

# *The Friends of Westbury Church*

***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.

To date nearly £63,000 has been collected by subscriptions and fundraising, of which over £61,600 has been donated to the Church.

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.

After the enforced period on inactivity caused by Covid 19 restrictions the Friends of Westbury Church have begun fundraising events once more.

Last November the Winter Warmer lunch was well attended and raised a total of £868, and the Friends also facilitated a free soup lunch with entertainment by Big Fat Brass, providing a warm place and food, and in the process raising £900 for the Ukraine Save the Children fund.

This along with our membership charge, which has been £10 since the conception of the Friends 30 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.