

Help Restore Our Village Church

St Nicholas, Britwell Salome



St. Nicholas, Spring 2025.



Artist impression of interior after completion of the works, expected 2026.

An important element of our village community is under threat. Our beautiful village church is in urgent need of restoration. Will you help us raise £50,000 towards the cost of making it safe, warm, and welcoming for the future ?

St Nicholas – Heart of the Village for Centuries

There has been a church on this site since at least the 12th century, serving as a spiritual and social anchor for the people of Britwell Salome for over 800 years. The current church, designed by Charles Buckeridge, was built in 1867, replacing the original Norman structure. It blends Gothic revival with elements of its earlier past — most notably the original Norman chancel doorway, preserved as a physical link to centuries of village life.

Though modest in size, St Nicholas is rich in atmosphere and history. Set in a peaceful, tree-enclosed churchyard and overlooked by a 1,400-year-old yew, it plays a vital role in village life. From regular family services, carol services, quiet reflection, to weddings, baptisms and funerals, the church remains an important place for people to come together.

Why We're Launching This Appeal

In 2023, part of the ceiling gave way. The suspended ceiling, added in the 1960s, has been quietly collecting plaster falling from the failing Victorian ceiling above. The accumulated weight now poses a serious risk of collapse.



Ceiling as is, with accumulated debris and safety netting in place.

The Plan

- Remove the suspended ceiling and all the debris resting on it from the failed Victorian ceiling
- Restore the failing Victorian ceiling with plasterboard panels between rafters
- Expose and illuminate original trusses and rafters
- Rewire St Nicholas and install efficient heating and lighting
- Redecorate and modernise respectfully

After this project has been completed, St Nicholas will continue to serve Britwell Salome for generations to come as a place of worship, celebration or quiet reflection. With the new heating and lighting in place, the building could also accommodate more community events like concerts, recitals and talks.

Project Costs (2026 Estimate)

- Ceiling removal: £22,500
- New ceiling installation: £62,500
- Electrical, heating, lighting: £62,500
- Bell tower repairs: £10,500
- Fire alarm: £5,000
- Professional fees: £15,000
- Contingency: £15,000



Funding Progress

Funds already in hand:

- £40,000 from existing church savings
- £42,000 project grant already graciously awarded by Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Additional Funding required:

- £75,000 targeted from National Churches Trust, Lottery Heritage Fund, and other grant making bodies
- It is proposed that up to £50,000 be raised through additional community events, sponsorship, individual donations and corporate gifts

Please note that these figures assume that most VAT can be reclaimed, as is currently the case. If this changes, additional funds may be needed.

How You Can Help

- Donate online (scan QR code), specifying Gift Aid
- Donate to 'PCC of Britwell Salome' bank account No. 20028681 Sort Code 20-39-53
- Help find corporate (match) funding opportunities
- Spread the word
- Attend community events



St Nicholas Restoration Fund

For financial enquiries, please contact Niven Greenhalf, Niven.Greenhalf@gmail.com

All other queries to mailto:Britwellevents@hotmail.com