

Looking after our church and church yard

Maintaining a 170 year old building is a never ending task and St Lawrence Church is constantly in need of repair to some part of its structure. As a Grade 2* listed building, all repairs have to be carried out to strict standards and using materials and methods which are sympathetic to the building. None of this is cheap! Fortunately the Friends of St Lawrence Trust is very active in raising both funds and awareness so that our beautiful building and church yard can be preserved and improved for current and future generations.

Some of the main works carried out over the last five years include:



Repairs to the buttress on the SE corner and parts of the stonework on the roof



Repairs to stained glass windows which were cracking and bowing



Restoration of benches and bird door in the south porch

St Lawrence Church - Future restoration projects

Interior redecoration. The inside of the church is badly in need of redecoration but this isn't just a question of a roller and a few tins of Dulux! We are consulting specialist firms who will advise us on the treatment required by the different materials and surfaces in the church. As this will also require scaffolding to be put up, we will look into the possibility of renewing and modernising our lighting at the same time, using the latest energy saving devices.

Stained glass windows – part two. All the windows in the church are of a similar age so it is likely that those which have not already been repaired will need attention in the next few years. The magnificent East Window in particular will present a major challenge.

Our architect recently carried out our regular five yearly (Quinquennial) inspection and we are currently awaiting her report, so our priority list may well change in the future in line with the report's findings.

If you would like to help the Friends of St Lawrence raise money to maintain the church and church yard for current and future generations please contact our Chairman John Walker john@adaptainer.co.uk

Church yard

Our church yard is one of the largest in Hertfordshire and also needs constant maintenance. We employ specialist contractors for some work, such as the repair of the boundary wall or trimming our many yew trees. But most of the routine maintenance is carried out by a team of volunteers who meet on the first Saturday morning of each month from March to November, armed with mowers, strimmers, rakes and wheelbarrows. Coffee and delicious cake help to make the work go with a swing!



Can you spare a few hours on a Saturday morning to help keep the church yard looking neat and tidy?
If so please contact Gary Cullum garyccullum@sky.com

In recent years, several designated areas of the Churchyard which have the oldest gravestones have been managed for wildlife. These areas have not been cultivated for well over a hundred years and have evolved a wonderful diversity of wild flowers and lichen.

Looking after graves

We rely on friends and families to look after many of the more recent graves in the church yard. Those who are no longer able to maintain a grave are encouraged to grass it over so that our maintenance team can keep it tidy. There are also strict Regulations which do not allow, for example, stone surrounds or chippings, glass or other ornaments, wind chimes or artificial flowers. A more detailed leaflet about these Regulations can be found on our church website.

To find out more, please contact:

Friends of St Lawrence:	John Walker john@adaptainer.co.uk
Church yard maintenance	Gary Cullum garyccullum@sky.com
Church yard Regulations	Church Wardens churchwarden1@stlawrencebovingdon.com

