

St Michael's Church pre-dates the Norman Conquest and is believed to have been founded by Ulsinus, Abbot of St Albans in 948 AD. The church was built in order to receive pilgrims and to prepare them for their visit to the Shrine of St Alban inside the Abbey. This early church was probably a timber structure. In about 1000 AD a new building was constructed of flint and bricks taken from the ruins of Verulamium.

Between the 12th and 13th centuries, the Church underwent many changes, ranging from the addition of side-aisles, to high level clerestory windows and the Lady Chapel which was formed by the enlargement of the eastern half of the south aisle.

In the 19th century that great benefactor and local barrister Lord Grimthorpe had the West End Door removed in order to allow the extension of the nave. The west end tower was also demolished to make way for a new tower in the northwest corner. Since Lord Grimthorpe was an amateur horologist, a new clock was added in the tower.

A vestry was added during the 20th century but, apart from this, St Michael's church today is very much as Lord Grimthorpe left it.

WHO ARE THE FRIENDS?

The Friends of St Michael's was formed as a charity in 1980. The Friends hold events and invite donations and legacies in order to raise funds towards the maintenance and repair of the structure and fabric of the church.

HOW DO I BECOME A FRIEND?

Membership of The Friends of St Michael's is open to all, whether they are church-goers, or to persons who have an interest in supporting the preservation of our local history, after all, St Michael's Church is what gives St Michael's Village its name.

If you would like to join the Friends, please complete the Application Form, Gift Aid form (if appropriate) and the Bank Standing Order form and send the completed forms to:

- a) Graham Meager, Treasurer, 50 Camlet Way, St Albans AL3 4TL.
- b) Or scan and e-mail to: grahammeager@hotmail.co.uk.

RECENT PROJECTS

- a) Several years ago, the majority of the lead roof was stolen from the Church. A huge and successful fundraising campaign was launched with substantial help from the Friends.
- b) Not long ago, the Church heating system failed completely and was unable to be repaired. Again, the Friends gave a hearty donation towards the cost of a replacement heating system.
- c) A new lighting system was recently installed following a survey of the old, unsafe electrics. The Friends were able to provide help for this too.
- d) The Choir Vestry roof was replaced in 2023, wholly paid for by the Friends.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Much like a beloved, elderly parent, this ancient building constantly needs assistance. Future projects include repairs to the Church Tower roof and redecoration of the church interior following damp-proofing works.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Full Name.....

Address.....

.....

Postcode.....

Email.....

I wish to apply for membership of the Friends of St Michael's and understand that the annual fee is £10 per person, £20 for a family, or £100 for individual lifetime membership.

GIFT AID

Please complete details below as necessary.

I want to Gift Aid my subscription and/or Donation of £.....and any subscriptions and/or donations in the future to:

The Friends of St Michael's Church, St Albans

(Reg. Charity 279810)

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay the difference.

Title.....

First Name (or initials).....

Surname.....

Full home address

.....

.....

Postcode.....Date.....

Please notify the charity if you a) want to cancel this declaration, b) change your name or home address, or c) no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains tax. If you pay Income Tax at the higher additional rate and want to receive additional tax relief due to you, you must include your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

STANDING ORDER FOR MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

To (your bank) The Manager

Bank.....

Bank address.....

.....

Please pay to:

Weatherby's Bank

Sort Code: 60-93-03

Account number: 14052691

Account name: Friends of St Michael's Church, St Albans

By Standing Order the sum of

£.....(amount in figures)

(amount in words).....

On (insert date to begin).....

and the same sum **annually** thereafter until further notice, quoting my account name as reference.

Signed.....

Dated.....

My Account name.....

My Account number.....

**The Friends of
St Michael's Church
St Albans**



UK Registered Charity no: 279810

(leaflet issued March 2024)