

The Ramblers
Window

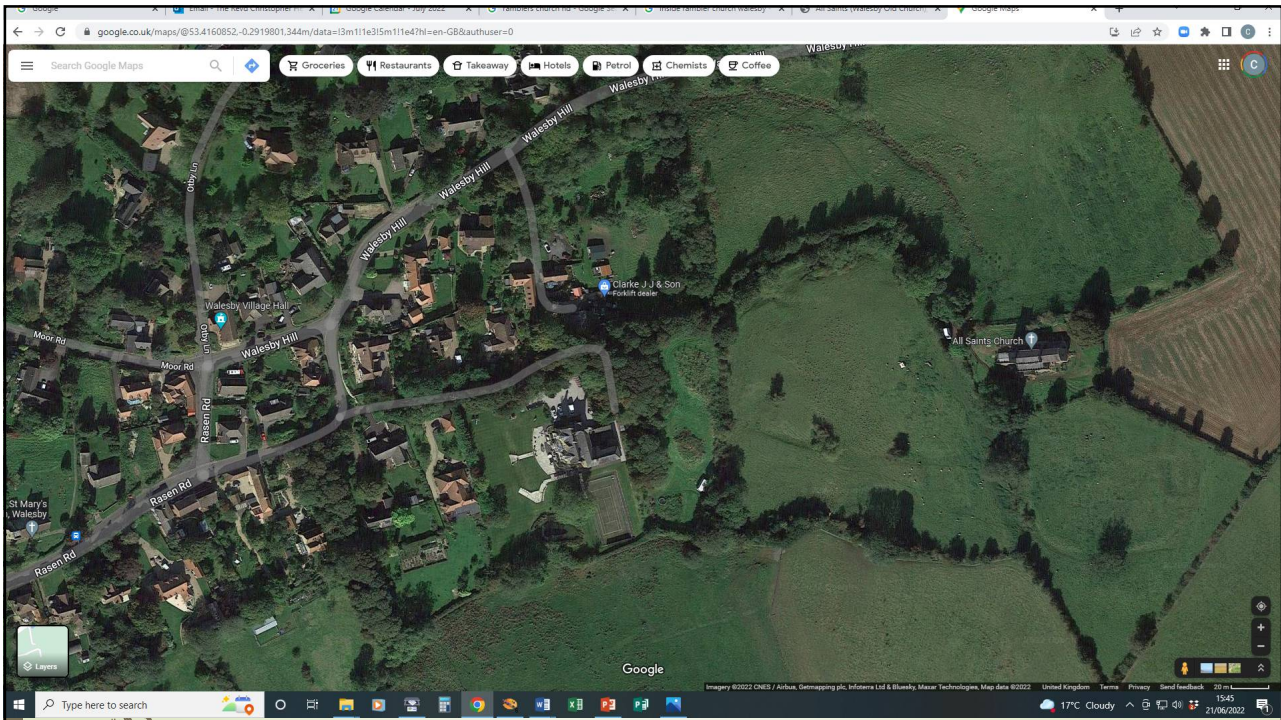
Installed in 1951

History

There is evidence that the ancient site of which the Old Church stands has Saxon or Norman foundations. The church represents every period from 12C to 15C architecture.

In 1861 the remains of a Roman villa was excavated to the east of the church and coins found date the settlement to c.320, there is also strong evidence that an earlier Saxon church stood on the site. Saxon graves have been excavated to the immediate east of the church, c.600.

The church has eight bells, two surviving from the medieval period. The clock was given to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V and its 'Guildford Chimes' strike on all eight bells, unlike the more usual five bell chime.



Abandoned

There is written evidence that the church was repaired and re-roofed in the 1820's for the expense of nearly £1000.

However the church did fall into disrepair and an 'iron church' was erected in 1881 in the village.

All Saints Church was abandoned and like many churches of its era the intention was to allowed it to crumble to a ruin.



