

## 2007 EVENTS

During 2007 we raised funds with all sorts of events...



The clergy team put their backs into the tug-of-war

In July, the Friends held a fete in the Vicarage garden. It was almost the only fine Saturday of the summer so far, and we had a splendid afternoon, with traditional stalls and games, a tug-of-war, tea and cakes, and the jazz band from King Edward VI School. This joyful event raised £2,440



The plant stall was popular

In September, Martin Gorick, our President and Vicar, and Jon Ormrod, our Verger, with four other intrepid travellers, walked from Shakespeare's Globe on the Thames in London to Shakespeare's Church on the Avon in Stratford, over five days, sponsored by well-wishers for every one of the 146 footsores miles. They raised over £3,600 for the Friends.



Pondering a photographic quiz



Will Power Walkers

In the autumn, a group of Friends had a dinner cruise on the Prince Regent II canal boat. We raised

funds and enjoyed a good dinner while moving gently along the Grand Union Canal. Our marketing adviser, Ashley Simons, the owner of the boat, generously provided the evening at cost price to the Friends and we are grateful to him.

Michael Wood enthralled a packed audience in Holy Trinity with our Annual Lecture this year. He spoke eloquently about the civilizations of South India, a subject very close to his heart currently, as he had just finished making a major television series about the sub-continent. He was good enough to promise to come again in a year or two - so keep a look out!



Michael Wood

One of our Patrons, Martin Dunne, the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, decided most generously to help with our fundraising. By his efforts and mediation, the Friends were privileged to

**Not only was it a remarkable evening's entertainment, but it raised over £10,000 for the Friends.**

host a gala evening, 'Bare Ruined Choirs' - a title derived from Sonnet No 73 - in Holy Trinity on 25 November, with Dame Judi Dench, Sir Antony Sher, Jeffery Dench and Greg Doran, accompanied by Armonico Consort. The candlelit church was



The performers in the chancel of Holy Trinity after the show

packed to hear a programme devised by Greg Doran, drawing together threads of Holy Trinity history as it impinged on Shakespeare's life and work. Not only was it a remarkable evening's entertainment, but it raised over £10,000 for the Friends. We are grateful to all who took part, and supported us most generously in all sorts of ways.

## Trustees

**President**  
Rev. Martin Gorick

**Chairman**  
Dr Philip Cheshire

**Treasurer**  
Brian Vince

**Trustees**  
Tony Bird  
Sir Brian Follett  
Bill Hicks  
Tim Hindley  
Jane Hornby  
Bill Lowe  
Catherine Penn  
Tim Raistrick

**Clerk to the Trustees**  
Josephine Walker

## Patrons

Sir Eric Anderson  
The Right Reverend Colin Bennetts,  
Bishop of Coventry  
Mr Jasper Britton  
Dame Judi Dench  
Mr Martin Dunne,  
Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire  
Mr Patrick Stewart OBE



## Friends of Shakespeare's Church

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United Kingdom

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Registered Charity No. 1097403



## OUR MISSION

Delivering the means to preserve Shakespeare's church for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

2010 is the 800th anniversary of the building of the church. Could our restoration be completed by then?

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January 2008

"I count myself in nothing else so happy  
As in a soul remembering my good friends"

Richard II, William Shakespeare

# Will's Quill

ISSUE EIGHT

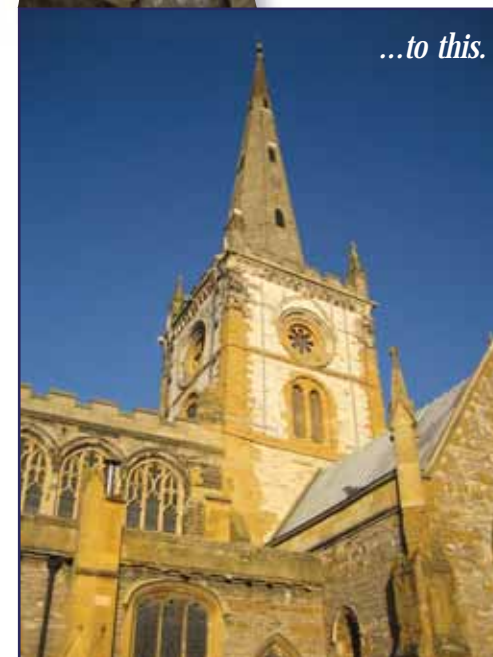
THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF SHAKESPEARE'S CHURCH

The Friends of Shakespeare's Church have entirely funded the restoration of the tower and spire, which was successfully completed by Christmas, 2007. The yellow Hornton ashlar masonry has been repaired or replaced, and a consolidating weather coat has been applied to all the stone work.

From this...



