

...update August 2022

## Bell Tower Conservation project Great Bourton



### Headlines...

- We have raised £54,500 since 2019; we need to raise around a further £25,500... (subject to ongoing discussions)
- Regrettably our original contractor has withdrawn
- The project has been re-tendered and 2 contractors shortlisted
- Expected costs have increased considerably from original estimates owing to post pandemic affects and material shortages/cost of materials
- The list of works is being reviewed to 'prioritise' our budget whilst in discussion on costs
- Our latest estimate of proposed costs (under review) is circa £80k including VAT
- The increase in costs is really disappointing but we are determined to finish what we started!
- We continue apace with our fundraising appeal and fundraising events and activities
- Please don't miss the opportunity to sponsor a Shingle (roof tile). This campaign is still open and there is over £3,000 still available for match funding - your £1 automatically becomes £2!
- We hope to commence the proposed works in Spring 2023
- As ever, **thank you** for your support!

### Things to know...

All donations made to this project are ring-fenced in a designated 'Bell Tower' fund. This fund is held apart from other pots of money in a separate account to the Church general operational funds, all held by the charity that is 'All Saints Church Great Bourton PCC'.

The project tender process is managed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) appointed architect – Acanthus Clews Architects (ACA) of Banbury. ACA has a long-standing relationship with the village and the Church. ACA, as the project architects, coordinated the invitation for tenders, provided the analysis and will negotiate the appointment of the contractor to carry out the work; the contractor will coordinate with the specialist trades essential for Grade II renovation, repair and conservation work.

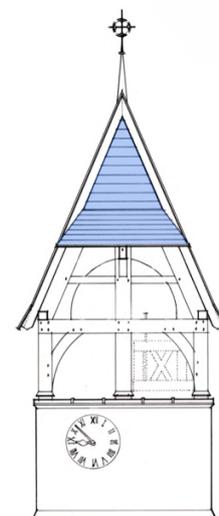
Once scaffolding is in place the first job will be to remove the clock face for re-gilding. To avoid damage this will be reinstalled once all other works have been completed. The Parish Council (PC) will be arranging and paying for this. The PC are also funding the repair to the clock 'bell' hammer. In August 2020 the PC arranged the funding and installation of the auto-wind clock mechanism which previously had to be manually wound every 3-4 days. The second job will be to investigate the wear and tear on the finials and weathervane. Any work to the finials is presently unknown and may require additional funds. The weathervane does need attention and will be removed and repaired and we are grateful that a local family have agreed to cover the cost of the weathervane repair.

## **What needs to be done?**

Built in 1883, Grade II listed in 1988, and now in need of repair and restoration, we continue to raise funds to re-roof, re-point joints, renovate windows and overhaul the roof hatch (access to the bell).

In addition to encouraging the support of our residents, local groups and businesses we have actively sought funds from various organisations.

Our Bell Tower is "unusual, built over a Lychgate, and one of only three such bell towers in Britain". Because of this it is architecturally significant and unusual, designed by architect William White who also designed the vicarage and re-modelled the Church which was Grade II listed in 1955. Charles Cubitt, curate and later first Vicar of the re-modelled Church, donated the money to build the Bell Tower in memory of his mother – Mary Anne Cubitt (nee Warner) and ancestor of HRH The Duchess of Cornwall.



## Costs

Once finalised, we will detail the breakdown of proposed costs. Meanwhile...

...the total raised (since Oct 2019) - £54,500 - thank you!

...what has been spent so far - £3,500  
on project management, tender proposals and analysis, surveys and preliminary planning work;

...although still under review, we have to raise around a further – £25,500. With your help we know we can do it!

Timing continues to be a further challenge – fundraising was seriously skewed by the pandemic the Faculty (Diocese planning permission) has been extended to December 2023. The local Council planning permission expired in March 2022 and has therefore been applied for once again.

Alongside the amazing generosity of Bourtonians, family and friends we are grateful to Philippa & Malcolm Days and Anna Morton who volunteered to coordinate, on behalf of the PCC, the research of potential funding organisations. Their efforts have culminated, to date, in an award by the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust of £7,000. The Garfield Weston Foundation donated £5,000, also included in the total raised and shown above.

If you require further information, please contact the [secretarypcc.allsaintsgb@gmail.com](mailto:secretarypcc.allsaintsgb@gmail.com) or any of the Friends of All Saints

<https://bourtons-cherwell-pc.gov.uk/friends-of-all-saints-church/>

## 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 Bourtons' community which they wish to preserve.

**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, the current focus continues to be the Bell Tower. The Friends raise funds in a fun, community-based way, to support the conservation of the Bell Tower (the Lychgate). They work on behalf of the charity that is 'All Saints Church GB PCC', to conserve and preserve our historic buildings and keep the Church and Lychgate open for use, and for the community to enjoy the historic surroundings in which we live.

Our fundraising events have fostered great community spirit - Big Breakfasts, Bake-offs, 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?

During the Coronavirus pandemic we found new ways to bring the community together and raise the much-needed funds with successful socially distanced events - the Snowdrop Bank was hugely popular and the Bell Tower Bake-off exceeded all expectations – **Thank You** to our generous community! We launched a "Flag & Light" fundraising initiative to celebrate and commemorate events in the lives of our families, friends and neighbours. We also launched the sponsor a Shingle (roof tiles) campaign and, for every £ raised through this campaign we can access matched funding.

The Friends continue to create fundraising opportunities and we have lots more ideas and always need your help and participation to bring them to life!

**...thank you for your ongoing support.**

**Together we're making this happen!**

Thanks to Acanthus Clews Architects for the drawings.

