



## THE FRIENDS OF PILTON CHURCH IN 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY

The Friends of Pilton Church first came into being, in its 21<sup>st</sup> Century version, in about 2002 when an urgent need arose to repair the War Memorial West Window of the Priory Church of St Mary, Pilton.

That repair work was successfully completed in 2005 and, effectively, the Friends lapsed again. Then, in 2007 the Parochial Church Council was told by the church's insurance company that, if the South Porch, which had been in a poor state for some time, was not repaired within six months, the church would have to close. As a result, a very successful appeal was launched to raise the money for the repairs which were carried out in 2008.

However, the church remained in need of both large and small ongoing repairs and modifications, so The Friends of Pilton Church was re-launched under the leadership of Carol and Martin Haddrill. People were invited to contribute subscriptions and sponsorship but the main fundraising in the next four years was through a series of splendid concerts of words and music held in the Church.

Four of these concerts, held in the summer, involved some of North Devon's brilliant young musicians who were being supported by the Dartington North Devon Charitable Trust.

Their music was interspersed with readings by

members of the Pilton Community appropriate to a chosen theme of the concert. For example, this concert, in the summer of 2011, was sub-titled 'Man and the Animal World' (poster above) and was also sponsored by three local

Priory Church of St Mary, Pilton  
7.30pm, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2011  
After the Festival, come and enjoy the calm of the

# Concert of Words & Music

'Man and the Animal World'

with Young North Devon Musicians  
and Readers from the Community

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from Church, Pilton Stores or 01271 372416

The proceeds from this concert go to THE FRIENDS OF PILTON CHURCH for maintenance of St Mary's Church, Pilton and to Dartington (North Devon) Trust, Young Musicians' Support.  
Visit [www.piltonfestival.co.uk](http://www.piltonfestival.co.uk) for more information





businesses. The young musicians who took part that year are shown in the photograph above.

In addition two winter concerts were arranged in December 2008 and December 2011 with the excellent Exmoor Carolers. The Exmoor Carolers had been presenting the

traditional carols performed and adopted by the folk of Exmoor since 2006, raising funds for the different churches and charities that have enlisted their support. They continue doing so today.

The Friends also produced Pilton desk calendars for 2010, 2011 and 2012, each of which raised £360 for the Friends' coffers. Cards of the church were also sold, and in 2008 the Piltonstock Festival held in the Chichester Arms raised £600.

Overall the Friends raised £7426 in the period 2008 – 2011 from the concerts, calendar and card sales, subscriptions, donations and sponsorship. Starting in 2010 this money was gradually given to the Church to assist with important works needed to maintain the buildings and the infrastructure. Specifically these included:

- £1000 towards the refurbishment of the Orbit Room (2010)
- £1000 towards the repair of all the monuments (2012)
- £1000 towards new railings for the Chancel Steps (right) (2013)
- £750 towards the updating of the electrics of the Church (2015)
- £800 towards the replacement of lighting in the Church (2015)
- £510 for a Water Boiler (2019)
- £400 towards the cost of repair work to the bells (2019).



For their important contribution to the success of the concerts, donations or expenses totalling £1050 were given to the Exmoor Carolers and to Young Musicians Support.

Following the death of Carol Haddrill in 2019, it was decided to give the remaining £916 to the Church towards the cost of a proposed toilet block and close The Friends of Pilton Church again.