

Church on the Brink of Closing Receives Unexpected Blessing Hidden Beneath Its Altar

Sometimes God answers prayers in ways no one could have imagined.

A centuries-old church in England that stood on the verge of closing has received an extraordinary second chance after nine gold Britannia coins were discovered hidden beneath its altar, providing a powerful reminder that the Lord's provision can arrive suddenly and at exactly the right time.

According to one report from Premier Christian News, the coins are valued at nearly £30,000 and were found as leaders at St. Wilfrid's Church in Melling prepared for Good Friday morning prayers.

A miracle in a moment

Rev. Jane Lee said she and a lay minister were setting up for morning prayers when they discovered a small box tucked inside a plastic bag beneath the altar.

"We just burst into tears when we saw it," Lee told BBC North West Tonight. "We couldn't believe it. It was like a miracle, because it's so desperately needed."



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The timing could hardly have been more remarkable.

The 700-year-old church had been unable to raise the estimated

£750,000 needed for critical repairs, including replacing its roof. The congregation had already begun the process of closing the church.

“We were struggling to keep our doors open,” Lee said, describing the historic building as being “in a bit of a pickle” because of the extensive work still required.

A seed for greater things

Rather than viewing the unexpected gift as the complete answer, Lee said she believes it will become the foundation for even greater provision.

According to Lee, the money will serve as “a seed” to strengthen grant applications and future fundraising efforts so the church can complete the repairs it needs.

She also reflected on what she believes is the significance of the timing.

“For me, it’s significant because we’ve got more community backing now to the church, whereas four years ago we would have probably just spent it on the day-to-day running,” Lee said. “Now it’s there for a seed to get all the repairs done that need to be done.”

Lee suspects an anonymous donor placed the coins beneath the altar roughly four years ago, though they remained undiscovered until this spring.

Stories like this serve as a reminder that God’s faithfulness is never limited by what we can see. Whether through the generosity of His people or circumstances beyond our imagination, every good gift ultimately comes from Him.

As St. Wilfrid’s looks toward the future with renewed hope, its story stands as an encouraging testimony that even when circumstances appear impossible, God is still at work. He

deserves all the glory for every blessing, every answered prayer and every fresh beginning.

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