

Press release

Church building may close

The community of Upper Gornal is invited to a public meeting on Saturday 9 June to discuss the future of St Peter's Church. The church has stood on Kent Street for nearly 180 years, but there has been a serious deterioration in the building and its future is now uncertain.

St Peter's Church is currently in need of work which will cost around £500,000. Although the church membership is active, the current congregation is not able to afford this repair bill. It is therefore possible that the church building will be closed.

Team Rector, the Revd Guy Hewlett, said: "The church community is incredibly sad to be faced with a situation which feels impossible and we realise this news is likely to come as a shock to many locally. The public meeting will give people the opportunity to hear what is happening to the church and the prospects for the future. We hope as many people as possible will be able to come along."

Team Vicar, the Revd Catherine Mitchell, said: "We know that St Peter's Church is important to the community, with many weddings, baptisms and funerals having been held there. We also have connections with the community through local uniformed groups and social events taking place in the hall, which thankfully, is in better condition."

Even if the decision is made to close the church building, the church, as the people, will continue to minister in the area. The public meeting will be held at St Peter's Church Hall, Kent Street, on Saturday 9th June at 12:00 noon. All are welcome.