



St
Bartholomew's
church
Whittington

Roof Project
Team

EVALUATION REPORT

MAY 2020

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“Heritage without people is dead heritage.”

Whittington Church’s project was to reach out to the people of Whittington and the surrounding villages, including Andoversford, in spiritual matters, in pastoral care. But equal to that task and goal was to share our unique and ancient history with its clear links to Roman times and the villa and small township at “Whitunne”. all the while recognising that it can offer people a cultural and historical heritage as well.

The team maintain that the project achieved this objective.

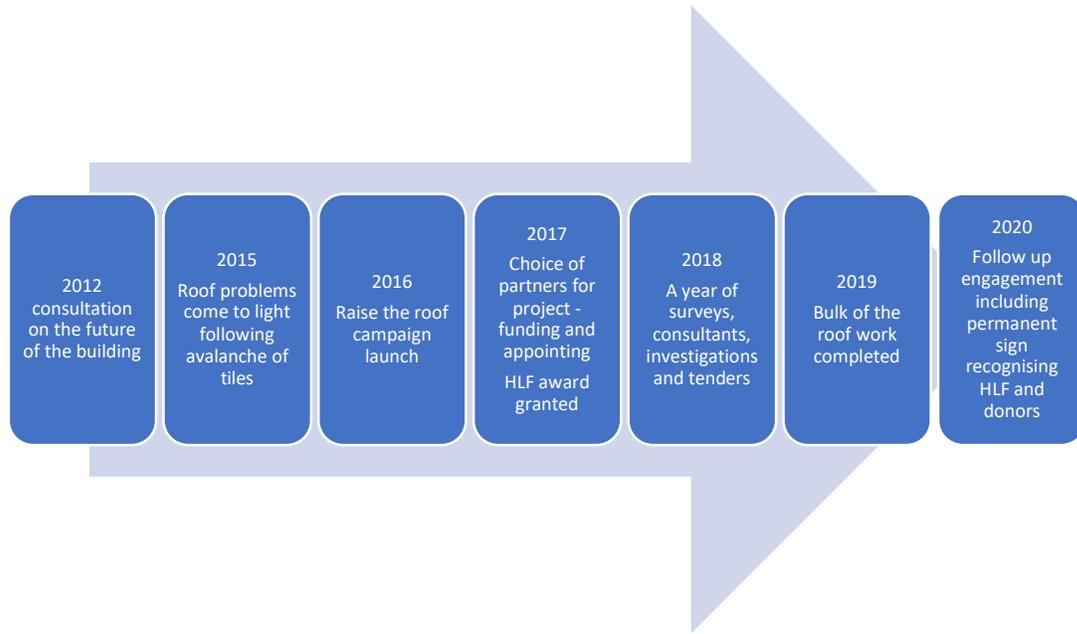
This evaluation report has been prepared on behalf of St Bartholomew’s church to support a Round Two grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) under the Grants for Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

The plan will be used as a practical document to inform future activity. The plan has been written in conjunction with members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). In developing the ideas, the activities and the action plan, a range of local people, potential partners and stakeholders were consulted.

HLF Project Aim:

*To preserve the heritage, educate
and build visitor numbers”*

Timeline



Summary of St Bartholomew's church Whittington.

- Featured prominently on recent "Time team" programme on channel 4. <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/time-team/on-demand/29766-https://www.channel4.com/programmes/time-team/on-demand/29766-004>
- Has organised tours regularly for National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS)
- Recently visited by Eynsham historical society
- A primary location for Crusader research
- A significant and notable ancient monument listed building.



Tomb of Sir Richard de Crupes, *"The church is a critical heritage asset to keep alive the political, religious and social history of the characters who shaped this community and landscape."*

Sally Strachey Historic Conservation 2018

St Bartholomew's church is a little church, often referred to as a chapel, which existed in Saxon times before the Conquest and is closely associated with the Manor located on the west boundary . It is full of history with the three effigies providing a remarkable window into the history of Whittington and beyond.

