

St Denis' church and churchyard / nature reserve

Update for 16th January 2024 meeting of
Hatley Parish Council

St Denis' church

East window

The Friends of Friendless Churches (FoFC) has confirmed it has the funding to install a new stained glass east window. During autumn 2023, the Trustees looked at three proposed designs and rejected them all – a brief has been sent to three other stained glass companies; we await the outcome.

Visits

Zachariah Young (Operations Manager) and Maggie Goodall (Volunteer Coordinator) – two newly appointed FoFC staff – visited on 15 November. As well as St Denis', Joyce Denby and Peter Mann took them to other churches owned by the FoFC in the area: St Andrew's, Wood Walton; St John's, Papworth St Agnes; St Giles Tadlow; and St Mary Magdalene in Caldecote.

There has been the usual sporadic flow of other visitors to St Denis' – a few sign the visitors' book, some take copies of the flyer and '39 steps' leaflet about St Denis and occasionally leave some small change in the bowl on table. Hopefully more visitors use the QR codes on prominent display to donate directly to the FoFC.

Christmas

A special thank you to Joyce Denby for making the church look so welcoming at Christmas with a wreath for the door and a lovely display of greenery against the reredos in the chancel.

Thanks, as always, to Peter Mann for keeping an eye on the church and for opening and closing it daily, and to Peter and Joyce for liaising with the FoFC.

St Denis' Churchyard / Local Nature Reserve

New management plan

Revd Hilary Young called a meeting on 19 November to introduce and discuss the new management plan for St Denis' churchyard/nature reserve which Louisa Carlisle, a Volunteer Officer of the local Wildlife Trust, has prepared. Nicola Jenkins, Sebastian Kindersley and Peter Mann attended. Thanks to Sebastian for hosting the meeting.

Scissor mower

Permission was given by Hilary at the meeting to sell the 'St Denis' [AL-KO scythe mower](#). It has not been used for the last two years. It is rather heavy and vibrates so should only be used for 20 minutes at a time by one person. Hilary prefers us to do manual scything now, with the help of others in her churchyards group. Peter is obtaining a valuation for the mower – which belongs to Gamlingay and Hatley PCC.

Working party

A session was held on 14 January to make a start on cutting back the growth encroaching into the western end of the churchyard. Thanks to Joyce Denby, Nicola Jenkins, Alastair Smith, Angela Steel and Mark Wilsher for their hard work.