

THE FRIENDS

Our magnificent church is the principal ornament to the town, and its most historic building as well as being a much loved place of worship. Crewkerne is unthinkable without the church, which is an architectural treasure of national importance.

BUT, the church needs constant attention and maintenance – which means money - to keep it in a condition in which it can be used and appreciated by the whole community and preserved for future generations.

There is no magic fund or pot of gold which can be dipped into when repairs are required, and this responsibility has fallen on a relatively small number of regular churchgoers. Though they have so far kept the church in excellent condition, the burden is in danger of becoming too great. For example, the roofs require regular re-leading, and the beautifully ornamental stonework continuing conservation. A wider body of people is clearly needed to see that St Bartholomew's is looked after and handed down for future generations to enjoy.

An Association of Friends of Crewkerne Parish Church was therefore set up in 1994 to raise money for looking after the building. The Friends aim to attract membership and support from the very wide range of people who appreciate the church and understand the importance of securing its future. The Friends have already financed important conservation projects on the famous west front and much of the splendid window tracery, but a great deal more remains to be done. The Friends operate quite independently of the Parochial Church Council, which has the direct responsibility for looking after the building.

The Friends organize regular events each year to raise funds. Additionally all members receive a Newsletter (preferably by email) three to four times a year. Members are also very welcome at the Annual General Meeting.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US ?

If you would like to join or support the Friends, would you please complete and return the application form with your subscription.

However, to save administration costs we would prefer A Standing Order (which can be cancelled by you at any time, and will not increase).

If applicable please also complete the Gift Aid Declaration. Our nominal subscription for membership is £15.00 per year, but any other amount you may prefer to subscribe will be gratefully accepted.

Friends of Crewkerne Parish Church Registered Charity no 1042519 Gift Aid Declaration

I wish the Friends of Crewkerne Parish Church to treat my subscription, and any donations I may make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid Donations.

Signed

Date

Name (print).....

Address

.....

.....

Post codeTel no.....

SUBSCRIPTION FORM FOR FRIENDS OF CREWKERNE PARISH CHURCH

I would like to join the Friends of Crewkerne Parish Church, and will pay an annual subscription of £

I enclose (please tick as appropriate)

A cheque/cash for the above amount/or completed Standing Order Form.

Name

Address

.....

.....

Post code Tel

Email

STANDING ORDER

To the Manager,Bank

Bank Address

.....

Please pay to the account of the Friends of Crewkerne Parish Church, Natwest Bank, 2 Market Street, Crewkerne, Sort code 60-06-24 A/c no 11022191, the sum of

£

*on the day of20....
and every succeeding year until further notice.*

Signed Date

A/c no Sort code

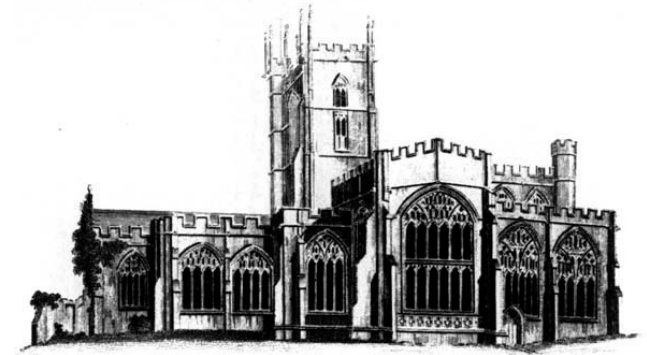
**NB Please return all forms to:
Mr Steve Dennis, Treasurer, 4 Easthams
Road, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7AQ.**

WELCOME TO SAINT BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH CREWKERNE

We are delighted at your interest in our Church, and would like to tell you a little about it. There has been a Church here for over a thousand years, and in Saxon times St Bartholomew's was a 'Minster' with spiritual responsibility for a wide local area. However, the Church has been several times rebuilt since then, and what we see now is the result of a rebuilding in the later fifteenth and early sixteenth century, when Crewkerne, like much of Somerset, was prospering from the wool and textile industry of that period. It is a superb example of the 'Somerset Perpendicular' style which has produced many of the country's most beautiful Churches, and has many special features of its own.

Most famous, perhaps, is the magnificent west front which was probably inspired by the Royal Chapels. Like many other parts of the Church its splendid doorway is richly carved in the beautiful local Ham Hill stone, though the wear and tear of ages has eroded much of its finer detail.

The Church is also notable for the enormous variety of its window tracery, reflecting almost every variation of the Somerset style, and its lofty tower is an important local landmark and an excellent example of the regional type. Inside the fan-vault of the porch is notable, and the nave surprises by its spaciousness and enormous height. There is much interesting mediaeval carving, such as the 'Green Man', much better preserved inside than outside as it is protected from the weather. But it all needs a great deal of maintenance and looking after.



FRIENDS OF CREWKERNE PARISH CHURCH

