Sharing the burden: *how rural congregations in England are finding ways to encourage others in their communities to help them look after their local places of worship.*

Becky Payne, Development Officer for the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance, and independent consultant
St Peter's Church Restoration Appeal

£120,000
£110,000
£100,000
£90,000
£80,000
£70,000
£40,000

Thank you for your help in the raising of £100,000 towards the cost of Phases 1 & 2 (Raise-the-Roof).

The essential work of Phase 3 - PAINT, PLASTER & POLISH is still to come so please continue your support for the fund-raising events planned. See Notices.

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Vinyl Graphics

HOOK NORTON: 01608 737641
St Edburg, Bicester, Oxfordshire
Question 6

Would you be in favour of a more flexible seating system?

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Parish</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Know</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>31</td>
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</table>
Question 8b

Bearing in mind that the Memorial Hall could accommodate some of the activities listed below would you be in favour of the church being available for Lent courses, seminars, concerts, drama?

**Lent Courses**

- Yes: Members 49, Parish 10, Don't Know 4
- No: Members 28, Parish 48

**Seminars**

- Yes: Members 34, Parish 69
- No: Members 69, Parish 0
- Don't Know: Members 3, Parish 12

**Concerts**

- Yes: Members 44, Parish 12
- No: Members 15, Parish 55
- Don't Know: Members 6, Parish 6

**Drama**

- Yes: Members 31, Parish 16
- No: Members 68, Parish 78
- Don't Know: Members 13, Parish 26
Before
Love in Action!

St Luke’s exists to build community in the local area, and to bring spiritual inspiration, emotional support and practical help to those in need.

Parents and Toddlers

Welfare advice

St Luke’s Got Talent!

Creative projects

I feel happier when I come here. I feel safer and really relaxed.
Hollie (age 13)

Wednesday Drop-in

It’s everything to us. Rita & Trinity

Bring & share

It’s a church when we play football with children on a Sunday afternoon, knock on a neighbour’s door to see if they are OK, or when so many people from the community wander in for a cup of tea and a chat. Love in action!

Elie

Community Network lunches

Festivities

Tips

The new building will have:

access for everyone, a chill-out room for quieter activities, and a community kitchen. We will keep the foundations and the timber structure, remove the asbestos and rotten woodwork, and fully insulate the building.

The difference the Big Project will make

The new facilities will improve the quality of what we can offer the community, enabling those who need a quieter space to use the extra chill-out room for small groups or one-to-one support. It will create more meeting space, and encourage more people to access our different groups.

We have plans to use the new building for better provision for the visual and performing arts which are very popular at St Luke’s.

The more spacious kitchen will encourage new skills particularly in young people and will be available to people who may wish to hire rooms for special events. The building will be a source of pride for the area, and offer hope to those who feel marginalised or isolated. Already, the Big Project is having a positive effect on many people’s lives as they get involved.

Revd Jane Sherwood, Vicar

Bishop John, Patron of the Big Project

St Luke’s is a brave and impressive church serving a community with high rates of deprivation and punching well above its weight. Its work with children and vulnerable families is particularly effective. I’m proud to support the practical and well-grounded caring activity that St Luke’s offers to so many.
St Andrew's Church –
a brief history

Holt parish church is first mentioned in 1299 on the
death of Sir John de Vale whose family had held the
manor since the Norman Conquest. The chancel, the
nave and the tower were all constructed in the 14th
century and the chancel aisle the nave in the roof.

On May 1st 1758 a disastrous fire swept through
the town destroying many of its wooden buildings
and, sparking on the thatched church roof, the
church too. The beautiful Georgian centre of Holt
arose from the ashes as did the church, thanks to
contributions from congregations across the land and
wealthy individuals including Robert Walpole, Eng-
land’s first Prime Minister and the Prince of Wales,
the future George II. Later changes to the church’s
interior were carried out by the renowned Victorian
architect, William Butterworth.

So, for perhaps a thousand years, Holt and its
Church have grown and prospered from the
north–south axis and with the town developing
around it as its population increased over the
decades.

Providing for these needs

A building solution to meet these urgent needs has
been designed by the church architect Ruth Black-
man of Bedford, Swath and Blackman, to the south
of the church, extending from the existing eastern
end, and also extending through the churchyard boundary wall,
while continuing to make use of land adjacent to the churchyard,
purchased by Greatham School.

Ruth Blackman reflects on some of the main
features of her design concept as follows:

"...the introduction of a curved roof that not only
contains the final church from the south but also
forms a distinct valley of the newly built church. The
roof’s curve is reflected in the churchyard walls.

It is essential that the new facilities maintain a visual
and spiritual link with the church while providing
new formal lifestyles. The visual and physical
connection between the extension, the church and
the churchyard is reinforced by the use of large
areas of glazing into the new multi-purpose meeting room
wall facing the church...."

What the new extension will provide:

• Main West Entrance & Lobby providing an
entry and reception area for visitors, a meeting
space for clergy and choir prior to processing into
the church and an area supporting special events in
church.

• Clay Vestry / Sacristy.

• A Parish Office giving a permanent work base
for the Administrator.

• A Multi-Purpose Meeting Room to be used as
a social club for the Sunday School during services,
choir practices, meetings and special events. There will also be storage facilities.

• A Servery to provide drinks and light refresh-
ments.

• Utility / Boiler Room which will include storage
for cleaning materials and flower arranging access-
ories.

• W.C.s – two cubicles, one modified for the
disabled, and baby changing facilities.

• Garden / Terrace – a place of peace and
tranquillity.

Community Use:

The provision of the new facilities opens up opportu-
nities for far greater access to the community.

With its excellent acoustics, the church will be able
to take its place as a fine venue for concerts, public meet-
ings, talks and lectures, exhibitions and festivals. The
meeting room will be available for smaller groups.

The garden terrace, accessed from the meeting room,
ofers a delightful alternative venue for gatherings
during the summer months.
St John’s, Stadhampton
A project of this nature is fraught with difficulties—it demands the consistent 'whipping in' of individuals to maintain the momentum required to move forward and to obtain the accuracy that financial responsibilities and budgetary control demands when working with other people's money!