

ALL SAINTS KENTON FRIENDS (ASKFRIENDS)

England & Wales · Charity number 1203305

Details

Other names ALL SAINTS KENTON FRIENDS

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-05-30

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE GRADE 1 LISTED ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KENTON, DEVON FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PROVIDING SUPPORT TO MAINTAINING, PRESERVING AND IMPROVING THE HISTORIC CHURCH BUILDING, ITS CHURCHYARD AND ITS CONTENTS.

Activities: All Saints Kenton Friends (ASK Friends) supports the conservation, maintenance, and improvement of the fabric and fittings of All Saints Church. One of our sources of funding will be through grant applications. However, money is also raised through various fundraising activities (eg quizzes, art talks, concerts within the church) and we will welcome donations.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Devon

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,952	£631	-	-
2024-03-31	£2,778	£1,588	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Robert Stawart Rand	Chair	2020-01-01
David William Guthrie		2024-06-17
Julia Caroline Cox		2024-05-20

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Accounts

ASK Friends AGM Report May 2025

Our Constitution states that the aim of ASK Friends is:

“The preservation and conservation of the Grade 1 Listed All Saints Church, Kenton for the public benefit by providing support to maintaining, preserving and improving the historic church building, it’s churchyard and its contents.”

I’d like to emphasize the words *‘providing support’*. We share the task of maintaining and preserving the building with the PCC and the congregation. It is the PCC which ultimately has responsibility for decisions on repairs and spending.

Our Vice-Chair Rob Rand gives a huge amount of his time to building matters: getting quotations, liaising with contractors, overseeing works, and liaising with Rev Julia Hocking, the PCC and the DCC. It may seem that little has happened this year but there is much going on behind the scenes, thanks to Rob.

Let’s look at our achievements! The church is open to the public for 7 days a week and used for many different purposes besides worship, including the wonderful Easter Craft Fair and the concerts put on by Rachael and Richard. None of this seemed possible five years ago when the church had been closed for 18 months and was looking very neglected after plaster had fallen from the ceiling.

ASK Friends holds fundraising events to support the building needs and also to raise the profile of the church in the local community.

As you have heard, we have around £10,000 in our funds.

During the year we hosted 2 fund-raising Art History talks in the church by Dr Chris Davies. Three further informal art conversations are planned for May, June and July. We are most grateful to Chris who so generously gives his time to do this.

There have been two quizzes in November and March, and we thank Matthew Williams for acting as our brilliant quizmaster. Matthew has now stood down as quizmaster and the role will be shared jointly by Chris Britton and Laurence Foster when quizzes resume in the Autumn.

In July, a concert by the Ashburton Singers raised over £500 and was a wonderful occasion. The singers highlighted the need to improve the lighting in the church as it was difficult to read the music.

The Easter Craft Fayre, led jointly by the church, ASK Friends and the village craft group raised over £1000, of which ASK Friends received a half share.

We recognize that our fundraising enterprises raise small amounts and that, for major building works, we will need to apply for grants. If anyone has expertise in this, we would be pleased to receive your advice.

So, what is happening with the church building?

The September flood in 2023 damaged the South Aisle ceiling and caused water ingress on the South Wall adjacent to the ceiling fall. At the same time, an electrical wiring fault occurred in the vestry, not considered to be due to the flood. The electrical repair was completed in December 2023 but, despite significant correspondence with the loss adjusters, an agreement about the ceiling repair has not been reached. However, recent exchanges have been promising and it is hoped that the South Aisle will soon be reopened.

The blocked tower drainpipe, in risk of collapse, was resolved by West Access who abseiled down the tower to test and refix the pipe, clear the blockage and temporarily repair splits and holes in the upper lead section. This removed the danger of the pipe falling and the path was reopened.

Further work to remove all the plant growth on the tower, to repoint and replace the lead is necessary to complete a permanent repair costing c £6,000. ASK Friends has offered to provide 50% of the cost.

The 2024 quinquennial report identified a number of minor repairs to be completed within one year. These have been completed along with the roof/gutter cleaning at the end of April. After the quinquennial report, a hole developed in the storeroom floor, thought to be due to a flood down the North Aisle steps, due to a blocked drainpipe two years ago. At the same time, a soft patch was noted in the kitchen floor. These were repaired by local builder Kevin Alford and his team, at a cost of £1,690.

