



■ Mike Cooke, treasurer of the Stroud Carol Bus committee, with the bus.

Fears for carol bus

ORGANISERS of Stroud's Christmas charity carol bus say they fear the service could be scrapped.

After 25 years, countless miles and a good causes collection total of £150,000 it seems that the odds are now stacked against the festive fundraiser.

The bus failed to make its annual seasonal round last Christmas but many local people hoped it was only a temporary hiccup.

Now however Carol Bus treasurer Mike Cooke said he feared the bus might never be resurrected.

"We will be meeting very shortly to discuss the situation

but if the bus was to go on tour again there are many difficulties to be overcome," he said.

The bus traditionally tours the Stroud valleys for a month before Christmas playing carol music and collecting cash for local charities.

Mr Cooke said maintenance of the bus, which was an old D-registered double decker, was one issue.

There was also a problem with garaging the bus.

"We need somewhere indoors to work on the bus, and for it to park while volunteers decorate it," Mr Cooke added.

Finding sufficient qualified drivers to take the wheel was another difficulty, he said.