

11<sup>th</sup> January 2015 Steve Barningham launches St Helen's Building and Restoration Fund.

Good morning [evening] everyone

My name is Steve Barningham and I am a member of St Helen's Finance Team

Our Victorian church was designed by the architect WJ Goodman and was built at the cost of £1,700.

Yes One Thousand Seven Hundred pounds.

The Archbishop of Westminster opened our church in October 1869.

Our historic church has just been granted Listed Building Status by English Heritage.

As a Listed, Victorian building, regular work needs to be carried out to ensure that the building remains in good condition all of the time.

We are today launching St Helen's Building and Restoration Fund.

The Fund has been set up to fund essential repairs and maintenance of the fabric of the buildings here at St Helen's.

Maintenance forms one of our largest annual expenses with £26,000 spent over the last 12 months resulting in a need to use our very limited reserves.

Please help us meet our quarterly target of £2,000 that's just over £20 a day and just over £150 a week. This sum would help cover the shortfall we need for the year ahead.

If everyone gave an additional £1 a week to this dedicated Fund, we will have hit our target within 6 months.

I am confident we can exceed our target of £8000, but I need your help.

Sue Baillie has kindly produced a poster to track the progress of the funds raised.

Sue also kick started the Fund by producing card notelets depicting wonderful photographs of our church, which are on sale in the church shop.

So you all know what is coming next.

I need your help.

Not just today, but throughout the year.

There is a collection box mounted on the wall at the back of church near the stairs leading to the choir loft.

In that area there are blank Gift Aid envelopes and Letters of Pledge.

The Letter of Pledge is also available on St Helen's Church website.

Gift Aid as you know is very important to us, as for every £1 you Gift Aid to our Fund we claim 25p back from the Tax Man.

This turns your £1 into £1.25p.

Any higher rate tax payers will reduce their tax bill by using Gift Aid.

Even if you are not presently in St Helen's Gift Aid scheme, you can still Gift Aid your contribution by using the Blank envelopes or the Letters of Pledge

If you are already using Gift Aid envelopes, just write your Gift Aid Number - which is on the front of your weekly envelope - on a blank envelope. [Or amend your existing standing order - please indicate how much you wish to go to the Fund]

You can find those envelopes next to the collection box on the wall.

Please pop your Envelope or Letter of Pledge, into the dedicated collection box - not the weekly collection plate.

The task of keeping our church and its buildings weatherproof and fit for purpose is an ongoing challenge.

As long as we keep contributing to the Building and Restoration Fund, work can be done when needed.

With your help we can preserve this lovely ancient building.

I shall be at the back of church, next to the Collection Box, after Mass if you have any questions.

Please give generously.

Thank you for listening and thank you Father for allowing me to speak today.

Steve Barningham - 11th January 2015