

ST. MARY'S KEMPSEY FINANCIAL APPEAL FOR RESTORATION

Over the past few years St. Mary's Church has done a great deal to secure the physical structure of our 1,000 year old place of worship. There have been many improvements including the Tower Arch Screen, complete renovation of the St. Andrew's Chapel including beautifully crafted cupboards, the installation of a new boiler and heating system, major repairs to the structure of our windows, complete renovation of the South side of the church to eradicate damp including replacement of floor boards and efficient ventilation shafts, the erection of a beautifully constructed outside notice board, plus numerous repairs to the outside of the building, renovations to the graveyards and various improvements to the facilities within the church.

St. Mary's continues to be at the heart of our community and is increasingly well used both for spiritual and community purposes. It is valued and loved by the community and this has been reflected in the very generous giving over the years and in the way that we have sought to preserve our beautiful ancient building. I am enormously grateful for every penny that has been given to the church and it is a delight to see it so well used within our village. The architect, Mr Ian Stainburn, in his recent Quinquennial Report has commented upon and congratulated all concerned for the wonderful maintenance and loving care that has been directed towards St. Mary's.

There are still, however, a number of tasks that have to be completed before our church is completely sound and the most pressing of these is the renovation of the North side of the Church including the Lady Chapel. The problem is mainly one of damp due to poor and inadequate ventilation and the fact that the exterior areas and pathways slope towards rather than away from the building. This has led to the development of damp and mouldy areas and the extensive rotting away of floorboards. The estimate for the necessary renovation work is around £80,000 for which we have been very blessed and fortunate in securing an English Heritage Grant of £44,000. In order to get such a grant the church has had to use up most of its resources and I'm sorry to say that over the last few years most of the church's financial assets have had to be spent on the necessary repairs. **One advantage of this, however, is that we now qualify for grant aid which has been offered to us in the form of £44,000.**

But in order to secure this grant we ourselves have been asked to raise the remaining £36,000 and, therefore, we are appealing to anyone who knows, values and loves St. Mary's and the truth about God's love for which it stands to make a donation so that we can raise our share of the overall estimate over the next 6 months. This is an enormous amount to raise in a short time and we shall be writing and appealing to various national charitable and grant-giving bodies to assist us but we most definitely need your help.

If you can donate any amount however large or small then please do so. The person to whom to send such a donation is our Treasurer:

Rev. David Hassell, 14 Napleton Lane, Kempsey, Worcester (01905 828096)

Or if you would like further information or clarification please contact him. Any cheques should be made out to "St. Mary's PCC Restoration Fund" and, of course, it is advantageous if you can place your gift in a signed green envelope (available from Church or from David Hassell) as then we are able to claim tax back on it.

It is a lot to raise but I hope that you will feel that it's money well spent to ensure the continued presence and work of St. Mary's Church in this community for many years to come. The Church is there for the whole community whether you're a church going believer or not and it is the whole community that we serve both in good times and tough times. St. Mary's Church in itself stands for the Love that God has for each one of us and is a symbol of hope in an often uncertain world. We want this to continue as I'm sure you do and therefore I ask that you consider making a financial contribution so that this can be assured for the future.

Many Thanks,

Peter

Rev. Peter Holzapfel

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