

ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, COMPTON MARTIN

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD: MAINTENANCE AND DIVERSITY

Dear Friends

We are writing to tell you about some issues at St Michael's Churchyard and seek your help.

Current Situation

St Michael's has been here for over 900 years and is looked after by villagers for the benefit of the village. However, like many organisations, it has suffered financially due the effects of the pandemic and other external influences. St Michael's financial resources, despite excellent control are very tight. (You may not be aware that the entire cost of running this medieval church and keeping it and the churchyard open to all, falls on generous people in this village – there is no funding from the Church of England nationally or from the Diocese.)

What has changed?

In recent years, a generous anonymous donor has privately funded cutting the grass, hedges and bushes, with parishioners and tree surgeons doing the rest to generally keep the churchyard in excellent order. Sadly, this arrangement has come to an end and we take this opportunity to thank them for supporting the church so loyally for many years.

Employing contractors to cut the grass would amount to £3,500 - £4,000 pa, in addition to other churchyard costs such as tree management and insurance to ensure public access[i]*. This expenditure level is beyond the resources of our existing donors to fund alone.

How can you Help?

We have identified as many people as possible who have a loved-one buried or with a memorial in the churchyard and we are asking you to help us keep the churchyard looking beautiful and as a welcoming place for everyone to visit, to pay their respects to family members or friends and for quiet reflection and enjoyment.

If you are able, we are asking for a minimum monthly £10 donation paid directly into the designated fund[ii], where all money donated for the churchyard will be going and it will enable us to keep the grass cut, hedges trimmed, trees managed and insurance paid so that the surroundings are maintained in accordance with the plans we have set out[iii].

Compton Martin Parochial Church Council Website: www.stmichaelscomptonmartin.co.uk
Churchwardens: James Bragg 01761 221020 jamesbragg44@gmail.com
Helen Palmer 01761 221020 helen@combefarm.co.uk
Bank: NatWest. Account name: Compton Martin Parochial Church Council.
Sorting Code 60-05-22. Account No 71255826

And, it is because of the value and appreciation people have for this ancient place that we thought it important to share our concerns with the parishioners of Compton Martin and ask for your help to resolve one of our most pressing issues - the Churchyard.

We do hope that you will find it within your heart to support our Church and therefore secure its future as a well-maintained and beautiful church in the heart of the community, enjoyed by the community and supported by the community.

With best wishes,

James and Helen **February 2024**

Enc: Frequently Asked Questions
Ways to give forms

[i] Compton Martin Parish Council have always generously supported St Michael's with an annual grant, now increased this year to £750. We thank them very much for this grant but, clearly, it goes nowhere near paying the costs for maintaining the Churchyard.
[ii] Please use either the details overleaf (Ref CHY) or complete the attached form and we will do the rest.
[iii] The church accounts are published annually and available on the website.