

£183,000 grant to restore and improve church



St Michael's Church, a medieval church built in the 13th century, will be restored and improved thanks to a National Lottery grant

A PROJECT to save a 13th century church has been given a cash boost by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

A community-run project to save St Michael's Church in the centre of Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn has been handed a grant of £183,000.

The project, which will run until May 2021, aims to fix a leaky roof at the medieval church and undertake other repairs and improvements.

The National Lottery grant will cover 75 per cent of the cost of the project and the community will be working to raise the rest from other sources and local fundraising activities.

Local people of all ages will be involved in the project, drawing on their shared knowledge, memories and stories through oral history.

It is also hoped that it will enable the children at Ysgol Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn to learn more about the church and make more use of it.

Members of the Ceredigion Heritage Youth Panel will also be involved through the NLHF 'Unloved Heritage: Ceredigion off-limits' project.

The church is a Grade II listed building and all the building work will be planned and managed by an experienced conservation architect.

Repairing the tower and changing the heating system will enable the church to dry out.

The project will also make it possible for the community to take groups up the ancient tower by replacing wooden ladders with new safe steps. These will go up to the top floor where visitors will be able to see the 16th century bell frame and enjoy the wonderful views out.

A new investigation of the church will be undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales which will use tree-ring dating and laser-scanning technology to accurately date and record the building.

New interpretation both inside the church and online will showcase the results of the new investigations and the oral history project, together with a film following the progress of the project, to provide a lasting legacy.

A meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday, 7 November at Y Ffarmers, to enable people to learn more about the project and to find

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out how they can get involved. Local historian Gerald Morgan said: "This is not the run-of-the-mill Welsh parish church. It is one of the few founded by a 13th century Welsh prince which retains its original form and much of its original fabric."

Richard Bellamy, director of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Wales, said: "Thanks to National Lottery players, historic buildings are not only rescued but conserved for future generations to enjoy and learn from."

"Eglwys a Threftadaeth: Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn: Church and Heritage' will rejuvenate a much-loved building, showing how it can provide an important link to a community's roots, while being adapted to meet the needs of today."

"It is a great project as it shows clearly how local heritage can be a catalyst for lots of different activities and bring people together."

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