



## THE FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS SOUTHILL



This historic Church needs your support

Become a Friend



## THE FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS SOUTHILL

Become a Friend of All Saints Church Southill, share in its proud traditions and help to ensure its continuing well being.

The aim of the Friends is to raise funds to assist in maintaining the fabric of the Church in good condition and thereby helping to preserve All Saints, a Grade 2\* listed building for the Parish.



## HOW TO BECOME A FRIEND

Members are not necessarily from the Parish. Current Friends include those who have had past connections with the Church, such as Baptism or Marriage, and have subsequently moved away. Others have a special interest in the Church's history. Whilst some Friends just want the Church to remain as a historic building for the village.

There are various types of membership available and if you pay income tax you can increase the value of your subscription by signing the Gift Aid Declaration.

### MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

- Individual £ 25 pa
- Family £ 50 pa
- Concessionary £ 20 pa  
*(Pensioners and Students)*
- Junior (under 16) £ 10 pa
- Life Membership £ 250

*Annual subscriptions are due in January*



### PAYMENT DETAILS

Payments can be made online to:  
The Friends of All Saints Southill

Lloyds Bank  
Sort code 30-98-97 A/c 83484763

or

by cheque payable to:

The Friends of All Saints Southill

Please post to

The Treasurer 31 Birch Close  
Broom, Bedfordshire SG18 9NR

### GIFT AID DECLARATION

Please complete this form if able to gift aid.

Please treat as Gift Aid donations, all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration and in the past four years.

I confirm I have paid, or will pay, an amount of Income Tax / Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that the 'Friends' will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the 'Friends' will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Name .....

Signature .....

House number/name .....

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

# THE FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS SOUTHILL ~ CHARITY NUMBER 1200699

The Charity was formed by deed on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 with an amended deed on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and is registered with the Charity Commission.

It was formed for the benefit of the public to support the restoration, preservation, repair, maintenance and improvements of the Church building, known as the Parish Church of All Saints Southill.

The building dates back to the early 13th century. The base of the tower and the window at the west door date back to this time. Most of the rest of the tower and the lower levels of the nave and north and south aisles date from the 15th Century.

In 1733/34 a faculty was obtained by Viscount Torrington to build the Vault on the north/east corner of the building, incorporating a vault and a vestry with access from the Church. This vault is now of national and international interest due to the burial of Admiral John Byng – the only Admiral shot by the Royal Navy for not doing his best in the battle of Minorca in 1756. After a court martial, where he had to be found guilty under the law, he found that all who declared him guilty did appeal to the King for clemency (to no avail). He was shot on the deck of his own flagship, the “Monarch” on 14th March 1757. He dropped his white handkerchief at noon on the day to signal to the firing squad to proceed.

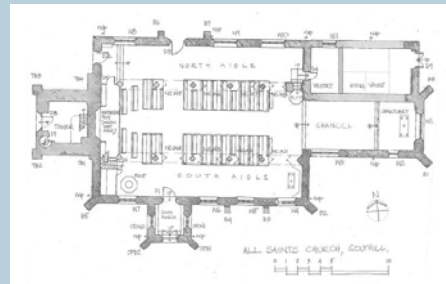
The vault stone inscription reads:

He fell martyr to political persecution  
When bravery and loyalty were  
Insufficient securities for the  
Life of a Naval Officer

Voltaire wrote; *‘the English shoot an Admiral from time to time to encourage the others.’*

Is that why Nelson fought to the bitter end?

In 1814-16 much of the top section of the nave was rebuilt following a fire, in red brick. This can be seen from the outside. The pitch of the roof was reduced and the covering changed from tiles to copper cladding. The top turret of the tower was also added and five bells were installed; a sixth bell was added in 1867. Other 19th century additions are the east window in memory of William Henry Whitbread and in the south-west corner of the church in memory of his wife Harriet.



During the early 1960 the entrance from the Church, through the vestry to the Byng/Torrington vault was blocked off and a new entrance was made to the east of the building.

In 2007 a sub-committee of the PCC was formed to raise funds for the building repairs etc. This was following the 250 year anniversary memorial service for Admiral John Byng, where a number of people expressed a wish to form such a committee.

It was always the intention to make this committee into a separate charity, due to it catering for those who were only interested in the historical value of the grade 2\* listed building.



John Byng  
Viscount Torrington  
Coat of Arms

However it should be noted that the sub-committee has raised fund exceeding £ 70,000 in the period and helped to improve the building to it's current state, where we have access for those with walking difficulties, a sound system for those who are hard of hearing and kitchen and toilet facilities. In addition to this, major stone work on the tower and building, as well as roof repairs and replacements were done.



The need to maintain the fabric of the building is unending. Weather damage is continuing, despite regular maintenance. The aisle roof will need replacing in the next 15/20 years at a cost of approximately £ 100,000 etc. etc.

**THE NEED WILL NEVER  
DISAPPEAR AND YOUR HELP  
WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED**

The current Trustees are

John Cain, Alan Dover  
Phil Dover, Nico Rodenburg (Chair)  
and Maureen Strutt (Treasurer)