



FRIENDS OF REPTON PARISH CHURCH

Charity No. 1162837

NEWSLETTER NO 3
JUNE 2022



<https://www.friendsofreptonparishchurch.co.uk>
email: frpc.873ad@gmail.com

Dear Friends

Unfortunately our Chairman, Rev Martin Flowerdew, is on long term leave and so it falls to me to say welcome on behalf of the Trustees to our third newsletter. We are most grateful for your support and hope you find something of interest.

Having successfully funded the floodlighting of the tower and spire we are currently liaising with Repton PCC to decide on our next fundraising project to conserve, repair or enhance St Wystan's church, but in the meantime you can be assured that our current funds will be held for this purpose.

Work is also proceeding on a new guide book which we hope will be available in 2023 and the first of a series of information sheets pointing out features of interest to visitors as they walk around the church, is in place.

We now have 33 regular subscribers and a further 10 who have given a donation and are on our mailing list. We would welcome more regular subscribers. If you have friends who may be interested in our work do

encourage them to join us. Also if you have not done so already and would like to set up a direct debit or give a further donation you can do this through the Charities Aid Foundation by clicking the donate button on our website (address above) or by scanning the QR code here.



Alternatively you can email frpc.873ad@gmail.com for further details.

We hope you enjoy the feature 'From the Archives', and the report on our last event and hope some of you will be able to join us for the Barbecue in the garden of one of our Trustees at the end of August (Poster attached). This promises to be a relaxed social event especially if the sun shines but there are arrangements in place to be undercover if wet.

In October we have invited Professor Martin Biddle to talk about his latest research on

the dating of the crypt – Repton and Rome. Details of the event are still being finalized but do reserve the date for what should be an interesting insight on Saturday 15th October in the afternoon.



If you have any suggestions for future events or projects or are able to help us in some way please do contact me.

With best wishes

Virginia Davis
Secretary



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Revd Alfred Fletcher, Vicar of Repton 1932 – 44



Alfred Fletcher was an interesting character. An article in the Derby Daily Telegraph from

October 1932 at the time of his appointment to Repton gives some background. He had a significant career as a barrister prior to his ordination around 1906. He served as a curate in various Midland parishes and as an army chaplain during the 1st World War. He was then vicar of Eckington, Worcestershire from 1920 until coming to Repton.

He was evidently comfortably off and made generous contributions to the parish. A tribute on his retirement lists some of these including: contributing half the curate's salary, paying for a new bell in 1935, writing and paying for printing a new guide book (this remained in print with revisions until the 1970s), and matching the fundraising for the 1938 Appeal to finance the new vestry and other work. It seems that the latter amounted to a contribution of about £1,000 (equivalent to over £40,000 today).

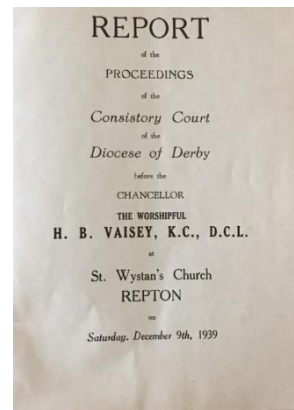
Church Council minutes from 1933 demonstrate his deep commitment to restoring and enhancing the church building and its furnishing. The vicar initiated a stream of projects in the mid '30s: tidying and

levelling the churchyard, installing electric lighting in the crypt, overhauling the bells, reordering the chancel with a new altar, altar rails, wall panelling and floor tiles. The 1938 Appeal that he led was for a new vestry (built in 1939), a new organ (this was the Compton electronic organ installed in 1949 that lasted until 1973), a restored south aisle chapel (developed in the early '50s), and stained glass in the east window (the only one of these projects not progressed).



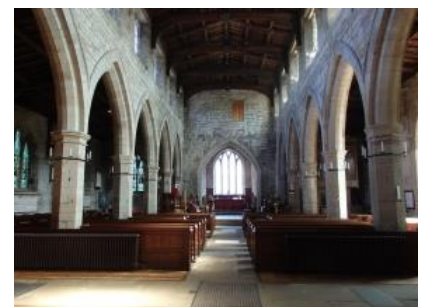
Vestry

His interest in archaeology (he was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and member of the Council of Derbyshire Archaeological Society) led him to urge the removal of the 18th century plaster from the chancel walls in order to expose the detail of the Saxon stone work. Most expert opinion was against this, arguing that these walls were never intended to be left bare. The matter went to a consistory court held in the church in December 1939. The printed account of the proceedings shows that the vicar's legal background led him to rigorous cross-examination of the expert witnesses and to convince the Diocesan Chancellor to allow the stripping to proceed.



Consequently we now have a church with entirely bare interior walls giving a somewhat gloomy atmosphere without lighting, but showing off the detailed construction of the ancient stone work.

Mr Fletcher retired in 1944, moving to Derby. He kept his interest in St Wystan's, not entirely happily, as he clearly felt the location of the new organ was wrong writing to the then vicar in November 1949 "I do not feel that I can be present at the dedication of the organ... I am very unhappy about the whole business." This refers to the location of the Compton organ console behind the south side choir stalls. He died in 1959 aged 92. He should be remembered as an exceptionally energetic and inspirational vicar who did a great deal to determine how the interior of the church appears today.



Richard Finch

SILVER SAX CONCERT

The Friends of Repton Parish Church would like to thank everyone who joined them for the Silver Sax Concert in St Wystan's Church on Saturday 14th May. It was a very successful evening with over 90 tickets sold and the church resounding with foot tapping music.

The evening started with Stephen Gould, one of the Trustees of FRPC, welcoming everyone to the concert and introducing Silver Sax, a very popular band with six saxophones and a rhythm section. In the first session we were entertained with a variety of music including songs made popular by Frank Sinatra, "Bad Bad Leroy Brown", "That's Life", and "Strangers in the Night" sung by Jon Haywood. This was



followed by an interval during which cheese and wine was served.

The second half of the concert was equally entertaining with a range of music from "Come Fly with Me" from the 1958 Sinatra album of songs to "I Saw Her Standing There" from the Beatles 1963 debut album

"Please Please Me". The evening concluded with Jonathan Sheldon, another Trustee of FRPC, thanking the band for an excellent evening of music and also Stephen Gould and family who provided and served the wine and cheese.

Mel Thomas

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 20th August 1pm – 5 pm

Summer Barbecue

See attached poster for details

Saturday 15th October Afternoon

Lecture 'Repton and Rome: The source and date of the crypt'

Professor Martin Biddle

Details to follow on our website and by email



FRIENDS OF REPTON PARISH CHURCH



INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM FOR

**BBQ
DRINKS
MUSIC**



OPEN GARDEN & ARBORETUM

ON SATURDAY 20TH AUGUST, 1PM – 5PM



COKHAY FARM,
BURTON ROAD,
REPTON, DE65 6FN

TICKETS £10.00 ADULTS, CHILDREN FREE
INCLUDES BBQ AND DRINKS

FOR ALL TICKET ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

ANDY - EMAIL: FRPC.873AD@GMAIL.COM

TEL: 01283 702448

