

THE PARISH OF BEIGHTON WITH MOULTON

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

**RETHATCHING & IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT**

APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER & APPEAL



Photo: Mike Page



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Dear Parishioners

For those who are familiar with the plans for All Saints, Beighton, at last we are able to bring you some further news on the major project for our Grade I Listed parish church. If this is the first newsletter you have seen on the subject, a brief account of what the project does entail:



The nave roof thatch needs completely replacing and a number of the trusses and 2 scissor-brace beams need repairing or possibly replacing.

This will entail erecting scaffolding inside and out so the roof can be accessed and whilst this is in place it seemed logical to include in the project work needed on the higher level (clerestory) windows. Inside, on the south aisle wall there are large areas of plaster which need attention. The church council also felt it was time to upgrade facilities in the church (of which there are none at present) so an accessible toilet is planned for what is currently the vestry and a kitchen server added to the west corner of the north aisle. To make room for the kitchen and create more space for entertaining a number of pews will be removed and relocated where possible to replace those with worn and worm-eaten seats.

Because of the size of the project, the Heritage Lottery Fund ('HLF') was approached for grant aid and funding secured to develop the project. This entailed the architect, Matthew Thomas, submitting a report on the condition of the roof along with draft scheme drawings for the improvements and written specifications to encompass the full scope of the work along with specialist reports on the glazing, possible wall paintings and surface water drainage. A copy of the roof report is available to view in the church along with draft plans.

It took a long time for Historic England (acting on behalf of the HLF) to accept that a more detailed beam-by-beam report would not be possible until scaffolding was in place. A cherry-picker was out of the question due to access difficulties. Meanwhile, the drawings and written specification which had also been submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Council ('DAC')



met with some disapproval. Although the DAC had expressed broad approval of the project, the devil was in the detail so to speak. Finally, in late January this year, approval of the detailed specification and reports was received from the HLF together with informal

agreement by the DAC. This meant Matthew was at last able to invite itemised tenders from suitable builders and specialists. One crucial factor in all this was the deadline of 30th March 2017 to get all the development work done and the application submitted to HLF for the second ('delivery') phase grant based on the lowest tenders. Had the deadline been missed, we would have had to start from scratch with our bid. Thankfully, we made it and the application is now with the HLF awaiting their decision which should be made in mid-June. Somewhat

crucially, the most competitive combination of tenders and specialists quotes was significantly higher than the figures forecast by Historic England on which the in-principal grant offer for the delivery of the work was based.

HOW MUCH WILL THE PROJECT COST?

The project as a whole was estimated to cost £175,843 in total, split into two phases: Development and Delivery. The development phase was completed at 30 March, budgeted at £22,220. This figure was achieved as shown in the table:

Income Source	Description	Amount (£)
Heritage Lottery Fund	Grant	17,000
Central Government	Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (VAT claims)	3,200
Parochial Church Council	Fabric Fund	305
Other fundraising	Local appeal and donations	1,715
Total income		22,220

Of the £1,715 to be raised locally for this phase we reached £1,633 which was a real achievement.

The actual work comes under the Delivery phase which we hope to start in late 2017. The Heritage Lottery Fund will not give permission for work to start, however, until all the funding is in place. We also have to work around the presence of bats roosting in the church and the Bat Conservation Trust has advised work should be carried out between mid-September and late March. The estimated costs for this stage were £153,623 whereas the combined most competitive tenders came in at £194,307, the main increase being on the nave roof scaffolding and timber repairs. It is anticipated this figure will be achieved by the following means:

Income Source	Description	Amount (£)
Heritage Lottery Fund	Grant	138,000
Central Government	Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (VAT claims)	29,839
Norfolk Churches Trust	Grant	6,000
Parochial Church Council	Own Reserves, Local Appeal, Donations,	8,468
Other Grant Bodies	Grants	12,000
Total income		£194,307

So how can you help?

The church council and members of the project team really hope you will support this huge undertaking to secure the future of All Saints for everyone. Inevitably, there will need to be funds raised locally and to this assist with this the following events are planned to take place this year.

