



**St Peter & St Paul's Parish Church,
Wem**

**A Service of Praise and Thanksgiving
for the completion of our
Restoration Project**

**Wednesday 13th April 2016
at 7.30 p.m.**

Order of Service

Opening Hymn

422 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven!

Welcome and Opening Prayers

Hymn

490 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want

Presentations

Hymn

518 Thy hand, O God, has guided

Bible Reading: Psalm 122

Sermon

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Hymn

33 Angel-voices ever singing

Douglas Dytor, Organist and Choirmaster, will play a piece on the organ.

Closing Prayers and Blessing

Closing Hymn

354 Now thank we all our God

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*Everyone is most welcome to stay for light refreshments served in the Church Hall after the Service.*

## The Restoration Appeal

In 2009 the church's Quinquennial report highlighted three specific priorities:-

- a) Major work on the tower stone and statues —  
estimated cost £80,000
- b) Replacement of the cracked Tenor Bell —  
estimated cost £20,000
- c) Total restoration work on the Organ —  
estimated cost £40,000

A project of this size would not be possible without careful planning and so a small committee was formed to take on the task, made up with the following — Richard Hood, Douglas Cooley, Chris Mellings, Olive Kenward and myself and ably assisted by our P.C.C. Treasurer Caroline Sinclair, it must also be noted that Sarah Dean played a huge part in the Tenor Bell replacement.

Key to the scheme was to let people know our aims and objectives — advertise every step and keep people aware of the progress we were making. A board showing in "thermometer style" the target and funds received, and sited at the corner of the church lawn. A full colour "campaign leaflet", highlighting the importance of the appeal and stressing the historical background of the building and its place at the centre of the life of the town, was produced and distributed at the launch of the appeal.

This took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2011 with a concert in the church given by the Wem Jubilee Band. Words of encouragement included in the programme came from the Mayor of Wem, Cllr M. Meakin, the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire and The Bishop of Shrewsbury.

What followed was a series of events made up of wildly differing activities, some of which I will list to give a flavour of our efforts:-

- Choir concerts including Faul's Choir, Shrewsbury Male Voice Choir, Of One Accord, Wem Community Choir, Shrewsbury Cantata Choir, St. Mary's Singers, Midland Chorale and Jean Martyr on the organ.
- A sponsored abseil from the tower was a great fun day. Three events at Palms Hill house, a Strawberry Tea and two Silent Auctions were easy tickets to sell. On two occasions we had a sponsored scripture reading marathon, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seen as an act of worship as well as a fund raising event.
- A two day flower festival staged in the church, which included a marathon organ recital by our organist Doug Dytor, all proving a great success. We also pulled off a coup by persuading the Red Arrows Team to fly over the church twice on the second day.
- A quiz night with fish and chip supper, as always, proved popular, as did the hog roast.

In spite of all this activity our target would not have been reached and the work completed without the generous individual donations received from the people of Wem and for all of this and the efforts of many we are extremely grateful.

*Peter Faulknull*

*Please visit our website: [www.wemcofe.co.uk](http://www.wemcofe.co.uk)*