

The church of
St. NICHOLAS

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**The community building for the
parish of Twywell for over 900 years**

Our Church

In our modern, fast paced society we have seen substantial improvements in the way we live our lives and for many people aspirations that seemed impossible years ago have become obtainable. We have, however, seen some challenges to our lives - particularly in rural communities like ours.

Rural churches are no exception and we are challenged by smaller congregations, increasing expenditure and more demanding regulations on our buildings. Not to mention lead theft!

Your church council (PCC) has received a number of enquiries from our community about these challenges and our funding. We therefore thought it appropriate to write to you all and answer some of these questions but also let you know how you can help:

Lead theft

Thankfully, and following a number of very generous donations and activities to raise sufficient funds to commence the project, we have completed the lead replacement work. We are now saving to pay for a security system that meets 2019 standards and will enable full roof insurance cover – (The current security measures, although extensive mean a reduced insurance cover).

Quite understandably a number of residents questioned the rationale in replacing lead for lead, particularly in light of so many incidents of theft. Some have suggested examples where churches have found alternative solutions. Our permission was granted to replace like for like. The main reasons being the age of the building, it's listed status and the location - being nestled tightly within the built settlement and lying within the Twywell Conservation Area.

All that being said we now have a repaired roof and we thank you for your encouragement and generous support that has got us this far!

Financial framework

Our costs increase on all fronts as the Diocese budget demands have made our parish share critical. There have been lots of rumour around what happens to the parish share and just to be clear the share pays for a permanent Vicar (basic salary and pension). If we do not pay this share we are unlikely to get a new incumbent or we could see our four-parish Benefice divided. In addition to our parish share, regulations and deterioration mean we need more funds to maintain our church building for all forms of public use.

To help you understand this better, here is a breakdown of our most recent annual costs;

St. Nicholas Church, Twywell – Costs 2018

	£
Fabric and maintenance (including Architects fees)	2,200
Insurance	1,500
Gas & Electricity Utilities	700
Parish share (Provision of Vicar)	6,000
Benefice newsletter	250
Upkeep for faith services (eg candles)	150
Churchyard (eg mower servicing, fuel)	60
Misc. (eg Charity donations, Bell ringers fund)	<u>150</u>
TOTAL	11,010

Our church within the Community – The future

We know that only a relatively small number of villagers attend church services regularly. We also know that a large majority of villagers value our church; whether that be as a truly beautiful historic community building that has been part of our parish since Saxon times, the more recent importance of Dr. David Livingstone and General Gordon’s connections, or that our church is simply an iconic part of our slice of rural England. In short, we know that having an active church is something that the community of Twywell, as a whole, wants to keep. Our aim is not only to preserve this as it is, but to move forwards towards establishing the church as the beating heart of the community.

So how can you help (The easy bit)?

In person by:-

Supporting the events: Whether that is the annual Twywell Festival, Safari Supper, Harvest Supper or any of the occasional other fund raisers or church festivals; either by volunteering or attending.

Maintenance volunteering: The fabric of the church building is like every other- whether it is clearing guttering, decorating or a task for a professional trade, there is always a job waiting to be done.

Financially by:-

Making regular donations: Regular donations (esp. by Standing Order or Direct Debit) are a great way to help. Regular income helps us plan properly and with the use of Gift Aid is very tax efficient – A separate dedicated gifting options leaflet is available from within the church porch, ask any member of the PCC, or request one by email at st.nicholas.twywell@gmail.com

Making an annual donation for the Together magazine:

Voluntary donations help maintain this bi-monthly parish and local news magazine.

Making a gift as part of your will: Death is something that most of us dislike talking about. Gifting via a will is a wonderful legacy for remembrance and is critical to the church being able to continue to remain active.

Sue Owens, a wills specialist partner at Borneo Martell Turner Coulston, Solicitors in Kettering, who has recently moved into the village, has offered to waive her costs for anyone making a will that includes a legacy gift to St. Nicholas Church. This is an incredibly generous offer, for which we thank Sue and BMTCL.



Susan Owens

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