

August 2018

Dear Villagers,

We'd like to update you with our current situation and also ask for your help.

As you may know our Vicar, Karen, recently moved to another Parish and we, the Church committee, want to ensure that we get right what comes next for our village and for our Church. To do this we would like to share some information with you and give you, as a resident of Old, the opportunity to shape the future.

Most people don't realise that a Vicar is funded by the community. It is the collections, regular giving, donations and fundraising which have to pay for the Vicar and the ongoing maintenance of our Church and graveyard.

Karen was an unsalaried Vicar, required to work 2 days a week (plus Sundays) in return for use of the vicarage. We were very fortunate that she actually worked voluntarily, on an almost full time basis, as the Vicar of the 4 villages of Old, Walgrave, Scaldwell and Hannington.

However, to afford to continue to have a Vicar available most of the time and in as many ways as previously, we will need to regularly raise additional income in order to pay a salary for a new vicar and for the upkeep of the Church.

St Andrews has stood in our village for over eight hundred years. There are lots of reasons why people like to have a Church in their community and collectively we have a responsibility to maintain our ancient Church now, and for future generations.

Whether you simply like having a picturesque Church in the centre of our beautiful village; hearing the clock strike the hour; singing carols at Christmas; using the Church for occasions such as weddings, christenings, funerals or attending services - to continue to be able to enjoy these things we need to find new ways of raising money on a regular basis.

To those of you who already regularly support the Church financially via a monthly standing order or who donate as and when you can, thank you very much. We need to raise at least £13,500 per year, this amounts to about £5 per month per household - less than a bottle of wine or two cups of coffee.

Please would you consider helping to fund a new Vicar's annual salary? You can do this in a number of ways. The thing that would make the biggest difference is if you are able to give a small amount on a regular basis. To do this you can simply complete a standing order mandate, available in the Church or from any member of the Church Committee. If you're unable to do this but still want to help, please would you consider making a one off donation whenever you can? Thank You.

We assure you that every penny will be very much appreciated. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for thinking about helping.

With very best wishes

St Andrews Church Committee