



THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS', LITTLE KIMBLE

The Church of All Saints' has been part of the community of Little Kimble for many hundreds of years. Generations of families have sat in its pews and celebrated both personal and community events and festivals. We are blessed in this parish to have two magnificent, Grade 1 listed Churches, and although the smaller of the two, All Saints' has long been cherished as a valuable community asset: as a place of intimate worship, quiet contemplation and a true heritage treasure.

Did you know....?

- All Saints' Little Kimble boasts some beautiful **14th Century wall paintings**, which attract visitors from near and far
- All Saints' is **open to the public daily** to visit or for private prayer and contemplation.
- The Church is **run and maintained by local volunteers**, not by the Church of England
- The Church's current running costs are a **minimum of £6,000 per year**

Some recent quotes from our visitor's book

'Always an oasis of calm in a busy world. Amen.'

'Waited 10 years to come back to my most favourite small church in England.'

'Glad it was open.'

'utterly extraordinary!'

Like other Church of England Churches, All Saints', as well as St Nicholas', are run and maintained by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) - a group of dedicated volunteers from these Churches. The main source of funding for these buildings consists of individual regular and one-off donations, mainly from the congregations themselves, as well as fundraising activities. **The PCC does not receive Government funding.** As congregation sizes have decreased over recent years there are fewer people to contribute, yet the cost of maintaining these buildings has continued to increase.

The current challenge

With an average congregation size at All Saints' of just three, the increased running costs of the building have become unsustainable in the long-term.

How can you help?

We have experienced just what can be achieved when a community rallies together when St. Nicholas' Church was renovated in 2017, which included updating the facilities to include a servery and toilet, as well as safer, more even flooring being laid. The project was funded through a small number of charitable grants, the efforts of the PCC, but supported also by you, the local community who donated and attended fundraising events – for which we are extremely grateful.

Given the challenge of rising maintenance costs, we are keen to explore ways to safeguard All Saints' for future generations by seeking support from the wider community, to help us explore opportunities for the building to serve the village, and those who visit, in new ways. To help inform our thinking we are keen to hear your views on All Saints', and would be grateful if you would kindly take a few minutes to answer the questions in the attached survey, or online by scanning the QR code.

You are free to remain anonymous, but if you would like to be kept in touch with developments, or would like to be involved in any way, please leave your details at the end of the survey. When you have completed your survey, please either leave it in the box at the back of All Saints' or St. Nicholas' Church, or drop it into the postbox of Bookham House on Bridge Street (a few houses down from the end of Bridge Street near The Swan), **before 30 November 2023**. Thank you for your time and interest.

A few more recent quotes from visitors

'A lovely end to a nice walk, thank you for keeping it open. So peaceful.'

'Amazed at the wall paintings.'

'Salvation and sanctuary wrapped up in history - lifted my spirits.'

'Wish I could stay forever, such peace here.'

The Ven. Guy Elmore, Archdeacon of Buckingham, is in full support of this process, and has said he hopes the survey will:

“raise awareness of the challenges being faced by the PCC and draw out support and interest from the community of Kimble and perhaps even further afield. Our experience shows that these buildings do serve a wider purpose beyond worshipping on Sundays and that finding ways to increase active use of Church buildings is the best way to ensure their futures. Whilst there are no easy or quick solutions to the challenges involved with maintaining these significant heritage buildings, we have also seen what can be achieved when small communities come together to find ways of preserving these places of rich significance for future generations and for the benefit of the public.”
