

Appendix 3: St Mary's Church, Hitchin

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6147			
Name of Organisation	St Mary's Church, Hitchin			
Organisation Type	Church			
Ward	Hitchin Priory			
Project Type	Capital Works			
Green option considered?	N/A			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	Cllr Keith Hoskins is a Trustee at St Mary's Church Preservation Trust			
Previous financial support within six years	No			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£1,500	Total project cost	£134,111	
Officer Summary				
<p>The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary are seeking funding towards the cost of fitting out one accessible toilet and three other toilet stalls, plus utility and storage areas for church use. The project also involves installation of a full mains drainage connection and mains water supply.</p> <p>St Mary's Church is a much-loved landmark at the centre of Hitchin. The Church welcomes a host of commemorations and celebrations, concerts, fundraising events, civic services and community events and activities.</p> <p>There are currently no toilets or washing facilities in the building. The project will enhance the experience for all that come to St Mary's, and create opportunities for new usage and regular work. It will also address safeguarding issues, and disabled access issues caused by the lack of toilets.</p> <p>There is wide support, with many organisations expressing their interest in using St Mary's as both a regular venue and for large events, which previously had to be held elsewhere due to the lack of facilities.</p> <p>Purchase of materials is already scheduled using Church Funds reserved for the purpose, but fundraising is continuing to provide a sound financial basis for the completion and operation of the facilities when finished. They also continue to get donations via the appeal web page, as well as from the Congregation and the local community. Completion is planned for the first quarter of 2026.</p> <p><i>So far £120,000 has been raised. If the application is recommended and agreed, the release of grant funding will be conditional on the remainder of the project funding being secured.</i></p>				

*Funding will only be released on receipt and approval of all supporting documentation