

# ACRISE NEEDS YOU

Acrise, has existed for over a thousand years and its Norman church, St. Martin's, has stood since Domesday times. The continuance of both cannot be taken for granted!

The newly formed Friends of St Martin's Church, Acrise have embarked on an ambitious programme to preserve this ancient church and keep its place at the heart of the community.



Nine hundred years ago craftsmen, artisans and labourers built the St Martin's that stands today. Many generations later, in the fourteenth century, others, perhaps by then having better skills, made substantial alterations – although the original basic layout and walls remain.



From Elizabethan times onwards the memorials and historical reminders gradually adorned the church. In the year of the Great Fire of London (1666) the Papillon family moved into the adjacent manor house, Acrise Place. Over the next two hundred years they left their indelible mark on St Martin's.

Rectors came and went. Many held the living for over forty years and one, Thomas Rymer, was incumbent for 55 years during the eighteenth century.

Entering St Martin's today is to step back in time. A visitor cannot help but sense the history that envelops this simple country church. The monuments, musician's gallery, the superb choir stool poppy heads and the walls, with their hint of medieval murals that once adorned them, now, sadly, need attention.



It is all too clear that the time has come to attend to fundamental issues surrounding the fabric of both the church and grounds before 'the rot sets in'. Fortunately, the problems have not gone too far but there is much restoration work to do to repay the dedication of previous generations. Properly restored and refurbished St Martin's can go forward into the current millennium for future generations to enjoy and cherish.



Working towards this objective The Friends have started by bringing together the skills of specialists to help achieve the task in hand. But we need your assistance as well. By joining The Friends you will be helping to finance a secure future for St Martin's Church, Acrise.



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The Friends of St Martin's Church Acrise Registered Charity No. 1109197

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