

St Chad's is to mount a £1.5 million appeal to raise funds for repairs and improvements to the church. To assist in this task, the PCC has appointed Action Planning, a fundraising consultancy based in London. Full information on this agency can be found on its website: [www.actionplanning.co.uk](http://www.actionplanning.co.uk)

The main focus of the appeal is the church tower which is in a parlous state, requiring major repairs which will cost more than £700,000. On top of this, the organ is in need of a major overhaul, which it has not had for many years. It is hoped that work on the organ will begin in January 2011. In addition we are planning improvements to the entrance of the church, the lighting and the sound system.

The two consultants from Action Planning who will be working with us are Robin Thomas and Ken Pearson who together have substantial experience in charitable fundraising, not least for churches. They will be conducting a Research Study on St Chads and its scope for support, both from its membership and the wider community. They plan to report before Christmas. It is hoped that we can launch the appeal early in the New Year, and that it should take no more than 18 months.

In addition to these repairs and improvements, we also have an eye to the longer term to see what we need to do in order to achieve our aim for St Chad's to become a 7 day church, which we know will require major improvements and additions to our current buildings.

The works and the appeal are in the hands of a Project Management Group (PMG) who report to the Finance, Stewardship and Fabric Working Group. The PMG is already working on conducting a Parish Audit as part of a process of considering our long term mission to Shrewsbury and this part of Shropshire.

As well as the immediate capital needs of the church, this first appeal will aim to raise sufficient funds to enable St Chad's to appoint a permanent fundraiser to improve its income.

For further information, please contact:

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