

## **St Denis' church and churchyard / nature reserve**

### Update for 19th July 2022 meeting of Hatley Parish Council

#### **St Denis' church**

A short visit was made to the church by thirteen of the fifteen Trustees of the Friends of Friendless Churches, together with Rachel Morley, FoFC's director, on the morning on 4 July, 24 hours early than we were advised. Rachel apologised profusely! Joyce Denby and Peter Mann, their daughter Zinnie, Jenny Ollerenshaw and Nicola Jenkins joined in the event. Other invitees connected with saving or renovating the church (from SCDC etc.) were advised but were unable to come.

The only substantial work needed on the church is the installation of a new stained glass east window. The FoFC plans to provide a desk and a couple of benches for the church.

The church is open every day from around 8.30 am to dusk. Peter Mann and Joyce Denby will be giving guided tours as part of the Heritage Open Days event, 11.00 am to 4.00 pm on 9, 10 and 11 September: [www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/a-handsome-medieval-church-st-denis-east-hatley-cambs1](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/a-handsome-medieval-church-st-denis-east-hatley-cambs1).

It might now be the time for the Parish Council and members of the St Denis' Local Nature Reserve Management Group to consider the formation of an umbrella group ('Friends of St Denis' Church' or similar title) to look after the church and decide on/organise what it might be used for, and to manage the churchyard.

Alex Brad came to St Denis' church on 3 July to make panoramic/360° photographs of the church for the FoFC. He earlier visited Hatley St George church to do the same.

Both views are on the Hatley website as links to Facebook:

- St Denis' – [www.hatley.info/hatleys-churches/st-denis-east-hatley](http://www.hatley.info/hatleys-churches/st-denis-east-hatley) (scroll down to 'Seventh thing').
- Hatley St George – [www.hatley.info/hatleys-churches/hatley-st-george-church](http://www.hatley.info/hatleys-churches/hatley-st-george-church).

A lady with the surname Hatley from Los Angeles visited the church on 15 July. Joyce Denby and Peter kindly showed her round.

Thanks to Peter Mann for liaising with the FoFC, for documenting work on St Denis' on the website, and for opening and closing the church each day. As always, thanks to Joyce Denby and Peter for showing round occasional visitors.

#### **Gazette article**

Peter has submitted an article based for September's issue of the *Gazette* on the item on the Hatley website at [www.hatley.info/hatleys-churches/st-denis-east-hatley/st-denis-re-skinned](http://www.hatley.info/hatleys-churches/st-denis-east-hatley/st-denis-re-skinned).

#### **St Denis' churchyard / local nature reserve**

Peter Mann has mowed the pathways in the churchyard, using the ride-on mower kindly loaned by Mervyn Lack. We need to organise a session to cut and rake the very long grass as soon as Peter's mower is repaired.

Early spring orchids, bee orchids and Star of Bethlehem appeared again in the nature reserve this year.