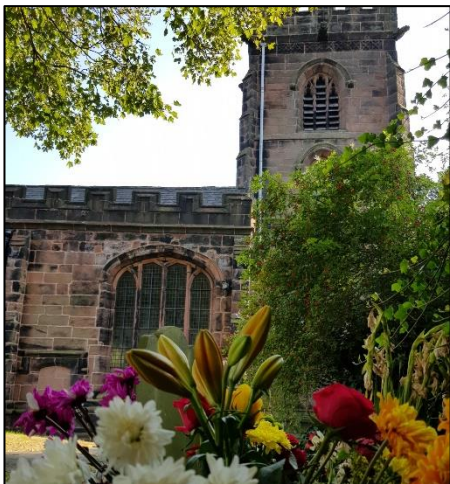


# HOW TO DONATE

Thank you for being willing to support us!

You can donate in several ways.

- **In Church:** at the back or use envelopes provided.
- **With a credit card:** at some events there will be a card reader
- **Online:** [www.justgiving.com/stmarys-weaverham](http://www.justgiving.com/stmarys-weaverham)
- **Abseil down the tower:** raise sponsorship for us and your own favourite charity.
- **Promise Auction:** contribute as a buyer or by offering a skill, service or experience.



## APPEAL INFORMATION

**Raising the Roof** is the St Mary's Church fund for work which needs to be carried out to make our lovely Grade 1 listed building fit for the future. Details inside.

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For more information, see [www.stmarysweaverham.org](http://www.stmarysweaverham.org) or contact the church office on 01606 851880

# CHURCH HISTORY

For over 1,000 years, the people of Weaverham have worshipped in this lovely old Church, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin and built of local red sandstone.

There have been three Churches on the site. The first was Saxon and was still in use in 1277 when King Edward I built the Abbey of Vale Royal.

The second Church was built between 1281 and 1360. It was long and narrow with a tower, the oldest part of the current church. Originally 6 ft higher and spired, it is embattled with diagonal stepped buttresses and decorative patterns in the stonework at the heads of the Gothic windows. Gargoyles protrude at the angle and the Warburton family arms are carved on the south face.

Extensive alterations and enlargements took place in the 16th century. Notable features include the six bells, each weighing up to ½ tonne; the North aisle oak ceiling with beautiful moulded beams and framing, thought to have come from Vale Royal Abbey; the 1736 altar table with cabriole legs and claw feet; the Victorian pews incorporating panels and ends from the original 1634 pews.

So much history: The registers date from 1576 and the accounts from 1630, throwing light on the life of the parish: 8d paid for the "heads of vermin" in 1639; 1s paid to bell ringers for the Coronation of George 1 in 1714; deaths from small pox, plague, starvation and "hysterics"; evidence a group killed by firing squad in the Civil War. See [www.stmarysweaverham.org](http://www.stmarysweaverham.org) for more information.

This ancient building is not a museum. People come to ask a blessing on a marriage, bring a baby into the family of Christ, commend a loved one into the arms of our Maker. Week by week, people gather for worship and to gain strength for life.

# WHAT WE NEED

A building health check showed that rainwater is getting in and we need to act now to prevent expensive damage.

**Roofing £13,000:** the roof work consists of lead weathering to copings and sills, parapet gutters, refix loose flashings and patch repairs to the tower roof.

**Pointing £15,000:** pointing is needed to large areas of the external wall.

**Contingency £2,000:** estimates and prices only ever go up! We need to allow for inevitable extra work and overruns.

**TOTAL: £30,000**



# OTHER EVENTS

**Promise auction, 15 July:** Bid for a boat trip, baby sitting or many others. Or offer a promise of your own. Get to know friends and neighbours and perhaps enjoy a new experience!

**Abseiling, 2 Sep:** Abseil down the church tower to help us and support a cause of your choice. Sign up for a slot with professional equipment and support for £23 + £30 minimum sponsorship and (if you wish) gather more sponsorship for your preferred cause. See <https://churchabseil.eventbrite.co.uk>

**Adrian Plass, 16 Sep:** An evening with best-selling Christian comedy author and speaker Adrian Plass. Look out for details.