The two knight's bear the arms of Richard de Crupes of Whittington. In 1310 it was recorded that Richard de Crupes because of good service to the King had licence to make a settlement for the manor of Whittington to hold to himself for life with remainders to his son Richard and his right heirs.

Whittington church is known to have been an ancient chapel which by 1750 was called St Michael's and finally St Bartholomew's in 1922. The church is constructed around the long undivided chancel and nave which dates from the late 11th and early 12th century with the narrow south aisle dated from the late 11th and 12th centuries and extended in the 15th century. At the west end the arch rests on two carved corbel brackets depicting detailed portraits of a man and a woman. There is further evidence throughout the church of architectural detail from the 12th to 15th century with south aisle chapel being added in the 17th century.

There appears to have been no further major programmes of work to the church during the 20th century.

Aims and objectives - An eight year journey

This evaluation report has been agreed by the Whittington PCC roof project Team.

Chris Pulford
Charlie Palmer (warden)
Colin Randal (priest in charge)
Jenny Stringer
Judith Warner
Jane Bayley (warden)
David Arnold (lead architect)

We the above believe that we achieved our set target laid out in 2016

*“To preserve the heritage, educate
and build visitor numbers”*

Since the beginning of 2012 the work started but this process was accelerated within a year of the start of the initiatives due to a 2013 quinquennial inspection that highlighted urgent work required, and by an avalanche of slates during early summer of 2015, which meant that without urgent attention, the building would be likely demolished, or converted into housing. A patch up job was undertaken, and the project went live.

Further consultation with local communities began in early 2016, for both fund raising and to determine where to spend those funds raised, by creating a list of priorities.

2020 saw the work largely completed.

Work carried out

During the project, the following work was completed

- Replacing the roof.
 - Improving the stonework with masonry repairs.
 - Repairing and replacing the guttering and rainwater goods.
 - Upgrading the heating – achieved 2019
 - Further repairs and improvements to the stonework, guttering and windows
 - New lighting and heating schemes – finished 2020
 - Enhancement of the pews with additional flexible seating to enable events to take place – not proceeded with in order to preserve the character of the building.
 - Reordering of the rear of the church to create a large multiuse space in the main body of the church.
- Installation of sign to recognise our own achievements – February 2020.



Participation aims

Heritage activities

- Increase information about the church as a heritage site:

Education

- Develop community engagement with the church.
- Increase the understanding of the heritage.
- Provide new interpretation on site.
- Develop a heritage trail around the church and surrounding area.
- Recruit and train additional volunteers.
- Develop resources for schools.
- Develop 'hard hat tours' during the capital works.
- Develop practical experience of heritage building skills.
- Develop a resource about the Crusader Tombs
- Link the Roman connection to the village as "Whittune" in the rich sheep farming cotswolds

Open building

- The church to be open daily for all activities
- The church to be used for regular worship on Sundays
- The church to be used for baptisms, marriages, funerals and memorial services.
- The use of the building to be extended to further activities.

Educational

- Increase information about the heritage and learning resources, and develop Partnerships with other groups, such as the school to help promote the heritage.
- Improve leaflets and a guidebook for visitors and notices around the church.

Historical

- Develop Heritage Open Days and Ride and Stride events each year.

Involve the public

- Increase visibility and welcome
- Help visitors, including a high proportion of local people to gain deeper insights into the spiritual, cultural, historical and artistic heritage of the church.
- To share heritage with visitors, some local, some from outside the area and many from abroad.
- Increase volunteers engagement.



