

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Full Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Post Code:.....

Email:.....

I wish to apply for membership of The Friends of St Michael's and understand that the membership fee is £5.00 p.a. per person or £10.00 p.a. for a family.

GIFT AID IT!

If you are a non-tax payer please ignore the declaration below. However, if you are able, please consider signing the declaration so that we can reclaim tax on your donation.

I wish Gift Aid to apply to the enclosed donation. 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 any difference.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

STANDING ORDER

The easiest way to pay for your subscription is by Standing Order with your bank. We regret that we are unable to accept Direct Debit or Credit/Debit cards.

To: The Manager

.....Bank

Address:.....

.....

Please pay to The Friends of St Michael's Church, St Albans at NatWest Bank plc, 10 St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL1 3LY; Sort Code 60-18-11; Account No. 42100933

By Standing Order the sum of £..... in words from my account number stated below on(day) of(month) 20..... (year) and a like sum **Annually** thereafter until further notice.

This order cancels all previous order I have given in favour of The Friends of St Michael's Church.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

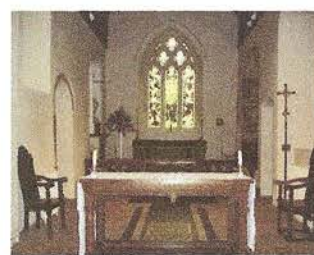
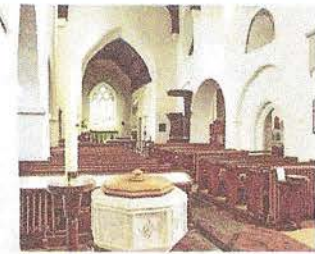
Account Name:.....

Account Number:.....

Address:.....

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The Friends of St Michael's Church St Albans



UK Registered Charity: 279820

Who are The Friends of St Michael's Church?

The Friends of St Michael's was founded in 1980 with the specific aim to help to maintain, repair, renew, improve and enhance the structure and fabric, furnishings, memorials and fittings of the Church of St Michael, St Albans.

Over the years, many projects have received support from the Friends from relatively small tasks e.g. the refurbishment of the churchyard notice boards, to large schemes such as the total replacement of the church's heating system.

To meet the aims of The Friends, several fund-raising events are held each year. These have included a quiz evening, a progressive dinner and a charity performance at the Abbey Theatre to name but a few.

How do I become a member of The Friends of St Michael's Church?

Membership of the Friends is open to all whether they are church-goers, or persons who have an interest in the preservation of our ancient heritage, and, in particular St Michael's church.

If you would like to join The Friends, please fill in the application form overleaf and then send the completed form with either

a) your cheque for £5/£10 (*please delete as applicable*) made payable to The Friends of St Michael's Church; or

b) the completed Standing Order form,

to The Treasurer, 32 The Dell, St Albans, AL1 4HE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

A Brief History of St Michael's Church

St Michael's church pre-dates the Norman Conquest and was said to be founded by Ulsinus, Abbot of St Albans in 948 AD. Whilst there may be uncertainty about both the date and the Abbot, there appears to be no doubt that the church was built to receive pilgrims and to prepare them for their visit to the Shrine of St Alban within the Abbey.

The first St Michael's Church is likely to have been a simple timber structure but it was replaced c.1000 AD by a building of brick and flint taken from the ruins of Verulamium.

Between the 12th and 13th centuries, the Church underwent many changes ranging from the addition of side aisles, high-level clerestory windows and the Lady Chapel being formed by the enlargement of the eastern half of the South Aisle.

The 14th to 18th centuries saw very little building work carried out to the Church, with the exception of the installation of the Rood, Screen and Loft and repairs to the Lady Chapel.

During the 19th century, under the auspices of Lord Grimthorpe, the west-end door was removed as the nave was extended westward, the existing west-end tower was demolished and a new tower housing the church clock, was built on the north-west corner.

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

Recent Projects Supported by the Friends of St Michael's Church

Over the past few years, The Friends have supported the following projects:

Small/Medium Projects

The Ladies Gate entrance to the churchyard was in a poor state of repair and The Friends provided the full cost for the gate to be replaced.

The Friends paid for the refurbishment of the Church Notice Boards.

A crack was discovered in the Font and The Friends provided funds to help with the repair.

Large Projects

Several years ago, the majority of the lead roof was stolen from the church. A huge fund-raising campaign to restore the roof was launched with a substantial donation from the Friends.

Within the last few years, the Church heating system failed completely and was unable to be repaired. Once again, The Friends gave a substantial donation towards the cost of the replacement of the system.

The Friends have recently made a contribution towards the cost of the new lighting system that needed to be installed following the discovery of electrical problems.