

ST MARY'S CHURCH RUSHDEN



November 2019

Dear

PRESERVING THE CHARACTER OF YOUR VILLAGE

We're sure that, as a resident of Rushden, you won't mind our writing to you about your local church. Together with the Moon and Stars in Mill End and the village hall on the green, the church on its little hill is very much a community centre, helping to make Rushden such a pleasant place in which to live. It's by far and away the oldest building around, and architecturally pleasing to the eye.

Unfortunately, it's under threat as a going concern. Nothing critical, you understand, but certainly in need of some TLC. Put bluntly, it needs money. Although its structure is sound, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep operational. Long gone are the days when Rushden had its own vicar, (the present rector now dividing her time between five parishes), but St Mary's still hosts regular services throughout the year and a handful of 'spectaculars' to celebrate the likes of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. It's also available for occasional baptisms, weddings and funerals, and the rector is frequently to be found publicly supporting events like the village fete or privately in the provision of solace and comfort where necessary. Its community value is clear.

The cost of keeping the church open is, however, substantial. Contrary to popular belief, there is no regular central funding, and every parish is required to be self-sufficient. A faithful, but small, congregation do what they can to provide support, but it's a losing battle. As you can see from the statement overleaf, financial commitments in 2017 and 2018 together exceeded income by around £5,500. A further loss is anticipated for 2019. The fear is that, unless the tide is turned, the church will close, becoming redundant and just a shell of its former self. Or it may become a private dwelling. Either way, the loss to Rushden would be very real.

If you're not already a contributor to church funds, would you like to help turn that tide? You don't remotely need to be a regular (or occasional) churchgoer, nor even a believer. Just someone who values the contribution of the church, as a going concern, to village life, and who is keen to preserve the character of Rushden.

Someone like you?

If you would like to help, please covenant to make a regular payment from your bank account to that of the Parochial Church Council. We're confident that if a sufficient number of villagers do so, the tide can be turned. We're not asking for much; a modest sum of £5 or £10 a month is all that's requested, but we'll not say no to more! If you value the contribution of an active church within your village community, please complete and forward as necessary the enclosed Standing Order Form and Gift Aid Declaration. It will be money well spent, and your church (whether or not you use it, or just like it being there in its present form) will be grateful to you.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Pettyfer & Jo Bryant

Churchwardens



THE ORCHARD HOUSE, RUSHDEN, BUNTINGFORD, HERTS, SG9 0SN

TEL: 01763 288200

ST MARY'S CHURCH
RUSHDEN



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2017 -2018

INCOME	2017	2018
	£	£
Offertory box	16.13	42.34
Collections	3068.91	3533.10
Covenants	1140.00	1140.00
Donations	3528.90	4158.65
Interest and dividends	161.55	184.63
Funerals and weddings	1466.00	1839.00
	9381.49	10897.72

EXPENDITURE

Clergy expenses	1178.00	1692.00
Electricity	261.56	367.93
Insurance	1044.05	1084.80
Sundries	60.00	174.40
Parish share as billed	9932.00	9555.00
Donations	305.00	50.00
Church repairs	97.20	0
	12877.81	12924.13

Net Loss:	3496.32	2026.41
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Bank Balance at Year End 2018

Lloyds Bank	484.78
CBF General Fund	9229.31
CBF Fabric Fund	375.29

10089.38

Indebtedness at Year End 2018

Arrears in Parish Share

3500.00

Capital Balance 31/12/18

6589.38