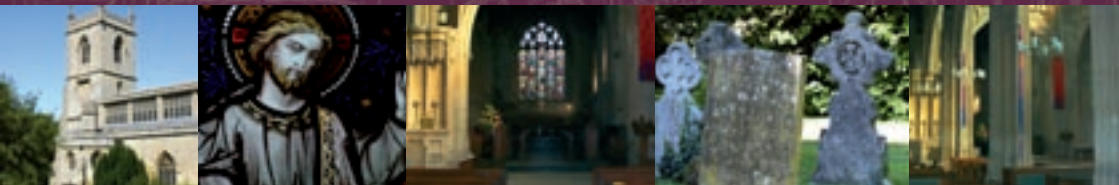


# St. Mary's Church

Our vision  
for the future



Our vision is that everyone who uses the church, whatever the occasion, should find it accessible, comfortable and adaptable.

St. Mary's, Chipping Norton, one of the great "wool churches" of the Cotswolds, lies below the town centre, near the town's ancient castle banks and pool meadow. It is noted for its unusual width, its rare hexagonal vaulted 14th century porch and the huge, almost continuous windows rising above its magnificent nave columns. The sumptuous 'replacement' nave, provided by the rich wool merchants in the mid-15th century, is thought to be by John Smyth, of Canterbury, designer of Eton College Chapel. St. Mary's is a grade one listed building, and has been judged to be one of the 100 most important parish churches in the country.

Chipping Norton residents have worshipped in St. Mary's for over 600 years. Today this building is home to a vibrant congregation, hosting a large variety of Sunday and midweek services, in addition to activities for toddlers, families, teenagers, men, women and the elderly.

#### Introducing our vision

The building has experienced many changes over the centuries as it has adapted to serve the needs of its community. After much consideration and prayer, the present congregation has resolved to update the church building with the aim of enhancing its beauty whilst improving its facilities. Our vision is that everyone who uses the building, whatever the occasion, should find it accessible, comfortable and adaptable.

#### What we have already achieved

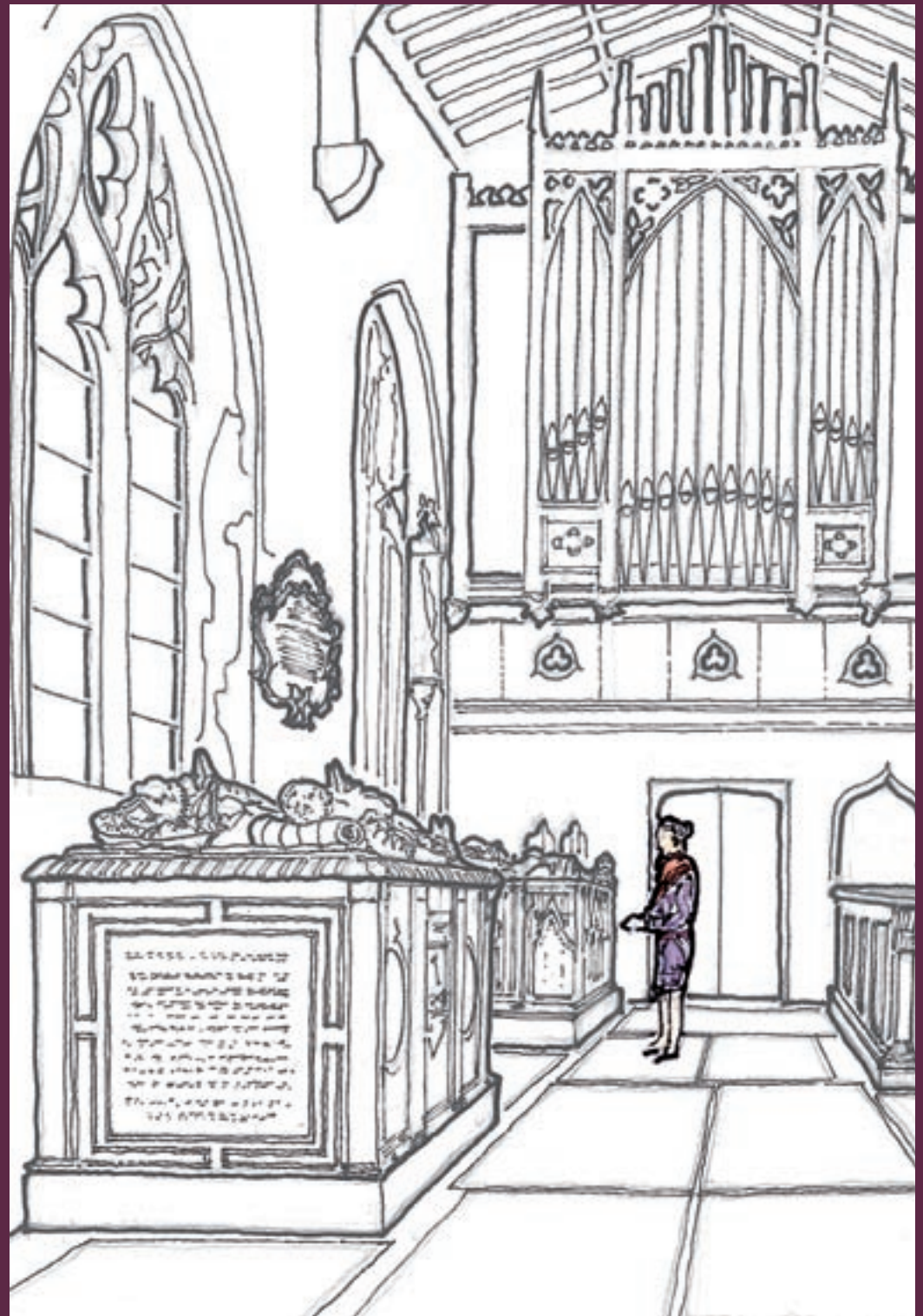
In 2002 the front of the nave was raised and re-floored. At the same time a new hearing loop and a more efficient and powerful boiler were installed, together with under-floor ducts in preparation for a new heating system in the remainder of the nave.







