

Quarterly Newsletter for the Friends of St Denys

Spring 2018



Welcome to the fourth of a series of regular bulletins for the community of Friends of St Denys. Please let us have your feedback on the newsletter – what is of interest to you and what isn't! And if you have any ideas of what else should be included, do tell us. You can email us: stdenyschurchyork@gmail.com

2018, a year of transition for St Denys

STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS....STOP PRESS

Two major reports....

First, our building schedule is alive and well, thanks to Heritage Lottery Fund plus other support - with major progress on identifying and remedying centuries of quiet decline and disrepair.

Second, on January 27th, you will be welcome to join us for a St Denys fun day, and to note work and developments - as part of the Residents' Festival weekend (see below)

Looking back since the Summer

Winter Works Friends will recall the challenge of ominous cracks opening in the north aisle walls; the tracery of the north aisle west window parting company with its glass; holes appearing in the east window; and increasing damp penetration as a result of these accelerating structural fault – hence the church being placed on Historic England's Buildings at Risk register confirming a threat to nine centuries of worship.

Since October, with work well under way, new challenges have emerged relating to

previously concealed or invisible problems with the roof and the tracery of all three north wall windows. So efforts continue to secure further financial support.

Worship for All: Regular services continue: Sundays at 10 with BSL signed service first Sunday of month. NB Wednesday morning services at 9.30 suspended temporarily due works... **importantly**, we are ensuring that the church remains a warm & accessible place for worship & welcome throughout the development period!

Winter Creativity Meanwhile, the congregation plus Friends have started to think ahead to our renewed Spring/ Summer identity. This has involved generating beautiful notelets and postcards ; commissioning an entirely new guidebook; devising an imaginative children's trail; and working with design students to produce new interpretative banners – all intended to make the story of the church better known to a wider audience.

'Colouring' the Works Also telling the St Denys story.... An inspired team of volunteer painters worked through the recent cold weather to decorate the rather grim hoardings protecting the contractors' scaffolding with bright heraldry and other images from the church's rich past.

Musical Treats The choir from Vanburgh College; plus the Thursday night entertainment from Joska and Anthony continued across the period .

New Sound-New Lights We have been successful in securing new external lighting to welcome visitors on dark winter evenings (and days); and a high quality new sound system will improve the St Denys experience for us all.

LOOKING AHEAD

Residents Festival On January 27th between 10 and 4 we are offering a warm community welcome to all.... Tea, tours talks to include heritage and renovation plus additional entertainment will provide a rolling programme of activity under the special theme of **"Eat-Pray-Love"** So, do come and join us...

See attached poster



ResWeekend2018.pdf

<http://www.stdenysyork.org.uk>

Do check out our re-energised website to discover lots more about our history, our worship and our community activities - with regular updates through news, stories and pictures!

AND FINALLY.....

All of us at St Denys owe a huge debt of gratitude to our friends; to sister parishes; to our neighbours in the community; and to our local businesses...thank you; thank you; thank you!

We look forward to seeing you again...

In love and hope from all at St Denys...