

## **Floodlights. Let there be – and eventually there was light!**



**Our 900 year old church, high on the hill, and visible not only from the Codicote Road but from the motorway and railway, cried out to be floodlit. For several years a temporary job had been done at Christmas. In June 1997 there was an item in 'See Round' about the Church Floodlighting Trust, a Millennium Project supported by Funds from the National Lottery, which was giving grants of up to 45% of the costs of installing floodlighting. Application paperwork was obtained, the Diocese contacted and initial trials were carried out in February 1998 using equipment from a local manufacturer. The results were encouraging and PCC approval was given to proceed. In early March a further trial was done to show the village what the general effect would be and to obtain feedback, which was all very positive. We registered with the Church Floodlighting Trust in April 1998. In mid-July our proposal was approved in outline but a detailed fully-costed plan was required to progress. By the autumn we were able to try out some lower powered lamps. The faculty application process was started and quotations sought from three contractors, two of whom were local. Furthermore approval needed to be obtained from English Heritage. In April 1999 the final submission went into the Trust. We selected Messrs Mudge of Bedford to be the installation contractor. The Trust Lighting Engineer visited the church, was very supportive and helpful and it was agreed that more compact lighting units should be used, with metal halide rather than high-pressure sodium lamps. The Trust agreed to our application with these modifications. At the end of June, a lighting supplier came and produced a detailed/costed specification. Messrs Mudge were advised to pencil in a date in late November/early December for the work. In August we sent in our final costing to the Millennium Commission to confirm the funding although the site trial with the various different lights was only held**

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at the end of September. This essentially confirmed the July specification with some very minor changes in light positioning. The Diocesan faculty stipulated that we contact both the Diocesan Archaeologist for his approval before any digging work was done in the churchyard and any lights affixed to the church structure, and the church insurers for their permission. The lights were ordered at the end of October. In early December Messrs Mudge were hard at it but the weather seemed to be incessant rain. Late afternoon of the 23rd of December 1999, the contractors left – it was done. The church had been very fortunate in receiving gifts following the deaths of several parishioners and these funds plus a lot of monies raised by our dedicated cyclists doing the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust sponsored cycle rides made up most of the costs. It had been a tough 2½ years, but the final result has been very satisfactory and the cost was 6% below our maximum Trust guarantee. Since that time the floodlighting has been on every evening from dusk to late evening.