Last summer, the stained-glass windows were repaired as a result of the very successful Give to Go Green scheme. Funds were raised by both ASK Friends and the church and we thank you all for your contributions. The planned repairs have been completed. As the £5,000 target was exceeded (with the help of Gift Aid claimed) the remainder can be spent on more minor repair needs noticed during the planned work.

There are other building repairs, judged in the quinquennial to be necessary within the next five years. One of these is a crack in the crenelation above the porch. Estimates have been requested for this.

We are awaiting a date for the repositioning of the WWII memorial from the kitchen to the North wall. £200 has been received from Kenton Past and Present group plus some extra donations.

Later this year we will be taking part in a second Give to Go Green fund-raising campaign over a six week period. The aim is to reduce the church's energy use.

Estimates have been obtained to replace the high-level lights with LEDs, modernize the heating control system and trial some heating mats in the pews.

We will be sending out more information later in the year but if anyone has good ideas about fun fundraising events, please speak to us. We need to raise another £5,000, to be match funded by the CofE.

The Churchyard

The churchyard is a work in progress. The team led by John Perkins and Cliff Tubb continues to manage the churchyard, keeping paths neat and tidy while allowing nature to thrive in other areas.

A huge amount of Goosegrass has been removed to prevent it from smothering other flowers.

Spring bulbs planted in Autumn 2023 failed to thrive. New team member Daisy Jones successfully applied for a grant to buy snowdrops and native bluebells, which were planted in Autumn. Disappointingly few came up.

Yellow Rattle which was so successful in 2024 has not reappeared this year.

Lavender plants put in by Mandy Hendley to the right of the porch did not do well. Mandy thinks the spot is too dry. Consideration is being given to what would be best to put in that corner.

On a more positive note, three small trees (Hawthorn, Rowan and Cherry) were planted in Autumn 2024 and are thriving.

The churchyard team is maintaining the Studd grave and has planted Sedum as ground cover to keep weeds at bay.

I would like to thank John, Cliff and every member of the team for their dedication to the constant upkeep of this lovely space.

The Swift project has not been forgotten. Swifts are currently nesting in the boxes in the church tower. A new cable has been put from the tower to the church room and a new TV purchased by the PCC. We still aim to be able to project pictures from the nests onto the church TV for people in the village to observe. A HiFi/WiFi expert has been to visit and identified exactly what is needed. We were not able to arrange this before David Day, the 'Swift Man' went travelling for 6 weeks. We will look at it again in September, once the swifts have flown.

All Saints Church remains a vital landmark in Kenton. Whatever our religious beliefs, it is vital that this church stands firm at the heart of our village. This is a long-held belief. In 1766, in the time of George III, the Parish Lands Trust was set up as a permanent endowment to provide support for the parishioners of Kenton to maintain the church building. The school pays rent to the Parish Lands Trust, which in turn gives the church the money to maintain the building. Since the school was flooded and has been relocated to the playing field, this support has ceased. Unless another tenant can be found for the school building, this source of income will be lost permanently.

If we do not continue to act, the church will fall down, as Britain's medieval castles and monasteries did centuries ago. As I said last year, a derelict ruin at the centre of our village is not a fun prospect.

As you will be aware, there is a new, enthusiastic, dynamic group working to raise funds to re-open The Dolphin as a pub and community hub. Kenton has many needs! However, let's ascribe to Abundance Theory – that there is enough for all!

Lastly, time for some thank yous:

Our committee is small. Huge thanks to Rob who has worked so hard this year. Also to Julia (Cox) who joined us as Treasurer last year and has diligently managed our finances. Also to David (Guthrie) who joined also the committee last year – he is a great asset with his pragmatic approach and ability to see all sides of an issue. Recently, Mandy Hendley stepped down from the committee and we thank her for her contribution to ASK Friends, particularly her energy, enthusiasm and hard work to make the Easter Craft Fayre happen.

We would love some new committee members. Could it be you? Come and join us!

