



# FRIENDS OF TRING CHURCH HERITAGE

**NEWSLETTER**  
SPRING 2019



Image courtesy of Stephen Kitchener

## One big community

I am a relative newcomer to Tring and to the Friends of Tring Church Heritage. But I am assured by those who were there that the first plans began thirty years ago this year. If you were there at the beginning, please write in about the first event you remember – or the best event you have attended in that time – and we will print it next time.

It is perhaps fitting that this edition of the newsletter contains not only accounts of some of the recent events, as well as news of those to put in your diary, but also photos of the BIG recent event, where the Church of St Peter & St Paul's was visited by a record number of people from the community. If you didn't come to see the Church decorated for the commemoration of the Armistice in November last year, you missed a treat.

The Poppy Team was made up of FOTCH members, Church members and the community of Tring and much further afield. In that way it is fully representative of FOTCH itself, where only a small percentage of the members are regular Church members. That's because FOTCH is made up of all sorts of people who want to make sure we continue to have a beautiful historic building maintained and actively used by everyone in Tring.

Tring certainly came out in force to honour the dead on 11 November 2018, with over 650 people in the Parish



Church, many of them standing and spilling out of the doors. The oldest person I saw in the Church was 97 (Mrs Gwen Hewison) and there were a number of babes in arms too, including George Stanley, who is the son of the new Head at Bishop Wood School and had recently been baptised there. There were people from other Churches in Tring and the villages, as well as many from the community who had come for this special day.

We hope to see as many people again visit the Church for the next BIG event which is The FOTCH Family Fun Day. Whatever the weather the Church and Churchyard are open for business, making itself available for people to explore, make friends, play games and eat all manner of interesting foods; not forgetting of course bringing their Teddies to try the zipwire from the Tower. If you haven't been before, do come – and bring your friends and family!

If you are able to bring any plants you have raised or seedlings you have potted on for the plant sale – any size, any colour, any kind – these would be much appreciated by the Plant Team. Please contact me on 07968 312161 or [annetter@ad-publishing.com](mailto:annetter@ad-publishing.com).

But don't wait until then: come for the Benedicite concert on 2 February and the Table Top Treasures Lunch with Stephen Hearn on 10 February. Read about other events to come in this magazine and note the dates on the inside back cover.

*The Editor*

## Take your treasure to lunch with new Trustee, Stephen Hearn



**10 February 2019 is the date, 12.30pm is the time, and St Peter & St Paul Parish Hall is the venue.**

The occasion is a lunch designed for your enjoyment as a 'thank you' to all our members and friends who do so much to support FOTCH throughout each season.

Stephen Hearn is our new 'Town Council' Trustee and, of course, he is also the celebrated head of one of Tring's most successful businesses – Tring Market Auctions.

You are invited to come along, relax and enjoy spending time with your friends and at the same time hear Stephen as he moves from table to table appraising the 'special treasures' you have brought for him to assess.

Everyone is invited to bring along that interesting and sometimes tantalising item that they have formed an affection for over the years and get the opinion of an expert eye.

As ever, Maestro Barry will be providing the victuals, there will be some interesting wines to sample and we shall be

holding the second 100 Club draw of the year.

Please ensure you book your place with Trish (details are on the poster and the form here in the Spring newsletter). There is no fixed price, just a donation to cover the cost of the catering would be welcomed, and everybody is welcome. You don't have to be a member of FOTCH; everybody who cares for and supports the wonderful asset at the heart of our town is welcome; and we like to live up to our promise of being as much about FUN as we are about FUNDRAISING!

All the details are on the poster.



## Multiple eggs, multiple baskets



Don't put all your eggs in one basket is a key principle of successful financial management. You can be reassured that the FOTCH Trustees have, over the years, taken this principle very much on board. The long-term finances of the charity are invested in a diverse range of long-term funds selected with the advice of our independent financial adviser and monitored by the Trustees. The aim is sustainable long-term capital growth through a combination of these different funds.

The benefits of diversification go beyond management of FOTCH's financial assets. We organise a range of different events. From the Family Fun Day in May, to brewery tours, concerts at Tring Park School, Barn dances and quizzes and Garden safaris. We like to have a diverse range of options so that everyone can find something that appeals to them – maybe even a few things.

And we welcome people who want to join FOTCH as a paying member, people who just want to go on the mailing list to find out about our upcoming events, and people who

drop in on one or more of them. (We, of course, also really welcome people who can help practically with some aspect of these events or the charity's organisation!) We want a continued wide range of people supporting in one way or another FOTCH's aim of maintaining the long-term health of St Peter & St Paul's Church, this key asset for the town of Tring.

Most of the charity's funds each year come in as proceeds from the various events described above. But membership fees play a part. And so do legacies – we have recently been left some very generous bequests that have made a significant contribution to the long-term financial reserves of the charity and so help secure the availability of the Church and its grounds for future generations.

So let's keep the eggs rolling in from lots of different sources, into those different baskets. And continue to have a good time doing so.

*Richard Abel,  
FOTCH Chair of Trustees and Treasurer*



## Friendship and fun

Harvest Festival Sunday at St Peter & St Paul's in Tring was truly a day of treats – the generosity, talents and warmth of our community freely offered and heartily enjoyed.

FOTCH (Friends of Tring Church Heritage) exists to make the most of our Church building for the benefit of the whole community of our town. With this purpose FOTCH and Tring Choral Society have given generous grants for new state-of-the-art lighting in the Church, which has transformed the interior so that we no longer have to sit 'amid th' encircling gloom', and the FOTCH social lunch party in Tring Parish Hall richly rewarded the effort put in by members to support the Church.



An excellent buffet with wine was served at which Barry Child's moreish pies disappeared rapidly and the lovely cakey puddings with cream filled up any remaining corners.

Then came the Brilliant Brains Quiz: do you remember what famous English



writer died on the day that President Kennedy was assassinated? (C.S.Lewis); or what item of decimal currency was introduced eighteen months ahead of decimalisation? (50p); could you estimate the total number of walnuts (from Helen Dunford's tree in Icknield Way) in a large glass jar? You would have scored well (or at least better than our table!).

