

# **HOLY CROSS CHURCH SPIRE APPEAL**



For much of the last year, Holy Cross Church in Binsted has been covered with scaffolding following damage to the church in the storms last winter.

The repair work for the storm damage has been paid for by our insurance company but the historic wear and tear issues that have been identified during the repairs have to be addressed and have to be paid for by the PCC.

We have used all our reserves and have applied for as much funding as we could but we have now run out of money and need to urgently raise an additional **£35,000** to complete the essential work on the spire and tower.

As part of the compulsory 5-yearly review on the fabric of the church (the 'Quinquennial') it was realised that the tower was in need of some TLC but the work to repair damage from two storms in 2022 has revealed a lot more work that needs to be done urgently to allow our tower and spire to be safe and waterproof once again. We also need to restore our wonderful weathervane which has suffered over the 30 years it's been in place.

Last autumn the ground floor in the bell tower was deemed unsafe, so after a short period of closure our Tower Captain installed a temporary floor which at least meant the bells could still be rung. The redundant clock mechanism casing was removed which in turn revealed areas of blown plasterwork and beetle infestation so these had to be dealt with.

We now have permission to install a new floor and are just waiting for archaeologist support before work can start. We get regular requests to visit the tower from other bands of bell ringers and once the new floor is in place we will be able to host them as well as having a safer environment.



Inside the Bell Tower

Now that the work in the main body of the church is complete the builders have moved on to repair the storm damage in the tower. However, closer examination has revealed significant areas of historic damage which are not covered by our insurance. We don't have all the quotes in yet but it's going to be expensive.

As well as needing to replace some slipped and missing tiles from the spire it was discovered that our lovely weathervane was very badly corroded. We've had to take down the weathervane for the time being to prevent it coming down of its own accord, potentially doing damage to people and/or property. The woodwork supporting it is not only rotten but has beetle infestation so the parts that can't be treated will need to be replaced. The weathervane will need to be restored or replaced and remounted which all needs scaffolding and professional expertise.



Rotten timberwork at the top of the spire





The weathervane that sits on top of the spire

## Other projects (fully funded)

### Montgomery's banner

After Easter a conservator will be working in the Lady Chapel on restoring the banner of Viscount Montgomery of Alamein. This was taken down to protect it after the storm in February 2022 and we're taking the opportunity to have it restored. She's really knowledgeable and is keen for everyone to go and see what she's doing so do feel free to drop in. Once it's restored it will be put back to where it was before the storm and it will be lovely to have it properly displayed again.



We're still waiting on masonry quotes so we can start the repairs on our wonderful East Window. It's been frustratingly slow to get these but once we have them we can apply for Diocesan permission to carry out the work. This will be nothing like as intrusive as the storm repairs and shouldn't take anywhere near as long. We are very grateful to everyone who donated to this and hope you will be able to see the result very soon.



Finally, we're hoping to put in a new organ very soon (the old one is staying put for the time being) so that it's much easier for the organist to lead the singing – the current organ is quite challenging to play in such a way that it can produce enough volume.



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

We've been very fortunate that vast majority of the storm repair work has been paid for by our insurance company but the PCC have had to pay for any historic issues that needed to be addressed.

We used money we had put aside and have applied for as much funding as we could but we have now run out of money and need to launch a spire and tower appeal to help finance the essential but unexpected work that has come to light.

The bell tower and its weathervane are a much-loved feature of the village and we'd love to make them safe for many years to come. The weathervane is the building's crowning glory and a landmark for anyone approaching the village. They were last restored in 1993 and whilst they've undergone minor maintenance in the intervening years this is the first indication they need major work. We've love to put them both back into tip-top condition but we need your help to do this.

We are still waiting for some quotes to come in but we're looking at a shortfall of around £35,000. This figure assumes the scaffolding will still be paid for by the insurance work but this is coming an end so we need to move quickly. If we don't raise the money in time we'll need to pay for scaffolding hire which is very expensive and would leave us with a difficult choice: needing to raise even more money or to focus on making the tower safe and watertight but saving money by not restoring and reinstating the weathervane. We're looking at all possible options but none of them are likely to raise enough money on their own.

Can you help us please? If you would like to donate, please use the QR code overleaf or contact one of the team for more information – details at the end of the leaflet.

Thank you.

## Can you help us please?

If you would like to donate, please use this QR code or contact one of the team for more information.

Churchwardens Stella on [binstedwarden@benbinfo.co.uk](mailto:binstedwarden@benbinfo.co.uk) or

Cathie on [churchwardenbinsted@benbinfo.co.uk](mailto:churchwardenbinsted@benbinfo.co.uk) or

Treasurer Andrew on [binstedtreasurer@benbinfo.org](mailto:binstedtreasurer@benbinfo.org)

Thank you for your support.

It will be wonderful to have our tower restored and safe for the generations to come.

