

St. Denis's Church Local Nature Reserve Management Group

Annual report – May 2017

The long-awaited take-over of St Denis' church from South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) to The Friends of Friendless Churches (FoFC) happened at 3.00 pm on 30th November 2016.

Funding consisted largely of a dowry of £60,000 from SCDC complemented by local pledges amounting to almost £3,000 including £500 from Hatley Parish Council and a similar sum from Gamlingay and Hatley Parochial Church. An easement has been issued to the church across Cllr Kindersley's land (the Manor Barn).

The Friends of Friendless Churches will start renovation work to the church later this year. The first phase will include reglazing (using salvaged stained glass) and providing a new floor to permit some chaperoned use of the interior.

We hope that eventually, when funds permit, the FoFC will restore the interior to essentially as it was when William Butterfield's work was completed in 1874.

We hope to arrange an event to celebrate the handover fairly soon. Please look out for further announcements.

We are delighted that Richard Halsey, a trustee of the FoFC has accepted an invitation to come along to Hatley Parish Council meeting this evening.

The churchyard has been kept smart and tidy by volunteers who have worked hard several times on Sunday mornings during the year willingly to mow the grass, clear the cuttings and keep down the nettles and weeds round the gravestones and the church perimeter. The sessions are arranged by St Denis' Local Nature reserve Management Group.

Further information on St Denis' and the new takeover

Hatley website www.hatley.info has plenty of information about the church and churchyard
<http://www.hatley.info/about/churches/churches.htm>
<http://www.hatley.info/about/churches/St-Denis-appeal---2013.html>

SCDC's website, 14 December 2016
<https://www.scams.gov.uk/content/hatley-church-be-given-new-lease-life>

ITV News Anglia 19 December 2016
<http://www.itv.com/news/anglia/update/2016-12-19/disused-church-finally-restored-as-community-buidling/>

Cambridge Independent, 14 December 2016
<http://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/south-cambridgeshire/hatley-church-to-be-given-new-lease-of-life-1-4816378>