

The Parish Church of St Mary's Storrington
Report on Fundraising for APCM 21st April 2016

In the months following last year's APCM, the Church Treasurer was predicting a likely shortfall in funding for Church expenses based on the previous year's month by month expenditure and the current year's income. The realisation that the church roof not only had a leak and water damage but an attack of dry rot caused considerable alarm. With the Rector's approval the Churchwardens and Treasurer made an appeal to the congregation at each service on Sunday 12th July 2015.

We asked for donations, an increase in regular giving and for offers of help with fund raising. As a result of a very generous response (and insurance pay-outs) the year ended with a surplus, which the fabric report for this meeting shows is going to be very helpful. Thank you and everyone who helped. Some people also responded with their personal views that increasing regular giving was not possible for them but that they were willing to respond with one-off gifts for appeals. Others felt it hard to give more than they were doing and we recognise how true this is for some. So it becomes necessary to raise funds by our efforts and activities and with the hope that this could be a positive and fulfilling experience and add to the life of the Church.

It has proved so and the PCC and Churchwardens are most grateful for the marvellous assistance, generosity and helpful attitudes from so many. The following is to record fund-raising activities that have taken place in addition to the Church Concerts (recorded in another report) that have now become a regular part of our calendar.

There have been three well attended coffee mornings and a cocktails evening.

The Poems and Puddings was a well-attended, happy social occasion.

The sponsored slims were entirely coincidental.

A talk on Incas and the Inca Trail was enjoyed, helped by a glass or two of wine.

A donation of £250 was received from Storrington Lyons Club.

Sussex Historic Churches Trust granted £2000 towards the roof work.

The Bazaar was reintroduced and strongly supported by donations from congregation, and village businesses and made a success by stall holders, organisers and by Church and other villagers who generously donated, bought goods and fluttered on the raffle.

Garden produce, jams and cheese nibbles have been sold at the back of the church.

Garden flowers were photographed to make lovely notelets to sell.

Used stamps are collected and sold.

We participated in the annual sponsored ride and stride event.

We do need to continue our efforts and thank you to you all, far too many to name, who have helped in so many ways and including organising, donating and participating in these events. You have given generously and enriched the life of the church and village community and hopefully had enjoyment too.