



St. Mary's Church Chilton Foliat

Stewardship secretary - Peter Camfield
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CHILTON FOLIAT'S HERITAGE – honouring the past, maintaining the present and building for the future

Dear

St Mary's church has been part of the Chilton Foliat community for centuries. It has been a place of celebration, a refuge in times of trouble and a symbol of God's presence at the heart of the village. In addition to providing weekly services and care for the sick and housebound, St Mary's continues to welcome parishioners and their guests for important events like baptisms, weddings, festivals and funerals – in fact, at every stage of their lives.

The generosity of past generations has not only provided, maintained and updated the building; it has also funded the ministry of the church in the past. Now, however, the church is facing increasing financial problems every year; just as the cost of running a home increases, so too does the cost of running a church, particularly an ancient and precious one such as ours. If St Mary's is to be enabled to serve our village for many more years, we need to find new ways of meeting these costs.

Many people are happy to support appeals for repairs or improvements to our buildings, but churches are far more than just stone and mortar. St Mary's expenses are twofold. First we have the running costs of maintaining the churchyard, the church building and its contents, providing services, and paying for utilities and insurance. Secondly and equally important, as a parish we are responsible for contributing annually to the Diocesan expenditure (the so-called "parish share"). Our contributions to Salisbury Diocese pay for the ministry of the current church (our Whitton Team clergy and lay ministers), the ministry of an earlier generation (pensions and housing), and the ministry of the future (training of new clergy and lay ministers). Without clergy (paid, voluntary, ordained or not) much of the public life and ministry of the church cannot and will not happen.

All this requires the PCC to find approximately £700 *per week*. Sadly, the money raised by way of donations, standing orders, collections, fund raising and tax refunds leaves us with an ongoing annual deficit of £7,649. Unless additional sources of funding can be found, we will have no option other than to use money from our capital fund – which is required to fund major capital expenses, and which will not last for long if it is constantly being depleted.

Throughout the country, churches that close have the effect of depressing those areas and making them less attractive places to live. We, the PCC, are determined to ensure that St Mary's will continue to be open at all times for those who need it, and to play a part in our children's future as a valued link to our village Primary School. We ask you therefore to review any contributions you already make to the church, to see whether you could possibly increase your giving. If you do not already do so, please do consider making a commitment to give on a regular basis; enclosed is a form for you to do this. Please complete it and return it to me; I'd be happy to discuss the matter further should you wish.

The official launch of our Stewardship Campaign will be at our OPEN DAY/AUTUMN FAYRE on Saturday 14th September 2013, when we look forward to welcoming you to St Mary's and celebrating the place of the church in our community. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Camfield, *Member, Chilton Foliat PCC, Whitton Team Council, and Marlborough Deanery Synod*

ST MARY'S CHURCH CHILTON FOLIAT STEWARDSHIP

I promise to make a regular planned contribution to the work and mission of the above Church of
£..... each month / quarter / year starting on[date]

Full name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....Tel:.....

Email address:

I would like to pay by standing order from my bank and have completed the form below

***Gift Aid Declaration – St Mary's Church Chilton Foliat PCC { charity number X76395 }**

*I am a UK taxpayer and wish all my donations to be treated as Gift Aid donations. Please tick

Signed.....Date.....

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To the Manager.....Bank/Building Society

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Please pay Nat West Bank, 119 High Street, Hungerford, Berks RG17 0LX
Chilton Foliat PCC - Stewardship A/C
Sort Code **60-11-28** Account Number: **20583516**

The sum of £..... in words.....

Commencing on theday ofmonth 20..... and a like sum on
the same day in each succeeding **month quarter year**

Until further notice and debit my account accordingly. [please circle]

Please cancel my existing Standing Order [delete as appropriate]

Account name

Account Number

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Sort Code

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Address

.....Postcode.....

SignedDate