After lunch and quiz came music in the newly-lit Church. The monthly 'Piano & More...' concerts organised by Anna Le Hair are always of a very high standard and on Harvest Sunday, our Church Organist & Choirmaster Cliff Brown played a fascinating collection of short, modern, very attractive pieces, alternating between our lovely, restored Bechstein piano and the Church organ.

A big thank-you to everyone whose work and skill contributed to this marvellous day. It was pouring with rain. Who cared?

The next FOTCH social lunch will be at 12.30pm on Sunday 10 February in Tring Parish Hall, when members will be able to bring 'Table Top Treasures' for informal expert advice from FOTCH Trustee Stephen Hearn of Tring Market Auctions. Do put the date in your diary.

*Carole & Martin Wells  
FOTCH Members*

## Tring swings

In October we spent a wonderful evening with friends enjoying familiar and new jazz classics, fine wines and tasty canapés at the FOTCH Jolly Jazzers event at the Tring Mansion.

After a pleasant hour or so chatting and indulging in the splendid spread we took our seats in the 'jazz club' of the beautiful old ballroom. It was then non-stop toe tapping to the rhythm of the fab old boys and their talented pianist who make up the Jolly Jazzers. Their evident enjoyment was infectious as they played and sang for us. The evening sped by with jazz classics; songs from the great American songbook and even a Yiddish love song. A guest singer from



the Hummingbirds added an extra treat with her easy-on-the-ear, unique take on familiar tunes. Add in the excitement of the auction of lots that money can't buy, conducted by TV Star and Tring Market Auctions' own Stephen Hearn, teasing generous bids from the audience and it was a complete evening's entertainment. Tring at its best!

*Nick Hankey  
FOTCH Member*



## Making music



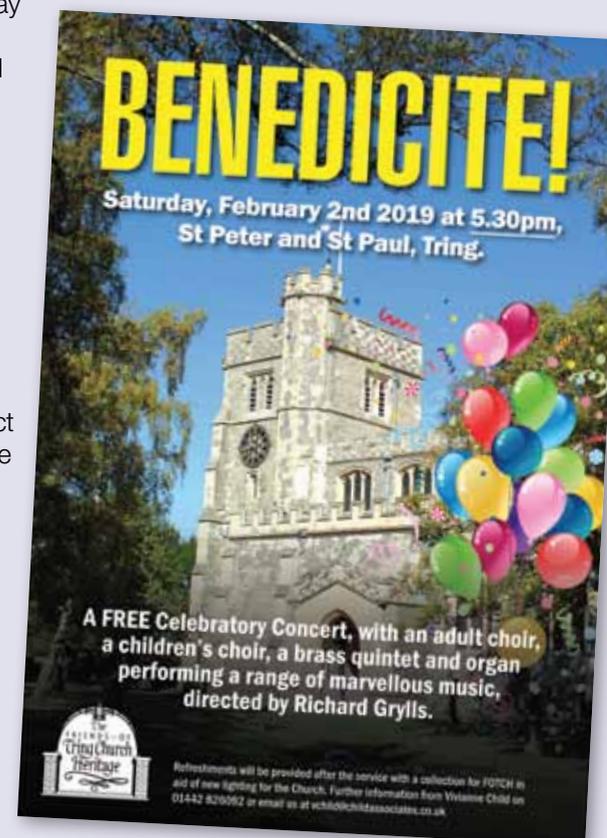
Please put Saturday 2 February in your diary for a musical treat. Richard Grylls is bringing his special brand of musical extravaganza to St Peter & St Paul via an all-day music-making workshop, ending with a concert which includes something for everyone.

If you can sing and sight-read reasonably well, then please contact Richard to find out more about the day and how you can take part [richard.grylls@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.grylls@btinternet.com).

If concert-going is more your style, then please join us at 5.30pm for a super selection of music, ranging from Gabrielli to Percy Grainger, via Vaughan Williams.

Entry is free with a retiring collection for FOTCH (the Friends of Tring Church Heritage).

*Vivianne Child  
FOTCH Member*



## Happy memories

It was more than a pleasure to welcome Stephen Hearn to our meeting of the Trustees on 3 December last year! As expected he came up with some inspirational suggestions for furthering local interest and participation in FOTCH activities, among which he suggested adding the old garden party game of 'Bowling for a Pig' to our Family Fun Day in May.

I was surprised, and felt more than a little guilty, at how quickly my mind wandered off to the many disparate images that the word Bowling conjured up. Far from Tring I was back in America on a double-deck steam train on the North-South run of the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railway Company, travelling with my father to visit Springfield, the Old State Capitol of Illinois where we were to meet the then Governor and advise on the



re-decoration of his official residence, the Governor's Mansion.

The trains in so much of old-established parts of America run through the middle of the towns, slowing down to a snail's pace with much clanking and whistle blowing, bell-clanging, steam-chuffing and shouts of 'All aboard'. So where's the connection? Well, the first stop I remember in detail, as dusk settled and people scuttled, was when the Station Master shouted 'Bowling Green... Bowling Green'. Unbelievable. Absolute magic, I was actually in the town where the Blues song 'Bowling Green' was born. I stepped off the train, did a little stomp around and jumped back on board again. And that memory took me back to my days playing the washboard and singing that song in a Blues and Skiffle band at, and after, school.

