



## ALL SAINTS' ANGELS NEWSLETTER - March - April 2023

### THANK YOU to all who contributed to the Aviva crowd-funding appeal.

We raised just over our intended target of £9,500 by the closing date so will be able to fulfil our aim of providing for a bike rack, more outdoor equipment and resources for the churchyard. The money has now been received into our account – a massive vote of thanks to all who took part.

**AND THANK YOU to the MARENZIO SINGERS** who kindly gave all the proceeds from their very tuneful concert “Music for a Spring afternoon” to our project. A generous £688 was gathered in from donations, ticket sales and raffle; while a good time with delicious cakes for tea was enjoyed by the audience of more than 50 people. Fund-raising and further **applications for grants** are continuing – because there is need to ensure every repair is paid for, and every resource provided for the trails, workshops and other events.

**The Capital Building work** is very thorough and moving steadily forwards, although not without a few headaches, one of which is to replace a huge ancient ridge timber in the Tower roof which has rotted over the centuries. Unsurprisingly, this will necessitate more costs in materials, time & expertise and will add a few weeks onto our schedule. Luckily the new extension is likely to be ready beforehand. We will keep you posted on the summer opening times, watch out for our planned press releases, starting soon.

### [AllSaints\\_Activities\\_Brightlingsea@outlook.com](mailto:AllSaints_Activities_Brightlingsea@outlook.com)

The **Activity Programme** has got off to a popular start with over 50 people joining the Wellness/Winterfest walk through the church yard, ably led by Penny Baxter who not only pointed out some of the more interesting memorials but also talked about trees associated with churchyards and ways for us all to become more aware of our surroundings. Those who joined the hard hat tours were amazed at the views from the top of the scaffolding (see David Bridle’s ‘top of the tower tour’ video on Brightlingsea Info’), and very impressed with the stone repairs and expertise explained by the professionals. The bulk of the Activity Programme will start once the church has reopened. Don’t forget the **Art Competition** which will close at the end of April – the theme is “*Inspired by All Saints’ Church and its unique Churchyard in Brightlingsea*” Meanwhile **Golden Key Volunteers** are starting to get together, to share skills and offer advice on what to do, where help is needed and what more needs to be done. All sorts of assistance is required, from behind-the-scenes admin tasks to customer-facing guiding of groups or workshop participation. Please do contact **Fiona Hunter (contact at church office Mon/Wed/Fri 9.30-12.30)** or **Sue Wills** to offer your services.

The organisers of All Saints’ **Custodians** are anxious to make sure the weekly rotas are completed in time for the re-opening of the church, and are looking for people willing to give up an afternoon occasionally or on a more regular basis. The duty is not too onerous – sitting in the church to welcome visitors from 2.30 to 4.30pm in the afternoon; for further information please contact Janet Russell, tel. 305552 or email [janetrussell38@uwclub.net](mailto:janetrussell38@uwclub.net)

The **icon of St. Catherine of Alexandria**, who is the protector of shipwreck victims, is almost ready for unveiling – and Sallie Berriff the creator, is keeping us updated on the progress. We are planning on revealing all during the opening events, but have been amazed at all the colours, textures and stages that have been used (e.g. pazzouli red, gold, lemon ochre; with many layers of art work).

*As we make good progress along our way to a newly restored church and exciting activity programme, thank you for all your support, on behalf of the Project Team & others, Elizabeth Foss-Smith*