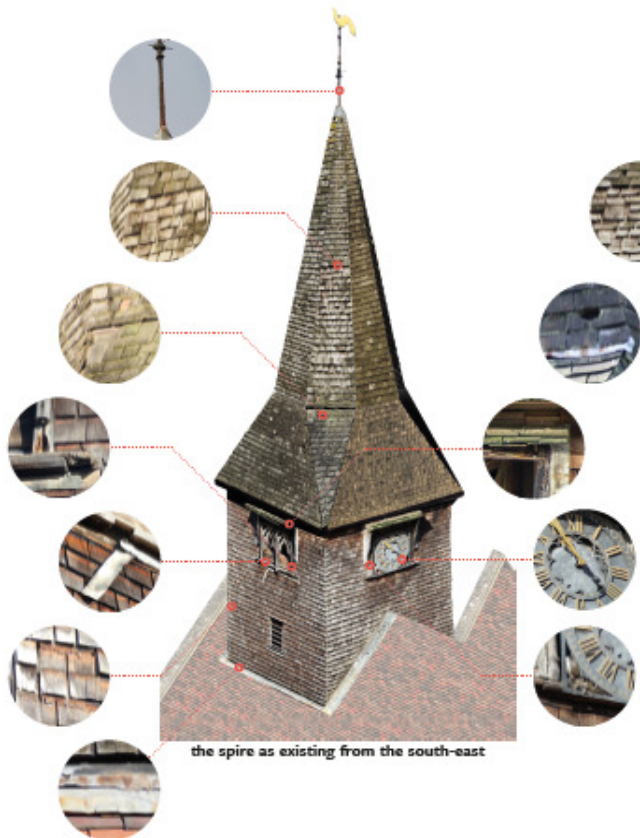


Ken Baker
Assistant Treasurer Whitchurch PCC
10 Laytom Rise
Tilehurst,
Reading
RG21 6FQ



How can you find out more?

We will be sharing regular updates via the Whitchurch Village website, Newsletters, and Parish Magazine, and will also be arranging various Save our Spire fundraising events.

If you are able to help with fundraising, or would like to get involved in this exciting community and heritage project, or need any further information, it would be great to hear from you. Please do get in touch per the contact details below.

James Leach – Vicar of St Mary's
Whitchurch & St John's Whitchurch Hill
jamesleach.whitchurch@gmail.com

Graeme Pearce – Buildings Sub-Committee Whitchurch PCC
graemekpearce@btinternet.com

Ken Baker – Churchwarden and Assistant Treasurer Whitchurch PCC
baker_kenneth2@sky.com

Thank you for your support.



SAVE OUR SPIRE

Our much-loved spire needs your help!



Why does the spire require repair works?

The tower and the spire at St Mary's the Virgin Church were built in 1858 and the cedar shingles used in the spire have not been replaced in the intervening 167 years. A significant deterioration in the spire fabric was first advised in 2007 and now needs to be addressed urgently. The defects and issues now requiring attention include:

Cedar shingles

Heavily weathered with pieces splitting and delaminating
Missing, slipped and broken tiles creating gaps for water ingress
Birds and mammals are gaining access and creating further damage

Lead/Leadwork flashing

Critical for water proofing; some flashing is missing, loose, corroded or split

Decorative timberwork

Sections missing, evidence of deterioration and potential rot

Bird mesh

Bird mesh incomplete; need to prevent access to birds and mammals

Clock faces

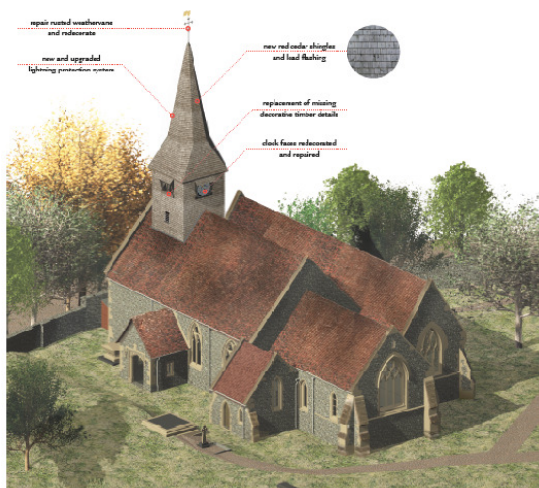
Clock faces faded

Weathervane

Weathervane faded and rusting

Lightning protection

Loose and non-compliant



How can you help?

We request your help in raising funds for the restoration of the spire, one of our most iconic local landmarks. Work is already underway with our architects, and we will need a further £200,000 to replace the 6,500 shingles at an approximate all-in cost of £30 per shingle. We will use the opportunity to undertake other essential works, including the clock face and weathervane.

Applications for grants are planned from the National Lottery and various church grant schemes and the likelihood of success will be greatly increased by the level of local community support. We are appealing therefore to you, as a local resident, to donate to our Spire Appeal and to get involved in local fundraising.

How can you donate to Save our Spire?

I wish to donate the sum of £ to the Save our Spire Fund.

I enclose a cheque payable to 'Whitchurch PCC' or cash

I will make an online payment to Whitchurch PCC, sort code 40-36-03, account number 40853704 and reference "SPIRE [SURNAME]". This reference will ensure your donation is added to the Save our Spire Fund

I will make a donation via the dedicated Save our Spire 'GiveALittle' page using the following link
<https://givealittle.co/c/saveourspirewhitchurchonthames>

I understand that the Save our Spire Appeal is being run by the Whitchurch PCC as a specified campaign, and funds will be managed separately and specifically for that purpose.

If you are a UK Taxpayer and wish to add Gift Aid to your donation, please complete the following information.

Signature

Name

Address

.....

..... Postcode

Email

We will send you confirmation of receipt of your payment/donation and that it has been added to the Save our Spire Fund, via email.

Please post this completed form to Ken Baker at the address overleaf, Thank You.

