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ISSUE 01

St Matthew's News



Welcome to this first edition of our occasional newsletter for our neighbourhood.

In this issue we want to tell you about building work which will soon be evident on our 1875 listed church, as well as to encourage you to regard St Matthew's as a place of interest and community for all. It is not just for those who worship here.



We're 'Saving our Spire'

It was back in the Spring of 2017 that we became aware of the bad condition of the tower and spire of our Grade II listed church.

Since then the building has gone on the Historic England's 'Heritage at risk' register. As a listed building we are obligated to restore it at our own cost. Fortunately, we have been successful in being awarded a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant which will go about a third of the way towards the cost of the works (total approx. £600,000).

The good news is that as well as the renovation work we will end up with three new toilets – one of which will be fully accessible.

As a church we are not subject to ordinary local authority planning consents but instead the complicated church equivalent called the Faculty Process.

As part of this we are required to protect the bats which roost in the belfry and this work will be monitored by ecological experts in the field. We are reassured that they are not rare species but provision will still be made for them.

We're hoping that once the tower and spire are returned to their former glory we might attract back the Peregrine Falcon which paid us a visit a couple of years ago.

Whilst the works are taking place it will be business as usual inside, we hope. It may not be quite such a photogenic setting for our brides and there will be some upheaval with the building itself. We will have two scaffolding towers inside the building to ground a cleverly cantilevered scaffolding design which will support the main scaffolding reaching into the sky over 170 feet above!

We appreciate that there will inevitably be a considerable amount of disruption for our nearest neighbours (which does, of course, include the Vicar!) and we apologise for this in advance.



During the course of this year work will include:

- Masonry repairs and repointing of the tower and spire, removal of ferrous metal in the spire and overhaul of the cross and weather vane
- Repairs to belfry windows, tower parapets and guttering
- Overhaul and improvement of access to and within the belfry
- Installation of CCTV in the belfry to allow accessible viewing from the ground
- Restoration of the church bells.

We will do everything we can to minimise disruption

We will be meeting regularly with the contractors who appreciate the quiet residential nature of our community and will do what they can to respect this and safeguard it during the works.

If you have any concerns or questions please contact admin@stmatthewskt6.org

Timetable of works 2019



25 MARCH

Bells removed for restoration

15 APRIL

Commence scaffolding
(estimated to take six weeks)

21 APRIL

Easter

27 APRIL

Open Morning (see below)

MID-MAY

Commence external works

OCTOBER

Commence work on toilets

NOVEMBER

Work completed
Bells re-installed

25 DECEMBER

Happy Christmas!

Our Team



In order to take on this project we have gathered together a team of committed members of the church. Under the leadership of Team Rector, Rev'd Helen Hancock and with the Churchwardens responsible for the fabric of the building, the Team has experience in the law, banking, revenue and customs, marketing and communications.

The expertise on the building is provided by our professional team and particularly our architect Nick Bethune of award-winning conservation architects Oliver West & John Scott Architects Ltd.

The contractor appointed for the job, Universal Stone, is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year, so its credentials are longstanding. They have worked on historic buildings such as Leeds Castle, St Andrew Undershaft, St Mary Axe and Union Chapel Islington and will be using their tried and tested sub-contractors to support the programme of works.

The appointment of the Contractor followed a lengthy and careful vetting process and there will be a comprehensive safety plan in place which covers all aspects of working on site.

We are indebted to many individuals who have already donated towards our Appeal. We also acknowledge with gratitude the support of the H B Allen Trust, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Diocese of Southwark.



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Visit our website at
www.stmatthewskt6.org
for more info

SATURDAY

27 APRIL

OPEN MORNING 10am - 12pm

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Join our Facebook
page for details of
further meetings