▲ Artist impression of the monuments viewed towards the north-west Artist impression of the monuments looking east ▶



### What we now wish to achieve

Phase 2 was begun in 2008 and will be part completed in 2010. The Church has already sourced funding for work to install toilets including those for disabled visitors (previously only available in the Parish Rooms some distance away) and to build much needed storage facilities into previously unused space in the tower.

### Further work in Phase 2

Further work in Phase 2, for which funding is now sought, will see the creation of a new history and education area next to the Sanctuary. The purpose of this will be to make the building more accessible to visitors, which in 2008 included over 1000 school pupils and over 3000 members of

the public. It would see the restoration and relocation of important monuments, including the Rickardes tomb to join the Croft tomb, in a new area where they can be more easily seen and appreciated. Phase 2 will also see the creation of a meeting room, renovations to the clergy vestry and provision of additional storage in this area (made possible by the recent removal of a now redundant pipe organ).

*“Very moving to see my grandfather’s name on the war memorial.”*

Sheila (nee Eeles) Matthias, Cheshire





You also, like living stones are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood.

1 Peter 2:4–12

#### Work in Phase 3

In order to further improve facilities for all users of the church building, including tourists, other visitors and occasional users, we envisage subsequent phases to achieve the following:

- > Rearrangement of circulation routes around the building to improve visitor experience
- > Improvements to the entrance of the building, to make it more welcoming and attractive
- > Upgrading of the church's lighting and heating systems
- > Re-flooring the nave and southern chapel areas and the replacing of fixed pews with more versatile, well-designed, stackable chairs

◀ Artist impression of general view from the nave showing possible alterations

▼ Artist impression of overhead view showing arrangements





# Want to get involved?

We are hoping to fund Phases 2 and 3 through a combination of church funds, applications to grant-making bodies, legacies, and donations from members of the public.

If you would like to get involved please contact:

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Church Street  
Chipping Norton  
OX7 5NT

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Telephone: Canon Steve Weston on 01608 642688

[www.stmaryscnorton.com](http://www.stmaryscnorton.com)

*“Great to see real ‘life’  
in an old building.”*

E. Curnow, Essex



*“A Beautiful, peaceful  
and inspirational place.”*

Alistair Wooler, London

*“Thanks for keeping  
history alive.”*

Pat & Keith Penwell, Queensland, Australia

Drawings by Will Hemmings