

NEWSLETTER



2024 Activities

Curry & Quiz Evening

Saturday 24th February 2024
7.00pm for 7.30pm start
Brixworth Centre
Church Street Brixworth NN6 9BZ


Local Quiz Master—Keith Farey
Prizes for the winners Teams up to 6 people
Tickets available from brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com or 01604 880941
(advanced purchase only)

Menu
Chicken Rogan Josh, Beef Madras, Spinach & potato Chickpea Curry, Plain Rice, Poppadoms & Mango Chutney
Foughman's Supper (must be pre-ordered)
To Bar—please bring your own drinks & glasses

Tickets
£16
Per Person

Cash Raffle On The Night

A charity fundraising event in support of The Friends of All Saints Church Brixworth (Charity No—1168452)



CURRY & QUIZ

The popular Curry & Quiz evening has now become one of our regular annual fundraising events and 2024 was no exception. On Saturday 24th February fifteen teams came together to pitch their knowledge and expertise against each other, mostly for fun and pride rather than the prizes. Following the consumption of a meal of curry, rice and poppadom, Keith, the Quiz Master, assisted by his wife, commenced throwing out the rounds of questions. It was a very enjoyable evening with the winners going home very happy with their achievement and others content with their efforts.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HERITAGE FAIR

On April 28th Northampton Heritage Forum held their annual fair, this years event was in the grounds of Wicksteed Park. The Friends once again were delighted to take part in the event, showcasing the history and architecture of the Church. The event was well represented by other Forum members and well attended by the public. We had opportunity to sell some publications and take some tour enquiries



NORTHAMPTON MALE VOICE CHOIR

We were very fortunate to secure the Northampton Male Voice Choir to perform a concert for us on the evening of Saturday 8th June. This delightful and engaging concert was very well attended and it was pleasing to see the church fill up as people arrived. The choir have an excellent reputation and gave a performance involving a mixed genre of songs with some audience participation. The Trustees are most grateful to O'riordan Bond in Brixworth for assisting with sponsorship for this event.

BRIXWORTH HISTORY SOCIETY - SUMMER DISPLAY

The Brixworth History Society put together a display of photographs and information about Brixworth Village 'How Times Have Changed' which was presented in the Heritage Centre throughout the Summer from June until the end of September. Working in partnership with the Brixworth History Society the Heritage Centre opened for visitors to view the display and have refreshments each weekend.



See the Brixworth History Society, in collaboration with the Friends of All Saints, display in the Heritage Centre, Church Street. Weekend afternoons 2.30-5pm from 23rd June.

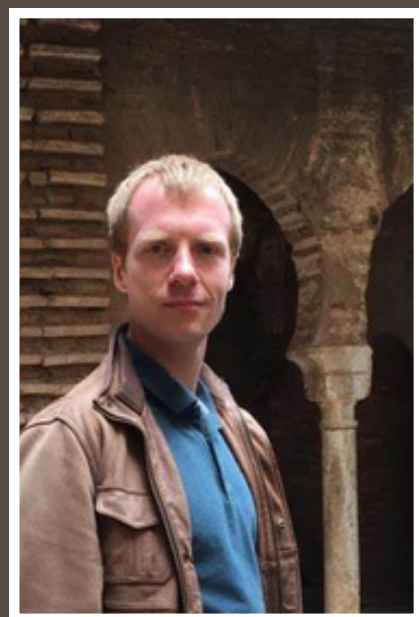


HERITAGE OPEN WEEKEND

On 14th September 2024, the Friends of Brixworth Church participated in the National Heritage Open Day event, offering mini guided tours of the church throughout the day. Many visitors extended their experience with a tour of nearby historic buildings along the Brixworth Heritage Trail. Our Heritage Centre welcomed visitors with a fascinating exhibition from the Brixworth History Society, and homemade cakes and refreshments were served. The beautiful weather ensured a great turnout, with the tours being so popular that additional times were added on the day.

ANNUAL LECTURE

The Annual Brixworth Lecture was held on Saturday 2nd November. The subject 'The Reign of Offa of Mercia in Context' was presented by Professor Rory Naismith, University of Cambridge and proved to be very popular with the church almost full. A number of students from Oxford, Cambridge and Leicester universities attended and were taken on a tour of the church by Professor Story before the lecture. Tea and cake were served in the Heritage Centre by members of the Friends prior to the start of the lecture. The Trustees thank Professor Jo Story for arranging the visiting lecturer and attending to support the Friends on the day.



2024 FRIENDS DAY

It was with great sadness the Trustees made the decision to 'cancel' our Annual Friends' Day at the beginning of June. Unfortunately, the response for attendance was very low and the event would not have been viable. We had a local expert booked to give a talk on 'Bellringing' and a buffet lunch was to be served following the talk. It was disappointing we did not get to meet some of our Friends as usual.



GROUP GUIDED TOURS

We are very pleased to be able to welcome visitors to our church, both as individuals and as groups. The church is open every day during daylight hours and it is pleasing to see visitor numbers have increased during the summer months since the Pandemic, though having inspected the visitor's book, it appears there was someone visiting the church almost every day.

Our three knowledgeable Guides conducted eight arranged tours during the year, consisting of groups of varying sizes from a selection of different organisations; U3A History Groups, Christian Fellowship, National Farmers Union, Rotary Club and University Students etc. Some of the groups, particularly those who travelled from out of the county, also stayed for refreshments served in the Heritage Centre making the visit more of a social occasion.

