

500 YEARS OLD –ST. MARY’S YOUR PARISH CHURCH

In 2024, St. Mary’s, your Parish Church, will have been keeping watch over Disley serving and ministering to its local community for 500 years.

If it is to continue to do so for another 500 years or, indeed, for another 50 years, we need to develop strategies for the RESTORATION and maintenance of its ancient structure and for its SUSTAINABILITY as an important part of the fabric of the local Disley community.

WE NEED YOUR HELP



The history of St. Mary’s dates back to 1510 and a small Chapel with tower was completed in 1524, hence the 500 year anniversary. Henry VIII (1509-1547) was on the throne at the time of its completion and in the 19th century the Church was extended significantly.

St. Mary’s is a Grade II* Listed Building of historical importance and requires careful looking after.

CHALLENGES FOR 2023 AND BEYOND

The challenges St Mary’s faces in 2023 and beyond are:-

RESTORATION:

A 500 year old Grade II* Listed Building needs constant care, repair, maintenance and restoration, so we have recently launched the **St. Mary’s 500 Restoration Appeal**. £330,000/£350,000 is needed to fully restore the ancient structure and will have to be raised by a combination of Grant Funding, Donations, Fundraising and use of Reserves. Phase 1 of this Project requires the urgent restoration of the Tower and West end elevations and will hopefully start in Spring 2024. This has an estimated to cost of £200,000.

Phase 2, the restoration of the remainder of St. Mary’s structure, will follow and has an estimated cost of £130,000 / £150,000.

SUSTAINABILITY:

Currently, the entire financial existence of St. Mary's is dependent upon its church family and they alone provide for its worship and ministries in Disley Parish, the maintenance and upkeep of the church building and church grounds and a contribution towards the salary of the Vicar.

The annual cost of these expenses and outgoings is approximately £100,000 i.e.: £2,000 per week.

The Government does not provide any financial support for Churches, nor does Chester Diocese, nor does any other ecclesiastical or state organisation. So, St. Mary's has to find ways to ensure financial sustainability.

However, Sustainability is not just about funding St. Mary's current position; it is also about how we sustain for the future your Parish Church and its fellowship as central parts of our local community.

CONSULTATION and SURVEY

St. Mary's would like to understand the views of as many people as possible regarding its future and its place and role in the Disley community. Accordingly, we would encourage you to express your views through a survey which can be found on:

St Mary's Parish Church: Disley web site and e- bulletins.

Or by simply scanning the QR Code below



The Consultation and Survey is open until 24 June 2023.