

St Mary's Church,

Hale



1.MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate use

Date: November 2004

1.St Mary's Church, Hale, will not slide into the history books thanks to generous sponsors

St Mary's Church in Hale on the edge of the New Forest has been saved from sliding into the history books, thanks to the generosity of local people and numerous sponsors, especially Cleansing Service Group Ltd (CSG), who run the Pound Bottom Landfill Site at Redlynch.

This beautiful, historic church is in urgent need of restoration. Underpinning work is needed under the walls of the South Trancept to stop the church sliding down the hill into the River Avon. And access to the church and community facilities need to be improved so that the building can be used by the whole community.

The project includes:

Bringing a water supply to the church

Installing a toilet for disabled/general use

Installing a small kitchen

Providing a fully ramped access from the car park through the churchyard to the church

CSG were extremely generous in supporting the on-going appeal and have donated £41,500 through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme, half of the total needed to provide the community facilities. The congregation has already raised and had promised £109,400 (84% of the total cost of the whole project).

Dr Ian Carnell of CSG said, "We are delighted to support such a worthwhile local project. This project is yet another example of the way the landfill industry can help local community projects".

Nicky Davies, Churchwarden at St Mary's said, "We are very grateful to CSG, local people and to all the sponsors for helping us save this fantastic historic church and assisting us in our vision to make it an accessible place of heritage and peacefulness. We still need extra funds to make the project a reality, we would love to hear from organisations that want to help."