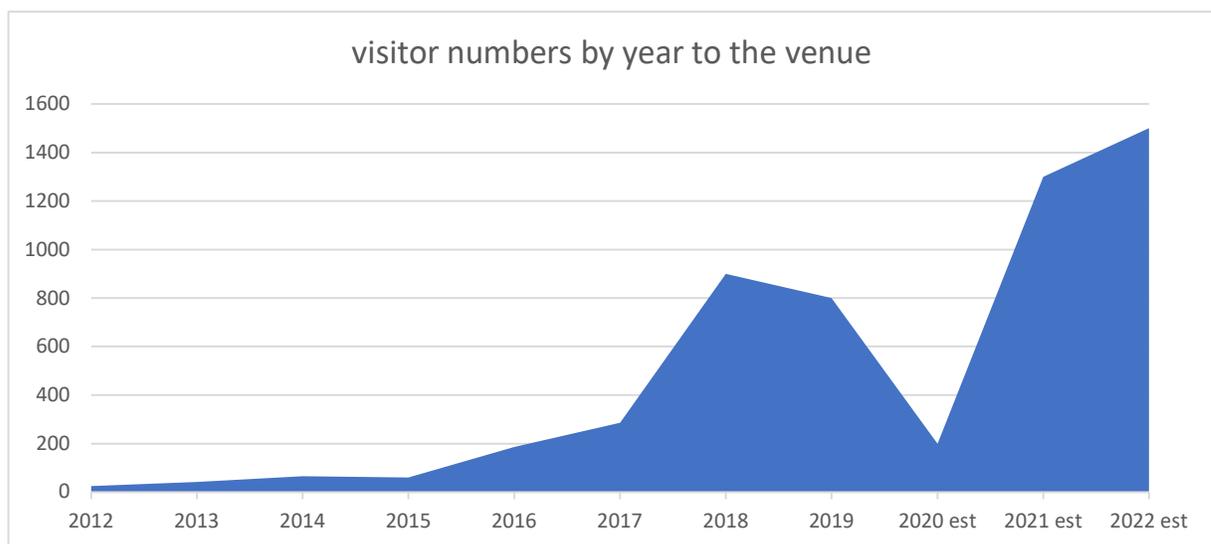




What activities did we do?

- Consulted with local historian about history of the church, methods of using the information and publicising the heritage offering.
- Consulted with local teachers, in primary, secondary and Sixth Form phases.
- Discussed with visitors their interests and what made the church appealing to them.
- Reprinted and redesigned former leaflets. Published new leaflets, with more striking design and content, matching subject matter and style to the needs and interest of school pupils, visitors and others.
- Rewrote the guidebook in a simpler format, with better illustrations.
- Developed a website for use as a guide around the buildings – launched 15/4/2019
- Arranged very popular visits by school pupils, and matched activities to the teachers' aims.
- Organised and held a time capsule planting event from the local village school on 16th July 2019.
- Trained volunteers as Heritage Leaders, to guide activities and help visitors.
- Ran regular and guided tours of the church, as well as ordinary tours and hard hat tours.
- Trained volunteers as Maintenance Volunteers, to monitor the building and be alert to changes in its condition.
- Received training from the stonework contractors on methods and materials for stonework re-pointing, and roof retiling.
- Publicised details of the building's heritage, to local people via the local press.
- Invited and received local groups, eg photographic and art groups to use the church building, both inside and outside as subject matters
- Developed a project to sort out the burial records including the parish records, which are lodged at the County Records Office.

- Held several construction open days – Hard hat days – giving members of the public and local students the opportunity to attend a lecture to find out more about the building work, and about heritage building work in general.
- Exhibition display created of local history.
- Rewritten notices around the church for visitors and providing fixed laminated copies in prominent positions at heights suitable for both wheelchair and standing users.
- The local village historian re-drafted the guidebook
- The local photographic group has already visited the church taking photographs of our stained-glass windows and crusader tombs.
- Sally Strachey Historic Conservation published for Local historical England a report on the Three Stone Effigies (Crusader Tombs dating from 1310)
- Loop for hard of hearing installed
- Beret Hagen concert held December 2019 – impossible without the repairs
- Severn’s Eight a choral Octet performed in the Church
- Used twice as an Arts Venue, where pews were very successfully transformed into Display stands. This included baking, photographic, flower arranging and craft displays.
- Consultation on installation of sound acoustic requirements held, although disrupted by Corona-crisis.