Arrangements can be made for a guided tour of our church by going to our website www.friendsofbrixworthchurch.org.uk

TRUSTEES

In June Gillian Brunton resigned as a Trustee. Gill had served 8 years (max length of time one person can serve as a Trustee is 9 years, in line with our CIO constitution) and contributed her energy, resourcefulness and ideas to support the Friends activities and her fellow Trustees. Sadly Walt Thompson also resigned his position as a Trustee in October.

At the end of the year there were six Trustees in office. We hope to be able to enlist more Trustees to assist us with the important charity work in order to maintain the fabric of the church and promote its heritage.

If you know anyone or if you yourself would be interested in becoming a Trustee or joining our Events Team please do get in touch.

CHURCH PROJECTS

There were no 'major' projects during the year which the Parochial Church Council had requested financial assistance with. However, going forward there are a number of identified maintenance issues requiring attention in order to keep the fabric of the church in good order and the Trustees will be actively supporting the PCC with these. The next Quinquennial Inspection is due to take place in June 2026 and the Trustees will be supporting any urgent requests for financial support as a matter of priority.



2024 Financial Update

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS BRIXWORTH - 2024 vs 2023 CASH REPORT			
	2024		2023
	Cash Movement £		Cash Movement £
Receipts			
Membership Subscriptions	492		404
Donations	715		1,006
Visiting Parties	595		256
Events	5,004		2,540
Catering	177		201
Souvenirs & Publications	3,296		3,554
Heritage Centre Income	3,572		5,032
Charities Account Interest	1,768		1,088
Miscellaneous Income	0		33
Total Receipts	15,618		14,113
Payments			
Events	(1,652)		(1,243)
Visiting Parties	0		0
Catering	(31)		(73)
Souvenirs & Publications	(282)		(952)
Heritage Centre	(2,249)		(2,237)
Church Fabric	0		(1,750)
Insurance	(835)		(799)
Website	(243)		(240)
Miscellaneous Expenditure	(176)		(80)
Capital Expenditure	0		0
Total Payments	(5,469)		(7,375)
Surplus / (Deficit) of Receipts over Payments	10,149		6,738
Cash and Bank Balance b/f	46,000		39,261
Surplus / (Deficit) of receipts over payments	10,149		6,738
Cash and Bank Balance c/f	56,150		46,000
Charities Deposit Account	42,886		21,313
Bank Account	13,019		23,884
Heritage Centre Cash & Cheques	0.00		215
Paypal	15		15
Cash in Hand	230		72
Uncleared Cheques	0		500
Total Cash and Bank	56,150		46,000
The value of the COIF account is £7,181.60, consisting of 353.89 units each worth 2,029.33 pence			
The value of the Heritage Centre for insurance purposes is £370,000			

The Friends of Brixworth Church have formally approved the Financial Statements for the year ended 2024, which will be filed with the Charity Commission in due course.

The charity achieved a positive cash surplus of £10,149 for the year. Fundraising events continued to be the primary source of income, supplemented by steady sales of our publications. While rising costs associated with hosting events have presented some challenges, the Trustees are actively monitoring event pricing to ensure the best possible outcomes for the charity. The Trustees were especially grateful for the generous sponsorship received from O’Riordan Bond during the year.

Income from the Heritage Centre declined slightly over the course of 2024; however, bookings for 2025 are already showing encouraging growth, with a number of new groups now making use of the facilities.

Requests for financial support from the Parochial Church Council were limited during the year. As a result, the Trustees made the decision to transfer surplus funds to the Charity’s Deposit Account, where they will earn a better return until needed for the maintenance and preservation of the church’s fabric.

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS BRIXWORTH - 2024 vs 2023 CASH REPORT

	2024	2023
	Cash Movement £	Cash Movement £
Receipts		
Membership Subscriptions	492	404
Donations	715	1,006
Visiting Parties	595	256
Events	5,004	2,540
Catering	177	201
Souvenirs & Publications	3,296	3,554
Heritage Centre Income	3,572	5,032
Charities Account Interest	1,768	1,088
Miscellaneous Income	0	33
Total Receipts	15,618	14,113
Payments		
Events	(1,652)	(1,243)
Visiting Parties	0	0
Catering	(31)	(73)
Souvenirs & Publications	(282)	(952)
Heritage Centre	(2,249)	(2,237)
Church Fabric	0	(1,750)
Insurance	(835)	(799)
Website	(243)	(240)
Miscellaneous Expenditure	(176)	(80)
Capital Expenditure	0	0
Total Payments	(5,469)	(7,375)
Surplus / (Deficit) of Receipts over Payments	10,149	6,738
Cash and Bank Balance b/f	46,000	39,261
Surplus / (Deficit) of receipts over payments	10,149	6,738
Cash and Bank Balance c/f	56,150	46,000
Charities Deposit Account	42,886	21,313
Bank Account	13,019	23,884
Heritage Centre Cash & Cheques	0.00	215
Paypal	15	15
Cash in Hand	230	72
Uncleared Cheques	0	500
Total Cash and Bank	56,150	46,000

The value of the COIF account is £7,181.60, consisting of 353.89 units each worth 2,029.33 pence

The value of the Heritage Centre for insurance purposes is £370,000