

## ***The Friends of St Neots Parish Church***



*The Parish Church from the south east.*

The church was all built in the late 1400s by the people of the Town. It was not part of St Neots Priory but it was and is the Town Church.

It has an active congregation led by the Vicar, Rev Dr Paul Andrews

<http://www.stneots.org/>

**‘The Friends’ is a charitable voluntary organisation which is formally separate from the Church Council and Church Authorities. The Friends’ objectives are to assist in the repair, restoration and improvement of St Neots Parish Church building. It does this by making grants to the Parish Church Council (PCC) to help carry out specific repair work. The Friends do not commission repair work directly; it is the PCC that is the only body able to do this and the PCC is responsible for all legal permissions and contracts for carrying out repair work. The PCC employs a specialist architect to plan, specify, supervise and inspect all such repair and maintenance work.**

**Thus donations to the Friends cannot be used for religious purposes or for the costs of the Church or Clergy organisation itself. The Friends are people who wish to help preserve and conserve this ancient building into the future, irrespective of religious belief or affiliation. By joining us you will be adding your small stone to a building which has already stood for over 500 years and will stand for many centuries yet if we keep it in good repair.**

**This is a close-up of the small turret which contains a spiral stone stair up from inside the church to give access to the roof. Graffiti in the lead indicate that it is around 150 years old. One says “E Saul, Jan 25 1867” The lead roof-covering is worn and holed.**



**On the roof above the nave in 2012. Some problems with the masonry are arrowed. These were repaired in 2013.**

**The old Sanctus Bell (right) was rung in past times at the moment in the communion service when priest and people sang “Holy, Holy, Holy....” It can still be rung.**



**On the roof a stone block in the parapet had badly decayed. It had to be replaced. Here is the newly-carved replacement in place. The block of stone cost about £250 *before* carving and fitting-in, which needed scaffolding on the roof. It is of the same stone as the old part so will weather to match in time. Replaced in 2013**



## Make a donation to The Friends of St Neots Parish Church

At present we do not have an on-line donation facility.

Please send a cheque (or other money transfer) to

The Parish Office, St Neots Parish Church, Church Street, St Neots, PE19 2BU

but be sure to include your full details, address etc.

Alternatively please contact us about alternatives [enquiries@FriendsofSNPC.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@FriendsofSNPC.org.uk)

### **Gift Aid - this is a concession to UK tax-payers which assists charities.**

If you are UK resident, please send with your donation the following declaration which will allow us to recover income tax you have paid and so increase your donation by 25% if you complete this form.

**I**, (name with initials or full name) .....

**of** (full address and postcode) .....

**Give the sum of** .....(amount of your donation)

**to The Friends of St Neots Parish Church with the request that this is treated as a Gift Aided donation and I confirm that I have paid, or will pay, the equivalent amount of UK Income Tax on this money**

**Signed** (your signature) .....

**date** (date of signing) .....

**May we thank you for your donation. We will acknowledge each donation**

some work still to be done (carving near the west door)



## **The Friends of St Neots Parish Church**

**This charitable organisation was founded in 2014 by a group of people who felt that it was a building worth preserving for the future and who recognised that the church congregation was increasingly unable to afford all the repairs that ought to be done. A public meeting was held which resolved to form the new Association and agreed its initial constitution. Legally it is an ‘Unincorporated Association’. The assets of the Friends are held in trust by a Board of Trustees who are governed by a formal constitution. The Parochial Church Council was given the power to appoint two trustees to the Board of The Friends but Trustees appointed by the initial Public Meeting, and successors appointed by Annual General Meetings, will always have a majority. Once the Friends Association is established it will apply for Registration with the UK Charities Commission as a registered charity.**

**At this moment (early 2014) the initial Public Meeting is being planned. The constitution will be charitable in law - its money can only be used for charitable purposes - and therefore Gift Aid will apply from the outset.**

**If you would like to be involved in the Friends or help in any way, please contact us.**

## **Application Form for Membership of The Friends of St Neots Parish Church**

**If you would like to become a member, simply send us your details with a donation. A form is not essential. Cheques can be made out to The Friends of St Neots Parish Church. The only qualification for membership is to be someone who wishes to support the restoration and repair of St Neots Parish Church. Children can be Junior Members but in this case please indicate the child’s date of birth. Membership is an ideal present for someone being Baptised or Confirmed. There will be an annual subscription which is suggested to be at least £25 for adults.**

Send to: The Parish Office, St Neots Parish Church, Church Street, St Neots, PE19 2BU

Alternatively please contact us [enquiries@FriendsofSNPC.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@FriendsofSNPC.org.uk)

<b>Name</b> .....	<b>Name of Junior Member</b> .....
	<b>date of birth of Junior Member</b> .....
	<b>Address of Junior Member if different</b>
<b>Address</b> .....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
<b>Post code</b> .....	<b>Post code</b> .....
<b>email address</b> .....	<b>email address</b> .....