In 2019 the church was closed, so the visitor numbers are astonishing recognition of the importance and interest in the works.

Current visitor numbers –per annum are estimated to be as high as 2,000. The entry is free, and the church is locked and unlocked at dusk and dawn.



Salvaged stone slate.



Roof slopes stripped (left) and during cleaning (right).





Ongoing chimney repairs



"The Commander in Chief"

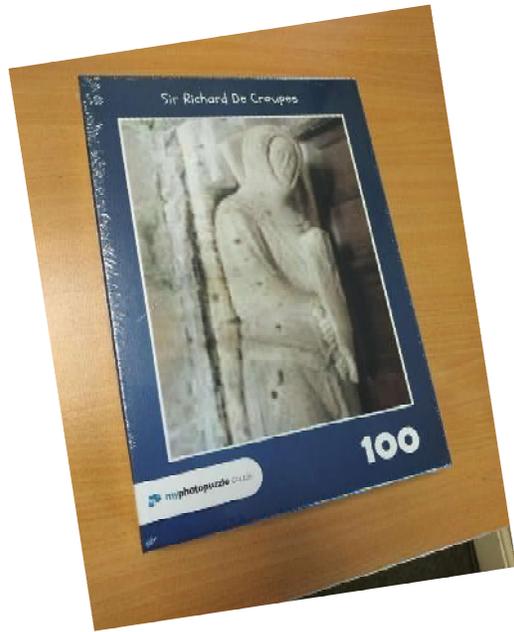
A mixture of traditional and secular Christmas songs played by the talented Berit Hagen on Saturday 6th December at Whittington Church!

Berit Hagen is an internationally acclaimed artist, known as "The Commander in Chief". Berit is a bel canto trained opera singer, a very versatile vocalist, and pianist and is equally at home performing newly-minted and classical repertoire.

The evening was part of Whittington Church's re-opening celebrations after the church's extensive roof repairs.

Follow the links below to watch Berit singing White Christmas on the evening, plus an additional sit down with our own Revd Colin Randall to discuss her faith! (links to YouTube).









Lt Colville (memorial plaque facing south)

Some words written by a friend of Tom's....

2...This is the relevant extract from my late mother's memoirs - she recorded them onto cassette and I subsequently transcribed them. They were not intended for public consumption but I hope she wouldn't have minded me sharing these slightly edited paragraphs. She was nearly eighty when she recorded this...."

In 1941, September, I had my 18th birthday and the grandparents gave a party for me at Woodmancote. My grandparents were Mr and Mrs J.A. Shepherd of Woodmancote Manor. We had about I suppose a dozen people, and we danced in the hall to a gramophone. But that's what we always did, in different people's houses. We had lots of fun. And Grannie did a supper for us and so on. I don't remember a great deal about it, except that at that stage I met up again with somebody who I'd known since I was about 14, called Tom Colville. Tom was something very special. Unfortunately, we hit a bad time, because people of his age, and he was a couple of years older than me, had to join up and he went into the Coldstream Guards. And in 1942 he with his regiment, went out to North Africa. And I was back then, having been to work in London. I was back at Woodmancote for Christmas. And I can remember so vividly to this day that I woke up in the middle of the night - it was very very cold - and sitting by the window. I knew as clearly as anything that Tom was in trouble. I knew that he'd been sent abroad, but I didn't know where at that time of course. I knew - I could hear his voice, calling to me quite clearly. And it was only afterwards that we learnt - and it was some while afterwards - that the regiment had been in action against the Germans in Africa at a place called Longstop Hill. .. And I really - I knew the moment that he died. I knew the moment that he was wounded, and I knew the moment that he died, and I'm not really psychic at all. But I promise you that that happened to me at that time.

Tom had been the only son, the only precious son, of a rather elderly couple. They'd married late in life, and he was their late child and the apple of their eye. And it was heartbreaking for them. His mother was never ever the same again. But I did write to her, and she knew that Tom and I had been close. She sent me a special photograph of him which I still have. That was a very sad episode.

