

All Saints' Church: latest news on the restoration project

We still need your help! Please read on to find out how.

Our wide-ranging project plan, to repair and develop a centre about Winterton's heritage in the church, has moved on a further stage. It has reached RIBA Stage D and the designs and plans have been supported by Lincoln Diocesan Advisory Committee and now rest with English Heritage for their comments. The latest plans can be seen in church and also on our website at <http://lincoln.ourchurchweb.org.uk/winterton/>

We submitted our Stage 2 funding application [for £665,500] in September to the Heritage Lottery Fund who, so far, have given very positive responses to our project. We will get their final answer in December.

Together with our own local fundraising, we have received pledges from a range of trust funds for £165,000 of the £210,000 required by the Heritage Lottery Fund as match funding. Several grant applications are still awaiting decisions from a number of other funders and we expect to reach the target soon! We are much heartened by the positive response to our local appeal for donations. There has been a generous response from a number of private individuals and we are very grateful to the following businesses who have made recent donations: Keith Button Funeral Director [J. Naylor]; Smith & Walker, Optometrists; Express Laundry & Dry Cleaning Services.

Now we are ready to move on to the next stage, assuming that the Heritage Lottery Fund says yes in December. This is where we need your help.

We will have to manage the cashflow [over £850,000] throughout the project. Our problem is that the church will have to pay the invoices first and only then can claim the grant money from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other funding bodies. In some months of our cashflow projection this means the church bank account will need far, far more than the usual few thousand pounds which is enough to meet normal annual running costs.

In short, we will need a loan of about £50,000 for the duration of the project! We have approached our bank to see what they can arrange for, and charge, us.

But if we can get a group of church members, supporters and well-wishers to put together whatever sums they can afford, we hope to avoid the need for the church to pay out even more expense in bank charges. We are asking for interest-free loans from our community. We already have had offers from some supporters who will loan us £1,000 each. Can you join us and offer whatever sum you can afford? Any sum you loan to the church will be paid back in full to you at the end of the project.

It will be dreadful if we can raise nearly £900,000 to benefit our beautiful Grade I listed church but then have to abandon the scheme because we do not have the cashflow to allow it to take place! We certainly cannot go ahead with the project unless we can arrange enough cash, held in reserve, to guarantee the cashflow in the church bank account throughout the project.

Please consider if you can help us with an interest-free loan. If you can, or you want to find out more detail, please contact Robin Shawyer, the project leader, on 01724 734285 or rdshawyer@gmail.com or speak to the Vicar, Revd Alice Nunn.