

St John's Church Waberthwaite



Heritage Project update April 2021

At last we are able to tell you that building work has begun!

Since the last update we have appointed Mike Darwell as our architect. On our behalf he has commissioned work which is giving us more insight into the church building. These include a range of surveys to give us as much information as possible to inform our decisions and the commissioning of an archaeologist to advise us where necessary.

Work since October 2020:

A Culture Recovery Grant, through the Heritage Lottery Fund, gave us £3500 to help us meet expenses which would normally be met through collections, fund-raising and visitor donations. This grant meant we were able to draw up plans for making the building Covid safe and pay some significant bills including the cost of our Quinquennial Inspection.

A measured survey of the building was done in January and the paint on both the walls and pews was analysed a few weeks ago. This will give a full picture of how what the building has looked like throughout its history. We were fascinated to find out that the original paint on the pews (1807) was grey, with the scumbled finish added later.



Some roughcast has been removed, with full removal scheduled for September. A £10000 grant from the National Churches Trust, with our own matched funding, has made this possible.

We have started a digital project with Waberthwaite School to improve the interpretation of the site for visiting families, particularly children.

Recent discoveries:

A grant from Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological and Antiquarian Society, obtained by the local History Group, has given us dates for the roof timbers.

They have different felling dates with those at the west end of the church felled in 1537 and the two trusses at the east end dated to 1675-1700. This backs up our theory that the east end was a later addition.

Plans for the future:

Roughcast on the south wall will be removed first. This will help us investigate what appears to be a window which has been blocked up at some time.

We are hoping to get services on site as the first step to installing toilets. The projected cost of this is £8000.



We are busy applying for grants, but if you can support us either by a donation or by joining us at a fundraising event, we would be very grateful. Dates for your diary are: May 2nd & 3rd 12 - 4 Open Garden at Old School, LA19 5YJ, Picnic Sale over the August Bank Holiday Weekend and a Sponsored Cycle Ride as part of Heritage Open Day events in September - look out for details nearer the time.

.Find out more:

Follow the church on facebook or on www.achurchnearyou.com

Ask to be put on our mailing list for updates. Contact Catherine Winzor cmwinzor@btinternet.com.

If you would like to help us reach our fundraising target of £60000, please visit either our Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/stjohns-waberthwaite> or find us on the Carlisle Diocesan website.

<https://bit.ly/Waberthwaite>