History

St Mary's is an 'arts and crafts' Church designed by the architect, Temple Moore and came about through the efforts of the Revd Perceval Laurence, Rector of Walesby 1879-1913. Shortly after the rector came to the parish, the inconveniently sited Old Church was abandoned and for over 30 years the people of Walesby worshipped in a 'temporary' iron building in the village. By 1910 sufficient funds had been raised to build a new Church. Work began on 6th June 1913 and on that very day, the 84 yr old, Revd Laurence died.



Facts and Figures

1879	Revd Percival Lawrence Becomes Rector of Walesby
1881	Old Church Abandoned
1881- 1913	Worship Takes Place in Temporary 'Tin' Church
1910	Funds Raised to Build New Parish Church
1912	Last Legal Burial Takes Place at the Old Church
1913	New Parish Church of St Mary's Built and Opened With New Churchyard Attached



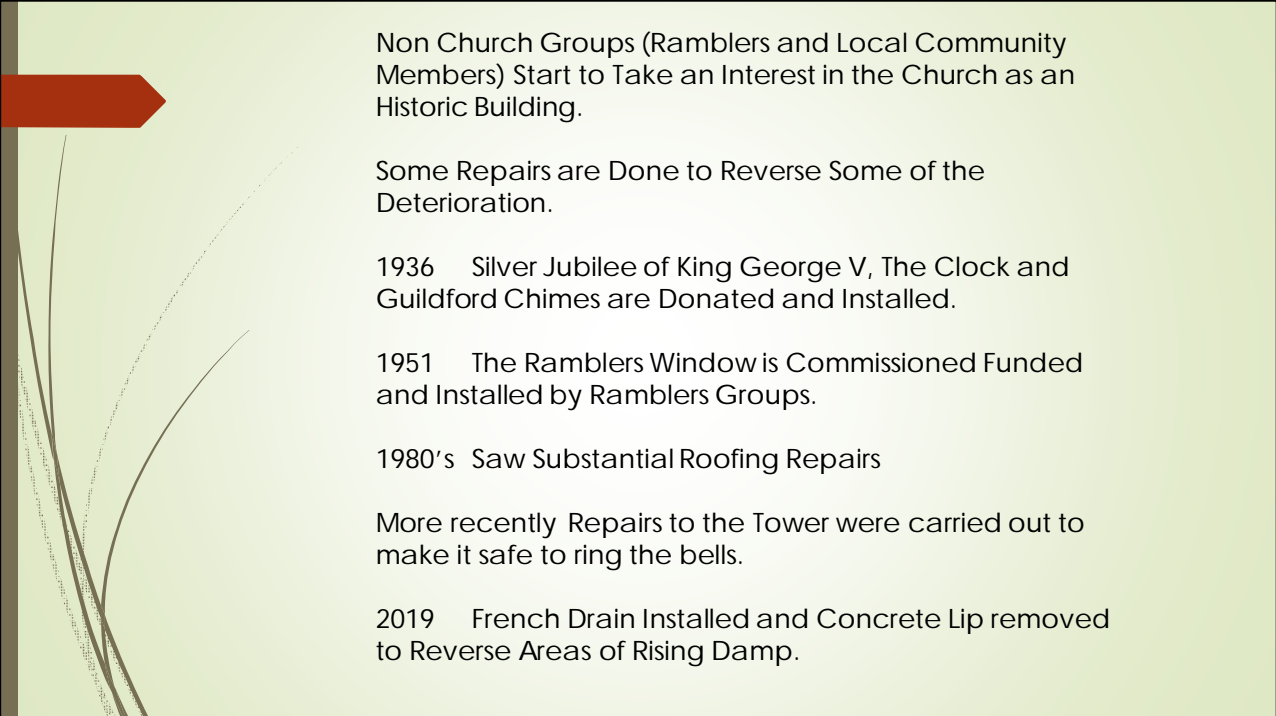
1913, What should have happened next.....

De-consecration of the Old Church

Legal Closure of the Old Churchyard



1930's



Non Church Groups (Ramblers and Local Community Members) Start to Take an Interest in the Church as an Historic Building.

Some Repairs are Done to Reverse Some of the Deterioration.

