

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH HERITAGE LOTTERY BID - UPDATE OCTOBER 2016

Dear All,

As you already know, we have been awarded the sum of £215,000 which has been set aside for us by HLF. Now we are almost at the stage of submitting our final Second Stage Application that will confirm this award and allow us to proceed with the project.

In an effort to keep everyone in the congregation informed, as this project involves all of us in the congregation, we have decided to write this newsletter to let you know where we are in the process at this moment.

We have completed all of the paperwork that we need to make this second stage application to HLF, apart

from the final tender for the work. We went out to tender about a month ago and received 5 prices for undertaking the work. These ranged from approximately £467,000 to £ 575,000 (Excl. VAT). Even the lowest bid is still above what we can afford, so Hugh David and I have gone through this lowest tender and removed the 'desirable' items and only left in the

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'essential' work to the roof, stonework and rainwater goods. This exercise has brought the price down almost to what we can afford but of course, as always, we need to continue with our fundraising.

We have discussed this with our architects who are now having talks with the company who submitted the lowest tender to agree the final price.

Once this is agreed and we are satisfied that the work proposed will be as we in St Mary's want, then we will sign the contract, with the caveat that the contract will only go ahead if HLF agree our second stage bid.

The Community Engagement element of our bid, which has been designed to help us to further engage with the wider community and to broaden access to the heritage of our church, is also progressing well with our working group having met on several occasions and having decided on 8 / 10 story boards describing a range of areas of interest regarding St Mary's Parish Church.

We have also set up a writing group to write the text for the storyboards and to ensure that the format of each storyboard is consistent. The writing of the text has already started and is progressing well.

Emma, our consultant is currently creating worksheets for visiting Primary school pupils to encourage young people in our community to come into our building and learn what we are about. She will ensure that the worksheets are in the format of 'Curriculum for Excellence' which is what both pupils and their teachers are used to and thus relevant to their needs.

A committee has also been set up to review and revise our website. It too is progressing well and has circulated a questionnaire to the whole congregation to ask what you, the users of the website would want it to do. They are looking forward to a deluge of replies as that will enable them to focus the website towards our needs.

Assuming that HLF accept the Second Stage Application, we would hope

to be able to start on site in the spring of 2017.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us in whatever way to reach this stage of the project and we look forward to your continuing support.

The Restoration Project Group, October 2016