

HELPING OUR HERITAGE IN THE HISTORIC HEART OF HARBERTON

St Andrew's Church is a wonderful treasure in our midst, Grade 1 listed - our finest historic building - and it needs our help!

Life in England has changed and fewer of us have a religious faith, or practice it in a church. Our church can be other things too – ours to make use of for our whole community.

Where are we now? With not many people going to our church services it has become difficult for them to do all that is needed to make our church a vibrant part of our community, alongside our thriving Church House Inn and Parish Hall.

This is an update on what's happening and how you could get involved and benefit from this marvellous building.



What do you want from St Andrew's? The church is badly in need of TLC! And it should be offering more to you and our whole community. If we work together to decide what it can do for us then we are much more likely to be able to raise the money needed to keep it in decent repair and suitable for everyone's use everyday.



A team of clean-up volunteers getting stuck in last month

What could this fine church building offer? We could have a kitchen and loo, friendly and usable for anyone with challenged mobility; perhaps a library and a community café with occasional lunches; bell-ringing classes and local history sessions. These initial ideas are based on your suggestions to the Neighbourhood Plan survey last year.









Together we can make our wonderful building a place for all - whether we 'go to church' or not! We've started in a small way - bringing together a fundraising group to help, and creating a charity to raise and manage funds. It's the Harberton Church Community Fund (#1172549).

What do we need to do next? We need to do basic repairs (the roof, the tower, the clock, a new boiler, rewiring, the organ and more). Then we need to make improvements so that the building can be used for wider activities all year round – such as better heating and lighting, and the kitchen and loo of course.



How will we raise the money needed? We will apply for grants from a whole range of organisations and fundraise in our village too - fun things for us all. We had a craft sale evening last month. The next event will our traditional Strawberry Fair on 17 June.

There will be other events later in the year too, not least a Secret Gardens Walk.

We also need YOUR ideas on what to do and will be organising an Ideas Day for everyone in August.

Did you know... about the bells?

The bells were made in Cullumpton and hung in St Andrew's over 250 years ago, in 1762.

AND... we will be starting bell-ringing classes in the late summer for anyone over the age of 12. You don't need any experience - just interest and enthusiasm!

Join in the fun, and the thinking! Some of the events over the summer:

Strawberry Fair on Saturday 17 June... Always a good day out!

A Secret Gardens Walk - Saturday 22 July. Just £5 to visit some of the often hidden gardens of Harberton, have a cream tea and Pimms. Invite your friends!

An Ideas Day - in August to talk about what would make the church work for you, and how we can get help in doing this.

If you are new to the village, please visit the church – you will be amazed at its beauty and history... and shocked to learn of the many repairs needed!



Keeping you informed of progress

This is the first of what we hope will become regular updates.

Look out for the next one at the end of June.

Please pass this on to anyone who you think hasn't received it. We are only just starting out so, if you would like to help, just contact one of the fundraising group.

With all best wishes from the Harberton Church Community Fundraising Group: Sue Mahon and Alicia Stolliday (who are both on the Parochial Church Council, the group with responsibility for the church), Alex Williams, Annie Williams, Chris Whitaker, Celia Atherton, David (our Priest in Charge) and Heather Sayle.



Leaflet design by Jonathan Bean

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