

Appeal for help to support St Mary's, Upper Heyford

The Parish Church is facing some big challenges. We are so grateful for all the support we have been getting, financially and practically, but we are now needing to do more to secure her for the future.

The Rev'd Rob Gilbert writes: St Mary's is a precious place. But we face some big challenges, both to the church building's structure, decoration and fittings and to our core financial situation.

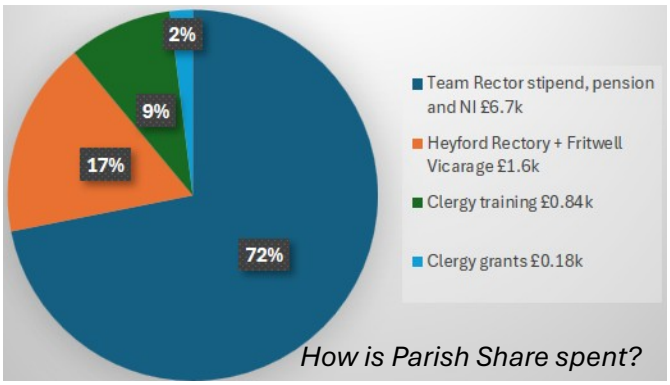






St Mary's Church. There are worrying structural changes in part of the Altar area, and a need to improve the decoration as a whole. We also need to raise money to install a toilet and small kitchenette to help us in catering for social events and services. Getting grants from external bodies will be important in doing these things. A bigger problem though is our core financial position.

Regular income supporting what we do. Our income is generated from collections in services, standing orders, and fundraising events. The main challenge we face is paying our Parish Share, which covers the costs of ministry. For 2026, the Parish Share for the Cherwell Valley Benefice, of which Upper Heyford is a part, is £64,903, and provides two priests, the Team Rector and Team Vicar. St Mary's Upper Heyford's contribution is £9,272. 89% funds the Team Rector, and housing for them and the Team Vicar. Though the Church of England has its own reserves and income, these are not available to us. Funds raised locally are essential to guarantee St Mary's remains the parish church for Upper Heyford.



What can you do to help? The best way for parish churches like St Mary's to fund their futures is through regular, planned giving. £1 per month will result in a £12 donation over a year, and with reclaim of tax through Gift Aid St Mary's will receive £15 in total; giving £5 monthly will provide £75 after tax reclaim, and £10 will result in £150. These sums would make a big difference to us and to meeting the challenges we face.

The best way to give regularly is to make use of the Parish Giving Scheme. The advantages of using this scheme include that it is easy to sign up, that the reclaim of Gift Aid is built in, and that you have the option to agree (or not) to an inflationary increase each year so that it follows rises in the cost of living.

PARISHGIVINGSCHEME

To sign up for the Parish Giving Scheme for St Mary's Upper Heyford, please see the link below (or scan QR code above):

https://bit.ly/4dA2TTG

Want to know more? We realise you may have questions or be interested in finding out more. We will be holding an information session on Thursday 15th October at 7pm in the Church, with refreshments provided. Please come along to find out more about our plans to ensure we can keep St Mary's Church as a place for family events, regular worship, and community occasions and celebrations in the village of Upper Heyford.

To see what's going on at St Mary's, p.t.o....

Our regular and upcoming services and events

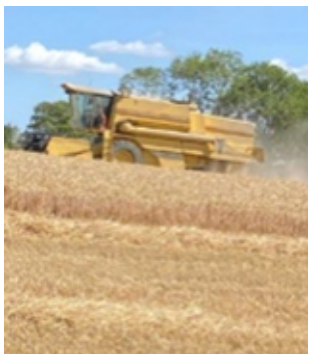
Monthly:

1st Sundays Family Communion, 9.30am

2nd Sundays Sung Evensong with refreshments to follow, 6pm

4th Sundays traditional Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion, 9.30am





Special events:

Harvest Festival

Sunday 4th October, 9.30am

Remembrance Services

Sunday 8th November, 9.30am Holy Communion, 10.15am Remembrance Sunday Service continuing at the Memorial Cross for 11am. 6pm Remembrance Evensong.



Christmas Events and Services

Sunday 13th December, 4.30pm Carols Sing-along with Janet Lincé at the Village Hall.

Wednesday 23rd December, 6pm Traditional Carol Service.

Christmas Eve, 11pm Midnight Communion and Celebration of Christmas.



Also see our website for more details:

Email: rob.gilbert@cherwellvalleychurch.org.uk