

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST

10/08/17

FUNDING BOOST HELPS SAVE HISTORIC NEWTON ST LOE CHURCH

SOMERSET

NEWTON ST LOE

Holy Trinity, Newton St Loe, Somerset, BA2 9BU

Diocese of Bath & Wells – Church of England - Grade II*

Web address: www.holytrinitynsl.org.uk

The church is on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register

Holy Trinity church has received a £10,000 National Churches Trust Repair Grant to carry out urgent structural repairs to its vestry.

The church is one of 70 churches and chapels in England, Wales and Scotland that are set to benefit from rescue funding of £522,241 from the National Churches Trust, the UK's church support charity.

Huw Edwards, Broadcaster and Journalist and Vice-President of the National Churches Trust said:

"I'm delighted that Holy Trinity, Newton St Loe is to be saved for the future with the help of a £10,000 National Churches Trust Repair Grant. This will ensure that this important church remains open and at the service of local people."

The project

The repair work will include underpinning the vestry building to resolve structural movement and damage. This is essential to the future structural stability and fabric of the church. It will ensure that the entire church is safe to use for generations to come. The church will then be able to bring facilities within the building up to modern expectations such as installing a toilet.

There is a strong determination amongst the village residents and farming community to keep the church open for the generations to come. The project will create opportunities for engagement with heritage, architecture and history and allow greater use of the building by students for music, plays and location filming.

The church

A church has stood on the site, close to Newton St Loe Castle and Newton Park, since the 11th century. However the current stone building was constructed in the 14th century with the tower being added in the 15th century. It was restored in 1857. An unusual feature is that the bell tower has a clock face with only one hand. It is within a conservation area.

Grenville Gore-Langton, PCC member of Holy Trinity Newton St Loe said:

"The repairs to Holy Trinity church are costly and we are extremely grateful to National Churches Trust for their financial support. The repairs will be a good example of church restoration for all to see and I am delighted that the future of the building with so much history is assured for generations to come.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. A photo of the church and of Huw Edwards are attached

2. Listed building information from the National Heritage List for England

- Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest, only 2.5% of listed buildings are Grade I
- Grade II* buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest; 5.5% of listed buildings are Grade II*
- Grade II buildings are of special interest; 92% of all listed buildings are in this class and it is the most likely grade of listing for a home owner.

3. National Churches Trust Grants

The National Churches Trust continues the work of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, founded in 1953. Together, we have allocated over 12,000 grants and loans in excess of £40 million to help the UK's church buildings, which in current prices equates to over £90 million.

The National Churches Trust accepts grant applications from listed and unlisted churches, chapels and meeting houses of any age of any Christian denomination, to fund urgent structural repair works, and the introduction of new facilities that enable the building to be more widely used by the community, such as kitchens and toilets. We also have a maintenance grant programme and project development grants.

Church buildings must be open for regular public worship (i.e. more than six services a year) and be located within England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

More details at www.nationalchurchestrust.org/grants

4. About the National Churches Trust

The National Churches Trust is the leading national independent charity concerned with the protection and welfare of churches, chapels and meeting houses throughout the United Kingdom. We aim to:

- a) Provide grants for the repair, maintenance and modernisation of church buildings
- b) Act as a catalyst to improve and bring more resources to the management of church buildings

c) Promote the value of church buildings to the community at large

For more information visit www.nationalchurcheistrust.org

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