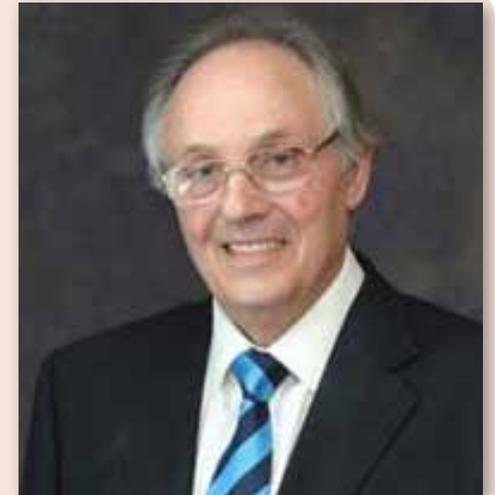
I wished Stephen had not mentioned Bowling at all, for it then conjured up weekly trips to the first Ten Pin alleys in Aylesbury and then to an uproarious Antique Dealers' weekend convention in Brighton, playing Ten Pin at midnight and getting two strikes in a row. And the old chestnut 'I would like to work in a Bowling Alley.' 'Tenpin?' 'No, something permanent.'

By now, dear reader, you too will wish Stephen had not said a word. But it was bowling green that really stirred the emotions: not the song or the town in Illinois but the hallowed plot behind the Tring NatWest Bank – as was – and to the right of the Rose and Crown tennis court. 'Where's that?' I hear



you ask. Well, when Lord Rothschild had William Huckvale redesign the ancient coaching inn, he installed a doubles squash court, the only one outside London, a hard court for tennis and a double-crown Bowling Green, another rarity, next to it. For at least twenty years after, the WWII market towns throughout the land had one afternoon when the shops closed in unison. 'Early closing day' in Tring was on Wednesday, and it was so many of these days I remember so fondly that my mother and her friends, and during school holidays my friends and I, would play tennis all afternoon and evening within speaking distance of my father and his friends playing Bowls. These were other Tring shopkeepers and businessmen whose names I will always recall with a smile, for most still retained a strong, resonant Tring drawl rebounding within the original high garden walls.

The fun really started when at around 5.30pm a barrel of beer was trundled up from the cellars of the hotel and put on a trestle, along with glasses and sandwiches and pies. Although the tennis players were separated from the bowlers and their refreshments by the traditional wire mesh fencing, someone had thoughtfully put in a small hatch through which some goodies could be passed. By 7.00 o'clock the standard of both games had deteriorated to the extent that a portable wind-up gramophone and records appeared, the double crown green was vacated and dancing on the tennis court took over



until it was too dark to see.

If you want to see where it all took place, then walk up between the Post office and the Bank building, through the arch and there is the most delightful village green and four pretty terraced houses on the right of the newly completed Rose & Crown apartments. It's one of so many parts of Tring that hold such special memories for me. I can stroll up there and hear the laughter, see the people, remember them and smile.

So, thanks to Stephen, thoughts of happy times were brought to mind, albeit in the middle of a Trustees' Meeting. Thankfully those wonderful, carefree days are not just memories of the past but are alive today in Tring, and never more evident than when Tring Together and FOTCH get together, and we have a truly Family Fun Day.

*John Bly*  
FOTCH Trustee

# Fun and fundraising!

**Happy New Year to all FOTCH members and their families.**



I have really enjoyed a relaxing two weeks at home with the family celebrating Christmas and New Year. As my own children become young adults with their own interests and friendship groups, I have come to realise that quality time with my family is very precious so I put aside the distractions of work and FOTCH matters to ensure I am in-the-moment with those I love.

But, as I pack away the decorations and clean the house, I now feel re-energised and ready to embrace a new year and all that it may bring.

I wonder if you feel the same? Does the New Year bring a desire to try something new or get more involved in local organisations like FOTCH?

**Family Fun Day, Saturday 11 May 2019**

Looking back through the Autumn Newsletter, you will notice that I wrote an article celebrating the contribution that different organisations made to the Family Fun Day. These groups of people were willing to say 'We will!' Each played their part in the success of the Fun Day 2018 and I know I can rely on their support this year when I contact them in the coming weeks.

**So what about you?**

With the time to start organising the fun and games for Saturday 11 May upon us, are you willing to say 'I will'? Will you be joining the group of activists who work together to make the day a memorable experience for Tring families?

We already have a new tombola team in place; thank you to FOTCH members Enid Powell, Lindsay Hankey and Julia Edwards who have joined forces to create the new Team Tombola. (See their separate article.)

At the last trustee meeting, we welcomed Stephen Hearn as a new Trustee. When discussing the Family Fun Day, he shared lots of ideas for fun games from days-gone-by that we could, with enough volunteers, definitely include.

**So how could you help?**

The event will begin at 11.00am and finish at 3.00pm.

Could you come and help set up at 9.00am? Could you offer a couple of hours running a stall? Perhaps you could make a cake or jam or chutney? Would you like to join the catering team inside the Church or the BBQ team? Can you donate gifts for the tombola or raffle or toys and games for the stalls?

Of course, if you have any new ideas that you think would work well on Family Fun Day, please contact me directly. I would love to hear from you.

Happy New Year and here's to a year when more of us say 'I will!'

*Helen Dunford  
FOTCH Trustee*



**FOTCH INVITES YOUR  
TABLE TOP  
TREASURES**  
FOR LUNCH WITH STEPHEN HEARN  
**10TH FEBRUARY 2019**

Name .....

Phone No .....

Email Address .....

Number of Guests .....

**Return to St Peter & St Paul's R pigeon hole  
or Email Trish at [info@fotch.co.uk](mailto:info@fotch.co.uk)  
or Tel 0772 083 6930**

## Strategic steps... hopefully in the right direction!



As we come to the beginning of another new year in FOTCH's history (amazingly it is thirty years now since we started thinking about this initiative) it's good to look at how our strategy is working, and make sure we keep it in tune with current tastes and mores.

Much has changed in our town over the past three decades and of course many of our founder members are no longer quite so active!

However, a surprising number (clearly FOTCH is good for you!) still enjoy their involvement with FOTCH. Part of our updated strategy developed last year was to ensure that we keep on saying 'thank you' and organising events which are enjoyable for these stalwarts.

The first of these took place last October and was the Fun Quiz Lunch which certainly went with a swing. The article from Martin and Carole Wells elsewhere in this edition pays testimony to that. We are determined to make sure that these events are fulfilling and rewarding, rather than dull and daunting.

