

DONATIONS

If you would like to make a contribution to this restoration project, this can be done:

1. **By Cheque** (or CAF Voucher) payable to “St Mary’s Church, Speldhurst-Waller Window”.

2. **By internet banking to:**

St Mary’s Church, Speldhurst

Nat West Sort Code: 55.70.13

Account Number: 08224811

Please specify “Waller” in the reference box

IBAN: GB50NWBK55701308224811

BIC: NWBKGB2L

GIFT AID

In all cases, please include a Gift Aid Declaration if appropriate:

(please tick) I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ to:

St Mary’s Church, Speldhurst.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details: Title_____ First name or initials_____

Surname_____

Full Home address (Essential for Gift Aid)_____

_____ Postcode

_____ Date _____

Please indicate if you wish your donation to be anonymous: Yes/No

St Mary’s Church, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Appeal for the

Restoration of the “Waller Window”



Restoration Cost £19,701 + VAT

St Mary’s is one of 3 churches comprising the Ecclesiastical Parish of Speldhurst with Groombridge and Ashurst – England and Wales Charity Commission registered charity 1128599.

The Rectory, Southfields, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN3 0PD

Although St Mary's Church, Speldhurst, Kent is well known for its remarkable collection of windows produced by Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris, it also possesses a delightful painted window located in the vestry.

The "Waller Window", as it is known, is attributed to James Pearson or his wife Margaret and is in need of considerable restoration. This unusual and attractive painted window is believed to date from about 1797. It is thought to depict Sir Walter Waller, a descendent of Sir Richard Waller (see below), and his wife, Anna Chute, whose coat of arms is also represented.

The current St Mary's Church building dates from 1871 when it replaced a "temporary" building opened in about 1805 after the medieval church burnt down in 1791. However, there has been a church on this site since before 1115 when it is mentioned in a charter book. That early church was substantially restored after 1415 by Sir Richard Waller who was present at the battle of Agincourt, after which he is reputed to have held Jean, Duke of Angoulême, the younger brother of the Duke D'Orléans (the French heir apparent) under house arrest in the parish for some 25 years, pending the payment of ransom.

A report on the condition and potential for restoration has been carried out by Chapel Studio Stained Glass Ltd (Co. No. 05172596) in 2015. In September 2018 it was confirmed that the cost would now be £19,701 + VAT (which is recoverable under current legislation). *A copy is available if required.*

The Church has quietly built up funds and commitments of £8,825 towards the costs and is launching an appeal for the remaining £11,000. Approaches are being made to the congregation, to certain charitable trust funds which specialise in church building and/or window restoration and to Waller family members including a sizeable diaspora in the USA, one of whom has made regular annual donations for several years.

The window represents an important aspect of the parish's history. It is located in the vestry which is used for Sunday School activities each week.

St Mary's has about 150 members on the Electoral Roll and an average "normal" weekly attendance of over 80 adults plus about 15-20 children. However, numbers vary and, for example, over 300 people (including scouts, guides, brownies etc) attended the 2018 Remembrance Day Service. St Mary's has a wide range of activities serving all sectors of the community and is an important focal point of the village along with the "Outstanding" Church of England Primary School, and the George and Dragon pub which dates from the 13th century.

Restoration of this window would be an important reminder, especially for the younger generation, of the village's connections with a significant historical event.

For more details please contact the Rector, Douglas Wren (douglas.wren12@gmail.com), or Martin Atkinson on 01892 862037 or martinatkinson46@gmail.com

