

Fundraising Appeal

St John the Baptist, Chirton

May 2024

Our Beautiful Church Needs Your Help



Our beautiful Church in Chirton, which serves the communities of Chirton, Conock and Patney, is in urgent need of your help following the theft of the lead from the North Aisle roof and the discovery of water damage to the metal structure within the large West window. The total cost is currently estimated at £127,000. This vital work will protect the ancient interior from further damage. We realise that this is a huge undertaking; the Church has been standing for 850 years, having been consecrated in 1170, and is Grade 1 listed.

What is wrong with the North Aisle roof?



Two years ago thieves removed the lead and damaged the roof timbers. They had not planned well and were unable to take the lead away. It was left roughly rolled up. With kind help from a local farmer we managed to salvage the lead but, as it was unusable, we had to accept the scrap value of only **£3,000**. Taking account of the cost of the temporary tarpaulin roof, bat surveys, obtaining planning permission, listed building and Church consents and architects' fees, the total replacement cost is expected to be around **£98,000**.

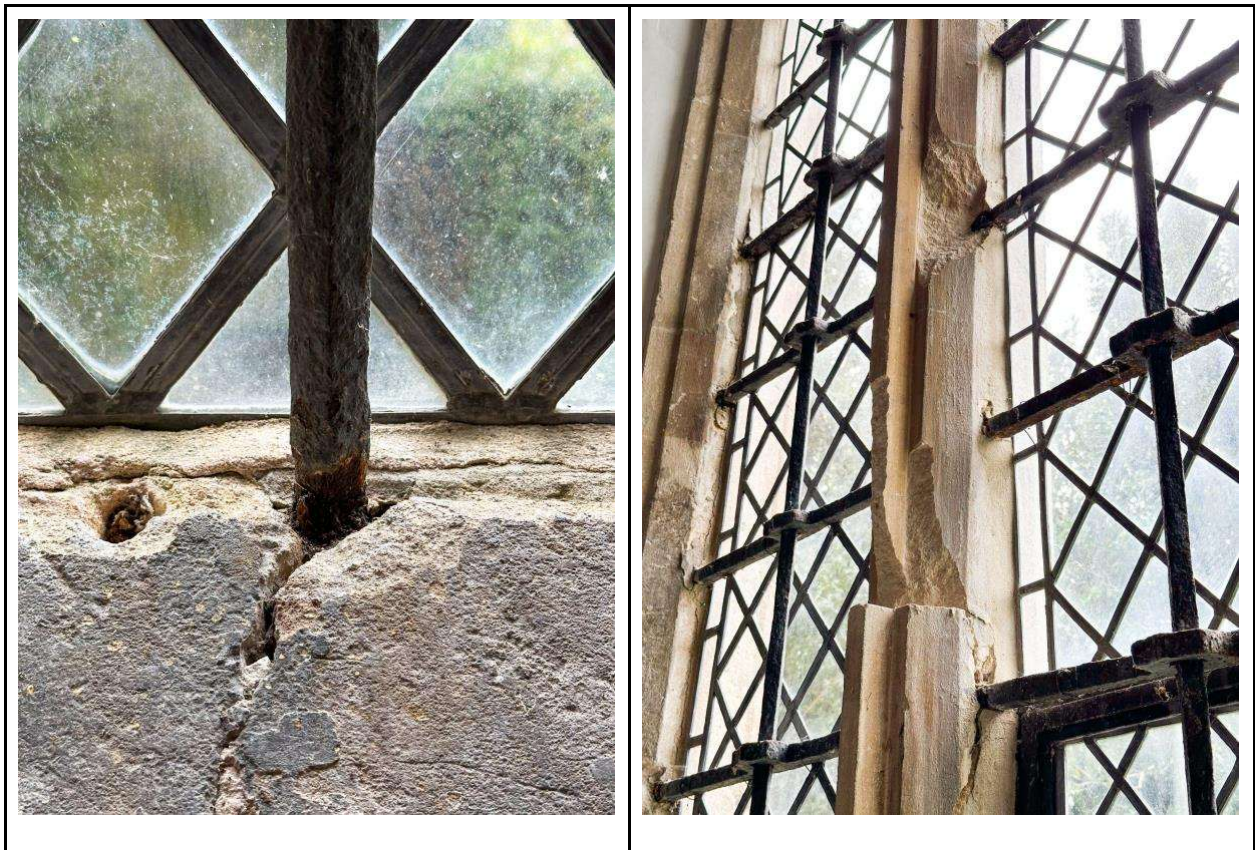
It has taken much longer than we would have liked to carry out surveys, seek permissions and progress the insurance claim (which has just been agreed at the maximum amount). Following an increase in the number of lead thefts from churches, the insurers now cap the amount payable. It has also taken time to decide on the most appropriate material for the replacement roof. Having looked at various alternatives and taken expert advice, the plan is to replace it interne coated steel which costs about the same as lead and looks very similar, but is less attractive to thieves.