The Spring Lunch 2019 – on the earlier date of 10 February – is

positively planned to give enjoyment and entertainment to all our members. You can see from the 'poster' below that it features our new Trustee Stephen Hearn assessing and describing whichever treasures our guests may choose to bring along. It promises to be a jolly occasion indeed. Of course, the second draw of the year for the Hundred Club will take place and that is proving a very good investment for many. Please do use the form on the previous page to confirm to Trish that you would like to book places. As usual there is no formal charge; but donations to help meet the cost of catering are much appreciated.

### Updating our appeal to meet the needs of today

As well as making sure that our long term members are fully celebrated it's very important to ensure that FOTCH appears relevant and attractive to new generations of 'Tringers'. The town has developed considerably since our founding days and we now have many more young adults and families who are coming to appreciate the unique nature and appeal of our town.

The basic proposition of FOTCH (Helping keep Tring's Heart Healthy for all Future Generations) remains just as relevant to today's residents but we have to update the way we express it. In particular it's important to make it plain that as well as attracting members we are extremely grateful to have supporters to join in with our events and activities. The new promotional/membership leaflet is shown over page.

As you can see it has a lighter touch and a more relaxed appeal.

### Coming next... the upgraded website

There is no doubt that in 2019 most communication is electronic and upgrading the website is a very important part of keeping ourselves up to date.

In tandem with this we are also addressing improved social media communication and making sure that our brand message and proposition are prominent in all aspects of town communications.

### Events that attract...

Obviously the main route people find

to get to know us is through attending our events and activities. We have a full programme for the coming year detailed on page 31.

As well as an even more thrill-packed Family Fun Day we are planning a repeat of Safari Garden Day on 13 July and the Barn Dance at Bishop Wood School is on 12 October.

### Something new for Tring's new families...

We are currently working on an entirely new event for summer 2020 which will be aimed firmly at the young family market and will be a daytime event of some style and excitement.

Rumour has it that we have a very exciting sponsor, a splendid location and an irresistible theme... Watch this space!

### How do you like the lights...?

Not a bad venue now you can see it! As you all know in addition to renovating the Gore Memorial last year, FOTCH has been a major contributor (50%) to the cost of the new lighting provision in St Peter & St Paul's. This has been universally acclaimed as a huge improvement and there are many features which are now clearly visible which were previously hidden in dust and gloom. In particular the ceiling in the chancel and the reappearance of the apostles in the clerestory space adds a whole new quality to our upward gaze.

The controllability of the lighting is also a boon for those who organise concerts and dramatic events within the Church. Congratulations to Tony Mackinder and

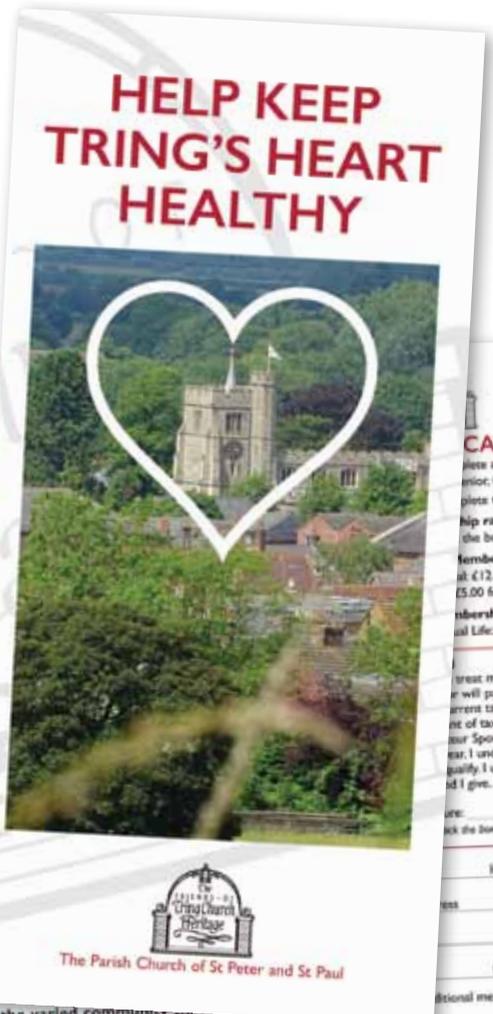
the team for moving this programme forward and to all those who have added their expert voices to ensure that the system offers advantage to our many constituencies. It is a very good example of the kind of improvement which offers benefits to the whole community – exactly what FOTCH should be doing.

**OUR HISTORIC CHURCH IN SPACE IN THE HEART OF TRING ASSET FOR ALL SECTIONS OF**

**YOU CAN HELP KEEP IT HEALTHY FOR A**

**What FOTCH does for Tring**  
 The Friends of Tring Church Heritage (FOTCH) is dedicated to maintaining Tring's historic parish Church and grounds for all future generations in Tring. A medieval building with its many historic features needs regular work to keep up with the maintenance, which as with all old buildings doesn't come cheap. The building needs to be updated from time to time so that it doesn't just look beautiful but also continues to be a great place for schools, town community groups as well as the church congregation to use and hold events. FOTCH is dedicated to making sure this happens. Many important events and activities take place in the Church that bring the whole town together; celebrating Tring's 700th anniversary as a Market Town; marking the centenary of the ending of the Great War; many local school events; concerts; the highly popular FOTCH Family Fun Day each May. In all cases the Church building is the asset that serves the whole town. Over the past thirty or so years FOTCH has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds and made grants of almost a third of a million pounds for vital projects. These include repairing the tower and the walls and renovating important historic memorials inside the Church. We have provided a new sound system and supported the installation of modern lighting to make the space much more usable for schools and other community groups.