Figure 1 letter from an elderly lady of her childhood during the second world war



Heating Installation being installed with oak margins lifted for wiring and then being replaced. Picture (right), shows condition of removed timber.







Heating Installation being installed with oak margins lifted for wiring and then being replaced. Picture (right), shows condition of removed timber.



Major repairs to the roof of St Bartholomew's Church in Whittington, in stop-work damage, will begin in the next couple of months, thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This project which is costing in the region of £250,000 has been awarded a grant of £270,000 to this church dating from the eleventh or twelfth century to make it weather tight and structurally stable.

The building has over 700 year old timber beams and also the remains of one of the oldest timber features for a late twelfth century set of font. A further £30,000 has been raised from other funders, including the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and local donations and fund-raising.

The project co-ordinator, Mr Charlie Lowley-Palmer, who is a Churchwarden and the Church Treasurer said: "Getting this grant has been wonderful news and it will be a relief to those who are involved with the National Lottery, but also to all the people and organisations in Whittington who supported our application. We've worked very hard to ensure that the scope of works and the plans for St Bartholomew's provide a heritage legacy for the whole community.

"Making the building weather proof and structurally sound will enable the church to increase its involvement in the life of the local and wider community and benefice. The church has a rich and fascinating place in local history. It is also increasingly being used by the wider community. The annual Village Show has some of its exhibitions there. The church has hosted choral and jazz concerts in recent months and been visited by local schools.



All boxed up and ready to go

Work continues to go on apace in readiness for the roof repairs at Whittington. Items inside and outside have been boxed up for protection and also the work memorials. All this is important when working on a historic building such as St Bartholomew, Whittington. The works are being done by the Splitlath Building Conservation (<https://www.splitlath.com/>) and funded by a very generous grant from the [Heritage Lottery Fund](#) and local fund raising and gifts. (May 2019)

Qualitative feedback - What difference did the project make for heritage and for people?

The project sustained and transformed a medieval feature in an area of outstanding natural beauty by rescuing her from decay. New life in a relatively neglected area.

The heritage preserved dates from AD 1270 when the building was first consecrated.

The funding put the organisation into a stronger position for the long term with a stronger financial position. All national quality standards are now met. This includes disabled access via the installation of a new path to the door to enable wheelchairs to be brought to the door.

The plans for management and maintenance led to dramatic improvements to the physical state of the building.

The renovation and work to will prevent further deterioration, including the rising damp, by the installation of a new soak away in the churchyard, an event that led to the excavation of bones, (estimated at 200 years old) which now need reburial.

Improvements increased the longevity of the existing bat habitat and protected the extensive Roman archaeology in the surround.

The archaeological collections and fabric highlights that are of relevance to the historical community and the project put this information in the public domain.

What difference did the project make for people?

The project opened the building up to the public- nearly 800 years of history in just one building.

Hundreds of opportunities for an enjoyable visit both to this building and the local area were made available by the work. The project inspired the community to record and celebrate their stories.

Profile and publicity

The Rector, Church Wardens, Parochial Church Council (together the Roof project team as named above) as well as the congregation have been involved in the HLF application and the proposed plans from the outset. They are committed to pursuing this plan in the long term and the participation and buy in of both the PCC and congregation will ensure continuity, as personnel change with time.

