



WHY CHARGE?

After considerable thought the Parochial Church Council of the Priory Church of Saint Bartholomew the Great has decided that visitors will be asked to pay an entry charge.

There are huge costs involved in running this beautiful place on a day-to-day basis and in preserving it for the future. It costs up to £95 each hour to pay for the Church's lighting, heating, cleaning, choirs and organists, preparation of services, the preservation of the historic monuments, and the maintenance and restoration of the fabric, together with fire prevention and security.

DON'T YOU GET HELP FROM CENTRAL CHURCH FUNDS, THE DIOCESE OR THE GOVERNMENT?

Unlike major churches in some other European countries, we do not receive any state aid to maintain this church and only occasional grants for specific projects. During 2006 our application to English Heritage for assistance with reroofing the north transept at a cost in excess of £200,000 was refused. In consequence we rely on you, our visitors, to meet the costs of running the Church and maintaining the historic buildings.

ARE VISITORS PAYING FOR THE COSTS OF THE CLERGY AND ADMINISTRATION?

Some of the cost of administration will be met from visitor income. The other major source of income, which pays for the Clergy and the Parish Office, is voluntary contributions made by those who worship regularly, or occasionally, at this Church and who contribute weekly or monthly through the Stewardship Scheme, which promotes committed tax-effective giving.

WHAT IF WE WANT TO COME TO PRAY OR TO ATTEND A SERVICE?

We do not charge those entering to attend a service, or for private prayer. If you are coming for this purpose, please speak to the receptionist at the Welcome Desk. We issue a pass to those who support the Church and who live or work locally. If you visit simply to look around, we do ask you to pay.

IS ST BARTHOLOMEW'S THE ONLY CHURCH THAT HAS A CHARGE?

No. More and more cathedrals and churches in this country and abroad are being forced to make a charge in some form or another to cover their very high costs.

We hope this explanation may have gone some way to help you understand why we had to make the decision to charge visitors to the Priory Church of Saint Bartholomew the Great.

The annual report and accounts of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) can be seen on application to the Parish Office at 6 Kinghorn Street or contact the Financial Controller on 020 7606 5171 or by email at finance@greatstbarts.com.