

Grant will help church repair its round tower

A church is hoping it can fix its 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 (HLF) 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.

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Richard Took

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It is also hoped to produce heritage church trail guides for walkers and cyclists, and the project will 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 and maintain its heritage in the future.

Richard Took, fabric officer at the church, 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.



■ Linda Groom, Dean Sully and Richard Took pictured outside Welborne Church which has received a lottery grant.

Picture: IAN BURT

"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."

Churchwarden 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 commu-

nity for 1,000 years."

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

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