See appendix attachment for press releases

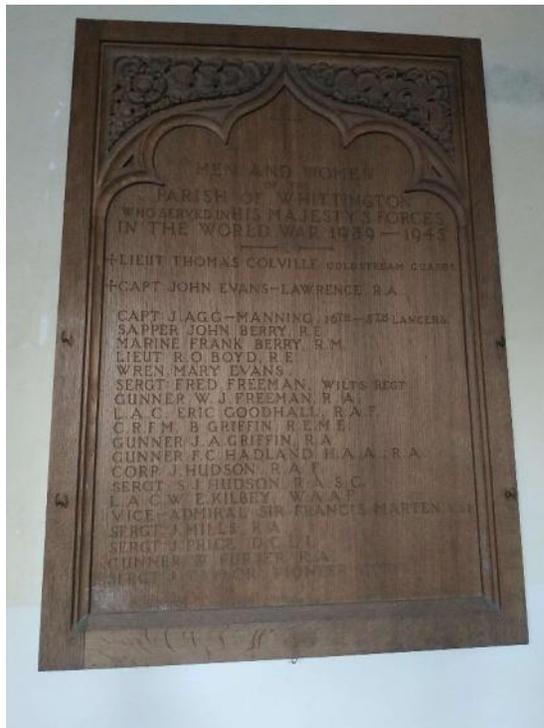


Figure 2: Three Chiefs: surveyor, builder and site foreman

HLF Project Aim: To preserve the heritage, educate and build visitor numbers



https://www.whittington-church.co.uk

Whittington, Gloucestershire **LOTTERY FUNDED**



 **LOTTERY FUNDED**

LOTTERY GRANT SUCCESS!

Urgent repairs to the roof to stop water damage will begin in the next couple of months thanks to funding from the **Heritage Lottery Fund**. This project which is costing in the region of £350,000 has been awarded a grant of £270,000 for this church dating from the eleventh or twelfth century to make it weather tight and structurally stable.

[Find out more about how the works will provide a Heritage legacy for the whole community.](#)



All boxed up and ready to go

Work continues to go on apace in readiness for the roof repairs at Whittington. Tombs inside and outside have been boxed up for protection and also the war memorials. All this is important when working on a historic building such as St. Bartholomew, Whittington. The works are being done by the Specialist Building Conservation (<http://www.sbbc.com>) and funded by a very generous grant from the [Heritage Lottery Fund](#) and local fund raising and gifts.

HLF Project Aim: To preserve the heritage, educate and build visitor numbers





The church has now been used twice for display as an Arts Venue, from recent Show where pews were very successfully transformed into Display stands. This included baking, photographic, flower arranging and craft displays.

In addition Severn's Eight a choral Octet perform in the Church annually.

Qualitative feedback

Record of events and times

	date
Show - Church opening	07/09/2019
Exhibition at Show	07/09/2019
Hard hat tours	07/09/2019
school visit	16/07/2019
Time capsule implant ceremony	16/07/2019
Crusader Tomb review from Historic England	10/04/2019
Burial Ground Review	Ongoing
Signage promoting HLF	01/03/2019
Visitor guides	01/06/2019
New website	01/07/2019
press releases	Ongoing
Train Parish members as heritage leaders	29/08/2019

Target activity	task	Measures of success
Crusader Tomb review	Commission Sally Strachey report	Valuable reference document Timeline record of condition
Burial ground review	Map, plan and guide completed by Jane Bayley	Enquiries by website and other sources.
Exhibition of local history	Mobile display and board and collected Roman artifacts	Donations from local people with local artifacts in print, photo or bricks/tiles etc to display
Make the history of the building more accessible with further archival research	Leaflets, and guidebook produced – see appendix for copy	Increase in visitor numbers, as recorded in visitors book
Rewrite and display signs giving historical information for visitors	Written materials, lamination. Signs laminated and placed at suitable height for both wheelchair and adult, standing users. Provides a “mystery tour”, available all the time, covering historical, artistic and spiritual aspects.	Survey of visitor satisfaction
Produce leaflets for visitors to buy/use	Written materials, time to design and produce, colour photocopying	Observation of use. Rate of replacement of stock (related to use) Survey of visitor satisfaction.
Revise, redesign and produce new guidebook	Attractive free booklet available giving short but comprehensive account of the church heritage.	Observation of use
Produce and make available worksheets for children and class use	A library of materials, readily available for visitors and school groups.	Teacher comment, uptake by families and other visitors.

