



EXTRACT PRESS RELEASE FROM THE NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST

Paul Parsons, a churchwarden at St Mary's church in Blakesley, said:

The UNWELCOME NEWS

Having over the years carefully looked after and maintained the fabric of St Mary's Church in Blakesley it came as an unpleasant shock to discover back in June 2020 that the tower required urgent structural work. This bombshell was delivered, as is often the case, by the most recent Quinquennial report which helpfully focused our minds by categorizing the urgency of remedial works required. Anticipating the likely costs and assessing how best these might be met we opted to focus on works to be carried out as a matter of urgency and within the next two years.

The GOOD NEWS

The structural engineer's report brought no unpleasant surprises and the tendering process produced competitive quotations giving us a fundraising target of £140,000. With some very generous individual and community donations together with grants awarded we were within striking distance of but not quite able to reach our target. However, there followed the news of the two very generous grants from the Wolfson Foundation and Headley Trust made on the recommendation of the National Churches Trust which together brought us to our fundraising target. We breathed a huge collective sigh of relief knowing that as a result the church would once again be in good structural condition

The FUTURE

The remedial works start in February 2024 and we look forward to keeping you posted.

The Wolfson 
Foundation