

Friends' Newsletter

Friends of St. James'
Church, Wigmore

Autumn 2025

Friends News Round-Up

Welcome to the Autumn issue of the newsletter.

At the end of August we concluded our season of ticketed events for this year. It was another very entertaining schedule of events, very much enjoyed by those who attended. However, it was rather disappointing that we struggled to get "bums on seats" this year.

We will not be hosting an h.Art event this September as the artists who staged it last year decided they did not want to arrange any event this year. There is the possibility of an independent exhibition being staged at the church this Autumn but that is still being discussed and we will post news about that when we have any.

The final event organized by the Friends this year will, as last year, be our Annual General Meeting.

We are particularly interested in what members of the Friends group see as the way forward for our organisation particularly in light of the Church's position regarding the future of St. James' and the difficulty we have had this year of attracting an audience for events.

The AGM is an ideal opportunity for us to be able to air thoughts on this and discuss potential plans. So, please come along if you can.

The AGM will be held in St. James' Church, Wigmore on:

Saturday 20th September @ 11am



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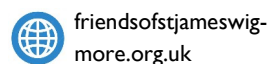
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Find out more about The Friends Group:

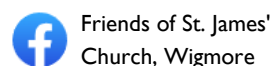
On our Website:



or scan the code below



On our Facebook Group:



That Was the Season That Was... 2025

The Trustees of the Friends would like to thank all the performers and speakers who have entertained us this season and the volunteers who have helped us host these events.

In May we had the pleasure of hosting the Builth Wells Ladies Choir who gave us a very entertaining start to our season.



We followed that in June with a Ukrainian Evening featuring a set of short talks on different aspects of life in the Ukraine by Olya Fedoruk, Ivan Matsiuk and Marcus Evans covering growing up in the Soviet Union, the impact of the break up of the Soviet Union and the introduction of democracy and, lastly, an outsider's perspective on some of the country's historic monuments.



To accompany their very interesting talks, the guys brought along a whole host of Ukrainian snacks and drinks. It was a thoroughly splendid evening.



In July we had the launch of a new book - "Hereford Castle - The Hidden History of a Defended City" by Kate Andrew, commissioned by Bill Jackson. Kate gave a very informative talk on the now-disappeared castle and its legacy and was on hand to sign copies of the book which were sold at the event, all proceeds going to charity.



Moving into August, at the start of the month we were lucky enough to have Annie Garthwaite come and talk about the strong women of the Wars of the Roses who have been the inspiration for her novels, the latest, "The King's Mother", having just been published in paperback.

It was a wonderful talk, hugely informative and also very entertaining. Annie was happy to sign copies of her novels after her talk and most of the attendees availed themselves of that opportunity.

We very much look forward to having her back when her next novel, about Isabella, the Queen of Edward II, is published.



Last but definitely not least, we concluded this year's ticketed events with an evening of medieval music and song by Fleurs de Lys, a three-piece ensemble of local musicians.

It was a great way to end our summer of events and hearing the medieval nave filled with medieval music was wonderful.

Church Closure News

As you will be aware, the church authorities have commenced the formal process to close St. James' church as a place of worship. The first round of consultation ended in early June and the recommendation for closure was presented to the Hereford Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Committee on 10th June for consideration. This committee duly recommended that the closure process should proceed and the Bishop of Hereford assented.

We have sought an update on the position recently but have been told that, as yet, while all the paperwork is with the Church Commissioners to prepare the second round of consultation, this has not yet begun.

Trustees of the Friends have been added to the circulation list for the Commissioners to contact once the consultation begins and we will update you as and when we know more.

Churchyard News

We currently have a couple of ideas for further improvements in the churchyard.

Footpath

The gravel path between the two gates has become very degraded in recent years and, especially at the lower eastern end where the gate has been rehung, the path becomes a bit of a quagmire in wet weather. So we are looking to dig out the current path and re-lay it with a membrane to deter weed intrusion and wooden edges to prevent dispersion of the gravel.

Benches

We plan to get the bench on the main path fixed as it is looking rather sad at the moment. In addition we are wanting to install a bench at the back of the church to take advantage of the view that is opened up to the north.

We will keep you posted on progress.

Diplomatic Visitors...

On 22nd August, the Trustees of the Friends were pleased to welcome Prof. Stephen Montefort and his wife Anna for a visit to St. James'.

Stephen is the current High Commissioner of Malta in the UK.

He and his wife were given a brief tour of the church and were presented with a signed copy of the book, "Mortimer Landscape of North Herefordshire" by Kate Andrew, commissioned by Bill Jackson, our Chair of Trustees.



Helping to Continue 1000 Years of History

Contact Us

Message via our Facebook Group page:



Friends of St. James' Church, Wigmore

Message via the Contact page on our website:



friendsofstjameswigmore.org.uk

Email to the address below:



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Please contact us via any of these methods with feedback or suggestions and ideas for going forward.