

St Mary's is our link with the past ...

Parts of St Mary's date back to the 13th century however the church has been greatly altered since then. The south wall of the nave and the tower are original. However the south-west and north-west corners of the tower have been reinforced by the addition of a corner buttress built of the same local mud-stone but not bonded into the main structure.

It was in the 19th Century that the church evolved into the building we see today. First, in 1816 the nave was completely re-roofed, and a porch was added on the south wall. In 1853 the tower was embattled and the aisle, arcade and semi-transept were built. In 1869 the chancel was completely rebuilt under the guidance of the renowned architect, Ewan Christian.

The interior of the church is well lit with natural light flooding in through the windows, which are mainly of leaded Cathedral glass with just three filled with stained glass. The window on the south wall is by the celebrated glass artist, Christopher Whall.

St Mary's has always been an integral part of the village ...

Services for the faithful have been held on the majority of Sundays ever since St Mary's was built.

The church has supported and comforted families through adversity – through the plague of 1604, the world wars of the 20th century and through all the social change since the 13th century.

The village school started in the tower room of St Mary's, moving to a school newly built in 1855, now the Village Hall, and then to the Church of England Primary School that our children attend today.

We have been left a great legacy, of both heritage and faith, and it is our sincerest hope that this appeal will be a springboard to new adventures in the years ahead.

Why is St Mary's important?

St Mary's is the beautiful and historic focal point of the village conservation area.

In addition to its regular services, Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday provide a continuity of worship that has enriched the lives of generations of villagers and continues to do so.

It represents the cultural and philosophical legacy that has underpinned our own lives and should be there for our children and our children's children.

Furthermore, it is there for family baptisms, weddings and funerals. It provides support for the lonely and those in need – and particularly for the elderly.

Through the village C of E Primary School, it ensures that our children are imbued with the Christian values that will enable them to contribute to and build a caring society.

In conjunction with other village organisations, the church makes a significant contribution to key village events.

Please read on to see how your support can make a real difference

Why does St Mary's need your support?

As with all historic buildings, we are only custodians of this legacy for future generations.

However, being a listed building, there is a significant cost in its operation.

St Mary's typically costs £20,000 to £25,000 a year to operate.

During 2014 and 2015, £15,000 has been spent on repairs to the church roof, lychgate and church yard.

Maintenance of this listed building has to be undertaken to exacting (and hence expensive) standards.

No direct government funds are received, and we continue to be heavily dependent on the regular income derived from parishioners. Support has always been generous, but we need to replace the contributions that are lost over time.

We anticipate that an additional £10,000 a year will be required to secure the future of the church.

This is a big challenge but, inclusive of Gift Aid, this could be achieved on the basis of

140 people giving £5 per month or
70 people giving £10 per month or
35 people giving £20 per month or
13 people giving £50 per month

With your support we believe this target can be reached.

We need you to help support St Mary's to continue its work into the foreseeable future

How YOU can help...

Please make a monthly donation

A regular monthly donation of, say, £5, £10 or £20 enables us to plan church expenditure into the future. This is particularly important where significant repair work has to be undertaken.

Regular giving also enable us to claim Gift Aid on your donations

Gift Aid - a gift from HMRC!

If you pay tax, HMRC will add a tax refund of 25% to your gift. This tax refund costs you nothing, providing you pay as much tax as the church claims back. Please tick the Gift Aid box on your Promise Form to make this possible. That is all you have to do!

Standing Order

A **Bank Standing Order** is the simplest means of making a monthly donation. It also enables us to predict the church cash flow more accurately.

What will happen next?

A standing order and Gift Aid form is included with this appeal.

Having completed the form, please e-mail us on church.appeal2016@gmail.com or ring/text the organiser on 07970697189

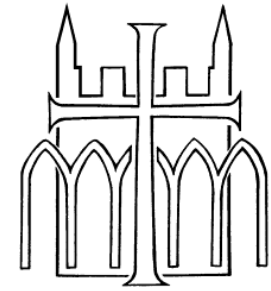
One of our volunteers will collect your completed form (or help you complete the form, if necessary). Thereafter all your information will be kept confidentially by the appeal organiser.

*If you have any questions, do please ring
our Appeal Organiser,
David Goss on 07970697189*



**Help us preserve the
historic heart of
Bleasby**

St Mary's Church Bleasby



**Heritage Appeal
2016**



**Keeping St Mary's at
the heart of our
village life**