

St PETER & St PAUL

PATRONAL FESTIVAL 900 YEAR CELEBRATION

Representatives from all the different congregations in the Benefice of Hanborough and Freeland packed the Parish church of St Peter & St Paul at the 900 year Celebration Patronal Festival on Sunday, 29th. June.

The Priest in Charge, the Revd. David Tyler, welcomed the two distinguished visitors, Sir Hugo Brunner, the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, who he congratulated on his recent Knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours, and Sir Michael Scholar, President of St John's College Oxford, which has been Patron of St Peter & St Paul since 1638.

Sir Michael addressed the congregation at the start of the service and pointed out that it was the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Laud, who had given the patronage of the Parish church to St John's in order to increase the fixed stipend of the President. This practice continued for 200 years. Sir Michael was delighted that the Laudian choir, made up of former members of the choir of the college was providing the music for this special occasion.



The choir led the procession at the start of the service, followed by the Revd. Sister Mary, the Revd. Jackie Gardner and then the Revd. David Tyler. In his sermon, David Tyler thanked all those members of the congregation who had worked so hard to prepare the church after the recent closure for replastering and decoration, and also those who had worked tirelessly over the last five years raising money for the Building Appeal. He drew attention to the fact that the new Festal Altar Frontal was in place for the first time and how stunning it looked. It was donated by a member of the congregation of St Peter & St Paul

in memory of Miss Helen Gibson, incorporating words that meant a great deal to her — “WORLD WITHOUT END”.



After the service, refreshments were served and it was evident that the congregation was enjoying being able to gather together once more in the Parish church.

Helen Hacking

