



Sutton Mandeville Villagers launch church appeal 2003

LORD Peter Brooke, of Sutton Mandeville, is heading a restoration appeal to raise £100,000 and save his village church. The former Northern Ireland secretary was at his parish church, All Saints, on Friday night for the official launch. He was one of a number of people who spoke of the church's plight and what needed to be done to preserve its unique history. In particular, the 12th century tower, which is currently shored up, is in desperate need of repair. The roof and some stonework also need attention, and sections of plaster have started to lift.

Jane King, churchwarden, said: "We are a hamlet and our church is our only communal building, but over the years it has deteriorated. "We've been doing ongoing repairs but we've had a recent inspection and all these things have come to light that we've got to get repaired if we want to keep our beautiful church."

Over the years, villagers have raised £24,000 for their church and, since the appeal started three weeks ago, they have already raised an additional £6,000.

Mrs King said: "We have an annual barbecue and we all help with Fovant village fete, so we have been begging and borrowing money from these two things each year. "We have got us a very good start and, since we started the appeal, people have been pledging money. "It doesn't matter how much people give - every little bit helps."

Over the next three years, the appeal committee hopes to organise a variety of events and activities, including flower festivals, quiz evenings and auctions, to raise additional funds. "We are hoping that, once we have raised half of it, various charitable organisations will give us some more," said Mrs King. "We are very pleased with the response we have had so far and I hope it will continue."

Anyone wishing to contribute to Sutton Mandeville's church appeal can contact Jane King, on 01722 714648.

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