

St Edmund's Church, Crickhowell

Friends of St Edmund's Newsletter: February 2020



A Message from our Chair: Julian Stedman:

A Happy New Year to all our Friends! The beginning of 2020 seems to have ushered in a number of challenges both on the world perspective and the domestic front. It is at times of uncertainty that we often reflect on the past and the things that help bring us stability through our happy memories. We have all developed close associations with other people whom we have known over the years; our relationships may have grown, or we may have lost touch with others who we now miss. We also form associations with places and buildings - it is always special to return to somewhere that has played a significant part in our life story.



For many, St Edmund's Church has such a place in our hearts; we are delighted that it is always there for us to return to; and thankfully, it wears its age better than most of us! However, we know how much it costs to keep up with the "Forth Bridge" of maintaining the building and its surroundings. So, thank you to all our Friends for your commitment to this cause - helping to ensure that our church will continue to be enjoyed by future generations of locals and visitors to the town. I hope you will be able to join us this year for some of the activities and events which we are planning - I am sure it will be another busy and enjoyable year!

Friends News from Kaye Bennett:



Over the past year the Friends have paid for new posters for the display by the font, the repair of Rev Boscawen's grave in the community graveyard, as well as our £5,000.00 contribution towards the cost of the new porch doors.

We have 35 couples and individuals who regularly subscribe to the Friends scheme, and we welcome Mike Smith as a new Friend.

All couples who are married in St Edmund's, and families who choose to have their children baptised are welcomed as honorary Friends for a year. Several newlywed couples and baptismal families have been contacted on the anniversary of their special day, but have not, as yet, chosen to support this particular fund-raising scheme. We look forward to welcoming others in the future.

Activities and events in 2019 and 2020: Eric Gower:

Grave of former Rector restored: The grave of the Rev Boscawen Somerset, the rector of Crickhowell towards the end of the nineteenth century has been restored by the Friends of St Edmund's Church. This was felt to be a good project for the Friends to support because his influence on the church and the town can be readily seen and experienced to this day. The grave in the Town Cemetery was in a poor state of repair covered in grass and weeds with the headstone broken off. A local retired monumental sculptor, John Lawrence, was commissioned to restore the grave and now it is looking much more like it did originally over a century ago. We have tracked down three of Boscawen's great grandchildren two of whom visited Crickhowell recently. They are very pleased with the quality of the restoration and grateful to the Friends for the work they have done to commemorate their great-grandfather.



New doors: As part of the major restoration and development work which St Edmund's undertook last year, the Friends paid to replace the inner pair of doors at the main west end entrance to the church. The new oak doors are fully glazed, enabling visitors to the church to see more readily what is going on inside before they cross the threshold. It is intended that there will be a small plaque commemorating this gift from the Friends to the church.

Kempe windows: As part of our programme of occasional talks, mostly related to features of our building and churchyard, we are hosting an event focused on the work of the nineteenth century stained glass artist, Charles Eamer Kempe. We are fortunate to have two Kempe windows in our building and this illustrated talk should help us appreciate them better. The speaker will be Adrian Barlow, a trustee of the Kempe Trust (<http://thekempetrust.co.uk/>) and an authority on Kempe and his studio. The talk will take place in the church on 10th March 2020 at 7:30pm.



Fundraising and Social Events at St Edmund's: Kathryn Bullon:

The Fundraising Team have produced a diary of events for this year and it's been approved by the PCC. The list attached isn't exhaustive, new additions may be added. We haven't been able to firm up all the dates but those that have been confirmed are the two coach trips.

Please update your diaries; further details will be issued in due course. As always, we hope there are some things that will appeal to you. We work really hard to provide a variety of things to cater for everyone.

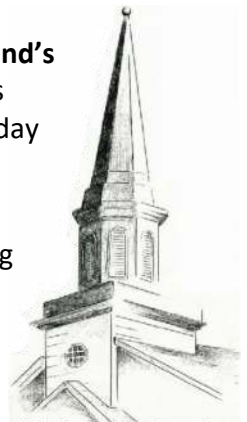
Fundraising is becoming more and more important as a result of the current economic climate and if we want to continue to be such an active church.

Church matters: Update on our Our Church Heritage Project: on behalf of Anthony Silwood, People's Church Warden:

Update on our Church Heritage Project: I am very pleased to be able to report that this project has now been completed, and even more pleased to be able to say that the church has remained dry through the heavy rain we have had over the past few months. However, I do unfortunately have to report that some of the glass in the doors which you provided appears to have flaws. This has been discussed with the Architect who managed the project and he is taking this matter up with the Contractor.

Fabric matters currently receiving attention within St Edmund's Church: Bullet points reported to the PCC relating to matters discussed at the Church Officers team meeting held on Monday 20th January 2020

Tower Spire Repairs: We have been advised to consider the installation of a "man-safe" system to the tower. This is being researched and quotations sought. Repair work needs to be undertaken to the tower which involves the repointing to lead flashing along the parapet. Again, quotations are being sought and a faculty applied for.