**FOTCH**  
 If you love something We'd love the charity We keep it We produce and its history Everything who appreciate If members coming community We can social prefer detail



**FOTCH delivers practical support which benefits all sections of the varied community AND WE DO MORE THAN THAT... WE TRY TO MAKE FUNDRAISING FUN!**



**PLEASE JOIN AND SUPPORT US**

**APPLICATION FORM**

Please send to: Director, Greenways, 88 Grove Road, Tring, Herts HP23 5BP. Please complete the application form with BLOCK CAPITALS

**Membership rates**  
 Tick the box for the membership category of your choice.

**Memberships**  
 Adult: £12.00  Family Group: £20.00  
 £5.00 for under 16's  Corporate: £50.00

**Life Memberships**  
 Annual Life: £100.00  Joint Life: £150.00 husband/wife/partners

I treat my payment as a Gift Aid donation. I confirm that I have not paid an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for current tax year (6th April to 5th April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities (including churches) and community groups I donate to will claim on my gifts for that year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 I give.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tick the box if you are eligible. Ticking the box confirms that you pay tax.  
 Yes  No

Initials Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Additional members at the same address:  
 Title Initials Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Juniors**  
 Master/Miss Forename Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Master/Miss Forename Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

I/We wish to apply for membership.  
 The remittance of £ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.\*  
**Additional Donation** (please delete if not applicable)  
 An additional donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*I would like to be a supporter and receive information about events  
 \*Cheques should be made payable to the FRIENDS OF TRING CHURCH HERITAGE  
 Registered Charity 1005442

**A small postscript to the Jazz Event**

The Jazz Event at Tring Park School on the 27 October was a lovely occasion with great enjoyment for members and supporters. Stephen Hearn's handling of the auction was masterful and John Bly's 'V&A prize' actually sold twice! The people who were gifted the shooting prize (as a surprise present) had never had this experience before and as you can see from the note below felt themselves very well treated by FOTCH. The man who won the 'whisky galore' was so moved that he instantly became a member.

We are again very grateful to Stefan Anderson, Miriam Juviler and all the really helpful people at Tring Park School for their great generosity with their magnificent asset.

**Keeping everything on track**

The new team of Trustees is now settling in with Richard Abel as Chairman and Trish Dowden as the new secretary. As a group we are very fortunate to have such a broad range of talents and I know we can rely on them to keep us in touch with future opportunities as our town changes and develops!

Thank you to all who organise, support, administer and enjoy being part of FOTCH.

Grahame Senior  
 FOTCH Honorary President



A very happy auction prize winner!

## Team Tombola 2019

Hello! We'd like to introduce ourselves as the new **Team Tombola**.

Over the years we've spent many an enjoyable Saturday at the FOTCH Family Fun Day with our friends and families and feel it is time to give a little back. So we are taking over the reins from Kate Stratford who is taking a well earned break.

Now we are going to need your help...

We need to source prizes and we know the more prizes we have, the more fun the stall will be and the more money we can raise for FOTCH.

Any donations will be very gratefully received, so please check your cupboards for unwanted gifts, chocolates, drinks or other items that will put a smile on a prize winner's face!

Please give any items to us in person or leave them at St Peter & St Paul's Church. Alternatively call Lindsay on 07821 380079 or Julia on 07894 760609 if you'd like one of us to call round and collect.

Thank you in advance and we look forward to welcoming you to the Tombola stall on 11 May to give you a chance to win your gifts back!

*Enid Powell, Lindsay Hankey & Julia Edwards  
FOTCH Members*



## Poppies in their thousands!



During November you will have seen the efforts of the Poppy Team in and around St Peter & St Paul's Church. It was the culmination of a couple of years of dreaming and planning and in reality, went far beyond our wildest dreams.

About two years ago we had an idea that about 3,000 poppies would make a really good installation on the Church tower. However, as time went by and so many had asked for the pattern, and poppies were promised by many individuals and groups, our plans were hastily adapted to incorporate them all. So, as well as the tower weeping with the blood of the soldiers, our plans developed to include some lower level displays in the churchyard; the archway into the Church and the gates next to the war memorial, which were decorated first for the War Memorial rededication in June.

As we knitted and sewed, we became interested in the individual men from Tring who didn't come back and their stories: many were baptised or married in St Peter & St Paul's and lived in roads near ours. We felt it was important to tell their stories in the displays both within the poppy displays and also in

folders. In June we labelled over 150 poppies with the names of all on our War Memorial and these were taken out to the memorial and laid there by the congregation, many being put against their inscribed names. That made a deep personal connection with many people, so we repeated the labels on the pew ends which were studied by visitors to the Church who searched for names, a welcome connection again.

A hundred poppies were knitted by a former teacher of David Barnsdale, who died in the Afghanistan conflict in 2010, and were falling around his





memorial cross in the Church. We had a prayer cross where people could write a prayer or the name of a family member on a label on a poppy. As more poppies came in, wreaths and pom-poms were made and a beautiful display of falling poppies on the screen at the back of the Church was constructed. The three gates near the tower were adorned. Five hundred poppies arrived a week before installation, so a panic poppy afternoon of stitching gave us the lamppost covering and more pom-poms!

Numbers mean a lot to us, in particular the number 117, the number of names on Tring's War Memorial of men lost during WW1: 107, plus nine men who are not named on the memorial whom we believe should have been, plus one for the unknown warrior or for an unnamed soldier whom we wanted to remember. So, 117 fractured poppy patchworks were hung in the Church porch, each hoop embroidered with the

name of the serviceman remembered. There were 117 poppies laid in the lady chapel altar for the 'In Flanders Fields' display, and it was the number of labelled strands in the pew ends.

