



FRIENDS OF ST MARY & ST GABRIEL CHURCH BINBROOK

September 2025

Newsletter

This is our first Newsletter, so can I say a massive thank you to those who have already signed up as Friends of St Mary & St Gabriel Church your support is very much appreciated.

A lot of hard work has been done behind the scenes to clean, maintain and improve the church this year. Thanks go to all those involved. The roof has been repaired, lighting within the church has been mended, the organ has been repaired and serviced.

God's Own Acre has been begun in the corner of the churchyard where there are no graves, the great work is beginning to show through the beautiful wildflowers currently growing although our first attempt to do more was hampered by what was 'the wettest day of the year!'

The churchyard has never looked better, and thanks go to Nik Brook and Rory for their fabulous work in maintaining this. Also, thanks go to Simon for maintaining the clock with such precision.

We have been delighted to have had the church used so much more for Weddings, Christenings, and Mother Karen's Licensing Service when the Bishop of Lincoln joined us. We hope that this will continue.

Whilst cleaning and sorting out there have been many discoveries, especially finding the original Fowler drawings, these are amazing. Brian McCarthy has kindly photographed them all and a presentation has been produced which can be viewed in church- it's a must see! We will be able to sell A3 copies of the photographs if anyone is interested, they could make good Christmas presents! Other finds include old hymn books with drawings and comments from former choir members from the 1930s onwards.

The church has a very long and proud association with the former RAF Binbrook. While the base was active the church was used as the formal site for important services such as Remembrance Day. It is also the resting place of many former service men. The church receives visitors and enquiries from families of these service men; we are delighted to help them with this research from our records. These visitors are always warmly welcomed, and we are beginning to establish links with former squadron groups.

As you know we are raising funds for a toilet/servery so that we can offer more in the church especially musical events as the acoustics are so great. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for the Diocese to sign off a faculty so that we can dig a trench to check the soakaway before we can move on. The plans are all drawn and we have raised over £17000 towards the project so

far. Once we get the faculty we can then move on to applying for grants to help with the costs.

The next projects we would like to do; are the cleaning and maintenance of the clockface and mending the third bell so that all the bells can be rung again. We would like to make the church more accessible for family research. We are also looking for help in preserving the gravestones which are in disrepair.

Binbrook no longer has a resident incumbent which means that many of the pastoral roles are down to the parishioners. Binbrook has such a large village church, which is so much bigger than the majority of other village churches. Therefore, any help, however small - such as helping in God's Acre, cleaning, writing sections for the newsletter or in seeking grants would be very gratefully received. As would ideas for raising funds.

We are custodians of a wonderful building in our village; this church has fond memories for many families and servicemen. We continue to work hard to ensure the building can remain open for visitors and parishioners.

The next events in the church are: -

6/7th September - Open Churches Weekend and Flower Festival

12th October – Harvest Festival Service

9th November – Remembrance Day Service

and on 21st September we are holding a 'Pet Service' please look out for further details on the posters around the village and our Facebook page.

Any donations can now be made by BACS to PCC of Binbrook,

sort code – 30-95-22 Account number 00132522

Thank you once again as without your support we cannot do as much. You will be very welcome at any time, also please join us at any event.

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