

Church Fund Request

The church is requesting £2000 to help towards the huge expenses of keeping the church alive and maintaining an 800 year old grade 1 listed building. Every 5 years the church is inspected by a church architect and this was carried out in October. Unsurprisingly this has revealed urgent work that needs to be carried out. The first of these is the need for a new vertical access ladder with a cage to gain access to the bell tower which is essential for maintenance – This is a matter of Health and safety. Estimates for this so far are in excess of £3500, and further quotes are being sought. The current ladder is an old wooden ladder with rot and wood worm in it with no safety whatsoever. The other major work needing attention is the removal of cement which is probably at least 50 years old, on the low level stonework round the church and has to be replaced with lime mortar. The cement is causing degradation of the stone work and should never have been put there in the first place. An estimate is that it will take a craftsman at least 3 weeks of work to sort out so the cost of that at a minimum say of £150 a day for 15 days work will be £2250, in all probability more.

The effect of carrying out these works alone will at a minimum reduce the fabric fund from £25,000 to below £20,000. It is likely that when we see the architects report (estimated 2 months from the date of his visit) there will be further items requiring attention. From the fabric fund is also paid the insurance premium for the building and that is £2215 a year.

Over and above that the cost of maintaining the fabric of the church we have to find £7085 for the quota which is paid direct to the Diocese which comes out of the general fund. Next year this is rising by 5% to £7,439. With less money from church collections in the past 2 years due to COVID this is becoming increasingly difficult to pay, not to mention the routine upkeep of the church such as oil for the boiler, boiler maintenance, electricity, fire extinguisher annual tests etc etc. The church has been very dependent upon the monies raised from village events in order to keep solvent. This in recent years has been around £2000.

It is with huge thanks to many in the village who make a personal contribution to the church that we are able to keep the church going.

Attached are the church accounts for 2021 up to the end of October.