

**Friends of St Michael's & All Angels Little Witley Annual General Meeting  
Chairman's Report 2016-7**

Reflecting on the year, during 2016 hard work has been at the forefront of the Committee. However, we seem to thrive on this, as once again we have entered the Best Kept Churchyard competition.

This means a series of Churchyard working parties to continuously garden, tidy, mow, cut & prune. Fran has taken over the wildflower patch and this looks to be promising later in the year. Freda planted daffodil bulbs, along the boundary hedge last Autumn, which are a picture this Spring.

Maintenance of the fabric of the Church building is still ongoing and continues to be a challenge. Electric work has been completed and now meets current legislation. Comparative quotes have been obtained for the stone and pointing work of the Church. Kate Andrews, SPAB, has been helpful in surveying the Church building at the commencement of the year and again this last month and prepared comprehensive reports. Peter and I have attended SPAB courses this year on pointing and stonework repair. A new Grant has become available for the maintenance of the fabric of ancient Church buildings. We have made application for 50% funding, so that we can supplement the generous legacy left by Christine Drew for fabric of the Church. It is hoped to have the work completed in 2017. Obtaining quotations, grants, etc. always takes longer than expected.

Our fundraising this year has not been as active as in previous years:

- Christmas stamps
- Harvest Supper
- Donations

A community Garden Party was held in the Churchyard to celebrate the Queen's 90 birthday. The WI decorated the Church with wonderful floral decorations, an assortment of games and a food marquee in the churchyard placed the Church in the centre of the village for the day. The *Bring and Share* party was enjoyed by all. Our first fundraising event in 2017 will be a *Wine Tasting* evening in the Village Hall 29 April. There are more fundraising events being planned for later in the year.

A big thank you must go to Little Witley Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee for their generous donations and to all others who have assisted with fund raising events throughout the year. The ladies of the WI and others, who provide refreshments, arranging flowers, and being willing helpers at all events and, who make sure the church is always clean and tidy and floral decorations beautifully displayed. Our two Church wardens.

Our "meet & greet" by all members is much appreciated by members of the congregation and visitors together with our after service refreshments. Every member of the Friends small Committee gives 100% effort to keep our little church in good condition. So I must thank you all for that commitment.

Reverend Ted has now settled into his new role and after reflection is planning changes of the frequency of services across the benefice, which may reflect favourably on the development of the Church in Little Witley.

I look forward to another successful year.

John Gorton  
Chair  
March 2017