

# THE FRIENDS OF DORCHESTER ABBEY

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2018



from: Ingrid Lunt  
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*Registered Charity No. 275819*

President: The Bishop of Dorchester

Abbey Website: [www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

Email for list of concerts and events:  
[events@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:events@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

Membership enquiries:  
Honor Juniper 01865 343228  
[friends@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:friends@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

### **Current Trustees**

Richard Dick (Chairman)  
John Taylor (Vice Chairman)  
Hugo Brunner  
Christine Dawson  
Stephanie Forman  
Tanya Hawley  
Christian Hoyer Millar  
Nick Jenkins (Treasurer)  
Honor Juniper (Membership secretary)  
Ingrid Lunt  
David Parker  
Mary Saunders  
Hilary Warburton (Secretary)

### **Ex officio**

The Revd Canon Sue Booy (Rector)  
Hans Paul (Church Warden)

### **Meeting of the Trustees of the Friends of Dorchester Abbey**

The Trustees normally meet three times a year to discuss ideas and issues concerning the maintenance, developments, and improvements for the Abbey. They last met on Monday May 21.

The following items were discussed:

#### **• Update on proposed plans for the Abbey Guesthouse**

Nick Forman joined the meeting to report on progress. The Team working on the

project consists of Nick, Ian Brace, David Rossington and Mike Frith. The challenge is, as always, to balance needs and aspirations with budget and fundraising possibilities.

#### • **Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Conference Day (and see below)**

This is planned for September 28, 2019 and aims to bring together Friends groups from other historic churches in Oxfordshire. The Rector is working with the Chairman of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, Dr Stephen Goss, to organise what will clearly be a fascinating and very informative day conference. Save the date!

#### **Beauforest Brass**

As is well-known, Richard Beauforest saved the building from destruction in 1536. The Trustees discussed the future location and protection of the Beauforest Brass, and will be working with the PCC to bring proposals forward.

#### **Herb Garden**

The Herb Garden is in a good state following the April working party. The Friends contribute £2000 a year for general garden maintenance for the Abbey, and it was agreed to ask the gardener to include the Herb Garden in this work.

#### **Friends Outing**

25 people took part in a very successful outing to Wells Cathedral in May. Yvonne Lawden was thanked for the superb organisation of this annual event which is a high point in the Friends' year.

#### **Next meeting of the Trustees**

The Trustees next meet on Tuesday September 25, 2018

#### **AGM 2018**

The AGM took place on June 4 in the Abbey at 6.30 p.m.

The Chairman reported on the past year's activities. This has not involved major expenditure, though it has included approval of additional lighting, and regular discussions of the Guest House project. He also reported on the very successful 2017 Dorchester Lecture which was given by Dame Helen Ghosh, then Director General of the National Trust.

The Rector presented her report for her 13<sup>th</sup> AGM, and welcomed Bishop Colin. She expressed appreciation for the annual funds to support gardening which have included significant improvements to the Rose Walk path. She mentioned the exhibition planned for the Cloister Gallery from late October to Epiphany featuring work by a local artist Adrian Brooks on the theme of Light – A Spiritual Journey. The exhibition comprises a series of art works based on Shrines by Adrian Brooks, projected images from the Hubble Telescope and an eight minute piece of music by our own composer, Tim Cook. This exhibition has a number of important features linking it to the spiritual history of the building and the locality. It will create a 'mini pilgrimage' in a traditional place of pilgrimage set in the context of some of the most recent understandings of the Creation. The Rector said that she hopes that it will inspire visitors throughout the busy Advent to Epiphany season to think

more widely about the spiritual and the creation on the largest and deepest possible scale.

## The 2018 Dorchester Lecture

This takes place on

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm**

Professor Louise Richardson, Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford will address the title:

***'Universities in Turbulent Times'***



Professor Louise Richardson

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford

Tickets are available on the door at £10. To reserve tickets in advance contact the Membership Secretary on 01865 343228 or by email:

[friends@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:friends@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

## Music at Dorchester Abbey

***Saturday September 15, 7.30 p.m.***

Orchestra of St John's and Sheku Kanneh-Mason

Mendelssohn Hebrides Overture

Tchaikovsky Rococo variations

(soloist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, cello)

Mendelssohn Italian symphony

***Saturday October 13, 7.30 p.m.***

Orchestra and choir of St John's

Handel Zadok the Priest

Bach Cantata 51

Handel Messiah 'Halleluia Chorus'

Handel Samson 'Let the bright seraphim'

Bach Brandenburg concerto 2

Handel Messiah 'Worthy is the Lamb'

***Saturday December 1, 7.30 p.m.***

Benson Choral Society

Vaughan Williams Dona Nobis Pacem

Fauré Requiem

Eleanor Stevens Soprano

Philip Tebb Baritone

## Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) was formed in 1964 to support Oxfordshire's churches and chapels. OHCT awards grants to places of Christian worship of all denominations provided that they are at least 50 years old and open for regular public worship. These

grants are used mainly for repairs or practical enhancements, also for installation of roof alarms against the theft of lead.

The Trust is a volunteer organisation, receiving income from grants and legacies, from its annual Ride and Stride (which is its most important source of income). It organises a lecture programme and Church tours to some of the lovely churches of Oxfordshire. Oxfordshire is home to over 400 churches, chapels and places of Christian worship, many of them of considerable historical significance, such as Dorchester Abbey, and countless other wonderful small churches in the city and villages across the county.

Joining the Trust is an enjoyable way of visiting some of these churches, and helping in the preservation of Oxfordshire's heritage of churches and chapels. Members receive newsletters and get priority booking for church visits, lectures and meetings. To join, visit the website ([www.ohct.org.uk](http://www.ohct.org.uk)) or email [membership@ohct.org.uk](mailto:membership@ohct.org.uk)

### **Beauforest Society**

We are all aware that Dorchester Abbey is an ageing building, built for the most part in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and is therefore continually in need of maintenance and repair. A central role for the Friends is to support the PCC with funds (and on occasion expertise and effort) for restoration and maintenance projects. The Beauforest Society was established to provide additional support to initiatives to preserve the fabric of this wonderful building.

The subscription for membership of the Beauforest Society is £100 a year for four years.

Beauforest members receive the Friends of Dorchester Abbey Newsletter. In addition they are invited to the annual Beauforest tea and evensong which this year is planned for Sunday November 18. It provides an opportunity for members to be fully involved in activities in the Abbey.

Many thanks to all those who signed up for Beauforest membership, and who have enabled the Friends to support the PCC in important projects. This is a great way to support Dorchester Abbey. Additional Beauforest members are always welcome: please contact the Chairman Richard Dick or the Membership Secretary Honor Juniper for further details. Or download an application form from the Dorchester Abbey Website ( Search Beauforest)