

St. Nicholas Church Renovation Project

- The PCC are very grateful for the support of WTC in maintaining the churchyard, supporting the conservation work, and repairing the walls and gates.
- The 2017, Quinquennial Inspection Report (QIR) identified £300,000 of urgent work required to the fabric of the church.
- Much of the work needed relates to the condition of the tower, which is the oldest part of the building, dating back to the 15th century.
- Subsequent structural surveys, of the condition of the leadwork, on the church roof, identified a further £87,000 of urgent repair work needed.
- The organ is also in need of renovation which will cost a further £30,000, but this cannot go ahead until the roof has been repaired.
- The PCC is responsible for all repairs to the church and updating of facilities, in addition to everyday running expenses.
- In recent years over £150,000 has been spent on essential repairs and £80,000 on improvements to the church and its fixtures.
- The PCC will be submitting an application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund, and other grant providers to partially fund a restoration project. A public appeal, for match funding, will also be launched later this year.
- It is a NHLF requirement that around 10% to 15% of any grant awarded is used to promote the heritage of the building and increase visitor numbers.
- The PCC has appointed a consultant to help draft the NHLF application and is conferring with other partners to find ways of promoting the heritage of the church and attracting more visitors to the building.
- A major feature of the project will be the creation of a learning centre for schools which will provide study opportunities across the curriculum.
- A series of events are planned to publicise the project, focusing on the heritage of the church, especially the fire which destroyed the church in 1879, and its subsequent restoration.
- This year a display of heritage material and children's art and literature, connected with the fire, will be held in the church between 27th July and 11th August. The anniversary of the fire will be commemorated on the evening of 4th August with a short service, recognising the work of the local fire brigade, followed by the lighting of beacons and a light display, simulating the fire. In May, next year, a community play will be performed, in the church, portraying the history of the church from the 10th century.
- In the event of insufficient funding, for repairs, being raised through grant applications and public appeal, other income streams will need to be found, which will require a rethink of the use of the Church building. Holiday accommodation pods and "Champing" has already been trialed in some churches, namely Dulas, Herefordshire and Booton, in Norfolk.

Add to finger signs