

ST THOMAS'S CHURCH ROOF APPEAL

I would like to make a gift of £ _____

I enclose my cheque made payable to the PCC
of Melbury Abbas

Or

I will make my donation on line direct to the
Church's bank account:

Payee: PCC of Melbury Abbas
Bank: Lloyds – Business Account.
Description: St Thomas Roof Fund
Sort Code: 30-93-45
Account No: 07537582

Name:

Date:

Email Address [if you would like your donation
to be acknowledged or if you would like to be
kept informed of project progress]

.....

Hon. Treasurer's Contact Details:

juliet.bichard@hotmail.com

Melbury Abbas Mill,
Melbury Abbas,
Shaftesbury,
SP7 0BW

GIFT AID DECLARATION

If you are a UK taxpayer, please would you consider
gift aiding your donation by completing the
following mandate:

"I want the Church to reclaim income tax on this
donation and all future gifts of money that I
make from the date of this declaration as Gift aid
donations. I am a UK taxpayer and I understand
that I must have paid an amount of income tax
which equals or exceeds the tax deducted from
these donations for each tax year [6 April one year
to 5 April the next]"

Title:

Initials:

Surname:

Home Address:

Line 1

Line 2

Line 3

Post Code:

Date:

Signature

Please notify the Hon. Treasurer if you:

1. Want to cancel this declaration.
2. Change your name or home address.
3. No longer pay sufficient tax on your income
and/or capital gains.

If you pay income tax at the higher rate, you must include all
your Gift Aid donations on your self assessment tax return if
you want to receive the additional tax relief due to you.

ST THOMAS'S CHURCH MELBURY ABBAS



BACKGROUND

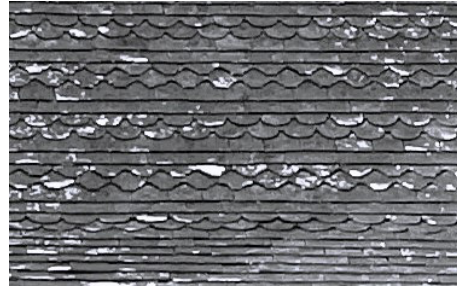
St Thomas's Church is a delightful country church, set in a quiet lane, with views towards Melbury Hill and Fontmell Down. It is thought that there has been a church on this site since Norman times. The present church was constructed in 1852 to designs by George Evans of Wimborne who was also responsible for several other local churches including that at Compton Abbas.



The church is simple in plan consisting of a nave with an arcaded south aisle, north and south transepts (the latter housing the organ), a chancel and south porch. The tower, housing five bells rung by an enthusiastic team of bell ringers, is to the south west corner of the building and a small vestry sits between the north transept and chancel. The original Victorian stained glass windows were designed by Thomas Willement [1786-1871] who was Queen Victoria's "Artist in Stained Glass" by Royal Patent. A congregation of between 15 – 20 regularly attend Sunday services with numbers rising to 70 for special services such as Christmas and Easter. Together with the village hall, the church remains the last of the community buildings in the village.

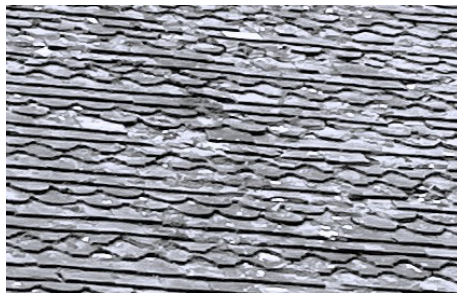
THE NEED

The church roof is covered with clay tiles, of plain, club and fishtail pattern. The tiles on the southern aspects of the roof are in reasonable condition



TILES ON THE SOUTH FACING ROOF

However, many of the tiles on the northern parts of the roof have degraded significantly. Clay tiles are particularly vulnerable to frost damage on north facing roof slopes. Over past decades, it has been possible to replace individual damaged tiles but now so many are damaged that this is no longer sensible or cost effective.



DAMAGED TILES ON THE NORTH FACING ROOF

Both the most recent Quinquennial Reviews - in 2015 and 2020 - recommended that the north facing parts of the roof be stripped and the tiles replaced.

THE SOLUTION

So far the roof is not leaking; at least as far as we can tell. It is likely that the roof lining under the damaged tiles is continuing to keep out the rain. However, it is only a matter of time before the lining fails and, in the mean time, the roof timbers may be at risk of rotting. Accordingly, the Parochial Church Council of St Thomas's Church, Melbury Abbas have decided to accept the recommendations of the Quinquennial Reviews and replace the tiles on the northern aspects of the church roof.

THE COST

The work has been costed at between £67,000 – 87,000 including VAT and management costs.

FUNDING

£5,000 has been pledged by the St Thomas's Church Preservation Society. A further £20,000 has been raised from local benefactors and the Erskine Mutton Trust. The balance of the cost must be raised from parishioners, local well wishers and external charities who are able to support the preservation of Church of England churches. The target is a further £50,000 with the aim of having sufficient funds in hand for the work to begin early in 2025.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Please support this appeal as generously as you can
AND

KEEP THE BUCKETS OUT OF ST THOMAS'S!

If you can help, please complete the form on the back of this leaflet and return to the Hon. Treasurer, St Thomas's PCC [see reverse for contact details] or call or email Robert Crichton on:

01747 853942

robert.crichton@btopenworld.com