



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2024 No. 9

The Friends of St Ruan and
St Grade Historic Church Buildings
Registered Charity No. 1164632



£45,000 FUNDRAISING BOOST

We are thrilled to have been awarded a Large Grant from the National Churches Trust. A £30,000 National Churches Trust Grant will help to pay for urgent repairs to the roof to help make St Grade church watertight again. On the recommendation of the National Churches Trust, Grade Church will also receive a £5,000 Wolfson Fabric Repair Grant from the Wolfson Foundation and £10,000 from the Headley Trust.

We want to thank the National Churches Trust, Wolfson Foundation and Headley Trust for these generous grant awards. We have worked so hard in our tiny community to rescue this church which is held in such affection. Prior to this award we had raised £90,000 - £30,000 of this was from several small grants and £60,000 from the community – an astonishing commitment from a Parish of under 1,000 people. This award represents a 50% increase in our funds and has completely re-energised our campaign. We can't wait for the work to be done so we it can be a welcoming space once more and used for a variety of performances, exhibitions, and workshops that visitors and our community can enjoy .

The Wolfson 
Foundation

THE
HEADLEY
TRUST

Claire Walker, Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust, said:

"The National Churches Trust is delighted to be able to support St Grada & Holy Cross church to enable them to carry out urgent repairs to their beautiful building. Not only will this protect this important heritage, but it will help to keep the church building open and serving local people."

"Whether seeking quiet reflection, access to community services or a place to worship, the National Churches Trust helps hundreds of churches each year and with the support of local people, keeps them thriving today and tomorrow."

Paul Ramsbottom, Chief Executive of the Wolfson Foundation, said:

"At a time where many historic churches are facing significant financial challenges to repair their buildings, we are delighted to continue to partner with the National Churches Trust to keep these glorious buildings open and in good condition."

The National Churches Trust helps churches through their extensive grants programme and grants are available for churches of any Christian denomination that are open for regular worship to fund urgent repairs, maintenance, installing toilets or kitchens and feasibility studies to develop projects. Full details are at: nationalchurchestrust.org/grants

New Fundraising Total stands at £138,000

We could never have imagined that we would raise this amount of money which represents approximately two thirds of the funds needed to complete Phase One of this Project - this involves the complete replacement of the roof, rainwater goods and other associated works such as soakaways. We would love to be able to do the masonry works as well and are continuing our fundraising efforts with renewed energy thanks to this fantastic boost.

Our Double Summer Event raised £864 and we have received a generous private donation of £500. A card reader installed at Grade Church has well and truly paid for itself and we are grateful to all the visitors who have supported our fundraising efforts by using this new initiative. Our local Community Trust has generously offered to fund discrete solar panels so that we can power the card reader and the church organ. When this is achieved we hope that the organ can be listed and played on a far more regular basis, perhaps even with a recital when the roof has been replaced.

Following the purchase of a Visitor Counter we have established how many people really do visit our church. It appears that during the summer we get as many visitors a month as sign our Visitors' Book in a year! What a shame more people don't sign the Visitors' Book - we love reading their comments.

St Ruan Church decorated by the Community

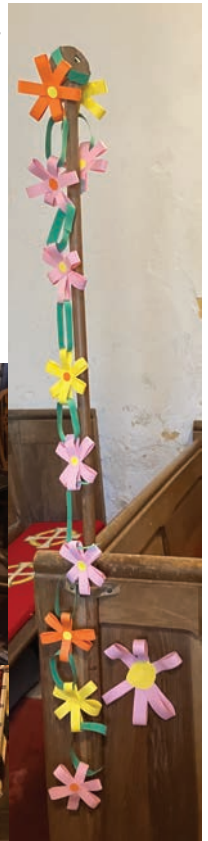
On 6th July St Ruan Church was decorated by the Community. We are grateful to the Spring Flower Show Committee who decorated the Lychgate beautifully with sweetpeas from David Edean's garden, they were so fragrant.

Lorraine Wickens and Julia Nunn did beautiful arrangements in the church.

The children from our local Grade Ruan Church of England School did some very creative craft arrangements which were

a delight. We love our school children's enthusiasm at being involved with their churches.

Thank you to everybody.



WHAT'S ON

We are pleased to welcome the Cadgwith Singers to Grade Church on the 27th September. It was a sell out last year so don't delay in getting your ticket!

We will be holding another Jazz Night in the Village Hall before Christmas. These have proved to be very popular - not least because of the mulled wine and mince pies on offer!

Sarah is interested in gauging support for a community gardening event - see below. If you can help in terms of advice, equipment or manpower it would be much appreciated. Part of our future plans for the church involve improvements to the byway and churchyard to enhance its natural beauty and provide more opportunity for visitors to enjoy the peaceful environment and beautiful views.

St Grade Churchyard and Lane

A community gardening/tidying event with planting and rewilding at a later date

Anyone interested?

Please contact: Sarah Drummond

01326 290233

WHEN

Friday

27th September

at 6pm



WHERE

At St Grade Church

SINGING, PASTIES AND PIMM'S

The Cadgwith Singers will be singing in St Grade Church

To raise funds for the
"St Grade Church Roof Appeal"

Lifts to and from the
Church will be available for
those who need them.

Phone Sarah on 01326 290233



Tickets £10

From Claire at the Post Office
Pasty and Pimm's included