

# Church's mosaic floor to be restored

A LLANBADARN church will be able to undertake "badly needed and essential repair" to its Victorian mosaic floor following a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Work will begin at St Padarn's Church in early spring next year, with plans to "restore and preserve the mosaic tiles as close to their original colour and state as is possible for future generations to continue to enjoy".

The Grade I listed building was first erected in the 13th century, with the church site itself being used a place of worship since the 6th century. The building has been reformed over the years, but in the early 1860s and mid-1870s a major renovation and vital repair of the church building took place under the guidance of the Victorian church architect John Pollard Seddon.

Seddon created many major changes to the interior of the church and its furniture and fittings, all of which still remain in regular use to this day.

Part of that renovation was the design and setting of a fine mosaic floor that forms a colourful centrepiece under the tower crossing, extending into the north and south transepts.

The mosaic floor pattern was the design of artist Jesse Rust and consists of a border of tiny glass mosaic pieces that frame larger tiles the depict angels, saints and other biblical patterns.

The church will use the grant to "carry out essential repair and conservation work, needed to preserve this floor for future generations".

The mosaic floor has become "damaged and worn" in parts, the church said, and is need of a "general reno-



Pictured on the mosaic floor are church committee members, from left to right: Brian Wiley, project manager; Jeffrey Davies, vicar's warden; Meurig Lewis, treasurer; Gwynfor Williams, vicar's warden; Jean Eklund, people's warden and Canon Andrew Loat

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vation overall".

The renovation will be recorded for people to access and the church has arranged local schoolchildren and university students to watch the work as it takes place as part of their studies.

Canon Andrew Loat, priest in charge of St Padarn's Church, said: "We're delighted that we've received this support thanks to National Lot-

tery players.

"The mosaic floor is one of the largest of its kind in a church.

"Not only will the mosaic's missing pieces be restored, its colours should be vibrant.

"Examples of Seddon's work can also be seen in Yr Hen Goleg in Aberystwyth, and this restoration highlights the fascinating connections in the built environment of this area."