



Appeal Update June 2007

Our appeal was formally launched live on BBC Radio WM on 2nd June 2006.

Since that time much has happened and we are now making serious progress towards our fund-raising target. Total funds raised now stand at over £115,000 including £25,000 which has been raised specifically for the urgent organ repairs.

This fantastic sum has been achieved through many individual donations as well as a range of fund-raising activities, and there are more to come, including the Flower Festival.

Our top priority is of course repairing the Nave Roof. We were delighted to hear just before Christmas that English Heritage is proposing to give us a grant of a further £65,000 towards the roof repairs and this, along with the other funds we have raised, meant that we were able to get things underway. We hope to see work start on this major stage of our renovation project this autumn.

The detailed specification of this work has been drawn-up by our appointed architect and approved by English Heritage. We have now gone to tender to selected contractors. When the tenders come in and have been checked, they will go to English Heritage for review to enable formal confirmation of the grant that has been offered. This will also confirm how much more we need to raise to

complete the work, probably around £20,000.

As we should soon be able to start work on the roof, our focus now has to be on raising the necessary funds to enable us to remove and renovate the organ and also to repair the original internal Georgian lath and plasterwork damaged by the ingress of water through the defective roof. The cost of the repairs to the organ will be £150,000 and the repairs to the lath and plasterwork are expected to cost in the region of £50,000. So we still have a long way to go!

We are currently approaching a number of bodies who provide grants for the repair of organs but we know that many of these only make relatively small awards. We therefore need to identify other potential sources of funding.

We have made excellent progress over the past twelve months and we are very grateful for the generosity of all those who have already supported the appeal financially and in many other ways.

There is still a lot more to be done but we are convinced that, with the love and generosity of the people of Stourbridge and beyond, we will meet our target and St Thomas's mission to the town will continue into the twenty-first century.