Jane Perkins (Chair ASK Friends)

	Income	Expenditure	£
Bank Balance B/F 31/03/2024			£7513.54
Inc/Payments 24/25			
Membership	£285.00		
Donations	£170.64		
Events	£1,830.13	£284.83	
Other income	£71.00		
Admin expenses		£163.91	
Restricted Funds - Memorial	£434.92		
Restricted Funds - Churchyard	£160.00	£182.50	
Totals 2024/2025	£2,951.69	£631.24	£2,320.45
Bank balance as at 31/03/2025			£9833.99

Amount held in Restricted Funds

Churchyard	£327.54
Memorial	£434.92

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Accounts

ASK Friends AGM Report May 2024

I'd like to start by reiterating the stated aims of ASK Friends according to our Constitution:

“The preservation and conservation of the Grade 1 Listed All Saints Church, Kenton for the public benefit by providing support to maintaining, preserving and improving the historic church building, it's churchyard and its contents.”

We are delighted with the progress at All Saints Church since last May. With Rev Julia Hocking now in post, a positive relationship has been established between the PCC and ASK Friends.

In May 2023, ASK Friends was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) and was subsequently recognized by HMRC for gift aid on personal donations. We now have SumUp and Give a Little to enable digital donations and donations can also be made via our website.

Since last May, we have held 6 fund-raising Art History talks in the church and we are hugely grateful to Dr Chris Davies who so generously gives his time freely for this. We have only held one Quiz this year, in October, and would like to thank Matthew Williams for acting as our quizmaster.

In February and March, we supported *Give to Go Green*, a pilot scheme from the CofE as part of their target to reach net zero by 2030. Along with donations from the people in the village, the PCC and ASK Friends held events which raised £5000, match-funded by the CofE to £10,000 to repair the broken and decaying stained glass windows. We are delighted that work on the windows has already begun.

Repair to the Rood Screen roof and to the electrical wiring of the Vicar's Vestry are now complete. Decisions are still awaited about the ceiling and roof repairs. Other repair needs, including the tower drainpipe, tower roof leak, are at various stages of getting opinions and estimates.

ASK Friends can help with getting opinions and estimates. We can also help make grant applications but we need the PCC to tell what projects they would like us to help with. The authority and responsibility rests with the PCC.

The Swift project has gone quiet but is not forgotten. Swifts nest in the boxes in the church tower every summer. We still aim to be able to project pictures from the nests onto the church TV for people in the village to observe. However, the current equipment and church TV are not up to the

job. A HiFi/WiFi expert has been to visit and identified exactly what is needed. He is keen to help and we await his availability and costings.

The Churchyard

John Perkins and Cliff Tubb continue to manage the planned grass cutting with TDC, along with general maintenance. A growing number of volunteers, some of them new to the village and young(!) can be called upon for work parties and we are grateful to them all.

The churchyard is a work in progress. This year, a new lavender plot was planted by Mandy Hendley to the right of the porch and is thriving. Yellow Rattle seeds planted in test areas in 2022 came into flower in 2023 in every single plot. Yellow Rattle is known to suppress grass growth to enable other species of wildflowers to grow. The planting of Snowdrops and blue bells in the North of the churchyard was unsuccessful. The churchyard team understands that this was because of the excessively wet winter. A second attempt is planned for later this year.

The monthly flower count has now been taken on by Daisy and Andrew, a young couple new to Kenton. Andrew is a horticulturalist and keen to be involved on the churchyard team. Until now, John and I have only counted the species in flower, but at the end of April, the churchyard was visited by Julie Gibbs's sister, Sarah Lambert, who is a botanist. Sarah identified 72 different plants and documented her findings.

Plans for the future include looking after the walls and dismantling the compost area to the north which was erected back in 2020. A number of grave crosses need lifting and laying flat and one flat grave needs levelling.

The area of gravel surrounding the Studd grave in the NE corner will be planted with Sedum to restrain the many weeds which dominate.

The bird nest boxes and the bug hotels will be reviewed and refurbished. The team is also looking at planting a couple of trees, possibly Rowan and a Hawthorn to replace the poplar which was taken down last year for safety reasons.

