

TOWER RESTORATION APPEAL

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, STREATLEY

HELP PRESERVE SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

St Margaret's Church stands in the village of Streatley, just a few miles north of Luton, behind the Chequers pub. The present church, a Grade One Listed Building, was built in the 14th century; the tower being added around a hundred years later. The listing means that the church is not only a much loved local treasure but is also part of the nation's architectural heritage. The tower is also lit (by sponsorship) from dusk until 11:00pm each night, which makes it even more prominent and a much appreciated feature of the village.

The building has a chequered history. For a significant part of the last century the church was empty, the roof fell in and a tree grew inside. Fortunately, the building was restored and reopened in October 1938. Since then, it has become increasingly popular as it continues to serve the needs of the parish, which encompasses the village of Streatley, along with the communities of Warden Hill and Bramingham Park / Barton Hills. The church also has a much used Parish Centre in Lucas Gardens, Bramingham Park.



The church is in an open position on a fairly exposed site. This means that the tower catches the prevailing weather from the south west. The tower is built from large blocks of clunch, a reasonably soft local stone. It has also been heavily repaired with cobbles, render and brick.

In recent years, the tower has begun to deteriorate, partly due to the wide range of materials which have been used in its construction and previous restorations and partly due to softness of the local stone. The rough parts of the tower, which you can see on the photograph as the lighter areas, show where the weather is 'eating' into the tower. These damaged areas now require urgent repair. Where necessary, the soft local stone will be replaced with a stronger variety and the three main sides of the tower will be repointed. The tower's slate roof will also be overhauled.

Unfortunately, a significant investment of just under £180,000 is required to carry out these urgent repairs, which is why we are asking for your help. Although we are a popular church, we are not a rich one and, like many others in these difficult times, we are feeling the impact of the recession.

Please help support this significant part of our local community and our local heritage by making a donation to our Tower Restoration Fund. We appreciate whatever you can afford. Many thanks for reading this leaflet.

For our latest news, please visit our website www.stmargaret-streatley.org.uk

If you would like to become a regular supporter of the church building, please telephone 'The Friends of St Margaret's Church' on (01582) 508 322.

GIFT AID DECLARATION FORM

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Are you a UK taxpayer?

If so, you can use Gift Aid to make your donation go further by completing this declaration. If you Gift Aid your donation, we can claim Gift Aid tax relief of 25p on every pound you give. Please note that we are still very happy to receive your donation, even if you are unable to use Gift Aid.

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, STREATLEY: TOWER RESTORATION APPEAL

Amount £ _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

Please tick here if you would like to Gift Aid your donation.

Forename _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

To qualify for Gift Aid, you must pay an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 25p for each £1 given). Tax year is 6th April one year to 5th April the next.

Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax. Basic rate tax is currently 20%, which allows charities to reclaim 25 pence on the pound.

Higher rate taxpayers can claim back the difference between basic rate and higher rate tax.

Please complete this form, separate it from our appeal letter and send it with your donation to:

Church Treasurer, 2 Stanley Road, Streatley, Bedfordshire, LU3 3PW

Please make cheques payable to:

St Margaret's Church, Streatley

and write '**Tower Restoration**' on the back.

Many thanks for supporting our Church Tower Restoration.

Priest-in-Charge (Day Off - Monday)

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