

FUNDING OF ALL SAINTS' CROYDON cum CLOPTON

HOW YOU CAN HELP TO KEEP CROYDON CHURCH OPEN

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

It is extremely difficult, though still possible, to obtain grants for major church repair projects but it is a surprise to most people to learn that in England there is **NO** financial support given to Parish Churches to help with day to day running costs. **ALL** of these costs are paid out of funds raised by Croydon PCC and if they cannot be paid then, inevitably, All Saints' would eventually close. With churches having been closed throughout the lockdowns, and with no fundraising events, these are even more challenging times.

HOW DOES CROYDON PCC RAISE FUNDS FOR RUNNING COSTS?

As you might expect funds are raised from service collections, and community events but the firm foundation is from regular givers (usually monthly) but this burden is carried by relatively few people so the PCC is seeking to share the load more evenly. If you want All Saints' to remain open, for whatever reasons be they spiritual, community wellbeing, village life, a connection to Croydon, or simply historical interest, then please read on. Even just a few more regular givers would make a significant difference to being able to fund day to day expenses which is essential for safeguarding the future of Croydon Church.

WHY ALL SAINTS' CHURCH IS WORTH RETAINING

All Saints' and its Churchyard continue to play an important part in village life. Both are open every day of the year to all-comers of any denomination and of none. All Saints' is used for regular services, and by locals and visitors as a haven of peace and a place for quiet reflection. The Visitor Book contains many appreciative and moving entries. It continues to be used by local families for Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals, Easter & Christmas celebrations, as well as for Concerts and Art & History displays. Its Churchyard is open for Burials and Ashes to every Croydon resident, and to those with a connection to Croydon.

It is also of great historical value. It is a Grade II* listed building which puts it in the top 5% of the most significant and historic buildings in England. Its core (the Nave) was constructed early in the C13th so is 800 years old, the Tower is in excess of 600 years, and Chancel 400 years. It is highly regarded as a rare example of an unspoiled rural mediaeval Church in a fine Churchyard setting. But this was not always a sleepy backwater as, most surprisingly, buried in the Chancel Crypt lie the remains of the builder of 10 Downing Street in London and Downing College Cambridge, together with family members so it is of national significance. Its international connections stretch particularly to Canada where several local families emigrated during the C19th; a further surprise is that a Rector of Croydon during the 1840s became the First Bishop of Metropolitan Canada in Montreal and to whom a large memorial is dedicated.

HOW MUCH IS NEEDED TO COVER ROUTINE EXPENDITURE?

Each year the PCC has to raise around £6,500 simply to cover running costs and to function as an ecclesiastical Parish. The most significant running cost items are (2019):

- £3,500 Croydon's contribution to the Diocese of Ely

- £1,350 Parish expenses (utilities, licences, fire equipment etc)
- £1,100 Building Insurance (minimal cover)
- £500 Average for routine maintenance.

These figures do not include major repair projects which come along from time to time as these are in an altogether different league and would be impossible to do without large external grants. Sadly, large repair grants are now much more difficult to find and in many cases would not be granted if All Saints' cannot continue to cover its running costs.

The PCC is also responsible for the Churchyard which is open to all in the parish for burials, interment of ashes and visiting. In recognition of this contribution to the community, Croydon Parish Council shares the cost of maintaining the Churchyard(s) and this sharing is most welcome.

IT IS EASY TO CONTRIBUTE

Financially supporting All Saints' is even better if Gift Aided because then HMRC will add a further 25p in every £1 for free! Giving without limiting the purposes makes the PCC's job much easier, nonetheless, if you wish your giving to be used only for eg building works, then such wishes can be accommodated.

For the very purpose of supporting Parish Churches a national Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) has been launched and is already being used by over 1300, often hard pressed, parishes across the country. Contributions can be made monthly, quarterly or annually, and with options to apply inflation and to gift aid reclaimed tax. A big advantage of this new scheme is that it takes all the administrative load off hard pressed local PCC Treasurers, also anonymity can be maintained if requested.

If you are already a regular giver then please also consider joining the scheme and perhaps increasing your giving.

If you would like to discuss giving, or the Parish Giving Scheme, or wish to request a copy of the very simple form then please contact:

Tim at tim.j.walters@talk21.com or Malcolm at malcolmralph@hotmail.com

For more general information on the Parish Giving Scheme please go to:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk> or Telephone 03330-021271

*If you do not feel able to commit to regular giving at this time but would like to give a one off donation then please use this Just Giving link

below: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/croydon-PCC>

**Thank you very much for taking the time to read this.
Any contributions will be very gratefully received.**

Croydon Parochial Church Council