To the best of our counting, there were 10,654 red poppies in and around the Church and churchyard with more than 216 contributors, mostly knitters,



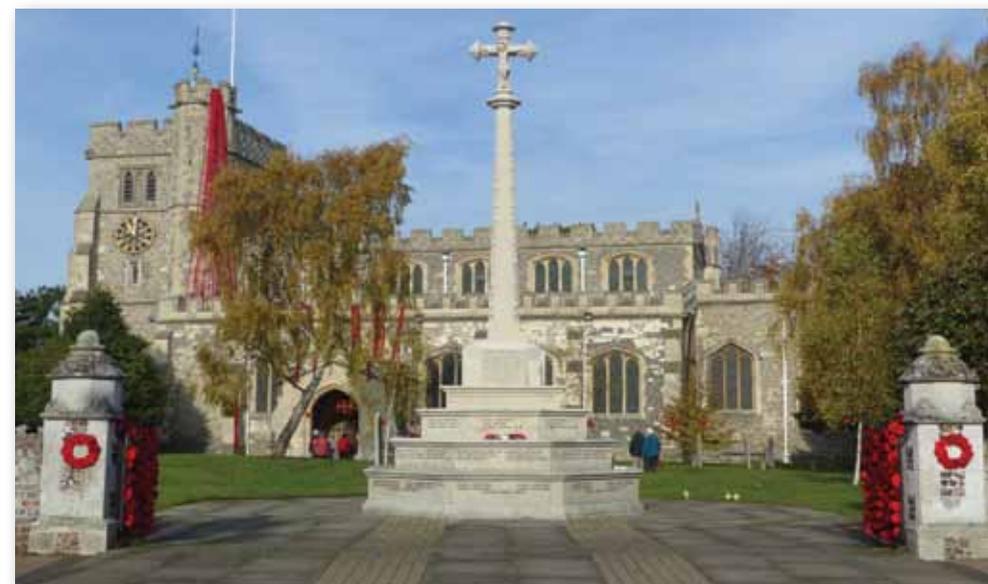
sewers or crocheters, with some donating wool, buttons and money. The oldest knitter was 98 years young! A fantastic community effort!

We are indebted to the church for allowing us to display it, to 'the roof team' who helped put up the high stuff, and to our husbands for their support, both practical and for their forbearance!

We have been overwhelmed by the response from people: comments like 'brilliant display', 'amazing' and 'fantastic' have been wonderfully received; and 'a

very moving tribute to the fallen all those years ago' has encompassed the feelings we wanted to portray in the installation. A hand-written note to us says, 'Thank you so much for making the centenary of World War I a very special memory and a very fitting tribute to those who lost their lives'. It was our pleasure and our privilege to do it for those men and their families.

Many people came to the FOTCH Family Fun Day last May with poppies for us: we had all quantities from a small handful to a box of 1000! Many joined us on the day to knit or crochet. The poppies came from all corners of the country (as far away as Scotland and Cornwall) as well as the lovely Tring community. Former residents who had moved away still have their heart in Tring and wanted to be part of this ambitious project and relatives had arms twisted to do their bit as well. We were





New Zealand, Australia and South Africa! Tring WI contributed 800 poppies. There were also sizeable donations from groups including Wigginton WI, U3A groups and St Martha's Methodist Church.

The poppies were all counted and checked, and buttons and strings added where necessary. Then they were attached to ropes and other bases to create the finished artwork that everyone saw in November when people came and wept with us for those who gave their lives in WW1 and the families who were torn apart by the losses of their children, their husbands and fathers, and for those who came back injured, whose lives were never the same again.

Janet Goodyer,  
The Poppy Project

overwhelmed by all the support we had from so many community groups and people so far, not only from this community but from people in various parts of the country. And poppies travelled! Some of mine were knitted in



However, the real significance of the project far outweighs the monetary value. It was a visionary project extremely well executed and many thanks go to the team who put in so much effort to this hugely significant project.

Chris Hoare, FOTCH Member

## A visionary project

People in the community and beyond were inspired and moved by the Poppy Display in November 2018 in St Peter & St Paul's Church.

They were also generous in donating when they visited. In total the Poppy Project raised £1,597, 50% of which went to the Royal British Legion while the rest is being contributed to the War Memorial for additional names to be added.

## History happened here



And it informs everything we do and think and feel.

The past is inextricably entwined with the present. We are always partly what we were as well as what we are today and can be tomorrow.

Sometimes we behave as if we were the first people to feel the problems and pleasures and pressures of our busy lives. Yet behind us there are countless legions of humans just like us who have had to face their own challenges and their own opportunities in their own times... To quote Ecclesiastes: *'Everything that will happen has already happened...'*

However you choose to interpret that, we are surely a species that values, and tries to learn from, our heritage... that rich reference work that is available to us whenever we choose to take the time.

So much we once knew gets forgotten... So many heroes are lost to us.

I recently received an appeal from a friend on behalf of the city of Winchester.

They are asking for subscriptions for a statue to commemorate Licoricia, a famous Jewish merchant and money lender who was a heroine of her times and indeed provided the money for Westminster Abbey to be built. Apparently there is no statue or other memorial for her in existence and they are keen to ensure she is remembered for posterity. A famous person almost forgotten, despite her huge contribution to our society and heritage.



## History happened here too

It made me think about little old Tring and how many significant historical events have happened in these beautiful Chiltern hills and valleys.



### A kingdom changed hands

It was only four miles away in Berkhamsted Castle that the Bishop of London offered the crown of England to William. His depleted force, after the battle of Hastings, was so small that he did not dare to enter London uninvited. Had that meeting in Berkhamsted Castle not taken place, the whole history of our nation would have been different. History happened here...

### Tudor times

Five centuries later our wooded hills were Henry Tudor's favourite hunting ground,



and his yearning to have them all for himself, resulted in the removal of all the monks from Ashridge. Many of those displaced became parish priests in the surrounding towns and villages.

A few years later it was at Ashridge again that the young Elizabeth Tudor had her famous dalliance with the young Seymour. This led to his imprisonment and execution and her confinement to the tower.

### A favoured seat of power

During the following centuries as England's empire and merchant power grew, Tring Park was a favoured residence for the most successful and powerful including our own celebrated William Gore and his family.

In later years the whole Rothschild clan settled here in Tring Park with other residences at Mentmore, Halton and Waddesdon.

These wealthy 'movers and shakers' of their day had a profound impact on our region.

### An industrial superhighway...

The introduction of the canal system which connected the northern industrial powerhouse to London and the world, was soon followed by the railway connections again both passing through Tring summit. Without these connections, our country's incredible industrial growth and export power would never have been possible.