The Churchyard Team endeavours to make the area a welcoming place for both humans and wildlife, and to increase biodiversity. The aim is to manage the space and keep it tidy, without looking manicured. They are achieving this aim - the churchyard looks natural (or even wild) but the close-cut paths demonstrate that the area is cared for.

I would like to thank John, Cliff and every member of the team for their dedication to the constant upkeep of this lovely space.

I wish to thank Rob for the huge amount he does for ASK Friends. He is the backbone of ASK Friends, liaising with builders and other workmen, maintaining our website and currently also acting as Secretary. Anne has decided to stand down from the committee and the role of Treasurer. We are so sorry to be losing Anne and I wish to thank her for the wonderful job she has done over the past year. In September, we were delighted to welcome Mandy to our team and are very grateful for her considered and thoughtful input.

With Anne's departure, we are a small team of 3 and need new members in order to continue. Please consider joining our committee!

Finally - some thoughts about old churches ...

I am not a church-goer but I love this church building.

This has not been a good year for Kenton. Although there has been minor flooding in previous years, the flood last September was unprecedented, causing lasting damage to the village. Many people have still not been able to return to their homes. Without a shop, pub or (currently), a school in the village, Kenton is going through a difficult time.

SO - how much more important it is that we still have this church standing firm at the heart of our village.

A few days ago, I came in and found a lone visitor who, after spontaneously offering 'What a beautiful church!', expressed surprise that he had expected to smell damp but all he could smell were the lovely flowers!

I'd like to finish by reading a few lines from the introduction an excellent book called Steeple Chasing which was Waterstone's book of the month earlier this year. The author Peter Ross visits different churches during the Covid Lockdown, and each chapter focusses on one subject, exemplified by a particular church.

*People once loved and feared churches as they loved and feared God. Now often, they fear **for** them. Fear that they will fall down. Fear that they will be converted into offices and flats.*

*Do they still love them? They should.
Even if you only attend church for marriages, baptisms and funerals, these are among the most important times of our lives; moments when we speak most deeply of ourselves, our love, our hope, our sadness.*

*Churches hold within them Britain's history; national and personal. That smell they have is not just damp and dust, but **faith and time.***

This made me reflect on the generations of families who will have passed through the doors of this building, literally over centuries. Who were they? What clothes did they wear? We play a small part in this ongoing story, and we need to preserve this building for future generations, to be the next part of the story.

Thank you

Jane Perkins (Chair ASK Friends)

Notices

Refreshments for sale

June 12 2.30 Illustrated talk by Mark Bailey of CWGC Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

June 26 2.30 Art History talk Black Artists Matter

July 13 - 7.30 Ashburton Singers The Lark in the Clear Air



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

All Saints' Kenton Friends (ASK Friends)	No (if any)
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ASK FRIENDS

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 31-May-23	To	Period end date 31-Mar-24
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Membership	195	-	-	195
Sales		-	-	-
Donation - Jo Willis funeral	324			324
Donation	150	-	-	150
Quizzes	169	-	-	169
Presentation & Talks	460	-	-	460
Give to Go Green	1,480	-	-	1,480
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	2,778	-	-	2,778
Sub total(Gross income for AR)				

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,778	-	-	2,778

A3 Payments				
Quiz Expenses	21	-	-	21
Cost of Presentations and Talks		-	-	
Cost of Concerts		-	-	
Publicity and Printing	21	-	-	21
Contribution towards Church Expenses		-	-	
Funds raised for Give to Go Green	1,480	-	-	1,480
Churchyard Fund	-	66	-	66
Sub total	1,522	66	-	1,588

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,522	66	-	1,588
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,256	- 66	-	1,190
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	1,256	- 66	-	1,190

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	7,164	350
		-	-
		-	-
	Total cash funds	7,164	350

B5 Liabilities

Details

n/a

Fund to which liability relates

Amount due (optional)

-
-
-
-
-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Anne Hatcher
Jane Perkins

-

-

-
-
-
-



**Endowment
funds**

to nearest £

-
-
-
-

When due (optional)

Date of approval

17-Jun-24
17-Jun-24

