

My Dear Friends

They say that everything comes at once and that is exactly what has happened at St Katherine's during the month of June. Firstly I can confirm that the Traditional Anglican Church obtained charitable status and the title of the Charity is: - "The Traditional Anglican Church (Charitable Foundation) Limited". Our Charity registration number is: - 1124199.

Andrew Underwood of Ampthill, pointed out that the "date of incorporation was Lady Day [Old New Years Day] giving annual commemoration of this historic event a place in the church's calendar!" further information regarding the Charity will be announced shortly.

I am also delighted to report that the Priory Trust secured the Heritage Lottery Grant in the sum of £1.35 million pounds and an additional £50,000 has been secured from WREN. The balance of funds to be secured £400,000 is ongoing and should be in place during the next three months. The process of restoring the Church building will now commence in August and is scheduled to be completed by October 2009.

In addition to this, even more remarkable news emerged during June; this was the direct result of an archaeological dig that took place in the central Nave area of the Church. To everyone's complete surprise and astonishment an area of medieval stone foundation was uncovered at a depth of around 1.5 meters. Glyn Copak of English Heritage has now confirmed that this is the missing fragment of medieval foundation that experts have been looking for on the former Priory site, (an area of about nine acres), for several years.

The reason for their collective excitement is this, although many areas of foundation have been discovered, this foundation is of such proportions that it is felt it could only be that belonging to the Priory Church itself. In addition to this, an aqueduct has also been discovered that we know dates to the year 1306, which lies next to the Priory's east wall, which dates from 1148. There is now no doubt according to Mr Copak, that the existing Victorian Church is built directly upon the original Priory Church of St Katherine Without Lincoln the date line being 1148 AD.

The significance of this incredible series of discoveries cannot be underestimated and has certainly caused a ripple of genuine excitement in the local and national heritage world. For us it simply underlines the true sacredness of this very beautiful Church building.

The foundation of the Priory of St Katherine Without Lincoln, dates back to a time which was only just outside the schism of 1054, it roots our foundation back to a period in our history when the Church was one and undivided unlike the chaos that the Anglican Communion finds itself in today.

What better rock upon which we can build with confidence the foundation on which the TTAC will grow and prosper in the future. My friends, where we find ourselves today is nothing more than the beginning of the beginning. We must arm ourselves with the shield of Faith and prepare to face the future with renewed confidence and vigour.

We know through our Faith and our collective determination to preserve and uphold our glorious Anglican Heritage that we will face challenges at very many levels indeed, not least the reality of living in a secular state, but never the less a State that is prepared to listen to the voices of other Faiths and yet ignores the Christian Faith upon which our very democracy is built.

Do not let this sad fact dismay you, the situation will in time change and the nation will with renewed vigour begin to once again search for the comfort and grace that can only be found within the Triune Majesty of the Holy Trinity, Christ and His bride the one true Catholic and Apostolic Church in this land, that is the Traditional Anglican Church. Others who once held this ground have forfeited that right by their collective failure and disregard of the faith handed down by Christ to His Apostles and their successors. Many Bishops have failed to uphold that true Faith and none more so than those in the state Church today.

We have had what can best be described as sensational news over the last month, we now have our Charity, the Church Building is to be restored, we have a fragment of the ancient Priory Church in our midst that Christians throughout the last nine hundred years have visited to pray to Almighty God. We are part of a journey that is seeing not only a truly great Christian foundation being restored, but we ourselves are also a living witness in seeing the restoration of the True Anglican Church emerging in Glory to the Praise of Almighty God.

Let us all be very clear it is to our shared Anglican Christian Heritage that makes the TTAC so very special, it is the glory of our Liturgy, our Music and our Traditions that bind us all together in God's Love as we strive to do His will here in these sceptred isles.

May Almighty God Bless, Keep. and Protect You,

Yours In Christ Jesus,

Father Ian.