1936 Silver Jubilee of King George V, The Clock and Guildford Chimes are Donated and Installed.

1951 The Ramblers Window is Commissioned Funded and Installed by Ramblers Groups.

1980's Saw Substantial Roofing Repairs

More recently Repairs to the Tower were carried out to make it safe to ring the bells.

2019 French Drain Installed and Concrete Lip removed to Reverse Areas of Rising Damp.



Friends of the Old Church

Created in 1980

Registered Charity.
Lord Yarborough is President

Purpose to Support the PCC with Regard to Its
On Going Responsibility for Upkeep of All Saints
Church.



Current Situation

Formal Maintenance Responsibility for the Old Church and Churchyard - Walesby PCC


All Repair Works Funded by the Friends of the Old Church

Churchyard Management - God's Acre Group of Local Volunteers

Clock Maintenance - Currently Funded by a grant to the PCC from the Parish Council

Bell Maintenance - Local Bell Ringers under the Tower Captain

Legal responsibility for all the above 'Incumbent and Churchwardens'



Why is now a problem?

Church Categorisation

5 Categories 1-5

Cat 4 – Festival Church

Cat 5 – A Church Declared Redundant

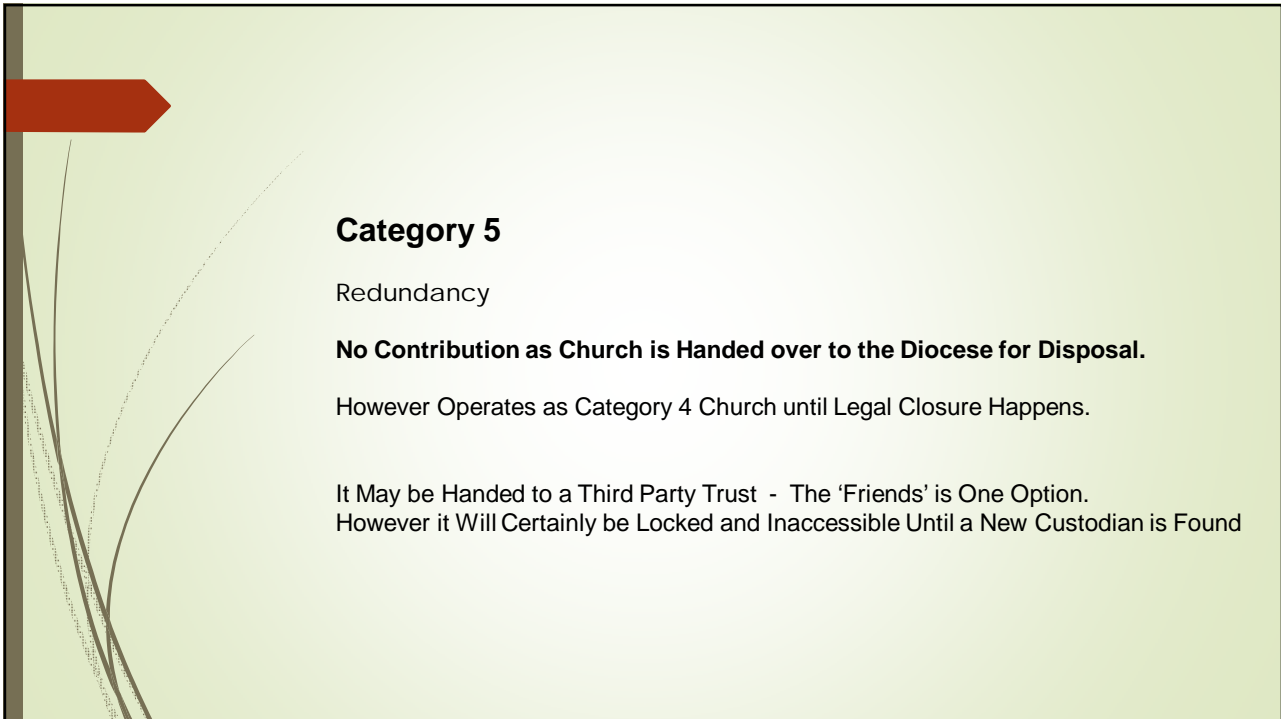


Category 4

High-days, Holidays, Baptisms, Weddings, Funeral

6 service minimum per year

Diocesan Contribution £1000 minimum



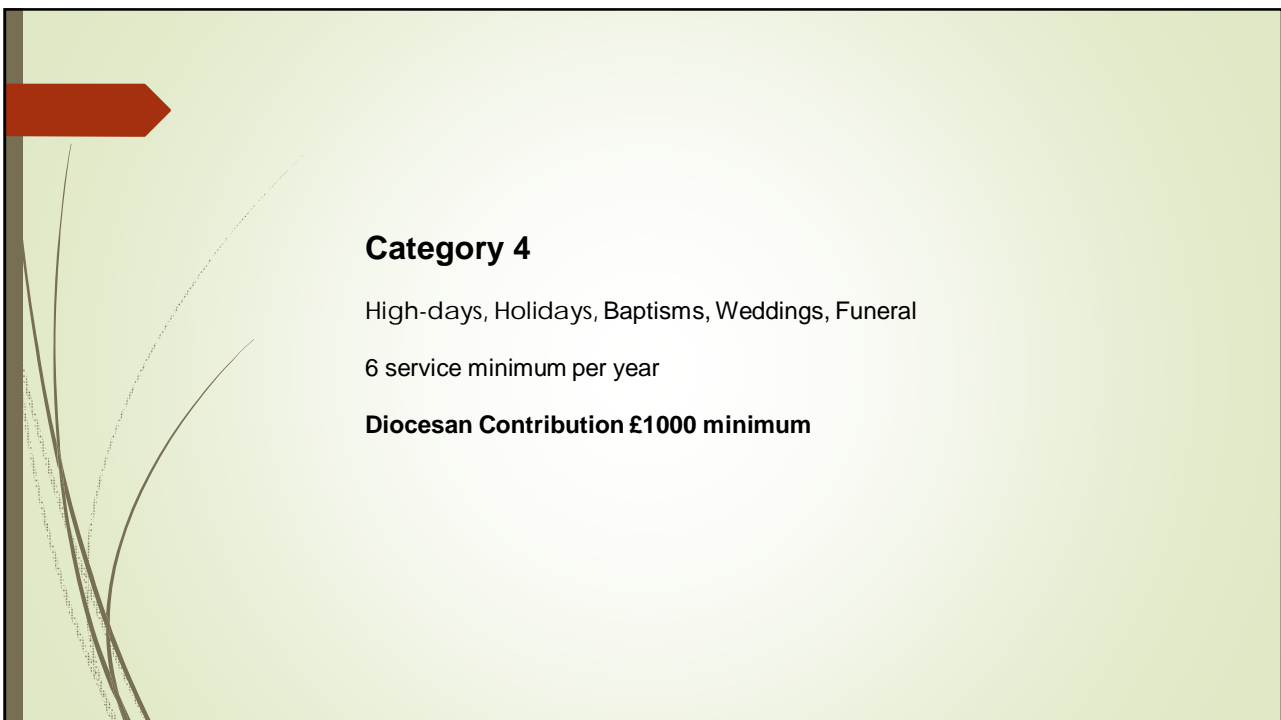
Category 5

Redundancy

No Contribution as Church is Handed over to the Diocese for Disposal.

However Operates as Category 4 Church until Legal Closure Happens.

It May be Handed to a Third Party Trust - The 'Friends' is One Option.
However it Will Certainly be Locked and Inaccessible Until a New Custodian is Found

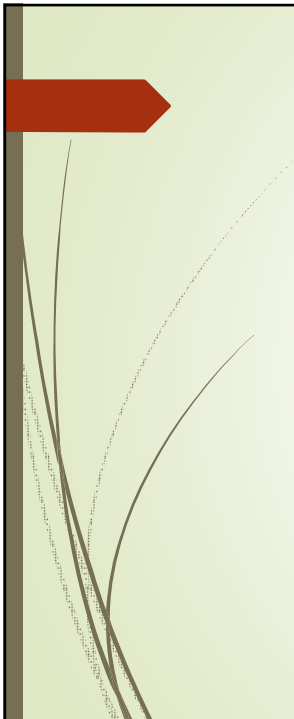


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The Annual Cost to the PCC to Keep the Church Open and in Local Control	
Diocesan Contribution	£1000
Insurance	£650
Local Expenses	£305
Total	£1955
Total Reserves Available	£14,500





