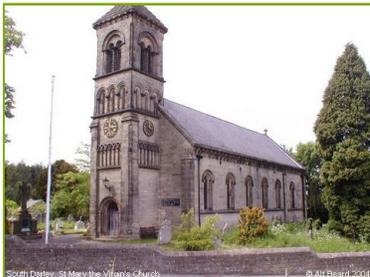


Important update from St Mary's Church



Dear Friends,

Some of you know me as Joshua and Jacob's dad others as the local rector. I hope you don't mind me contacting you with the following article from our treasurer, Ian Sutton, since there's such a close relationship between the church and the school and I wanted to keep you up to date with our situation.

St. Mary the Virgin, South Darley Financial Situation 2018.

At a meeting of the joint Parochial Church Council held on the 12th December 2017 it became clear that there was some confusion regarding St. Mary's current financial situation. Members did not appreciate that the majority of the balance in St Mary's current account was not available to pay for the day to day running of the Church. This is because some of the money has been donated by the Friends of St Mary's specifically for the maintenance of the fabric of the building and cannot be used for any other purpose. In addition, a previous PCC made the decision to hold an amount in reserve to be used only in an emergency thus reducing the revenue expenditure even further.

The current situation is that at the 31st December 2017 there was £22,251 in the current account; of this £13,700 is restricted, £10,000 of which came from an anonymous donor specifically for the repairing of the organ. An additional £7,000 is to be held in reserve which leaves a starting revenue balance for 2018 of £1,551. In 2017 the church had to pay the Parish Share (Common Fund) of £11,040 to the Diocese. This will rise to £11,365 in 2018. Other planned essential expenditure include Church insurance at £1,300 and Gas and Electricity at £1,547 - all this on an income based on Church members giving which in 2017 was £6,988. The remainder of the income cannot be guaranteed, coming as it does from Fees for Weddings and Funerals, Donations, and Grants, together with the occasional Legacy.

St. Mary's Church is in a perilous situation. Without additional regular financial support the reality is that it is in real danger of not being able to continue to function. Please give your support.

Ian Sutton, Hon. Treasurer

I honestly believe that St Mary's Church has a lot to offer our local community. It has a lot to offer on a spiritual and pastoral level. We share the message of God's love and mercy to all people. For people of another faith or no faith then St Mary's is a safe space for reflection and quiet. A place simply to 'be'. The church family loves to welcome all people old and young. Your presence at Christmas, Easter or on other special occasion's enriches our church family; you make the church complete. I hope we too help you celebrate all the special events of you and your family's life. May we continue to love, reverence and support you in the years to come.

How can you help?

South Darley Primary School has offered us the opportunity to use their parentpay facility to help you make a donation to support the church. We hope that some of you may be able to make a regular contribution termly or annually to keep the church running. Please look out for this option next time you log on to parentpay.

Of course, we would also be open to any other offers of help. If anyone feels they can support us in other ways, please come and talk to me (or the school if you would prefer).

We pray for you all weekly and hold you prayerfully in our hearts throughout the week.

Yours with great affection and prayers.

Rev. Stephen Monk, Rector of St. Mary's, S. Darley, St John's Winster & St Helen's Darley Dale

