**Standish Church Winston Memorial update May 2019.**

**EVEN MORE GOOD NEWS!!!**

The project to renovate the Winston memorial is divided into two stages.

**First Stage HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED.**

The builders have installed the new French Drain and renewed the guttering, down pipes and piping out to the soakaway. The Archaeologist personally excavated most of the 1.5 metre deep soakaway and in the process found and identified 149 bone fragments, many of them coming from the 5 separate partial skeletons found at different levels of the pit. It was not thought necessary, thankfully, to try to date them although those at the deepest level were considered medieval. There was also some coffin ‘iron work’ and a modest number of pottery fragments including some of Roman origin. The bone remains have now been re-interred alongside the soakaway so that they are adjacent to where they were discovered, as required by the faculty.

All these archaeological finds and identification considerably increased the associated fees, which we partly offset by not involving our Architect, as anticipated, during the excavations. The net result is that we have a small surplus which will fund the purchase of a protimeter to monitor the condition of the south wall.

It will now take 12 -18 months for the south wall to dry for the restoration to commence.

Second Stage This also requires a Faculty, a separate architect's survey and an expert conservator to perform the work. As this will be a little way in the future, costs are unclear but are expected to be in the region of £13000.

We have completed a Heritage Lottery Fund, Project Enquiry submission and this has been favourably received and in due course we will be able to apply for a HLF grant. Other charities are also being approached.

We are greatly indebted to the Allchurches Trust, Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and the Churchill Heritage Fund for their financial support and also the many Local Donors who supplied the initial financial support and enthusiasm to commence this project.

Roger Hart

For Standish PCC