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ISSUE 02

# St Matthew's News



In this issue we want to update you about the building work taking place to save the church's spire and also share some of the details about our recent Heritage Open Days.



Rev'd Helen Hancock

## Restoration News

No-one in the area can have failed to notice the St Matthew's 'pagoda' that has appeared as the restoration work on the church's tower and spire has been taking place. The defective stonework is steadily being removed and replaced with new blocks and lime mortar, which will make the tower safe and secure for many years to come.

Unfortunately, as the builders have progressed with the work they have discovered further defects which weren't apparent from the initial surveys and which couldn't have been foreseen when the work started. This means that the extra time needed to source new stone has caused the original end date for the project (mid-November) to be put back to the end of January (hopefully).

Earlier delays with the scaffolding and recent rain have also contributed to this. Nevertheless the scaffolding will gradually begin to come down from early November onwards as the restoration proceeds down towards ground level.

We're sorry that this will mean a few more weeks of noise and occasional disruption but hope that you will understand that the reasons are beyond anyone's control – and it would be short-sighted, if not irresponsible, not to deal with the newly-discovered stonework defects while the scaffolding is in place.



We are doing  
everything we  
can to minimise  
disruption



The plans...



The creation...



All ready to go!





## Heritage Open Day



More details will soon be on our new website!

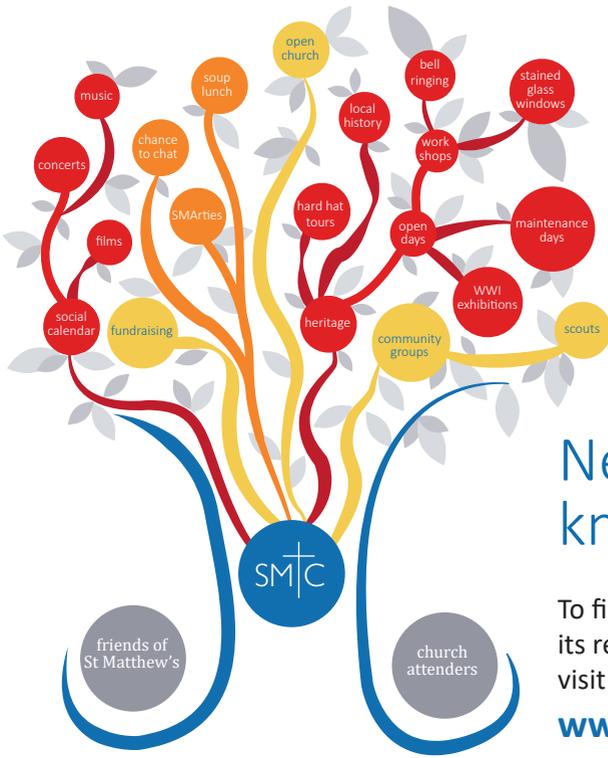
At our Heritage Open Days in September some local people were fortunate enough to be able to climb the 25 'ladders' up to the top of the scaffolding. Not for the faint-hearted or the weak-kneed, it was quite a climb but definitely worth the effort. What a view and in glorious sunshine on both Saturday mornings!

Others who visited the church enjoyed the Exhibition presented in the Chapel. Much of this information will be available when our new website launches next month. There is to be a Heritage section in which you will be able to see some of the fascinating plans and photos which have been compiled since the very beginning of St Matthew's in 1875 and find out more about its history too.

The Heritage Open Days also included two more concerts in our occasional and popular series. We are grateful to Felix Elliott (organ) and Alicia Dine and Roland Gallery (flute and piano).

If you missed out on this, then why not join Friends of St Matthew's so that you will always be up to date with what is going on with St Matthew's in the Community. Please visit our website to join.

Once the Tower and Spire Project is complete, it will be possible to see (albeit from a distance) some of the wonderful craftsmanship which has gone into the project. Great care has been taken to produce finials which will grace the Tower pinnacles and lucarnes (spire windows).



## Need to know more ?

To find out more about the church, its restoration, activities and news visit our Website:

[www.stmatthewskt6.org](http://www.stmatthewskt6.org)

SATURDAY 18 JANUARY

# SILENT MOVIE AFTERNOON

4.30pm

Live organ  
accompaniment  
by Tom Bell

Refreshments  
and retiring  
collection

LAUREL & HARDY SHORTS



No tickets required! Bring your friends!