our village's Community Relations would be greatly enhanced by some "new blood" !