

Funding to fix a faulty tower

By **DOUG FAULKNER**

doug.faulkner@archant.co.uk

A church is hoping it can fix its faulty tower after receiving a grant of more than £25,000.

All Saints Church, in Welborne, near Mattishall, will use the £28,200 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to repair its ancient round tower as part of an estimated £259,000 project.

In addition to the tower repairs it is hoped funds can be raised to build new facilities such as a toilet and a kitchenette with the aim of increasing the church's role in community events.

There is also an aim to produce heritage church trail guides for walkers and cyclists and the project will also include training workshops in historic building

repair techniques.

The hope is this will help the people of Norfolk to maintain the county's traditional buildings to maintain its heritage in the future.

Richard Took, fabric officer, said: "The tower is in a dangerous condition and is obviously roped off because pieces keep falling off it.

"Although the church started off nearly 1,000 years ago the tower was built about 400 years later so it is around 600 years old. It has done well to last as long as it has.

"Part of what we are trying to do is when the builder is designated, it will have to go out to tender of course, we intend to have them run some workshops for people interested in preserving old buildings.

"We have a lot of old buildings in Norfolk and Suffolk that all need to be restored so it is something that needs to be passed on."

It is hoped the HLF will fund 85pc of the project with the rest of the money coming from VAT being claimed back.

Church Warden Susan Cross said: "As custodians of All Saints we are delighted that the Heritage Lottery Fund has given us this lifeline.

"This church has been a focal point serving the village and local community for 1000 years."

The church underwent extensive repair work in the 1870s and is notable for a number of wood carvings which decorate it.

■ Are you part of a heritage project? Write to doug.faulkner@archant.co.uk



AT RISK: The faulty church tower.



DELIGHTED: Linda Groom, Dean Sully and Richard Took.

Picture: IAN BURT.