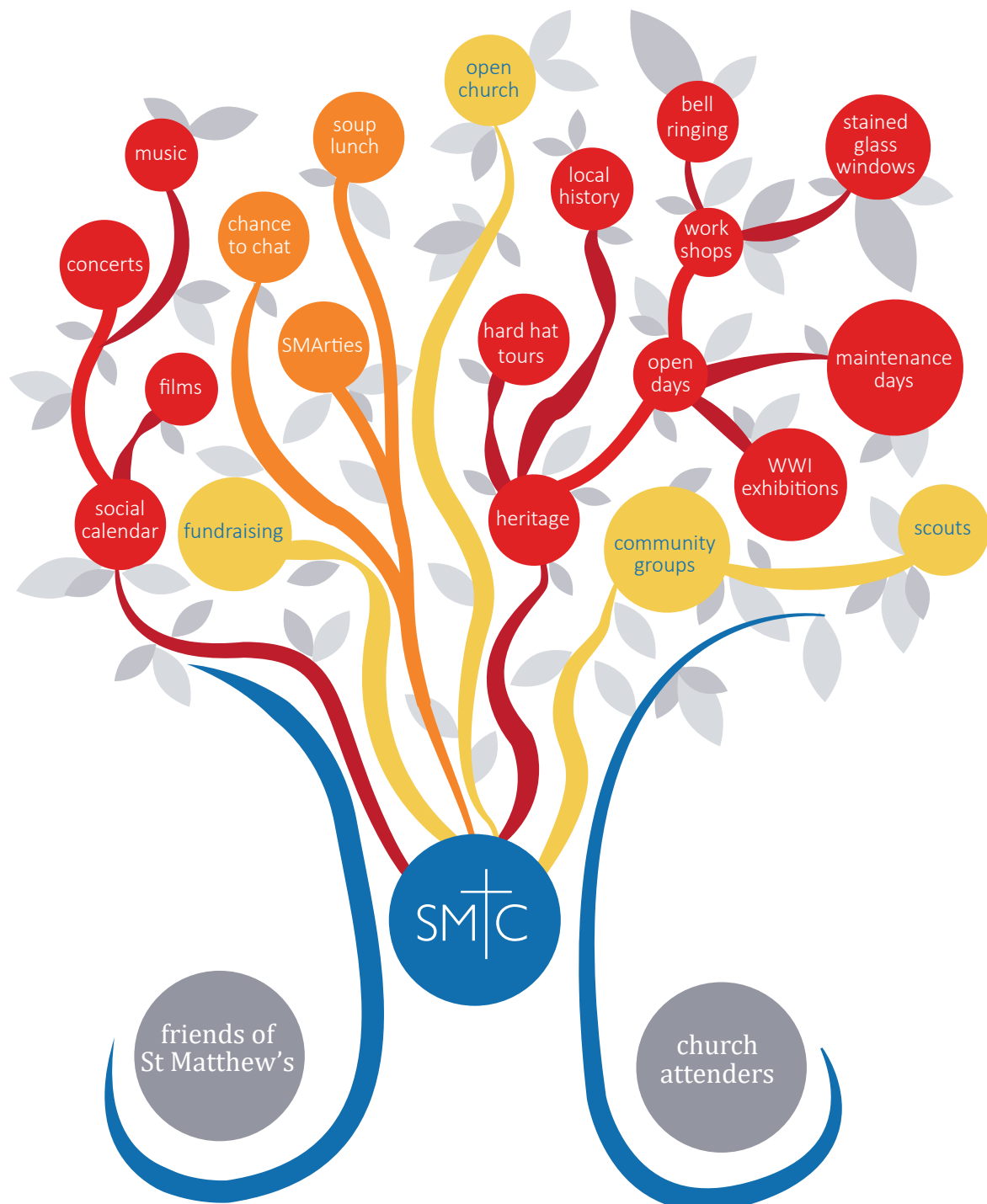
Come and see more of the plans, discuss what is going to happen and ask any questions

St Matthew's in the Community

You may not be aware of the many local groups and community interests with which we partner.

Equally you may not realise that we hold concerts, film showings, Heritage Open Days and other social events across the year. Inevitably at the moment, some of these events have a fundraising element to them but we are committed to our building being open and available for everyone in our community, hence *St Matthew's in the Community*.

We appreciate that there are many people who do not wish to visit the church as a place of worship but who value the heritage and beauty of the building. They may be interested in hearing more about this aspect. For that reason in 2018 we started the *Friends of St Matthew's* and if you are interested in joining please do take a look overleaf.



Becoming a Friend of St Matthew's Church

We would very much welcome you becoming a Friend of St Matthew's which will help support our community work through *St Matthew's in the Community*.

You will be:

- Kept informed about our important efforts to restore the Tower and Spire and safeguard the fabric of the building.
 - Invited to music, film and social activities which are held in the Church.
 - Invited to heritage activities within the Church, e.g. bell-ringing demonstrations and escorted heritage tours.
 - Encouraged to know that you are helping to protect and preserve a building of historic local importance.
- There is no fee to join the Friends group (although we would be delighted if you would like to make a donation).

Please find our application form at goo.gl/forms/fUd6nuzhSxdNMFZE3 or email admin@stmatthewskt6.org for a link.

If you are unable to access these please complete the form below and send it to **The Administrator, St Matthew's Church, St Matthew's Avenue, Surbiton KT6 6JQ** or drop it into the post box of 20A Kingsdowne Road.

Need to know more ?

To find out more about the church, its restoration, activities and news visit our

Website: www.stmatthewskt6.org

Facebook page: [StMatthewsChurchSurbiton](https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsChurchSurbiton)

You can also find out details of hiring the church or smaller rooms within it, as well as a number of ways to support the Tower and Spire Appeal financially, if you wish.



I would like to become a *Friend of St Matthew's Church* – please send me more details.

Where I have provided an email address I am happy to be contacted in this way for the purposes of joining the Friends.

Title (eg Mr.)

Name

Address

.....Postcode.....

Telephone

Email address

SignatureDate.....