

# SAVE OUR SPIRE

DO YOU LOVE TO HEAR THE BELLS RING?

DO YOU LOVE THE HERITAGE OF OUR VILLAGE CHURCH?

DO YOU LOVE THAT THIS IS ONE OF 'FEW' CHURCHES 'LEFT' WITH A ROUND TOWER?

DO YOU LOVE THE SCENIC VIEWS OF OUR CHURCH IN ALL SEASONS?

DO YOU LOVE HAVING A RARE 'CHURCH BUILDING' IN OUR VILLAGE?

## WHY YOU ASK?

Because this will be 'NO MORE' if the Spire is not repaired URGENTLY!

This is NO cliche! This is SERIOUS!

If you love your church, your village, your community – PLEASE HELP?

Please see attached for the 'worrying' facts and the financial status.....





# SAVE OUR SPIRE



**DO YOU LOVE TO HEAR THE BELLS RING?**

**Did you know the bells have rung from as early as 1482?**

**DO YOU LOVE THE HERITAGE OF OUR CHURCH?**

**Did you know that the spire dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and '2 of our 6' bells date from 1613 and 1580?**

**DO YOU LOVE A RARITY?**

**Did you know there is a 'Fresco' painting in the tower? The 'only' modern/20th century Fresco painting in England? This was painted by the famous artist Rosemary Rutherford in 1942. The painting is of 'Christ stilling the storm'. It was painted on wet plaster during a break from the war.**

**DO YOU LOVE THAT WE ARE ONE OF 'FEW' CHURCHES LEFT WITH A ROUND TOWER?**

**Did you know there are only 6 Round Tower Churches left in Essex including ours?**

**DO YOU LOVE THE PHOTOS TAKEN OF OUR CHURCH IN ALL SEASONS?**

**The winter mornings, the sunrise, the sunsets, the springtime, the summer weddings, the family occasions!**



All of the above will just be 'HISTORY' if we FAIL to repair the SPIRE ROOF! I know you hear many times that churches need funds for roof repairs but this REALLY is the case! The Spire roof is so BADLY damaged from water ingress that the timbers underneath the 'wood tiled shingles' are rotting and very soon, 'sadly', they will be unable to hold the heavy church bells. The shingle tiles are badly damaged by the birds (mainly woodpeckers) and the holes 'now' present are large enough for squirrels to enter and make a home for themselves; the rain is just flooding through! The repair needed will cost £150,000 – we have raised £70,000 so far over the last 5 years! But time **IS RUNNING OUT** and we **NEED YOUR HELP?!** Its been a tough year for everyone, the Church has suffered too as donations have been very 'light' as we have only been able to offer 'online services' for most of this last year.

**DO YOU WANT THE CHURCH BELLS TO RING AT YOUR SON OR DAUGHTERS WEDDING?**

**DO YOU WANT TO PRESERVE THE 'ONLY' MODERN 20TH CENTURY FRESCO PAINTING IN ENGLAND?**

**DO YOU WANT TO SEE THE BEAUTIFUL CHURCH TOWER REMAIN AS AN ICONIC LANDMARK OF OUR COMMUNITY?**

**I DO !**

If you can help – please click on the link attached to our 'just giving page' . All donations, however small, will be gratefully received.

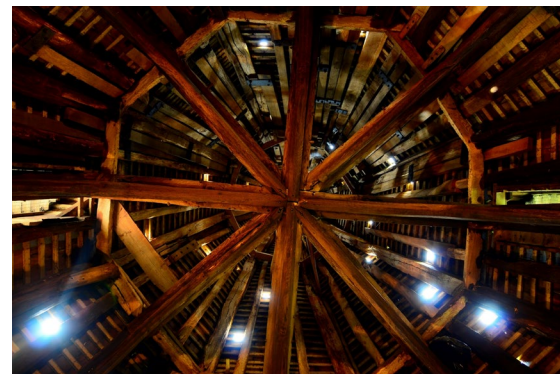
<https://justgiving.com/campaign/stmaryssaveourspire>

UPDATES will be shared with you as we continue the campaign to **SAVE OUR SPIRE !**

GRATEFUL THANKS XXX



**The wood shingle roof tiles are now badly damaged with serious major holes, where rain water is then damaging the timbers beneath. This Spire roof also 'houses' the church bells.**



This photo was taken, standing directly underneath the Spire Roof, where the bells are also held for ringing. You can see the light coming in from the damaged holes in the roof. ?!



In the tower is the only true fresco in an English church. *Christ stilling the Storm* was painted by Rosemary Rutherford, artist daughter of the then Vicar, in 1943 when on leave from war service. Her brother helped mix the fresh plaster and traditional techniques were followed as far as possible. The fresco has been restored recently and the tower can be opened on request. **WE NEED TO PROTECT THIS PAINTING WHICH IS ON THE WALL IN THE BELL TOWER.**



The Tower was added to the Church in the early 12c and is one of six circular or round Towers in Essex. The Tower is 15ft. Diameter and 2 storeys high. It has a conical roof rising to an octagonal spire. The Tower arch into the Church has a semi-circular head and plain responds which are much restored. On the ground floor are three round headed windows with jambs and head of roman brick. The upper storey has similar windows but these have been repaired with 17c bricks. The spire has four gabled lights.

**OUR JUST GIVING PAGE.....THANK YOU**

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