HLF Project Aim: To preserve the heritage, educate and build visitor numbers

Target activity	task	Measures of success
	Written materials, time to consult with teachers, colour photocopying in house. 500 worksheets available. Numbers to increase subsequently	Survey of visitor satisfaction
To develop website	Website visitors Freely available information promoting the church Launched on 15 th April 2019	Number of hits on website count
Press releases, updates and listings	Press releases and updates sent out at key points including project start up and special events. Listings on key sites	Project records
Materials available via Parish website, e.g. in pdf format	Website visitors Freely available information. Promotion of the church as a visitors' venue.	Visitor comments.
Train church members as Heritage Leaders	Train church members in bringing to life the heritage of the building for other people.	Feedback from training evaluation. Retention rate of Heritage leaders.
Arrange occasions when Heritage Leaders interact with visitors and the public	Volunteers Visitors, including school pupils Each Heritage Leader engaged in activity three times a year	Comments from and retention rate of Heritage Leaders.
Increase the numbers of visitors to the church.	Advertising	Numbers of visitors 2012 - 25 2013 - 42 2014 - 65 2015 - 60

HLF Project Aim: To preserve the heritage, educate and build visitor numbers

Target activity	task	Measures of success
		2016- 186 2017 - 286 2018 – 900 2019- 900 ¹ estimated in spite of the building being officially closed unless accompanied by a trained supervisor.
Publish church details and events on visitor and tourist website	Prospective visitors to the town	Visitor sampling counts and visitor book
Consult teachers and arrange pupils' visits, accordingly. Also, encourage history sharing – older people come into the school to educate themselves and to pass on the history	Enrichment of school curriculum, better educated young people. Encouraging older people to mix with younger. Increased school activity with larger numbers of young people visiting, carrying out more varied activities. Integrated age groups in the chat to children about their time in the village – can tie in with history lessons school visit dated 16th July 19 organised by colin Randall Vicar, including Time Capsule planting ceremony.	ongoing Log of school visits

¹ difficult to record accurately during the building work, when visitor books are records are not retained or available on site, and most of the visitors came via large organised tours arranged with different staff involved in the project

Target activity	task	Measures of success
Publicise the church as a venue for curriculum enhancement with teachers	Teachers Greater range of teachers using the church as a resource.	
List of upcoming activities on fridge magnets / car stickers	Magnets and printing	
Using the resources already available – speaking to people about what they would like to see in the church, any events they would like the church to hold, questionnaire.	Families at parade services, older people in area, letter drop in Whittington and Andoversford. Time for questionnaire creation and gathering feedback. Feedback will need to be presented to people too.	
Messy Church	Activity materials September 2019 ongoing Families in Whittington and Andoversford	
Build children's activities – crusader jigsaw	The crusader tomb jigsaw Children will be able to enjoy a jigsaw –to encourage them to look at the tombs in more detail. There will be short statements explaining the story of each piece, and an explanation of the crusades. https://www.myphotopuzzle.co.uk/photo-puzzle/?tc=ga&gclid=Cj0KCQjw8svsBRDqARIsAHKVyqEJFnPkF7tFPCw8750EvH4s6R8vcSucOCH-YljYS5sR4ZSyyK7xz2kaApZKEALw_wcB	
Create your own medieval tile / art / crest	Children will be able to use a selection of stamps, to create your own medieval tile, art work or family crest. Resources will be created which explain the meaning of shapes and symbols in the church as well as the meaning behind the symbols on family crests.	

Target activity	task	Measures of success
Train volunteers in the oversight and maintenance of the Grade 1 Listed building.		
Hard Hat Tour Construction open day. Students and members of the public will be able to experience different trades used during the conservation of historic buildings	Students and the public will be able to find out more about the skills involved in the restoration project Hard hat TOUR 7th sept and on 16 th July with school for time capsule planting ceremony.	
Heritage Open Day / Ride+Stride event with Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust	Local people, specialists (church enthusiasts, cyclists and walkers)	Visitor book



Educating children

HLF Project Aim: To preserve the heritage, educate and build visitor numbers