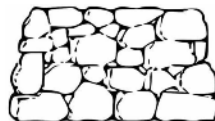


Restoration of our two ancient effigies Sir Grimbald and Lady Sybil

Pouncefoot: We now have a specification and quotation for the carrying out of restoration work. Grant applications and monies will need to be secured before a faculty is applied for.

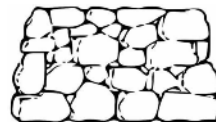
Repairs to the West Retaining Wall: (following structural engineers report) Once ownership and responsibilities are fully established an Architect will need to be appointed to determine the method of repair, grants and faculty applied for.

Repairs to the North and East boundary walls: (following structural engineers report) Repair work needs to be undertaken on both these walls within the remaining term of the quinquennial inspection report. Quotes need to be sought and a faculty applied for.

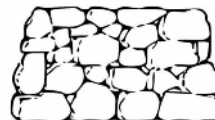


Monitoring of Cracking on the East Wall of the Church:

(following structural engineer's report) Contractors are to be approached to obtain quotations for the fitting of 'tell tales' to measure movement. A faculty needs to be applied for before repairs are undertaken.



Monitoring of Timbers in the Bell Tower: (following structural engineer's report) On the recommendation of the structural engineer this is being monitored internally.



Provision of a New Sound Desk: Following water damage caused by the ingress of rain water before the repairs to the roof, and due to on-going failure of some channels resulting from this water damage, a new sound desk is urgently needed.

And finally...

You can find more information about happenings and other events at St Edmunds on our website www.crickhowellparish.org.uk, or email our membership secretary Kaye Bennett at: kayebennett39@yahoo.co.uk.

Dates for your Diary:

Espying Heaven : the Stained Glass of Charles Eamer Kempe The speaker will be Adrian Barlow, a trustee of the Kempe Trust (<https://thekempetrust.co.uk/>) and an authority on Kempe and his studio. **The talk will take place in St Edmund's on 10th March 2020 at 7:30pm**

The Friends AGM, Thursday May 7th 2020 at 7:15pm in St Edmund's Church, followed by a presentation from Patrick Daniell which gives an account of his recent visit to Ethiopia and will include an account of the country's fascinating history supported by his pictures of the countryside, people, churches, and activities.

And, also don't forget the Crickhowell Walking Festival 7th to 15th March..
<https://www.crickhowellfestival.com/>

Thank you for all that you do to support St Edmund's Church – we are truly grateful.

FUNDRAISING CALENDAR 2020

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH	FUN AND GAMES WITH PIE AND PEAS- PARISH HALL 7PM. (in tribute to the northern contingent of the congregation!).
SATURDAY 21st APRIL	AFTERNOON TEA -A PRE V. E. DAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. PARISH HALL 3PM There'll be the usual array of home- made goodies on offer.
SATURDAY 16 TH MAY	COACH TRIP TO OXFORD- back by popular demand. Let's hope no-one gets locked inside the Ashmolean museum this year!
JUNE (DATE TO BE CONFIRMED)	FLOWER ARRANGING WITH DEBBIE FROM PETALS. Always a great night.
FRIDAY 17 TH JULY	1920S EVENING- TO MARK 100 TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHURCH IN WALES. PARISH HALL 7PM. Dig out your ostrich feathers and fringes, Fancy dress optional but fun!
1 ST , 15 TH , 21 ST , 22 ND , 29 TH AUGUST	OPEN CHURCH- REFRESHMENTS, STALLS ETC. Our annual highlight of the year.
SEPTEMBER (DATE TO BE CONFIRMED)	HARVEST SUPPER
OCTOBER (DATE TO BE CONFIRMED)	CONCERT BY" CAN ADERYN SINGERS". They come highly recommended.
NOVEMBER	HOPING FOR ANOTHER GROUP TO STEP UP AND ARRANGE SOMETHING!!
SATURDAY 5 TH DECEMBER	COACH TRIP TO WORCESTER (VICTORIAN MARKET WILL BE ON) please start praying for fine weather now!
THURSDAY 10 TH DECEMBER	ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING AT THE BEAR



ESPYING HEAVEN

The Stained Glass of Charles Eamer Kempe and his Artists

A talk by Adrian Barlow,
7.30pm Wednesday 11th March 2020
St Edmund's Church, Crickhowell



Adrian Barlow is a trustee of the Kempe Trust and author of two recently published books on Kempe and his work.

Kempe was prominent among 19th century designers of stained glass and other artefacts.

There are examples of his work in the west windows of the side aisles in St Edmund's.

The Kempe Trust supports the maintenance and preservation of Kempe's output throughout the UK.

