

Project Type: Churchyard wall repair; heritage skills.

Project Title: Feltwell's Faith in Flint

Location: St Nicholas' Church, Feltwell, Norfolk. *The church is in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust, but the churchyard wall is the responsibility of the PCC of the parish church of St Marys'*

Aims: To promote heritage skills through repairs to a 40m long churchyard wall.

Total Cost: £11,640.57 – this includes volunteer costs

Funding Sources:

- National Lottery Heritage Fund - £9,400
- Paul Bassham Trust - £500
- Other – donations and in-kind donations and volunteer hours.

Project Duration: Planning started in January 2019. Work commenced in September 2019 and then, following delays due to Covid-19, was completed on Oct 30th 2020



Brief Overview

Urgent repairs were needed to the 40m long retaining wall around St Nicholas' churchyard. A section of the wall had already been temporarily repaired to prevent it falling into the road (picture above). Churchyard walls aren't popular with funders, particularly if the wall isn't listed, so the PCC looked at what could be funded and changed the focus of their project into one promoting traditional heritage skills.

Contact was made with the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) who coincidentally were looking for somewhere to run flint workshops, whilst the SPAB regional group were interested in arranging volunteer working parties. Contact was also made with the College of West Anglia which resulted in construction students completing a detailed photographic survey of the wall in order to inform the repair work. There were also opportunities for volunteers from the village to get 'hands on' and learn new skills. Local people also provided materials, accommodation, drink and plenty of cake. A contractor was needed to make repairs on the section of the wall running along the road, as it was simply too dangerous for volunteers to work on. Fortunately, due to the heritage focus and the involvement of a wide range of volunteers, the project was able to attract grants.

Top Tips:

- Work out what you want to do, then what grant giving organisations want to fund and try to meet in the middle. This project started out as just a wall repair project but became a heritage skills project; that is why it attracted support and funding.
- You can never have too much cake!

Website: <http://www.grimshoebenefice.com/st-marys-feltwell.html>

Contact: If you would like to know more about this project or speak to the people involved, please contact: Sue Garland suegarland@outlook.com 01842 827029