Our Lady & St Michaels RC Church repairs start

01/12/2010

The building, originally commissioned in 1857 by Benedictine Monks, is a Grade II* and as such has a requirement under the remit of the Historic Churches of Wales, to be maintained following regular inspection.

Following the last quinquenial inspection in 2009, by Abergavenny based architect M & J Horowsky, a number of deficiencies were identified in window casements, window lead work, lead flashings, roof tiles, rainwater fitments, floor tiles and in particular loose and chipped stonework. It was decided that repairs had to be urgently undertaken.

The tender to repair the building was won by Herefordshire firm Capps & Capps who have previously worked on Hereford Cathedral. The Heritage Lottery Fund has supported this restoration project, with additional funding from CADW – Welsh Assembly Government and B.A.M.T - Belmont Abbey Mission Trust.

Parish Priest Rev Fr Thomas Regan, himself a Benedictine Monk, said: “I am delighted that work can finally begin on this project and I look forward to ensuring this historic building is ready for the next 150 years of parish use.”

During the restoration the church will still be used daily.

Jennifer Stewart, Head of HLF in Wales, added: “Wales’ many churches are an important part of our shared heritage and are strongly associated with the local identity of the towns and villages they serve. We are thrilled that this grant has helped secure the future of Our Lady and St Michael’s RC Church to be enjoyed by present and future generations not just as a place of worship but as a focus for the community.”

The usual entrance to church and car park from Pen-y-pound Road is not accessible because of the building maintenance work currently in progress. Vehicle access is now available via St. Michael's Road.

Notes to editors

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the **Heritage Lottery Fund** (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported more than 28,800 projects allocating over £4.3 billion across the UK, including more than 1,800 projects totalling over £200 million in Wales.

Further information

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To find out more about the history of Our Lady and St Michaels RC Church.