Tring itself became an industrial centre and was known for a time as 'little Manchester' and became a major centre of the silk industry.



### History happened here...

All these things have happened here and all this time the Church of St Peter & St Paul has stood at the centre of our town. When the Tudors reigned, the Church was already 400 years old. It has been part of our history, its stones recording the lives, prayers and emotions of generation after generation for many centuries.

It still stands today, a testimony to the care and commitment of Tring residents. Its condition is a credit to all those who have loved its calm quiet space. We

should all take time to remember how much love has been poured into this building and how much it has given – and continues to give – to all the people of our community.

Recently we celebrated the 100th anniversary of our war memorial erected at the end of the First World War; the first such completed memorial in the country.

### History happened here and it still does

Surely our role is to celebrate our heritage and ensure that its rich legacy remains available for all who come after us in Tring.

FOTCH is thirty years old this coming year... Just a blink in the fullness of time. But we must treasure every moment and every opportunity to ensure that what we have enjoyed and enjoy today remains open and available to all who follow.

*Grahame Senior,  
FOTCH Honorary President*

### Postscript that backs up Ecclesiastes:

*Before William Gore bought Tring Park from 'Mr Guy', a remarkable event occurred that might resonate with those Tring Residents who are currently fighting the campaign to defend 'Grove Fields'.*

*'The Battle of Wigginton Common' was a triumph for the common man and is described in some detail by Daniel Defoe in his 'Journey through the Whole Island of Great Britain'. History indeed happened here!*

## Do you enjoy flowers?

Do you buy flowers but are not sure how to arrange them to enhance their beauty? Are you interested in learning the basics of arranging flowers in Church? Are you interested in joining a flower arranger's rota for an occasional weekly duty? Are you interested in helping with funding flowers in Church?

If the answer to any of these questions is **YES**, then we can help you!

We are happy to organise a workshop to show you how to do the basics and to answer any questions you may have. No commitment to join a rota at this stage is needed if you just want to find out more. We all started at not knowing anything, but with help and encouragement, we have developed our initial interest into a passion for flowers that enhances our beautiful Church for all those who worship there and visit during the week.

Please contact Janet Goodyer on 01442 824929 or [jjgoody@ntlworld.com](mailto:jjgoody@ntlworld.com) to find out more or to offer your help. The workshop(s) will be daytime, evening or Saturday mornings, depending on demand.

*Janet Goodyer, Margaret Oram & Diane Jarvis*



# BENEDICITE!

**Saturday, February 2nd 2019 at 5.30pm,  
St Peter and St Paul, Tring.**

**A FREE Celebratory Concert, with an adult choir,  
a children's choir, a brass quintet and organ  
performing a range of marvellous music,  
directed by Richard Grylls.**



Refreshments will be provided after the service with a collection for FOTCH in aid of new lighting for the Church. Further information from Vivianne Child on 01442 826092 or email us at [vchild@childassociates.co.uk](mailto:vchild@childassociates.co.uk)

## The state of the Church (building!)



Belated happy new year to all, as we start 2019 (and without tempting fate too much) we (that is the fabric of the Church) are in pretty good shape. Rewinding initially to the tail end of 2018, I am happy to report the successful installation of the new lighting.

As with all major works a few bits and pieces were added or amended as the contractor advised, but the project was completed on time and to budget. The result is a much brighter appearance with areas that can now be zoned on or off

and adapted depending on the service or event taking place. I would like to take this opportunity to thank FOTCH again who generously contributed 50% of the cost to the project. Without this we would still be dreaming of brighter days to come.

Our next task is to bring the outside lighting up to the same standard. We already have quotes for this work and it appears Instalec are the most cost effective and, funds permitting, we hope to complete this during 2019.

We have the balance of our quinquennial to complete this year, contractors for stone work, pointing, lead work are all in place. We are just waiting for the warmer months to arrive for some of this to commence, but you should see ladders and hard hats moving around from the end of February onwards. We need to finish all of these this year before our next quinquennial inspection next year.

General wear and tear maintenance is taken care of from a dedicated group of volunteers, some of whom I have met and some I have yet to meet, but most of the time these get done and ticked off the list before we are even aware of the issue and huge thanks goes to all for their continued support and help.

Should you have any concerns or want to bring an item to our attention, M in the pigeon hole will get to me, or to one of the Tring Team which will always find its way back to the correct person.

*Ian Matthews  
Fabric Committee Chair*



# Lighting: the path ahead



As I hope many readers will have seen over the last few months, the new internal lights are now installed in the Parish Church with only a few loose ends (literally) to finish.

We have yet to update the emergency lighting in the toilets and over the west door. We also need to provide new lights in the south porch to give adequate lighting to greet people attending late night services, concerts and choir practices.

The project was completed in time for a big clean up on Saturday 6 October, just before a big wedding!



I would like to thank the Instalec Church Lighting team at this point for the care and consideration taken during the project. All the new cables have been painted to blend in with either the stonework or woodwork as appropriate. Also for those of you with an eye for cleanliness, you may have noticed there are now a lot fewer high level cobwebs than before! While the scaffold towers were in place, the team cleaned around the high windows and made a lot of spiders homeless while creating a lot of dust for the clean-up team!

People attending Church services, concerts, coffee mornings and all other activities, all appreciate the better lighting in the Church. We can see the beautiful flower arrangements in their true colours now the orange sodium lighting has been removed. The chancel and nave ceilings are now lit, showing off the beautiful colours and the painted Latin text. The Gore memorial stands out magnificently with the new spotlights!

Services have more control over the lights so only the space in use needs to be lit, or given more atmosphere with dimmed lights and candles which we enjoyed at the recent Christmas services.

For concerts, the audience lighting can be dimmed, highlighting the performers, so no additional lighting needs to be brought in. The control system is extremely flexible allowing changes to scenes to be pre-programmed for different occasions.

I urge anyone who hasn't seen the results of this transformation to drop in for a visit!



## External Lighting Project

Now the internal project is complete, we need to address the external lighting which needs replacing as these lights are expensive to run and do not provide adequate illumination for the paths at both ends of the Church.

