

# Patrons of St Mary's Church

## Chartham



### Launch of the 'Patrons' of St Mary's Church

Rural churches in England are experiencing great difficulties. Many, like St Mary's at Chartham, are Grade listed medieval buildings and whilst they are of wonderful architectural significance and represent much of our country's history (our church dates from 1305 and is a Grade 1 listed building) they are extremely difficult and expensive to maintain and run.

The congregation of St Mary's give very generously and also do much fund raising throughout the year in order to keep St Mary's functioning as the parish church. We have also been very fortunate to secure a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, which has taken over two years of work to bring to a successful conclusion. This grant is for essential repairs to the church roof and walls. However, the yearly running costs of the church have become more than the congregation are managing to raise despite donations and fund raising efforts. For 2018 our projected expenditure is £71,000 and our projected income is £56,000. Therefore, later this year, we will be in a deficit situation of some £15,000. St Mary's, as all other churches in England, receives no money from either the Church of England or from central government. In fact, the church has to pay money each year to the Church of England. This money is called the Parish Share, and this year St Mary's assessed contribution amounts to £56,000 which equals our total expected income. The Parish Share is used to meet the costs of salaries and pensions for the clergy and for all the other costs of the central church. Obviously there will be consequences to defaulting on part of our Parish Share obligation and puts the long term continuation of St Mary's church at considerable risk.

**The Church receives no financial aid from government or the Church of England. It is a Grade 1 listed building & its upkeep is achieved through donations from the congregation, local residents, & fundraising events.**

**The running costs are in the region of £71,000 each year, that is £195 per day!**

#### **Can you help?**

**Without your assistance our ability to keep the Church running becomes more in doubt each year.**

**If you want to help to keep this historic building open in our community please see over the page for a way in which you can support it.**

We are hugely grateful to everyone who contributed to our Community Appeal in October 2016 which was very successful and raised sufficient money to replace the failing central heating boiler system. We are therefore asking the local community, once again, if they would support St Mary's in order to ensure its future survival. We really need regular income streams to help us cover the ongoing running costs of the building and are therefore planning to start the 'Patrons of St Mary's'. We are asking for support by individuals or groups to give a regular amount of money each month by standing order into the bank account of the church. If enough people in the community would donate £2, £3 or £4 per month (or more if they can) via a standing order it would help us, together with the congregation's regular donations and our fund raising events, to pay the yearly running costs of this unique local historic building. We know people in the community value St Mary's Church, whether they are regular attenders at services or not, and we hope that you will feel able to help.

As a 'Patron of St Mary's' we will keep you updated about the church by a newsletter via email or post. We would also plan to have an annual event for the Patrons to be held at the church. But the most important aspect of being a Patron will be that you will be helping to ensure the continuing presence of a functioning church and an historic building in the local community.

If you feel you can help us in this way a form for a standing order and details of the church bank account are overleaf. You can arrange a standing order with your bank by completing this form and sending it to them or if you bank online it can be set up via that system. Please also complete and detach the Gift Aid part of the form if you are a regular tax payer, as we will be able to claim an additional 25% of anything you give, and either return it to the address below or bring it to the church on Saturday 31st March (see below). Please also let us know by email or post or by coming to see us on 31st March your name and contact details so that we can keep in touch with you. The details for contacting us are below.

The Treasurer                      e-mail: [clairedmorgan@gmail.com](mailto:clairedmorgan@gmail.com)  
St Mary's Church  
5 Jasmine Close  
Chartham  
Canterbury  
CT4 7TF

If you have any questions about the proposed 'Patrons of St Mary's' and would like to look around the church we are planning an open afternoon on Saturday 31st March between 2pm and 5pm. We would be delighted to see you and we will be providing tea and scones in our pop-up cafe.

Thank you for taking the time to read this appeal. St Mary's greatly appreciates all the support it receives from the community.