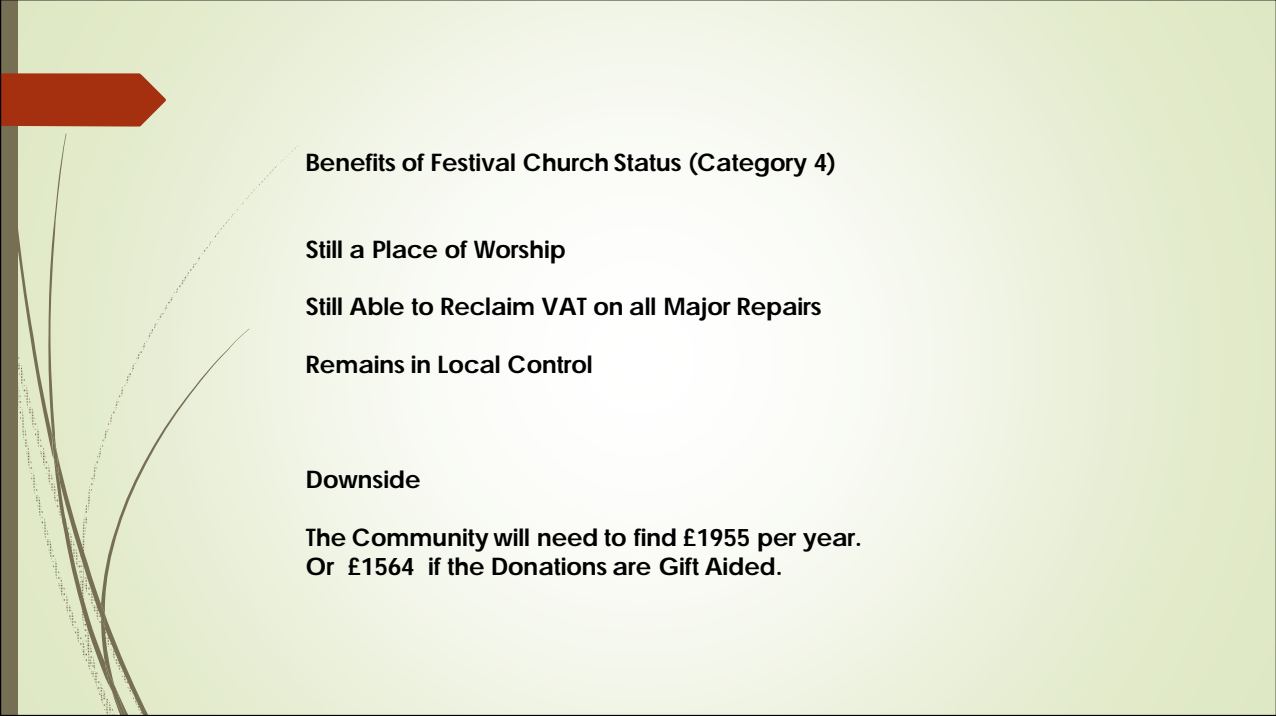
**The Annual Cost to the PCC
to Keep the Church Open and in Local Control**

Diocesan Contribution	£1000
Insurance	£650
Local Expenses	£305

Total **£1955**

Total Reserves Available **£14,500**

No Sustainable Income From the Old Church



Benefits of Festival Church Status (Category 4)

Still a Place of Worship

Still Able to Reclaim VAT on all Major Repairs

Remains in Local Control

Downside

**The Community will need to find £1955 per year.
Or £1564 if the Donations are Gift Aided.**



Current Situation could be the Future Situation

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Relaunch a Rejuvenated

'Friends of the Old Church'

On a Membership by Subscription basis, as the original constitution defined.

50 Contributions of £36 per year, £3 per month,
Would Secure the Future of the Ramblers
Church.