As with the internal lighting, the proposal is to replace all existing external Sodium floodlights with LED versions to reduce the running costs. At the same time, we need to provide better lighting for the paths around the East and West ends. The proposal is to put light stands with built-in light and movement sensors at both the East and West ends, so that people can find their way safely around the Church in the dark.



The Church has received quotations for this project which will be discussed at the next Fabric Committee meeting.

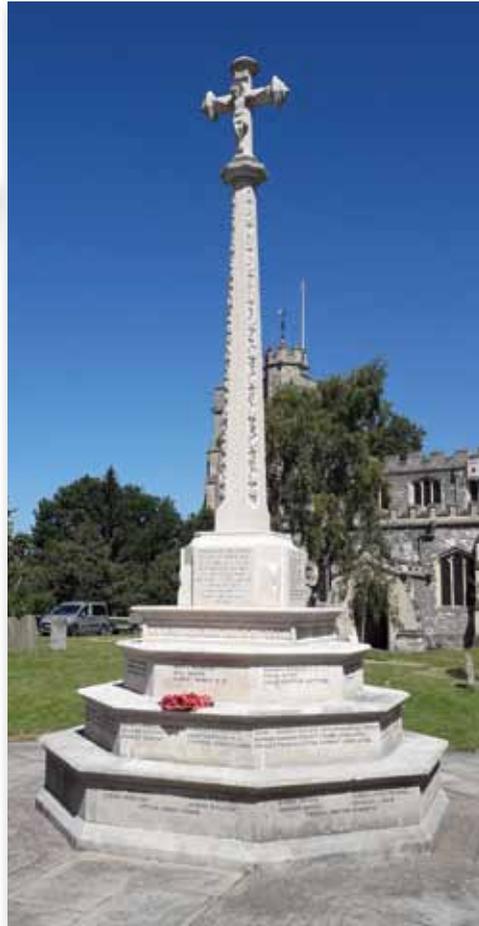
FOTCH, I am pleased to say, is backing this project with funds already put aside, but we still need the community to help with raising the remainder needed.

*Tony Mackinder,  
FOTCH & Fabric Committee Member*

## Tring War Memorial – not quite the end of the story

Having had the memorial rededicated, following the cleaning and re-lettering, I thought that was the end of the project. However, it came to light, as part of the Church's poppy project, that nine names, which should have been on the memorial, never made it. They included Ernest Barber, brother of Edward, Tring's only recipient of the Victoria Cross.

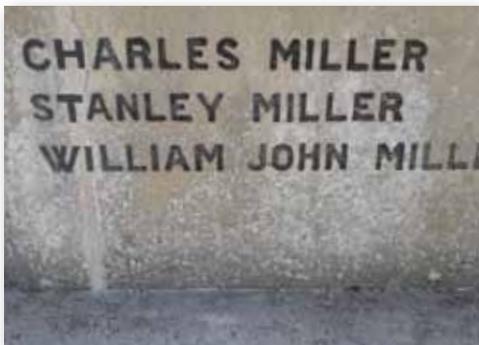
As the refurbishment had been partly funded by the War Memorial Trust, they have an interest in the memorial for the next six years and have advised me that we need to investigate why the nine names were not included at the time. As you would expect, this is easier said than done. Initial examination of the research, done by the committed members of the Poppy Project, indicated that at least two of them died as a result of injuries and inhaling mustard gas after



the memorial was inscribed. As you will see from the photograph, there is space for the additions below the already inscribed names.

During the next couple of months, we hope to complete the research into the other names and have them inscribed on the memorial so that all those who gave their lives, might be remembered by future generations.

*Ted Oram,  
FOTCH Member*



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Benedicite!

**Saturday 2 February 2019**

5.30pm in St Peter & St Paul's Church  
A concert directed by Richard Grylls

### Spring Lunch

#### Table Top Treasures

**With Stephen Hearn of Tring Auctions  
Sunday 10 February 2019**

12.30pm in Tring Parish Hall  
Contact Trish Dowden to book a place  
info@fotch.co.uk or tel 0772 083 6930

### Family Fun Day

**Saturday 11 May 2019**

St Peter & St Paul's Church

### FOTCH Friendship Service

**Sunday 12 May 2019**

6.00pm in St Peter & St Paul's Church

### Garden Safari Day

**Saturday 13 July 2019**

10 gardens in Tring

### Harvest Barn Dance

**Saturday 12 October 2019**

7.30pm in Bishop Wood School  
Featuring Pickled Tink & Tring Brewery Beer  
Tickets available from  
Helen Dunford on 01442 891377  
or Richard Abel on 01442 825723

### The Big Picnic Party

**Summer 2020**

Tring Park

For more details, visit the website  
[www.fotch.co.uk](http://www.fotch.co.uk)

If you have any photos of FOTCH events  
as they occur, please send them to the Editor



## FOTCH CONTACTS

We would be pleased to hear from you!

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The Friends of Tring Church Heritage  
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Will Teddy  
'gain his wings'  
and capture the  
flight award certificate?



Give your furry friends  
the flight of their lives at

# The 2019 Family Fun Day



BRING YOUR  
FAVOURITE SOFT  
TOY FOR A DAY OF  
FUN AND ADVENTURE  
WITH FOTCH - AND THE  
FLIGHT OF THEIR LIVES!



**SATURDAY MAY 11TH 11AM - 3PM**

**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD**

Teddy 'Wings' Zip Wire • Tower Tours • Bouncy Slide • Heritage Talks  
Toys and Children's Books • 'Wings' Awards • Children's Sweet Tombola  
Children's Creative Activities • Cakes & Preserve Stall  
Plant Stall • Jewellery Stall • Fun & Games throughout the day  
Grand Raffle • All Day Refreshments • BBQ & Bar, Candy Floss and Ice Lollies  
Musical Entertainment from Local Schools and Morris Dancers

Preserving the heart of Tring for future generations to enjoy

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**ADMISSION FREE**

