

Friday, August 25, 2000

# Erosion hits church

ALL Hallows Church in Ringmore needs £100,000 worth of repair work to fix damage caused by sea-winds and salt erosion.

The 13th century church, sited on an exposed position overlooking the village and facing the sea to Ayrmer Cove, has water leaking through the masonry and around the stonework of the windows.

Members of the church committee are to look at ways of raising the cash at their meeting next month, but will make a start on repairs using the £6,000 already in the pot.

Michael Tagent, church

treasurer, said: 'Like any old building the church has deteriorated and the effects of wind and rain has to be redeemed.'

'It is leaking and there is evidence of damp. When the wind and rain are in the right quarter odd little bits of water drives in through the windows.'

'Meter readings also show extreme dampness and there is mould in one part of the tower.'

'There is also discolouration on the back wall of the church where water has come down and although the church will not fall down tomorrow it does

need repairing.'

The committee has planned for a two to three year repair programme, starting with the replacement of cracked and broken roof tiles.

Gutters, downpipes and drains will also be checked and repaired if necessary, to make sure water cannot come in from above.

Mr Tagent added: 'We will be making our own fund-raising efforts as well as applying for various grants from bodies like English Heritage and the Diocese.'

'We have not looked at ways to raise the money,

but any surplus raised at the church's summer fete on bank holiday Monday will be put towards the programme.'

The fete, which kicks off at 2pm, will be held in the field next to Church House, Ringmore.

Along with the usual stalls will be children's races, a bouncy castle, cream teas and entertainment from popular local performers the Park Bench Aristocrats.

Anyone who would like to make a donation or is interested in helping to fund-raise phone Michael Tagent on 01548 810520.



Picture contributed