

# Friends of St. Nicholas, Dereham

## Newsletter August 2023

Dear Friends

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. Since the relaunch of the Friends charity at Dereham Day in May 2023, six new members have signed up. We continue to actively encourage members of the community to get involved, support us financially, join the committee, become Trustees and organise fundraising events to fund projects for the Parish Church.

With this in mind, and as part of Dereham Heritage Open Week, we invite you to a

**Welcome Evening in Church**

**on Friday 15th September**

**6.00pm 'til 7.30pm.**

Drop in any time, bring a friend or family. Drinks and nibbles will be on offer and an opportunity to learn more about St. Nicholas Church and the people who contributed to its unique history. There will be a chance to see the revised plans for toilets, a kitchenette and the enclosed Cowper Chapel meeting room and talk to the people involved in the project.

**Do join us**



### **Dates for your Diary**

### **Heritage Open Days**

September 8th to September 17th  
2023

[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

The Bell Tower & St Withburga's Well will be open at the following times:

Fri 8<sup>th</sup>. 10am-1p

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> 10am-3pm

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm

St. Nicholas Church will be open daily with an exhibition on William Cowper who is buried in the church.



Many of you will have seen or visited the parish church in the town. Some will know the history associated with Withburga, the Saxon princess who founded the first religious settlement on the site of Withburga well, or the French prisoner of war who was killed

escaping from the Bell tower and is buried in the churchyard. The building holds many historical artefacts, memorials, including that to William Cowper and tells the stories of Dereham residents over the centuries.

“The Friends” is a charity (no 1115389) that exists to bring together the people of Dereham and the villages around, who wish to help to preserve the heritage and history of the town, to support the church and inform future generations about the evolution of Dereham and to organise events and raise funds for projects to enhance and develop modern facilities in the Parish Church for the use of the whole community.



There will be an opportunity to learn more at the Welcome Event on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 6.00pm to 7.30pm. We are seeking members who wish to, not only support it financially, through membership fees, but become involved in the fundraising and social events to support specific projects, agreed by the Friends in consultation with the Rector. For example,

plans have been drawn up to install toilets. Better lighting and a modern sound system would be a great addition to be used for weddings, funerals, and when concerts are held in the building. The list is endless.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Simply become a member for £25 pa Individual or family

Come to the Welcome event on the evening of Friday September 15th this year.

Get involved in the charity as a fundraiser, treasurer, secretary, trustee.

If you want to know more, or would like to become a member, please ring Lynn Hearn (acting secretary) on 01362 696168 email [lynn.hearn@live.co.uk](mailto:lynn.hearn@live.co.uk)