



## ST MARTIN OF TOURS - CHELSFIELD

Rector: Rev Susan Atkinson-Jones

Associate Rector: Rev Michael Gentry

August 2023

Dear friend

### St Martin's Spire appeal

Our beautiful, ancient, listed church is in need of extensive TLC. Parakeets have pecked holes in the spire shingles causing such extensive damage that re-shingling is essential (and this time oak will be used for better protection). The tower on which the spire sits needs some stonework repair and the external church wall to the Chapel must be restored.

We are advised that the likely overall cost will be in the order of £175,000 which must now be raised in difficult times. Sadly, Lottery funds and many similar sources of grants are no longer available for this type of project. We are, of course, making application to any charity that may be willing to support us.

We shall be holding a number of fund-raising events and these can make a valuable contribution, but it appears unlikely that they can raise even a tenth of the amount needed.

So we must turn to our supporters and have to ask if you are able and willing to help us with a donation please? Any gift will be much appreciated but, of course, the more you feel able to afford the sooner we can progress the works.

We are fortunate that the Joanna Collett Charity has agreed to match fund anything you give £ for £<sup>1</sup> and if you are a taxpayer your donation can be gift aided – together they would turn, say, a £100 donation into £250 for the appeal!

If you are able to donate please see the spire appeal web page (<http://www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk/spire>) for details of how to make payment.

Thank you for reading this letter and for helping our fundraising for these essential works. Further details are available on the church website ([stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](http://www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk)). If you have any queries please contact the fundraising team at [spire@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](mailto:spire@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk) or you can ring Steve McCann, who is leading that team, on 07973660702. In the event you want to send something by post please send it to Chris Mead, Key Largo, Church Road, Orpington, BR6 7SW.

Yours faithfully

Rev Susan Atkinson-Jones

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<sup>1</sup> For the first £75,000 of donations received  
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