

The battle for Fawltly Tower



Mattishall and Tudd Valley
All Saints Welborne

The problem

As you are probably aware, there have been concerns about the condition of the Church Tower for some time. For the past year, the tower has been taped off, as large chunks of the flint walls could fall out at any time. The roof is deteriorating and the dormer windows are rotten.

Can it be fixed?

Of course it can! but it will need a large injection of cash.

This is when you think how much money will they want from us?

The answer is simple. NONE!

We have recently applied for a special grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and we are hoping for a successful response in November.

We have also applied to other funders and have so far secured over £10 000 that can be added to our existing Tower Repair fund, donated by the generous people of Welborne and the surrounding area.

At this stage we must give a very big "thank you" to the people of Welborne for their letters of support and fresh ideas about how we can improve the use of the church. All of those letters have been included and form an important part of our HLF application.

From our architect's latest calculations, the overall cost for repairs is £240,000. We are currently thinking that one or more of the following projects could be included in the current project: toilet, kitchenette, improved heating, better pathway and update lighting and sound system.

We will be looking for your ideas about how best to do this as our application progresses. We hope that repairing the Tower will be a chance for people to use the church more for things that interest them.

The Heritage Lottery Fund are happy to fund activities that will increase the use of the church as a Heritage building. This is a great chance to get funding to do the things that will improve the link between the church and the village. We would welcome your ideas about how we could do this.

This is where we are hopeful that you will be interested in being involved.

Getting involved

We are hoping to arrange a series of heritage projects, the following are some of our ideas (but you may come up with better suggestions); to produce heritage guides, children's story trail, walking guides, cycle trail, history projects, website content, and training for those interested in maintaining old buildings. When we have gathered enough material, we aim to have exhibitions in the church and village hall and keeping a permanent display in the church for visitors.

Some of these projects will commence in the coming months, before we hear if our bid succeeds, the main work will be done over the next two years.

If you would like to find out more about how you could be involved please contact me using the details below, or if you prefer please contact Trevor Curson, Chairman of the Village Hall Events Committee, who has very kindly agreed to act as a contact in Welborne.

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet and being willing to help us.

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