Friday 12 May, 7:30pm - Beighton Village Hall

TUTORED WINE TASTING WITH CHEESE AND RAFFLE - led by Steve Hearnden of Tastebuds Wines in Strumpshaw. Steve is a retired lecturer in gastronomy and marketing, a Fellow of the Institute of Hospitality and an Associate of the Institute of Wines and Spirits. He writes a monthly food and wine pairing column in the Norfolk Feast magazine. Tickets are £12 (in advance), available from Kate Ashcroft on 01493 751637, 07947 726821 or email ashcroftkathleen@sky.com .

Saturday 17 June, 10:00am-4:00pm - All Saints Church

TRADITIONAL CRAFTSMEN DAY - for all the family with demonstrations of the type of crafts used to construct the church including a Thatching team from How Hill Trust, Flint Knapping, Stained Glass artist, Wood Carving and Stonemason. There will also be other activities to enjoy plus lunches and light refreshments. Toilet facilities will be available.

Saturday 8 July, 3:30pm – All Saints Church

MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL BY TS ELIOT – a verse-drama in two acts with chorus that portrays the assassination of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170. The action occurs between 2 and 29 December 1170, chronicling the days leading up to the martyrdom of Thomas Becket following his absence of seven years in France. Becket's internal struggle is the main focus of the play. Tickets will be available on the door and will include drinks, refreshments and strawberry teas.

Saturday 9 September – All Saints Church

EXHIBITION OF ARTS & CRAFTS including GILDENCRAFT STONEMASONS OF NORWICH – an opportunity to view work created by the many talented people in this area to coincide with the Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Ride, Stride and Drive. Entrance is free with donations for the Restoration and Improvements Appeal. Contact Suzanne Peek (01493 751011) to book a place.

Getting down to brass tacks (as the saying goes). Looking at the table on page [] you will note that the anticipated amount to be contributed by the church council is £8,468. At present, we have £1,400 in the Fabric Fund which will be used for the project. This may be added to during the year but we have to maintain normal running costs which total around £5,500. Therefore the parish needs to raise the balance of £7,000. Whilst the events planned will hopefully raise quite a large proportion of this, we must also appeal to the very generous nature of everyone residing in the parish and beyond to help us meet this target. It is a lot of money but in very simple terms : if 100 people gave £70 each that would crack it. Of course, not everyone can afford such an amount and please be assured that whatever you can give it will make a difference overall and will be very gratefully received. Just imagine the end result – a fully accessible, heated, flush loo and no drafts from the growing holes in the thatch and the rusty clerestory windows that can't be shut tight!

Donations can be sent to:

Mrs Kate Ashcroft, PCC Treasurer at 4 Ash Tree Road, Moulton St Mary,
Norwich NR13 3NN.

Cheques should be made payable to PCC Beighton & Moulton St Mary.
Please consider gift aiding your donation, this will add a further 25p for
every £1 received. A form is printed on the back page to include with
your donation.

On-line transfers can be sent to:

Lloyds Bank plc

Sort code 30-99-97

Account number: 00603168.

Please put your surname followed by 'Roof' as the reference to help the
treasurer track receipts.

Any queries contact Kate on 01493 751637 or email:

ashcroftkathleen@sky.com .

Make a note of the website which covers all the parishes in the Acle and Bure to Yare Benefice: www.abychurches.co.uk . You'll find news of all sorts of events and church services in the eight parishes that make up the benefice including a page dedicated to the project at All Saints, Beighton.

You will also find us on Facebook - just search for Friends of All Saints Beighton.

If you are able to make a donation, please fill in this slip and return it to: Mrs Kate Ashcroft, 4 Ash Tree Road, Moulton St Mary, Norwich NR13 3NN.

Name (please print)

Address (please print)

..... Postcode

I enclose my donation of £ for the All Saints Church, Beighton Rethatching & Improvements Project Appeal

TICK I wish Gift Aid to apply to the enclosed donation. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference