

## THE FRIENDS OF DORCHESTER ABBEY

### SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2019



from: Ingrid Lunt  
c/o The Rectory  
10 Manor Farm Road  
Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7HZ

*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)

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

**The Trustees met on Thursday May 23, 2019**

#### **The Following issues were discussed:**

- The Treasurer's report indicates healthy finances, thus enabling the Friends to continue to support significant projects
- The West End Gallery project. Nick Foreman reported on behalf of the PCC on progress with fundraising for the design proposal and Planning

#### **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 (Newsletter)  
David Parker  
Mary Saunders  
Hilary Warburton (Secretary)

#### **Ex officio**

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

Permission and for the substantive project. The Trustees confirmed that the West End Gallery is a priority for the Friends, and that they have agreed to allocate £100,000 towards the build costs of the West Gallery project, if and when it goes ahead.

- The Trustees congratulated Steph Forman and the team on the success of this year's Dorchester Festival which raised £45,000 to be shared between the Abbey and the charity [Style acre](#).
- Honor Juniper presented her regular membership report which indicates that membership both of the Friends and the Beauforest Society is stable.

- Nick Forman reported positive comments and reactions to the additional lighting over the choir and altar steps which has been funded by the Friends.

### **The Friends 2019 AGM, June 3, 6.30 p.m.**

This year's AGM took place on Monday, June 3, 6.30 p.m. in the Abbey, and was followed, as usual, by supper in the Abbey.

- The Chairman, Richard Dick, highlighted some of the activities and contributions made by the Trustees on behalf of the Friends in the past year
- The Rector expressed appreciation for the Friends' support for improvements in the Abbey, including the contactless giving point. She also gave an update on the situation of the Brasses, in particular the Beauforest Brass, a number of which require repair and conservation.
- Nick Forman reported on behalf of the PCC on the progress with proposals for the West End of the Abbey.
- Honor Juniper as Membership Secretary, reported on current Friends membership at 202 and Beauforest membership at 79. In reporting on deaths of Friends over the past year, she gave particular thanks to Bessie Kelaart, former Chairman of the Friends, Christopher Gibbs, Vice President of the Friends for a number of years, Roger Mitchell and Frank Norman.
- The Trustees are indebted to Linda Wastie who provides excellent back-up both to Honor Juniper (membership) and to Ingrid Lunt (Newsletter), and of course to the Chairman.
- The Treasurer reported on a healthy financial situation which enables the Friends to continue to support the Abbey.

### **Friends of Dorchester Abbey Outing to Worcester Cathedral, Monday May 13, 2019**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May dawned bright and sunny as a group of Friends and a few guests boarded a coach to Worcester. The journey took us through the Cotswold countryside, which was looking its best. Fresh green foliage and blossom in the hedgerows, and stunning views across the Vale of Evesham.

Arrival in Worcester about 11 o'clock enabled us to explore the town at our leisure before the Cathedral tour at 3.00. Worcester is a fascinating town, steeped in history. Some of us did a self-guided tour round the town using a very well structured leaflet from the

Information centre. Others had a preliminary visit to the cathedral.

At 3pm we all gathered in the cathedral cloister to be met by two cathedral guides who gave us a comprehensive description of the history of the building, and pointed out some features of particular interest. To quote the Dean:

“Worcester Cathedral is a magnificent sight as it rises majestically above the River Severn. Worcester has been the seat of a bishopric since the Seventh Century, and the Cathedral was served by monks until the Reformation. St Oswald and St Wulfstan were among the bishops. Since the Eighteenth Century, the Cathedral has been famous for its part in the annual Three Choirs Festival, the oldest choral festival in existence. “

There are two important tombs in the cathedral; that of King John who died in 1216 and requested to be buried in the cathedral, and of Prince Arthur Tudor, eldest son of Henry VIII. More details of these tombs and other features of the cathedral can be found on their web site <http://www.worcestercathedral.co.uk>

After the tour we were taken to the Cathedral visitor centre and treated to a delicious tea prepared by the Friends of Worcester Cathedral, and duly refreshed, we returned to Dorchester.

Our warm thanks go to Yvonne Lawden who, as always had organised the event with a gentle touch, but had ensured that it was perfectly planned so that everyone could relax and enjoy a wonderful day.

Honor Juniper

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

#### **Annual Dorchester Lecture**

**7.30 p.m. Thursday 26 September  
Dorchester Abbey**

#### **Millennials: Faith in the Future**

#### **The Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church**

Martyn Percy is one of the leading theological scholars of our time. He was Principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon, one of the largest Anglican ordination training centres in the world from

2004-14 and is a highly respected author, preacher and speaker. Martyn writes on religion in contemporary culture and modern ecclesiology.



The lecture will explore what faith, religion and spirituality look like for the emerging generation. Specifically, Martyn will look at the claim that young people are 'spiritual but not religious', and are 'believing without belonging', and will look at some of the cultural issues we have in society in relation to faith and belief - and also what happens to ethics/morality when it is not rooted in a religious tradition.

The lecture poster is attached at the end of this Newsletter. Please invite friends along to join us.

Tickets will be available at the door for £10. [and on line www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

## Oxford Historic Churches Trust / Dorchester Abbey Conference for Representatives of Churches and Chapels across the County and Diocese

Churches for Mission & the Community

A forum for friends of churches and chapels

Dorchester Abbey: September 28<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – 3:30

OHCT and Dorchester Abbey, with support from the Diocese, are offering their resources and experience to help churches of any denomination in Oxfordshire and the Oxford Diocese to build Friends and to work with them to maintain, develop and use their buildings as resources for mission and the community.

The forum will consist of a mixture of plenary talks, small group workshops and a concluding panel discussion. The workshops will aim both to be informative and to encourage the sharing of experience and ideas. Participants will be invited to choose two workshops from the following:

- Setting up Friends organisations
- Practical help from your community
- Major projects in small churches: what they can achieve
- Project planning--: key tasks and the order to do them in
- Quinquennial inspections--: a users' guide
- Fundraising
- Organising events in churches
- Make your church a pilgrimage for schools
- Moving on in faith: using your building to support the church's mission

Panel Discussion

With Bernard Taylor DL, Sir Tony Baldry and others

Participants will be welcome to stay for Evening Prayer at the close of the Forum.

Tickets £10 (including lunch) available at [ohct.org.uk/events/](http://ohct.org.uk/events/)

The event poster is attached at the end of this Newsletter. Please publicise to those who might be interested.

## 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 originally established under the chairmanship of Bessie Kelaart to provide

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.5 cm

Formatted: Left, Space After: 12 pt, Line spacing: At least 28 pt, No widow/orphan control, Don't adjust space between Latin and Asian text, Don't adjust space between Asian text and numbers

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times Roman, Not Bold, Font color: Black, English (U.S.)

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.

**This year's annual Beauforest tea and evensong is planned for Sunday November 17, 4.00 p.m. tea, followed by Evensong at 5.00 p.m.** The aim is to

ensure that members have the opportunity 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).

