

All Saints Church, Turvey - South Aisle Project

Our 2011 Quinquennial Inspection highlighted as a priority the repair and renewal of our south aisle which had been leaking at a number of points for some time.

Our then architect arranged for an internal measured survey of the roof timbers by means of a scaffold platform and prepared a specification for the repair work. The specification was then issued to three contractors seeking a cost estimate and subsequently CEL Ltd. was appointed. In the meantime, in the knowledge that church funds would be unable to cover the likely cost, we applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund Grants for Places of Worship scheme for support for the project which included the provision of a children's area in the south aisle involving the re-ordering of some pews. The latter work would be carried out by a local carpenter and be the subject of a separate contract. (The Heritage Lottery Fund can fund the preparation of full specifications after a grant is offered.)

In December we were fortunate to be awarded "£113,500 (55% of the total eligible cost of the project of £207,240) to undertake urgent repair works at All Saints Church Turvey and deliver a package of activities to engage the local community" by the HLF. The package of activities included the children's area, the production of a set of guide books, the creation of a quiet area in the churchyard, plans for concerts and plays to be performed in the church, and additional storage in the churchyard to remove some of the "clutter" from within the church.

Needless to say the gap between the amount of the grant and the eligible cost had to be bridged and with the help of the Friends of All Saints Turvey (FAST) and another legacy fund we were able to raise the necessary funds. We have been able to recover VAT under the Listed Places of Worship VAT Recovery Scheme (a requirement of HLF grants). Work finally commenced in early May 2016 and the Certificate of Final Completion was issued in June 2017.

The process of the grant application was challenging and we benefited greatly from the sterling efforts of a resident of Turvey with considerable experience of grant applications in the public domain. I should add that the major part of the project was executed during a two year Interregnum when the church was without a minister.

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