Rain damage has already affected the interior of the Church and our wonderful, recently restored organ made by J D Budget of Crockerton, Wiltshire, which was installed in the 1840's, is currently wearing a plastic hat to protect it until the new roof is installed.

What is wrong with the West window?

Every 5 years the Church Architect undertakes an inspection of the Church and in 2016 he identified that the iron structure within the stonework of the large West window was corroded causing severe damage to the stonework. There are also many broken panes of glass within the window.

This perpendicular style window dates back to at least 1850 (probably much earlier) and provides fabulous natural light to the nave of the Church. It takes the full force of the prevailing winds and rain and is now in urgent need of repair. The estimated cost is **£29,000**.



How can you help?

We realise that **£127,000** is a very considerable sum to raise. We have a Church Fabric Fund built up from bequests and fundraising initiatives over many years which is providing £45,000 towards the project. We are actively seeking grants from other charities. The PCC is very grateful to have received £650 in donations so far and **we are asking the people of Chirton, Conock and Patney to help us raise a further £25,000.**

We Need You!

Please forward this appeal to your family and friends, as well as people who used to live in our three villages and maybe went to Chirton school. We would love to hear from anyone who can offer experience of fundraising and publicity and if you would like to organise a fundraising event, we would be delighted to hear from you and will support you in any way we can.

Fundraising Appeal target	£127,000	
	Received	To raise
Church Fabric Fund	£45,000	
Scrap value of lead	£3,000	
Insurance claim	£17,175	
Donations received	£650	
Grants being applied for		£36,175
Chirton, Conock & Patney donations needed		£25,000
Total to raise		£61,175

A message to all in Chirton, Conock & Patney from the PCC

Our Parish Church has stood here since the 12th century to serve the communities of Chirton, Conock and Patney as a vital meeting place for worship, weddings, blessings, baptisms, funerals and National Celebrations. Apart from being regularly used by our school, the Church is also a wonderful venue for community events including Harvest lunches, concerts, village BBQs and the memorable Celidh for the Clock. During war and peace, it has served as place for private prayer and thanksgiving, and of course for celebrating Christmas and Easter. The bells have rung out across the villages to celebrate notable events down the ages. Some of our ancestors are buried around the Church and are a precious reminder of how much they contributed to the villages we now call home.

We also have a wonderful font dating back to Norman times with carvings of the twelve apostles and magical moments of history such as the Crusader crosses etched into one of the pillars. The long crosses were carved before they left and the square Jerusalem crosses indicate that they returned home. It is unthinkable that we could lose this precious and historic building in Chirton which has been lovingly preserved by so many for hundreds of years. Whether or not you are a regular Churchgoer, please help if you can.

What is the Parochial Church Council?

We are a group of people who volunteer as Trustees of St John the Baptist Church. We are responsible for financial matters and maintenance of the Church buildings. Every PCC has charitable status. Many people assume that the Church receives funding from the Government or support from a central body because we are looking after a very old building that is an important part of our country's history. Sadly, this isn't the case. In fact, every Anglican Church in England is looked after by the people who live in its parish.

The Church belongs to us all

Life can be tough at times, harder still if you are trying to cope alone. If you are facing difficult times or need a peaceful place for quiet reflection, our door is open every day 10am - 4pm, longer in the summer. We currently have at least one morning service each month plus special occasion services. Please check the notice board or Redhorn magazine for details. Do come along, everyone is welcome, at any time.

Chirton Church Drinks – Friday 7 June at 6.30pm

Please come and enjoy a glass of wine and a canape or two for the official launch party of the Fabric Fund Appeal. The Parochial Church Council are in need of the support of everyone in Chirton, Conock and Patney to help repair the roof and restore the big west window in the Belltower. All very welcome.

How to donate

To donate by credit or debit card, please scan this QR Code:



To donate by bank transfer:

Account name: PCC Fabric Fund

Bank: Barclays Bank

Sort Code: 20:45:45

Account Number: 20160040

Reference: Your surname

To donate by cheque or in cash:

Please make your cheque payable to PCC Fabric Fund and drop off in an envelope addressed to Alison Dredge, 8 Yew Tree Close, Chirton or Simon Latham, The Old Manor, Chirton.

Our sincere thanks in advance for your support and help.

St John the Baptist PCC

Richard Curtis (Team Rector)

Patricia Alsop

Diana Clarkson

Alison Dredge

Helen Hues

Helen James

Simon Latham

Charles Lucas

Gift Aid

If you are able to Gift Aid your donation this will boost the amount by 25p for every £1 you donate as the PCC will be able to claim this from HMRC. All you need to do is complete the attached declaration and return this to the PCC addressed to Alison Dredge or Simon Latham at one of the addresses given above.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HMRC to adjust your tax code.

Charity Gift Aid Declaration

☐ YES I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to and through St John The Baptist Church Chirton with Conock and Patney.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed:

Date:

Title:

First name or initial(s):

Surname:

Full home address:

Postcode:

Please notify us if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

Gift Aid Reference number:.....(PCC Treasurer to complete)