

**The Friends of All Saints Church, Swanton Morley**  
Reg. Charity No. 1041348

## **Annual Report**

### **2025 AGM**

The most significant event at the 2025 AGM was the retirement of John Carrick as Chair of the Friends. This was a post that he had held for many years, during which time he made a name for himself as the principal organiser of the Swanton Morley Fireworks Display. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to John for everything that he has done, both for the Friends and the Swanton Morley Community.

As a consequence of John's retirement, an election for a new Chair was held to which Stephen Hyde was elected unanimously.

### **Brass Band Concert**

In May 2025, the Friends invited Taverham Brass Band to play in the church where they provided an evening's entertainment celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War. A significant part of the evening's repertoire revolved around military marches and film themes. The entry fee, raffle and refreshments helped raise approximately £240.

### **Duck Race and Fete**

A fantastically sunny day at the end of June brought the crowds out for the increasingly popular Swanton Morley Duck Race and Fete, which was held on the riverside at Castle Farm. There was live music, craft stalls, games, and refreshments. Although the extremely hot weather prevented us from proceeding with the fun dog show, the event benefitted from the presence of the Queens Dragoon Guards who brought one of their armoured vehicles that visitors, large and small, were able to clamber on. Carrick Farms provided tractor around the farm which were very popular with the visitors.

There were two duck races; the first being the sponsored race of approximately 36 large ducks; for which there was really tacky plastic trophy for the winner, followed by the main race of 1750 smaller racing ducks with cash prizes totalling £250. Overall the duck race and fete added £3,979 to the charity's funds.

## **Christmas Fair**

In December, we held a Christmas Fair in the church which was well supported. There were 17 stalls together with refreshments a raffle, and tombola. Santa and his helpers visited the event, which raised £680.

## **Sale of Land**

Some years ago, part of a piece of land on Gooseberry Hill was generously donated to the Friends. Over time, permission was granted for the construction of a single dwelling, and the land eventually sold. After all associated legal costs had been settled, the Friends share amounted to £100,120.

## **Expenditure**

During the past year, the Friends have helped pay for the repair of four of the high level leaded windows on the south side of the nave of the church, together with minor repairs to the window over the arch at the west end of the nave. A grant of £5,620 was handed to the PCC for this purpose.

The Friends anticipate helping with the costs of future repairs to the church; including repairs to the leadwork on the roof, the re-leading of the south windows, and the repair or replacement of the clock face.