

The ASTRA Campaign

Background to All Saints Tower Restoration Appeal

The tower of All Saints Church Bow Brickhill has been an iconic backdrop to the history of our village and is now in urgent need of restoration. The vital task of **ASTRA** is to ensure the tower is repaired and kept in good order for posterity.

The reasons for the establishment of the **ASTRA** Working Group are:

- Restoration of the tower is necessary to ensure that the church is in a good and safe structural condition so that it can remain accessible to the public and open as a place of worship.
- The church is part of the whole fabric of the past that lives on in the village. It is one of the oldest parts of the pattern of settlement of Bow Brickhill and therefore is a key reference point to understanding the history of the village.
- The church tower is a building of great visual dignity located in a picturesque setting and an important local landmark. The tower was built to impress and has carried on doing this for over 500 years. With its commanding presence on the wooded escarpment of the Greensand Ridge, the tower stands as a beacon overlooking the new city of Milton Keynes and the plains to the west. It is essential that this structure is protected.
- The church building has altered over the centuries, but it can be seen to be an essentially stable point in a landscape and community that has been transformed immeasurably since the middle ages. The tower, with the church, have dominated the village and touched people's lives daily over hundreds of years
- With its strategic position the tower is part of our national heritage too and that is why it is essential that it be safeguarded and passed on to future generations.

In order to restore the church tower **ASTRA** needs money, as well as professional advice on the nature of sympathetic historical renewal. Fondness for the church alone is not going to deliver the outcome desired. What is required is a community endeavour extending to the wide area of Milton Keynes to raise funds.

A huge population in the new city of Milton Keynes looks on the church on the hill and the surrounding woodland with much affection. It is a massive historical landmark in our area and the new city would be poorly placed without this historical reference point. **ASTRA** looks to the broad community in the area to help to restore this powerful piece of medieval architecture.

<http://www.bowbrickhill.com/astra/astra.htm>