

The church congregation and village of Dundry received a terrible shock in 2015 when parts of the ceiling plaster fell down and the church had to close immediately due to Health and Safety concerns. It was an even greater shock when it became apparent that it would cost £500,000 to repair the structure of the roof and to provide some essentials that had long been needed including an accessible toilet and a servery.

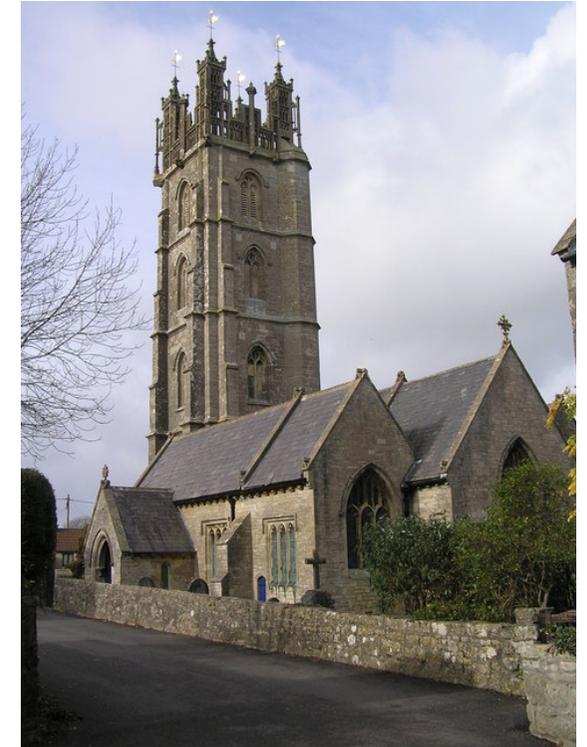
Thus began a three and a half year journey of fundraising by a small group of incredibly hard working people from the Church and wider community of Dundry to raise the necessary amount of money for the Church to re-open. The generosity of donations both large and small from hundreds of people, many of them very local, the Chew Valley community and Lakeside group of Parish church congregations has been astounding and appreciated more than we can describe.

In addition significant grants have been received from:

Heritage Lottery Fund
Somerset Churches Trust
Bristol Airport
Leader Grant (West Of England Rural Development Grant)
Listed Places of Worship fund
The Fund for Church Growth
All Churches Trust
The National Churches Trust
The Garfield Weston Fund

Throughout the closure of the church building regular church services continued to be held in Dundry on Sundays through the generous hospitality of two local groups: for the first two years Dundry Royal British Legion and then, Dundry Baptist Chapel until the church reopened in September 2018. Both extended the warmest welcome to us, enabling us to run our own services as well as joining the Baptist congregation once a month.

ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, DUNDRY



*A suggested donation
of 50p would be
gratefully received*

The Parish Church originally dedicated to St Giles was rededicated to St Michael the Archangel. The beautiful tower is 97ft in height and is amongst the best examples of the type for which Somerset is famous and was erected in 1482. It can be seen from almost every part of Bristol and is a natural landmark for ships out in the Bristol Channel. Records show that the tower originally had a lantern containing a light which acted as a beacon for ships. Built in the perpendicular style of local Dundry stone, it is surrounded by a parapet which is quite independent of the buttresses on top of the tower and sits rather like a crown on a head, pierced with arcading. Late Gothic is here to be seen at its most fantastic, with pinnacles that are quite transparent, carrying their own buttresses and flying buttresses, pierced battlements and spirelets.



Apart from the tower very little remains of the church from the middle ages. In 1861 a major building project took place, work included a new aisle added on the south side a new east window in the chancel, pitch pine pews, a pulpit of Bath Stone with red Devonshire marble shafts and a Vestry built on the north side. Much of the stained glass dates from the 1860's

The tower was completely renovated in 1987 following a very success fundraising, with over £110,000 being raised in a little over six weeks. When the renovations was complete a service of Thanksgiving was held at Easter with the Bishop of Bath and Wells officiating.

There are six bells dating from, 1742, 1750 (2), 1765, 1796 and 1988. Five of the bells carry the names of the churchwardens in office when they were cast.

A massive slab of Dundry stone known locally as the 'dole-stone' is said to weigh over 10 tons. Originally lying near the village cross it was used as a table for Alms given to the poor, on New Years Day.



In the churchyard is the octagonal village cross, a traditional site for meetings and sermons. The 3 metre high cross is considered to be of the same date as the tower. Restored in the 19th century the cross is now scheduled as an ancient monument.



The Church clock was installed on the south wall of the tower in August 1999 as one of the millennium celebrations of the village. Installed by David Jones, Clockmaker of Helston it was entirely funded by a grant from the Yansec Trust

