

# PRESS RELEASE

## Water leaking through the roof and rising from the ground .....

Such is the problem facing the church of St Edward the Confessor in the village of Kempley. Built just a century ago of locally sourced materials by local craftsmen, this unique Grade II\* listed church was described by John Betjeman as “a mini-cathedral to the Arts and Crafts Movement”. Now the church faces the need for major renovation to stop water ingress through the roof and rising from the ground.

An appeal for financial support was launched on Saturday 5 March with a St David’s Day Concert by the Abertillery Orpheus Male Voice Choir, leader Stephen Bard. The 40-strong choir performed a rousing programme of Welsh and other religious and secular music to a packed and receptive audience in St Edward’s church. The choir was accompanied by the well-known pianist Penny Hughes and supported by a very able young soloist, Hannah Webley, a drama student from the University of Glamorgan. The visit of the choir was sponsored by local resident Mrs Lynette Greenway, under the auspices of The Friends of Kempley Churches.

Speaking at the event, Prof Basil Jarvis, Chairman of Trustees of The Friends, said: “St Edward’s church is important in the heritage of Kempley. The estimated costs of renovation work are in the order of £100,000. Whilst this is not a good time to be seeking money, if we do not take action now the church will fall into disrepair and an important heritage building would be lost from an historic landscape widely renowned for its extensive wild daffodils. We trust that many people will visit Kempley over the Daffodil Weekend on 19 –20 March and support our appeal.”

ENDS

### Notes to Editors

The Friends of Kempley Churches is a registered charity (No. 1108735) that manages the heritage and environment of the Grade I registered Church of St Mary, Kempley, on behalf of English Heritage; raises funds to support both St Mary’s and St Edward’s churches; and provides information on the social and religious history of Kempley, its people, its environment and its churches through the Kempley Tardis project.

St Edward’s church was built in 1903 as a *chapel of ease* for the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl Beauchamp by the architect Randolph Wells. It became the parish church in 1975 when the 12C church of St Mary’s was declared redundant. The church is important both as a centre of worship and as part of the heritage of Kempley. The Arts and Craft Heritage is unique.

Kempley Daffodil Weekend is a village community event held annually to raise funds for St Edward’s church. It provides organised walks to see the daffodils and provides lunches & teas for visitors in the Village Hall.

For further information on:

The Appeal contact Prof Jarvis, Chairman of The Friends of Kempley Churches at 01989-720698 or [chairman.fokc@kempleytardis.org.uk](mailto:chairman.fokc@kempleytardis.org.uk)

The Kempley Tardis project (funded by the Heritage Lottery Board) contact Chris Bligh at 01531-890332 or [bligh@kempleytardis.org.uk](mailto:bligh@kempleytardis.org.uk)

Kempley Daffodil Weekend contact Martin Brocklehurst at 01531-890566 or [brocks.kempleyhome@virgin.net](mailto:brocks.kempleyhome@virgin.net)