

At St Mary's - we've spent a lot of time and effort keeping the old lady in good shape but Botox doesn't work so well on stonework or even on the Rector!

We're confident that metaphorically her new pair of wellies will stop her rising damp and a bit of filler here and there will keep old age at bay. So theoretically, although we've just had our latest Quinquennial Inspection, we have some breathing space until we need to spend a king's ransom again. It cost us just short of £100,000 last year.

At St Luke's coincidentally - we have also just had our latest Quinquennial Inspection but the need for repairs and conservation is more urgent.

If you get married in church we are not allowed to charge more for weddings than laid down by Head Office; that's about 20% of the cost of a country house wedding and no account is taken of the size of the buildings, the smallness of the parish and the fact we have two buildings to maintain.

We are utterly reliant on you to cover the cost of the Rector, some day to day outgoings, heating, lighting, keeping the doors open and ministering to your needs as and when you need help.

We really need to know roughly what our annual income might be so we can budget.

If you already give to St Mary's or St Luke's, thank you, but would you please consider inflation indexing your giving?

If you don't give on a monthly basis please consider doing so. We're not asking for the moon just a regular gift of whatever you can afford to give. Thank you.

- In addition -

St Mary's has recently given the following to charities over a twelve month period -

Children's Society	318.48
Demelza House	178.00
Embrace the Middle East	130.00
Church Mission Society	632.00
Hospice in the Weald	632.00
Friends of Kent Churches	20.00
	£ 1910.48

Likewise St Luke's made the following donations in the same twelve months

Friends of Kent Churches	20.00
The Royal British Legion	391.85
Embrace the Middle East	199.45
Tear Fund	371.66
Water Aid	445.00
Bridge Trust	580.00
	£ 2017.96

These approximate amounts are voted for by members of both PCC's

It's time to think again about how we fund our churches in the Chiddingstones



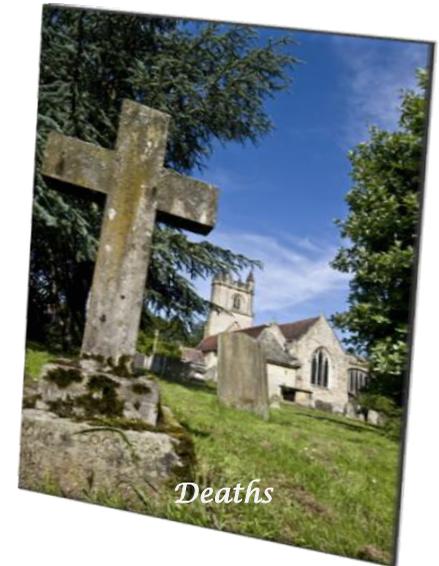
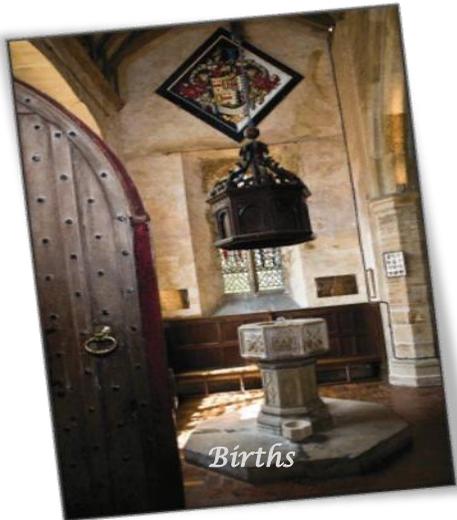
**St Mary's - Chiddingstone
and
St Luke's - Chiddingstone Causeway**

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www.chiddingstonechurches.org
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Everything is fragile and needs looking after



Including our local churches



If this is what you think about when someone says "church" you're not alone, they're just three things, among many, we do rather well!

Will you help us?