



ST PETER'S CHURCH MONKHOPTON RESTORATION FUND

APPEAL FOR HELP



The problem The lovely little St Peter's Church, Monkhopton is in need of substantial repair. The 12c church situated in the village of Monkhopton deep in the countryside of south Shropshire needs £127,000 of restoration work. Our architect has advised that repairs including reroofing, repair to the exterior render, replacement of guttering and ground works to stop damp are required now to preserve the building for the future.

church restoration trusts. Even with such grants we will still have to raise around £7,000 from the community.

Why should we restore St Peter's? Well, apart from being an important focal point in the village of Monkhopton with a graveyard used by families over centuries it is an historic building containing notable features. St Peter's is a red stone and tie-beamed building dating from the 12th century. The external appearance has been cloaked by modern coverings, but the inside holds many fascinating historical insights. The church has a chancel, nave, south porch and a tower with pinnacles housing two bells. In 1552 the bells were described as being in a steeple which we now presume was the timber clad west bell turret recorded in 1789. The bells were surveyed in 1915 and the larger one was found to be dated 1727. The smaller one was found to be made by Abraham Rudhall and is inscribed 'callbells'. The porch, tower, organ chamber and plain segmented chancel were all built in 1835.



Movement cracks



Lost render coats



Fractured capping stone



Movement/render loss



Low level damp



Batten Sag

We have applied to English Heritage for a Lottery grant to help pay for the cost of the restoration work but that will still leave about £50,000 to be raised from other sources, such

There is a beautiful Norman window preserved from an old building that previously stood on the site of the current church. The window itself contains modern tracery. The main south doorway is late Norman with chamfered jamb stand and a good zig-zag

hood. The east window and Priest's door are two remarkable features from the 13th century. Windows at the western end of the church under the tower depict the 'way of the cross' and were taken from the east window of Upton Cresset church prior to 1970. These four panels are of 16th or 17th century German or Flemish glass and were relocated to St Peter's with the 'Cresset Brass'.

Circa 1840 the church was restored at Sir Frances Lawley's expense. The nave's 12th century windows were blocked in, three new windows inserted on the north side and one on the south, all being copied from the medieval tracery window in the south wall. An embattled brick or stone turret replaced the former timber framed bell turret and was supported by a brick wall built across the nave near the west end. A completely new porch was built. Medieval moldings were extensively renewed and the whole exterior was rendered with incised lines to imitate ashler joists. At an unknown later date, a new three light window was inserted and a vestry was added to the north of the chancel.

A new organ was erected in 1889 by public subscriptions. The organ went on to occupy the vestry area and it wasn't until 1938 that a new north vestry at the west end on the nave was dedicated. During this time the chancel was furnished with an English altar and a plain oak pulpit was given in 1946 by Lady De Vesci and the former plain oak one was donated to Linley church.

The painting above the font is a 19th century copy depicting St Peter with the keys. The wooden chancel screen and communion rail are all 19th century. The majority of monuments in the church are to members of the Lawley family, who were Barons of Wenlock. The church chalice and paten are both Elizabethan and the paten is dated 1571.

St Peter's had no burial rites in Tudor times, these were reserved for Holy Trinity Much Wenlock. By 1701 St Peter's had obtained these rites and marriages were also solemnized there.

How can you help? As a small rural village we need lots of help to undertake restoration work. We need your time to undertake fund raising activities, time to help organise and supervise the work when it starts and time to participate in working parties on straightforward tasks. We also need donations to the fund to meet our target of £7,000 to be raised from the community.

If you would like to see St Peter's preserved and would like to help with the project in any way please contact:

- Hazel Harrison on 01746 785027
- Revd John Ward on 01746 764758

If you would like to donate to the fund please send your cheque made payable to **Monkhopton PCC (Restoration Fund)** and post to our Treasurer Mr T.B.Morris, Wesholme, Underton, Bridgnorth WV16 6TY with your address. The PCC pledges that all donations will be held in a restricted fund and applied solely to the cost of restoration work at St Peter's.

We can claim tax relief on your donation if you provide your address and confirm that you pay income tax.

Thank you for your interest and we hope this leaflet has inspired you to help St Peter's, Monkhopton.

