

## *The Friends of Westbury Church*

After the enforced period on inactivity caused by Covid 19 restrictions the Friends of Westbury Church have had two successful events in the last year.

The Winter Warmer lunch was well attended and raised a total of £542 in the last financial year. This along with our membership charge, which has been £10 since the conception of the Friends 27 years ago, and various generous donations has meant that this year we have donated £10,018.40 towards the up keep of St Laurence's Church, consisting of

Repairs to the organ £1,500

Work associated with the tower £518.40

Contribution towards the renovation of the roof £8,000

You do not have to be a churchgoer to join: membership of ***The Friends of Westbury Church*** is open to everyone and new members are always most welcome.

The annual membership subscription is currently £10 (£5 for under 21s) although donations of any amount are warmly received. If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider making your gift even more valuable to us by completing the Gift Aid declaration. This does not cost you anything but it does mean that we can claim back from the Government any tax you have already paid on your money.

This year we held a Primrose Concert with Trio Paradis in the church, when visitors could enjoy the music, cakes and the wonderful display of flowers in the churchyard.

***The Friends of Westbury Church*** is a registered charity that was founded in 1993.

The charity's objective is to raise funds to help meet the costs needed to preserve the fabric and furnishing of the Parish Church of St Lawrence, Westbury-sub-Mendip and its surrounding churchyard.

St Lawrence's is a beautiful ancient building with much historic interest. The church is of Saxon origin and the original building would probably have been built of wood. The present stone building dates back to the mid 1200s and is largely built in the Perpendicular style. The building has a late Norman tower arch and a late 13th century chancel; the south aisle, chapel and porch were added in the 15th century. The present tower was rebuilt in 1887 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. The age of the church means that continual maintenance is required.

To date the Friends have raised over £60,000 towards the upkeep of the church, and our thanks go to all our members for their support.