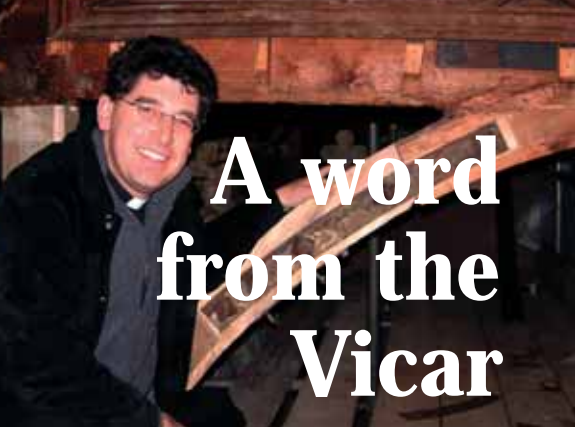
# Tower and Spire Project Completed



...to this.

The architect, Ian Stainburn, and the contractors, Croft Building and Conservation Ltd, managed to bring the project in within budget. Last January, we were asking for emergency funding to allow us to keep the scaffolding in place in order to 'finish the job'. This January, we are grateful to all who responded so generously - without your help we should not have been able to support the PCC in its desire to complete the restoration of the tower.

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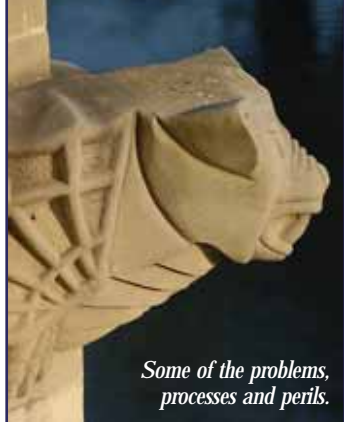


## A word from the Vicar

As I walk towards Holy Trinity and look up at the newly restored tower and spire, I feel a real delight and a deep sense of thankfulness. I'm delighted to have that beautiful landmark free again from the shroud of scaffolding that seems to have been enclosing it for so long. It's a delight too to see the quality of conservation work that has been undertaken with such skill and carefulness by Crofts under the watchful eye of our Architect, Ian Stainburn. They have really enjoyed working on the tower, replacing the most worn out stonework and carefully repairing and conserving the rest. A particular delight is the wonderful corner 'grotesque' looking down on the church path from on high, replacing the original that had weathered to an indistinct stump. My deep sense of thankfulness is to all those who have worked so hard to make all this possible, all the Friends of the church, individual and corporate, who have been so generous with time and money. As with Phase 1 on the south chancel parapet, the money to pay for Phase 2 on the Tower and Spire wasn't all there when we started. It was a step of faith to begin, and yet by the time the scaffolding came down we had enough funds in the Friends coffers to pay the final bills. This is marvellous, enabling us to draw a line under Phase 2 and move with confidence to the next stage of the restoration of Holy Trinity, the north clerestory windows. Thank you all so much for agreeing to 'Be part of it' once again.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to two people who between them have masterminded this recent work. Bill Hicks as Churchwarden has overseen all the work on the tower, tirelessly liaising with PCC, Buildings Team, Crofts and the Architect and skillfully steering through the faculty applications. He stands down as Warden in the spring but continues to serve as one of the Trustees of the Friends. This spring will also see the completion of the five year term of office of Philip Cheshire as Chairman of the Friends of Shakespeares Church. The Bishop of Coventry tipped me off about the 'brilliant headmaster of Warwick School' who was retiring to Stratford. The Friends could never have taken off in the way that it has without someone of Philip's calibre, without someone of his vision, drive and boundless enthusiasm. Philip has been a delight to work with and I was shocked and amazed when he reminded me that under the Constitution he would need to stand down this spring. The years have flown by and I could not have asked for more from the first Chairman of the Friends. We all owe so much to Philip and I'm sure you will want to make a note of the date of the AGM (17 April) to come and show your appreciation in person.

