



Let's save this church

The church at Hatley St George

It needs support if it is to endure

**Meet at the church
for a drinks gathering on
Friday, 25th Sept / 6.00 pm**

Micky Astor writes...

We have a beautiful historic building in the church at Hatley St George, pictured below.

It is officially called the Chapel of St James the Greater – it is listed Grade II*, which makes it quite particular.

But it needs support if it is to endure, for there are issues with the condition of the building.



As the Revd Hilary Young retired at the end of July, the church is without a vicar and likely to remain so for maybe 18 months, or longer.

And, as the last two quinquennial inspections have indicated, the church needs some work to stop further deterioration:

- The drains on the south side need sorting out to start reducing the damp problem.
- To establish what needs to be done in the tower, a safe ladder and landing system needs to be installed to gain access to the various floors.

I had a meeting in the church recently with Hilary, Ann Davis, the churchwarden of St Mary's, Gamlingay, Samuel Pedlar of Ely Diocese and an architect friend, who knows a lot about historic buildings – he was impressed with the state and quality of the church and immediately suggested some things which could be done locally.

What to do?

It was agreed there are grants available for such work, but the grantors *need to be convinced there is a group of people who will continue to care about the church, both now and in the future.*

With a very dwindling congregation, and no vicar, this is currently not the situation.

My aim is to see if we can muster such a group, who will befriend the church and help it as a building to continue and flourish.

I say as a building, for I believe it can be cared for by

those who are not necessarily religious, but who do care about such an historic – and local – landmark.

Friends of St James?

I have had my fill of committees and so would propose a loose association, perhaps the 'Friends of St James'.

We would have to work with Ann, in liaison with the Gamlingay and Hatleys Parochial Church Council (PCC) as it is officially responsible for the church.

A piece of good news is that Stephanie Norris, the architect who did the last quinquennial inspection, is willing to be involved.

This is important as any work done by a local group (e.g. looking for drains on the south side) must be done under the guidance of an appropriate architect, and she knows the church.



▲ The stained glass windows feature the 12 Apostles.

▼ Step inside...and say 'hello' to the font and the fine 1878 Bevington organ.



Please join me for a drinks gathering

As a first step, I would like to invite anyone who is interested to an evening drinks gathering in the church to gauge local enthusiasm – ‘local’ should encompass anyone in neighbouring villages who has an interest in historic buildings.

**Please join me at 6.00 pm on Friday,
25th September in Hatley St George's church.**

Please RSVP to kim@hatleyestate.co.uk.

The church's address is The Chapel of St James the Greater, Main Street, Hatley St George, Cambridgeshire, SG19 3HP.

For more about the history of Hatley St George's church, use this short link: bit.ly/Hatley-St-George-church or the QR code below.



This QR code links to the Hatley village website page on St James the Greater, Hatley St George:
www.hatley.info/hatleys-churches/hatley-st-george-church.



◀ One of the 28 armorial shields of painted wood, hanging along

the walls of the church and bearing the names of 15 St. Georges from the 12th to 17th centuries, and of 13 Cottons, the family who bought the estate from the St. Georges in 1658. Sir Robert Cotton had the shields repainted in 1690.