

# THE ABCHURCH APPEAL



Join us in preserving Wren's masterpiece  
at the centre of Candlewick,  
and the heart of the City



## 340 Years at the centre of community life in Candlewick

**St Mary Abchurch is almost as Sir Christopher Wren left it and is nearly unique in that respect.**

People come to admire the architecture and furnishings, to spend time in prayer or reflection, to attend events both secular and religious, or all of these.

After three hundred and forty years of serving the City of London, it's time to renew St Mary Abchurch so that it can continue to fulfil its historic purposes and also seek new ways to serve the City in the future.

Following several decades of neglect, a lot needs to be put right:

The building needs to be repaired inside and out (you might have noticed the cracks)

The magnificent mural inside the dome needs to be repaired and cleaned

The entire interior needs to be redecorated

The electrics need to be replaced, and a new lighting scheme installed

The dying gas boiler needs to be replaced by air source heat pumps

## Renovations to make St Mary's fit for the future

**With the new entrance to Bank tube station now open, St Mary Abchurch is arguably the best-connected building in the country.** The church has enormous potential as a focus for the study of Wren's architecture, as a meeting place, and as a place for music and dialogue: but in order to meet that potential it needs a few sensitive changes to be made, with care being taken that the changes will not compromise the building's architectural integrity.

Repair the pipe organ so that it can be used once-more!

Transform the vestry into a meeting space

Install state of the art audio-visual equipment for community use

Movable choir pews to create a versatile performance space

Remove the dark victorian varnish in order to reveal the beauty of Wren & Gibbons design and carvings.

Install a kitchen that meets current standards

Make the WC facilities accessible to wheelchair users

Lower the vestry floor and install ramps to the chancel step, to enable the entire building to be accessible to wheelchair users.



## To Support St Mary's is to support our community

**St Mary Abchurch hosts a wide variety of activities: midweek lunchtime services; a weekly organ recital; carol services (including the Candlewick Ward carol service); regular and occasional community group meetings of various kinds; a wide variety of other events (including the Candlewick Ward mote and polling station); and the 'Word of the Month' educational project, with occasional 'Third Thursday' lectures and discussions.**

The Friends of the City Churches—a charity that promotes the city churches as a vital aspect of London's heritage, and that provides volunteer churchwatchers to keep them open—has its base at St Mary Abchurch.

Once the building is conserved, and minor sensitive alterations have been made, we shall be able to develop all of these activities, and we shall also be far more able to host lectures, debates, dialogues, exhibitions, recitals, and much more.

During 2023, the tercentenary of Christopher Wren's death, St Mary Abchurch hosted the Wren 300 wood conservation week, the plaster conservation week, lectures about Wren's architecture, a 3D measurement

project, and one of the Wrenathon choirs.

The building would be an ideal place to continue to teach conservation skills and to be a valuable focus for the study of Christopher Wren and his architecture.

Another theme of the events held during the past couple of years has been social ethics, and particularly their relationship to the Christian Faith. Once we are able to provide the facilities now expected of conferences, exhibitions, and similar events, we shall be able to make a significant contribution to the City of London's exploration of social ethics.



# How you can help

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The St Mary Abchurch Guild Church Council has appointed a project manager and a conservation architect, and detailed plans are now being developed.

Now all we need is the money! Once the architect gets to work we'll be clearer about the precise cost of the project, but we are told that a loose estimate would be £2m.

To seek further details and to discuss the project please contact the Priest in Charge using the email address below.

Details of current activity at St Mary Abchurch can be found at [www.stmaryabchurch.org.uk/](http://www.stmaryabchurch.org.uk/).

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## Get in touch

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Scan the QR code to join the  
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community group

[www.candlewickward.org](http://www.candlewickward.org)