

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FROM: Fiona Bruce MP for Congleton Constituency**

**DATE: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010**



### **MP becomes Patron of the Friends of St Mary's, Sandbach**

Fiona Bruce MP has agreed to become Patron of the Friends of St Mary's, Sandbach. The group has been formed to help raise funds for the restoration of the Bell Tower and Roof. The target sum of this appeal is £50,000.

The work is the second phase of restoration work at the Church. The first phase was work to the Chancel Roof, now completed. This second phase will cost over £170,000 of which approximately £120,000 will be granted by English Heritage, should the Church be successful in raising the balance over the coming year.

St Mary's Church is a Grade II star Listed building, which means it is in the top 5% of Listed buildings in the country. Fiona Bruce MP met Reg Dunning and Martyn Colley, Church Wardens, to view the work required at St Mary's.

Earlier this year, Fiona took Henry Owen-John, Regional Director of English Heritage to see St Mary's when he confirmed the grant funding available from English Heritage, subject to the success of this £50,000 appeal.

Fiona Bruce MP said:

*'In just a few months we have witnessed the setting up of the popular Farmers' Markets, the excellent Sandbach Concert Series, the hugely Music on the Cobbles event and work to restore Sandbach Old Hall to its former splendour has now begun.*

*With these further improvements planned to St Mary's Church, right in the heart of the town, there is no doubt that Sandbach is going from strength to strength – enjoying a cultural and historical renaissance that many larger towns would be proud of. It is a privilege to represent and support the community which is making this happen'.*

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