



HELPING OUR HERITAGE IN THE HISTORIC HEART OF HARBERTON

St Andrew's Church is a wonderful treasure that needs our help!

This is the second update on what's happening and how you could benefit from this fine building at the heart of our village.

With your support things are starting to happen – estimates, repairs and that all-important fundraising.



Read on about the clock repair; getting heat in the church; bats and bells; fundraising events you can join; how the new charity will work - **and how you can be involved** – with ideas, practical and financial help. All are needed, and all are welcome.



Our fantastic maintenance volunteers, Jonathan, Matt, Alex and Chris are keeping the water out of the tower (it was rushing down the walls in biblical proportions a few months ago), the gutters clear of debris, the walls clear of growing plants and even small trees. They come out in all weathers to do jobs that are cold and messy – and hidden, yet it's vital work if our church is to have the bright new future we'd like.



Why did we register as a charity? Because we wanted to make sure that when individuals give money (as a direct donation or in a fundraising event) they are confident that all their funds will go entirely towards improvements to, and wider community use of your church. These funds will be kept in a separate account, along with the regular donations from people who have become 'Friends of St Andrew's'.

The tower, the windows, the roof - all need either urgent repairs or further investigations. We are working with the architect to get expert contractors to quote for these works, to raise funds to pay for them, and then to be in a position to think about longer-term works to be part of a fundraising bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The boiler - the PCC will very soon award the contract for the new boiler, which should be in place before the end of summer, when warmth will return! When the plans for wider use of the church are agreed we will be able to judge how the new boiler will meet these extended uses.

You may have noticed that the clock isn't working at the moment - because we found some serious damage. We were very touched to hear that David White had left a generous legacy specifically for repairs to the clock. David and his wife, Mary, were amongst the warmest, twinkliest people around, and so generous with their support – David was chief clock minder for a while (as befits an engineer) with Pat Blight, who continues the work today. David died in 2015 and Mary now lives in Strete but often returns to Harberton. Their son, Matt, is part of our church maintenance team.

Repairs to the clock, manufactured by Gillett & Johnson of Croydon in 1897, have begun and it should be working again by September. We'll announce a clock-starting ceremony and hope you'll come to witness it!



Luke, of Cumbria Clocks starts the restoration while Pat Blight struggles to remove the weight casing: "Goodness, this hasn't been off in MANY years!"

Last, but not least, bats! Before you can do anything to an old building you have to check for bats. Alarm... do we have bats in the belfry? Well, we don't have bats in most of the church, just a few in one stairway that we will ensure have continued access! We do have a jackdaw family in the belfry – who will have 'flown the nest' by the end of the summer, when we will carry out work to deter new families from moving in!

Events to join in – and have fun!

Please do come along to these events, take part, have a laugh and benefit your unique bit of history here in Harberton!

Harberton Rounders Day and Children's Races –

Saturday 1 July, 12.00pm on Harberton Playing Field – BBQ - Teas - Bar! Playing in teams of six - ring Wilke Wing on 866091 right away if you haven't entered your team yet. We all get to try to star!

Secret Gardens Walk - Saturday 22 July 14.30-17.30 – visit ten of the often-hidden gardens of Harberton, have a cream tea and Pimms. All for just £5 – starting at the church. Invite your friends! Get ideas! Just relax and admire someone else's hard work.

Strawberry Fair – this took place on Saturday 17 June and raised £1,356. Fantastic! And the church bells were rung, as a reminder of the bell-ringing classes that will start in September.

What you think matters! In our first update we said that there would be 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. We think that more of you will be able to take part if we talk with you at the events above – and then maybe have a meeting in the autumn. So, please, if someone asks you to talk about what you think and want from the village church, just stop for a few minutes.

Look out for an August update, and we hope to see you at some of the village events.

