

to now and a general work of restoration is being undertaken. For the work required on the chancel some good friends have helped with gifts but the estimated cost of the work as a whole is £1,000, and most of this has still to be found.

This appeal for help is being brought to the notice of all parishioners in the belief that many would like to help to preserve this old and much loved house of God.

An appeal slip and envelope are enclosed with this leaflet and whatever the gift may be it will be warmly welcomed. It will be a great inspiration if a large number of our parishioners feel they can help in some way, for then we shall have the conviction that the restoration of the old Parish Church is a real concern of the majority and not of the few.

The visitor who leaves this appeal will be prepared to call later for the envelope containing the gift you feel drawn to give.

On the other hand it would greatly relieve the heavy work entailed by the appeal—particularly if you are a member of the congregation living outside the parish—if you could send your gift direct to:-

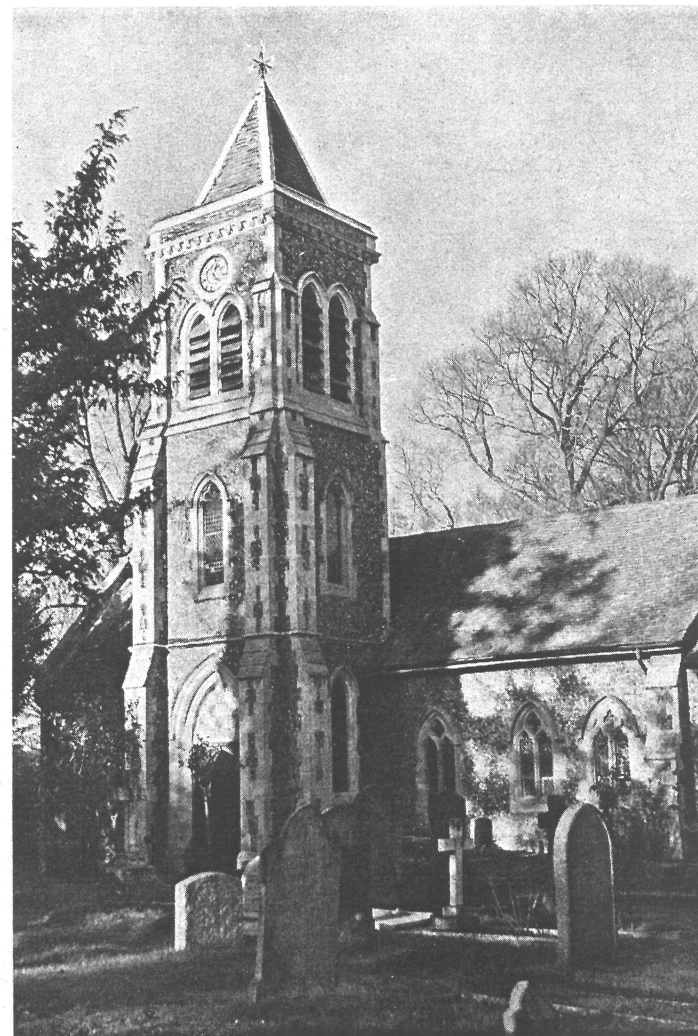
*The Rector,
The Rectory,
Chesham Bois*

To all Parishioners of Chesham Bois

Miss Dorothy Johnson
40 High Street
Amersham
Bucks. HP7 0DJ
Tel: Amersham 5453

Your Parish Church needs your help

St. Leonard's Church, Chesham Bois



Founded 1215 A.D., the year of Magna Carta

A brief history of St. Leonard's Church

Founded in 1215, the church was first used as a private chapel; the original structure can still be seen as the part which now forms the chancel. The arch which surmounted the entrance to this oldest part of our church now stands over the gate leading into the churchyard.

In the 17th century a small tower stood at the west end of the church and there was a gallery in the nave. Then in 1823 the gallery was enlarged so that it covered almost half of the nave.

There were extensive alterations in 1881, when the old tower was demolished and the one we have today was built. The present chancel arch was put in, the gallery removed and the north aisle added.

Finally, in 1911, the nave and north aisle were lengthened westwards, the old vestry became the organ chamber and a new vestry was added. At this time, also, the pulpit and reading desk were transposed and gas lighting replaced oil lamps.

There are three bells of St. Leonard's. One of them, which replaces an earlier bell dating from the early 15th century, was given in 1947 and bears the names of two children who lost their lives as a result of bombing action in the last war, one child in Chesham Bois, the other in Germany.

Apart from the building itself, St. Leonard's has many features of interest. There are a Queen Anne Holy Table, an early Jacobean pulpit—near which is an iron holder for the hour-glass—an Elizabethan chalice and an altar tomb dating from 1585. The east window, which was redesigned and restored in 1948, is of 14th and 15th century glass. There are monumental brasses (1542), one of them being of a child in chrysom cloth. The earliest register dates from 1542.

You may take pride in the long history of our church, during which it has served so many generations of Chesham Bois people. Will you not help to make sure that its future may also be a long and useful one?

St. Leonard, who lived about the year 500 A.D., was originally a young Frankish chief under King Clovis. Later he lived the life of a hermit in a forest in the south of France where escaped and rescued prisoners and penitents gathered around him. Because of his interest in prisoners he became their patron saint and in some churches bearing his name today prisoners' chains are to be seen.

Why help is urgently needed

This old church belongs to you all: it is your Parish Church. You can call upon its services at any time you wish, even if you do not all use it as a regular place of worship.

It has been in use for 736 years and has been handed down to us, not merely as a possession but as a responsibility. It is surely up to all of us to preserve this great treasure in our midst.

The stonework has deteriorated and crumbled in many places and defects in the fabric have been revealed. This is all being attended

