

## Who are the Friends of All Saints' Church?

The Friends are volunteers and may or may not be worshippers. For some, the buildings are a spiritual place that they wish to support; for others the buildings represent the historical core of the Bourton's community and they wish to help preserve it.

**Everyone** is welcome to be a Friend and to help with the stewardship in looking after our iconic buildings for generations to come.

Originally set up to help raise general funds, we are currently focussed on the Bell Tower Conservation project. The Friends raise funds in a fun, community-based way, to support the conservation of the Bell Tower (the Lychgate). They work alongside the charity that is 'All Saints Church PCC GB', to conserve and preserve our historic buildings and keep The Church and the Lychgate open for use, and for the community to enjoy the historic surroundings in which we live. All funds raised by the Friend's team are currently being used for the Bell Tower (Lychgate) conservation.

Past fundraisers have fostered community spirit as well as supported the Church. Our Big Breakfasts and Strawberry Fayres have been hugely popular and it was great to see so many, young and old, coming together and enjoying these events. What better way to meet your neighbours than over a Big Breakfast? The December 2020 raffle was one of our most successful fundraisers.

Coronavirus meant we had to find new ways to bring the community together and raise the much-needed funds, not only for the Bell Tower conservation but also to keep the Church open. You may visit it occasionally but how would you feel if it was closed?

Did you know our Bell Tower is one of only three, similar but not identical, that stand apart from a church in the UK. Because of this it is architecturally significant and unusual, designed by architect William White who also designed the old vicarage and re-modelled the Church. The Bell Tower was paid for by Charles Cubitt in memory of his late wife. Testament to a happy marriage perhaps, and far more romantic than a headstone! Built in 1883 and now in need of conservation, we are raising funds and applying for grants to re-roof, re-point joints, renovate windows and overhaul the roof hatch (access to the bell), renovate the bell and its frame.

Meanwhile, alongside the successful Snowdrop bank and Treasure hunt events and the launch of the Flag & Light initiative, we have arranged an Easter Bell Tower Bake-off and Easter Egg trail – something for the younger ones during the holidays, and all organised in a similar way to last year's 'socially distanced' local events. We have lots more ideas and need your help and participation to bring them to life!

If you'd like to be involved in organising events, or equally have ideas you'd be happy to share, please let any one of us know:

Clare Curnow; Julian Aldred; Hilary Campbell; Helen Swift  
Roger & Gina Cumming; Kate Drummond; Paul Drury; Sue Ong;  
or email [secretarypcc.allsaintsqb@gmail.com](mailto:secretarypcc.allsaintsqb@gmail.com)

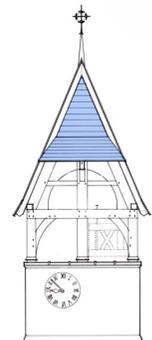
With the planned lifting of Covid restrictions we hope to meet you at a 'Friends' event soon – watch out for details - meanwhile we hope you enjoy our Covid secure events...

**...and thank you for your ongoing support.  
Together we're making this happen!**

## What is the All Saints' Bell Tower Conservation project?

This is a major challenge as we need to raise in the order of £57,000. In addition to encouraging the support of local residents, groups and businesses we are actively seeking funds from organisations such as Heritage Lottery and Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.

As this is a Victorian structure, Grade II listed, it requires specialist care with its renovations and repairs - there may be problems not easily identified ie unseen remedial work may be needed to rafters once the roof has been removed (eg incl some asbestos that has been found). In addition, there is a requirement for specialist expertise ie the lime mortar is a unique feature of the tower. Therefore, until the work starts some contingency has to be allowed for.



Here are the anticipated costs, based on the 2019 tender, as advised by our architects:

- Repoint lime mortar; Asbestos slate roof removal - £16,042
- Scaffolding - £5,182
- Timber (Oak) shingle roof - £14,350
- Belfry loft hatch repair - £1,275
- Professional fees and permissions - £4,578
- Bell and Frame repair specialist - £6,545
- VAT - £9,244 (reclaim eligibility is being researched)

...what has been spent so far - £3,400  
on project management, tender proposals and analysis, surveys and preliminary planning work;

...and the total raised (since Oct 2018) - £13,000 and growing - thank you!

...we have to raise a further - £44,000.

Once we've raised 90% of the above anticipated costs, approx. £51,000, the costs will be discussed with all parties, reassessed to reflect any increase/decrease in market influences, benchmarked and officially contracted. Work will only start when we have secured 100% of the costs.

Timing is another big challenge – fundraising has been seriously skewed by the pandemic and although the Faculty (Diocese planning permission) has been extended by 12 months (to Dec 2022) the Council planning permission expires in March 2022. If we miss this deadline, we will have to re-commence the Council planning process.

What we need to do is recruit as much help and support as possible in researching and applying for grants, encouraging local business support in addition to the amazing generosity of Bourtonians, family and friends.

Alongside all this there are annual insurance fees of around £1800 (for both the Bell Tower and the Church) which has also to be 'found'.

If you require further information please don't hesitate to contact the Revd Hilary Campbell or the [treasurerpcc.allsaints@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerpcc.allsaints@gmail.com) or any of the Friends of All Saints.

All Saints' Church and Bell Tower, Great Bourton |  
<https://justgiving.com/allsaintsgb>  
[www.bourtons-cherwell-pc.gov.uk/the-bourtons-all-saints-church/](http://www.bourtons-cherwell-pc.gov.uk/the-bourtons-all-saints-church/)

March 2021

## Things to know about the Bell Tower Conservation project...



All donations made to this project are ring-fenced in a restricted 'Bell Tower' fund. This fund is identified separately from other restricted pots of money and

also held in a separate account to the Church general operational funds, all held by the charity that is All Saints PCC Church, Great Bourton.

The project tender process has been managed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) appointed architect – Acanthus Clews Architects (ACA), Banbury. ACA has a long-standing relationship with the village and the Church.

ACA, as the project architects, coordinated the invitation for tenders in 2019, provided the analysis and will recommend the appointment of a contractor to carry out the work; the contractor will coordinate with the specialist trades essential for Grade II renovation, repair and conservation work.

The Parish Council will be arranging and paying for the re-gilding of the clock face – for ease this will be removed at the beginning of the works, once scaffolding is in place, and to ensure the clock face isn't damaged further during the main works. The Parish Council are also reviewing the need to repair the clock hammer. In August 2020 the Parish Council arranged the funding and completed the installation of the auto-wind clock mechanism.

Whites of Appleton – specialists in bell hanging and repair – have surveyed the bell and frame inside the Belfry. It is hoped to gain Faculty (Diocese planning permission) for this in the near future if our fundraising is successful.

During the summer of 2021, work will take place to repair the West gable and cross on the Church roof. This work is fully funded by a generous benefactor and is completely separate to the Bell Tower Conservation project.



Thanks to Acanthus Clews Architects for the drawings.

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