

The FROST Report

The Friends of St Thomas of Canterbury, East Clandon, Surrey

Welcome to the first issue



The Frost Report is a twice-yearly update on the activities of The Friends of St Thomas of Canterbury in East Clandon.

FROST exists to help maintain and protect our 1000 year old church for villagers and visitors alike. It is a unique and beautiful building with an all-pervading atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. Grade 1 listed, it is situated within

a local conservation area and is the focal point of one of the best preserved villages in Surrey.

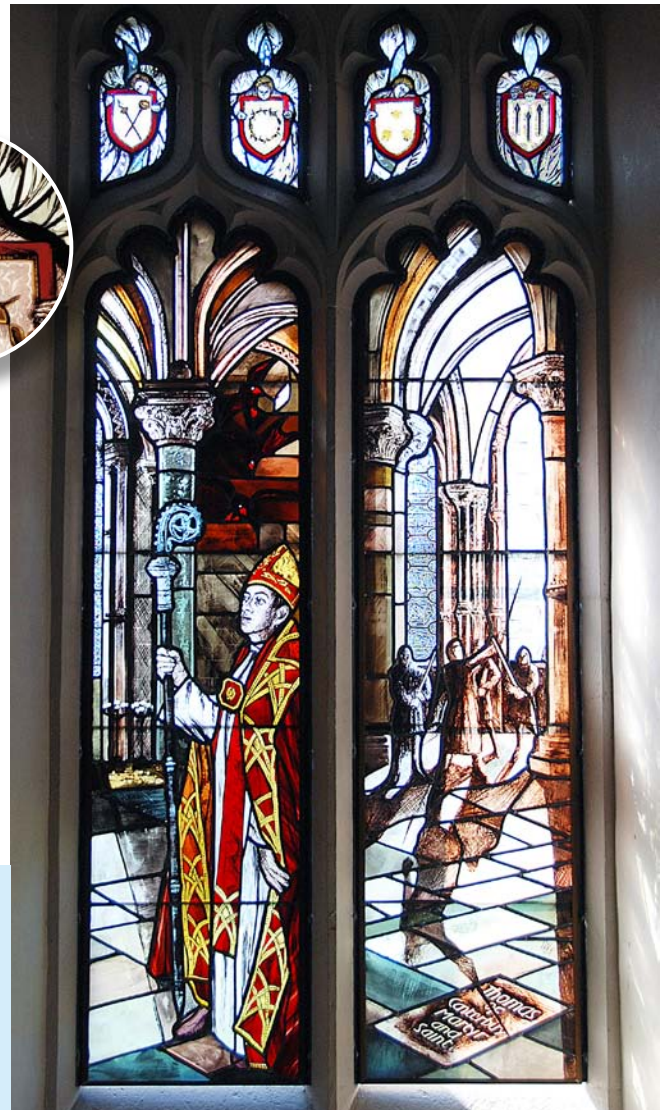
Few grants are available to maintain the fabric of the church, and currently FROST is its main financial lifeline.

New stained glass window

Church south wall, westernmost end

In an initiative supported enthusiastically by East Clandon Parochial Church Council (ECPC), FROST commissioned and funded with generous support from ECPC and others this superb 0.88m x 1.93m window which captures the moment immediately before the martyrdom of Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1170.

The window within a window in the right hand light depicts the miracles attributed to him, and looks down on the four assassins – Reginald FitzUrse, William de Tracy, Robert de Broc and Richard le Breton. Hugh of Horsea, 'the evil deacon', can be seen by the column next to the last knight on the right. In the four small tracery lights at the top are angels holding shields bearing symbols of Christ's passion – the spear and sponge, the crown of thorns, the dice and the nails. These refer to Thomas' impending fate, as does the blood red of his vestments.



Service of dedication

The former Bishop of St Albans, Christopher Herbert, led a service of formal dedication of the window on Sunday October 4th 2009. An enthusiastic congregation more than did justice to this momentous occasion.

The *artist*



Helen with FROST Chairman, John Roney

Helen Whittaker is an award-winning designer of stained glass windows and architectural sculpture in glass and copper.

She is an Associate of the British Society of Master Glass Painters, a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and a Craft Scholar of the Prince's Foundation, having won the prestigious Hancock

Medal.

Helen is the artist / designer of Barley Studios in York and a visiting tutor at the Prince's School of Traditional Arts.

The window was installed by Keith Barley, the principal of Barley Studios



The inaugural celebrations.

Over the weekend of August 8th-9th 2009, we organised a series of celebratory events in and around the church to unveil the new window.

These included a concert given by the **Sonus Quartet** featuring works by such composers as Bach, Elgar and Mozart among others.

Madeleine and Julian Rye gave an

enthraling reading from TS Eliot's 'Murder in the Cathedral'.

Our Chairman John Roney gave a brief account of the circumstances leading up to Becket's murder, and explained the symbolic significance of the detail in the window. The interval refreshments were served in the gardens of Church Cottage on a perfect English summer evening.



Upcoming events in 2010

- **A new initiative this year is a series of 3 talks in the village hall.** The first 'Auctions and Auctioneers' given by Christopher Hawkings on Saturday the 16th January was great fun and enjoyed by all who attended.
On Saturday February 20th the talk in the Village Hall will be by East Clandon resident Arthur Hunking – 'Around the Equator Underwater'. An intriguing title...
- **On Friday March 26th the talk in the Village Hall will be by another East Clandon resident Bruce Tindale – 'English Wine, past and present'.**
- **Friday June 4th sees our Golf Day at Clandon Regis Golf Club** – the next instalment of 2008's highly successful event.
- **On Saturday June 26th the Village Fête – over 500 attended the 2009 event.** Once again, FROST will be supplying the Funtime Express.
- **Our ever-popular Village Quiz Night will be on Friday November 12th as Rector Barry Preece turns comedian and quizmaster** - FROST will award prizes to the winners and runners-up.

Become a Friend today

Hopefully, this edition of **The Frost Report** has given you a flavour of what we're trying to achieve and how we go about it.

Like most charitable organisations of its kind, FROST is always looking for new supporters.

If you'd like to find out more, visit www.frost.org.uk or contact rogernickolds@hotmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you or seeing you at one of our events.