

The Future of Our Wychwood Churches

We live in an area full of churches. Shipton, Ascott, Fifield and Idbury churches are all listed buildings, which means that they are of architectural and historical importance and must be maintained, regardless of their use. All four of these churches have elements which date back to the 12th century, and are important aspects of English history. Milton church was built in 1854 and is Victorian, so must adhere to Victorian Society preservation orders.



These magnificent edifices, built to the glory of God, are expensive to run in the 21st century. It is generally recognised that a place of worship has an important role in the life of the community and in villages especially. Neither the state, nor the Church of England provides any funding whatsoever towards the upkeep of these buildings, or the payment to the vicar, so all the money spent has to be raised in the community from the generosity of the people who live here.

A Shocking Fact

It may shock you to know that it costs £47,000 per annum to fund Shipton Church. Milton Church needs £33,209. Ascott has to raise £22,000 annually. Fifield and Idbury need £14,000. There are literally hundreds of people in all these communities who give huge amounts of their time and money to the churches. We work incredibly hard to maintain them for the benefit of all who want to use them for baptisms, weddings,

funerals, and celebrations of various festivals which most people enjoy, but these are not free. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to keep these buildings as places of worship, peace, and quiet contemplation. All the churches rely on the generosity of parishioners, their legacies, and their voluntary contributions to maintain these beautiful buildings, and provide the villages they serve with church services. Please support all the events planned for 2010.

Flutes, Harps and Noah's Ark

A **Flute and Harp concert** will be held in Idbury church on **14th May** to fund repair work in both Fifield and Idbury. The **29th May** is the Fifield and Idbury church fete, held in Idbury. Ascott Church and village fete is on **12th of June** from 12:30 to 4pm. St. Mary's Church in Shipton is having an **Open Day on Saturday 19th of June**, on the theme of Noah's ark, with a prize for the best costume. There will be stalls on the green, a pig roast, many refreshments and activities for children, as well as tours of the church, trips up the bell tower, music in the church, and cream teas. If you would like to contribute to the church in your area, please contact the church treasurer: **St. Mary's Shipton** - Treasurer David Innes-Wilson: 01993 830169. **St. Simon & St. Jude Milton** - Treasurer James Burgis: 01993 830553. **Fifield and Idbury churches** - Treasurer John Yaxley: 01993 831385. **Ascott Under Wychwood church** - Treasurer Mr. Ash Ismail: 01993 832819. **James and Peggy Walmsley**