With thanks for a great 2007



*Some of the problems, processes and perils.*



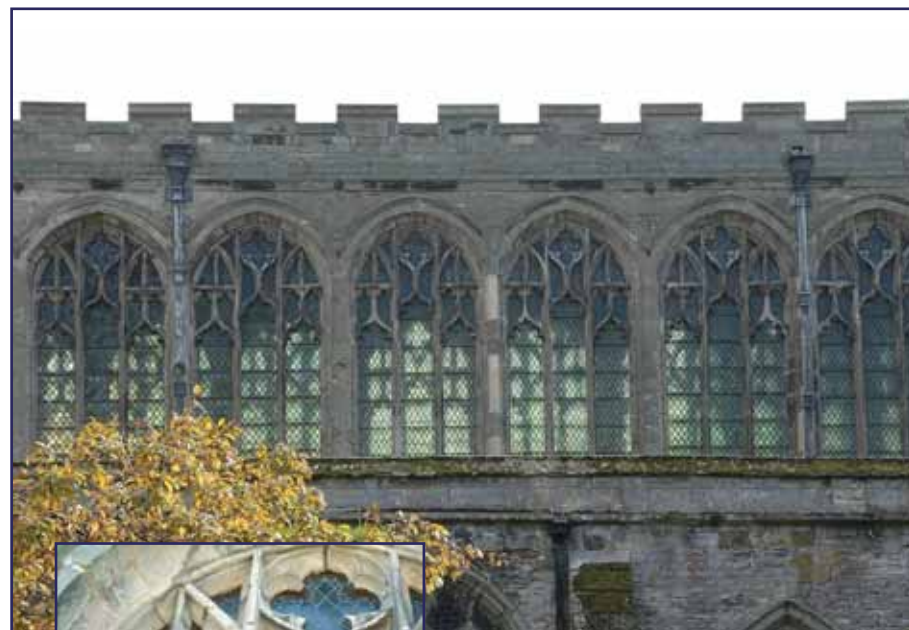
So far the Friends have repaired:

The south parapet and the south roof of the Chancel • The Spire • The Tower

We can be exultant and grateful that these works have been achieved.

# But What Comes Next...?

The clerestory windows of the north side of the Nave.



*The stonework is crumbling, the metalwork has corroded and the glass is loose.*



### New Trustee: Tim Hindley

The Trustees were delighted to welcome Tim Hindley onto the Board in November 2007. Mr Hindley comes with much experience of banking and business, and for six years was the Chief Executive of 'Bradford Breakthrough', lobbying on behalf of the city of Bradford. He will bring added strength to the Board and to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

This is our next task. Will you continue to help us? The estimated cost is £307,000.

If, when they are working up there, they find problems with the nave roof, the amount will spiral, but until the work starts, we shall not know.

— THE FRIENDS 2008 —

## Events Diary

### Forthcoming events: do put these dates in your diary

**17 April 2008, 7.30 pm**  
**Annual General Meeting, Shakespeare Centre**

After the short business meeting, Mairi Macdonald, the Head of Local Studies at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, will talk about the records of Holy Trinity held in the Trust's archives.

and conditioning much of what he wrote. Tickets, £10, are on sale from the Church Shop and the Parish Office, or by post from the Friends of Shakespeare's Church, Parish Office, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BG.

**1st May 2008, 7.30pm**  
**Annual Friends Lecture, Holy Trinity Church**

Dr David Starkey, the eminent historian and television presenter, will give the fourth in the series of Annual Lectures. His topic will be 'Church, State and Crown from the Tudors to the Stewarts' – one of the central issues underlying Shakespeare's England,

**Marathon Bible Reading**

The last week of May has been identified for a Marathon Non-Stop Bible Reading in Holy Trinity Church, from Genesis to Revelation. Everyone will be invited to come and do a twenty-minute stint, taking up where the last person left off. You might find yourself reading aloud to a rapt audience of tourists in the morning, or to a church mouse at midnight. More information in due course.

## From the Chairman

A few weeks ago I stood at the edge of the river Avon. It was chilly and bright. There was a sense of achievement in the air. Harsh sounds of hammering merged with metallic harmonies to herald a new dawn for Shakespeare's Church.

A slow but careful removal of scaffolding increasingly revealed the warm, soft stonework. Silhouetted against an azure sky the restored tower of Shakespeare's Church emerged. It seemed to have a new magnificence. I felt enormously privileged to have been Chairman of an organisation that had made this possible and reflected on what you, the Friends, had achieved.

It is almost five years since the Friends first started as a charity. In those five years our membership, our fund raising achievements and the rate of restoration have all increased year on year. The south roof of the chancel, the spire, and the tower have all been fully restored. Three major projects completed; a tremendous achievement. Yet a glance at the enclosed development plan shows that the full picture is one of: "three down, thirteen more to go and £3.6m to raise".

2010 is the 800th anniversary of the building of the church. Could our restoration be completed by then? The decision is one for all of us. If the outcome is to be judged by the Gala Fundraising Evening and the Christmas Appeal then I am very confident. Thank you all for your support and generous contributions to both of these. The funds raised enabled the decision to be made to press ahead with the next major project; the nave windows in the clerestory.

As I write this I can hear the bells from Shakespeare's Church echoing for evensong. The darkness is a reminder that the year is drawing to a close. 2007 has been a successful year. Friends from all over the world, volunteers, our Clerk and Trustees have all helped; thank you all. There is still more crucial work to be undertaken, but with your help we can continue to make a real contribution to the full restoration of that wonderful building known as Shakespeare's Church.

My grateful thanks, once again for your support and my very best wishes to you all for 2008. **Philip Cheshire**