



“In Touch” Issue No 3 September 2012



Our buildings

As many of you will have observed, we've been having work done to St Mary's exterior stonework. These things arise as part of routine maintenance, and are prioritised at the five –yearly 'Quinquennial' Architect's inspection of each Anglican church. We have a fine building which has been around centuries longer than any other occupied structure in Goldington. The local church has been a valued feature of the English landscape but the cost of maintaining these visible symbols of our Christian faith is of course a challenge to local congregations. Yet it is a challenge which previous generations have taken up, and we in 2012 are called on to play our part in passing St Mary's on in good heart to the succeeding generations in Goldington.

You may therefore be interested to hear from Brian Backhouse, Chair of our Church Property Committee, about the current situation:

“In our Quinquennial Report of 2009 it was recommended that a certain amount of stone work repairs were carried out on the old part of the church, and so in June 2011, with the approval of our PCC, we asked our Architects Levitts of Biggleswade to draw up a specification of work and obtain two tenders. The less expensive was submitted by J. Hibbit and Son, Cambridge for £9,628 + £1,925 VAT, which included provisional sums and architects fees. We then applied for a Faculty from the diocese to carry out this work and in May contracts were signed and work began.

Unfortunately, it was found when the stonemason began on site that other works were necessary. The parapet and roof of the south porch required work to make it safe, and this increased the price by £3,130 plus £628 VAT. Then we found that the west tower door stonework required more work than the budgeted sum of £2,000 plus VAT. The total cost came to £7,000 +VAT, increasing the original quote by £5,142 plus VAT of £1,028. So it looks as though the final figure for this work will now be some £21,000 including VAT.

The money for this work has to come out of our general funds as we are not able to get any grants or any charity help. So if you feel you can help us to pay for this project then any amount of donations will be gratefully received.

In summary: ORIGINAL QUOTE £9,268.64 and VAT at 20% £1,925.72

Additionally: South Porch £3,130.40, and VAT at 20% £628.08

West Door £5,142.00 and VAT at 20% £1,028.40 “

I heartily endorse the Property Committee's report. We are doing our utmost to be good stewards of the buildings entrusted to us by previous generations of Christians. If I might remind you of the vision for our church:

“For St Mary's to be a growing church, whose welcome in Christ's name extends to all. Furthermore, that St Mary's will express this in buildings that are well-used and open to the fullest extent, offering modern and traditional worship that meets the needs of people now, with an active social life for all age groups, nurturing people who know the power of Christ in their lives, and expressing our faith in God by service to our community and the wider world”

Undertaking this work is a responsibility we cannot shirk. If left, further deterioration and rising costs would have resulted. Yet St Mary's reserves will be significantly depleted by this. Our ability to weather the unexpected, and to fund our plans to be a growing church, of course requires that we have enough money. 'In Touch' letters aim to keep the congregation in the picture about current issues and plans. I hope the foregoing helps you to have a good understanding of one of the challenges with which our PCC is engaging.

With my love and prayers

Richard