



St Bartholomew's Church
Parish Office
Church Road
Horley
Surrey
RH6 8AB

Church thanks community for donations towards restoration of historic monument

St Bartholomew's Church wants to say a huge thank you to the local community for their help in restoring the Grade II listed Lychgate at the Brighton Road entrance to the churchyard. Since 1903 the Lychgate has stood on the path used by dog walkers and customers of the much-loved Ye Olde Six Bells pub in Church Road, as a memorial to three of the Horley soldiers who died in the Boer War. Their names, as well as that of the vicar of the time, are carved in the roof structure. They were AW Carling, CC Sargent and JT Turnbull and the vicar the Revd H T Lewis. The Lychgate has been the backdrop for hundreds of wedding photographs and is much loved in the area.

Rev Canon Leslie Wells, Rector of the Horley Team Ministry, said: "We are grateful for all the donations and grants received to complete this essential work and restore this important Horley landmark to its former glory. The money has come from the community, and the church has also received financial gifts specifically for this restoration including grants from The War Memorials Trust, The Surrey Historic Buildings Trust and The Horley Town Council and Church Care."

Frances Moreton, Director at the War Memorials Trust said: "War memorials are a link between previous generations, ours and those who follow us. They enable us to pay tribute to the sacrifices of so many."

Andy Smith, Secretary of the Surrey Historic Buildings Trust said: "The trustees of the Surrey Historic Buildings Trust were delighted to be able assist with this important project. Memorials like these are a direct link to the community's past, & remind us of the sacrifices made by people from local families who fought and fell in battle, sometimes, as in this case in distant lands."

This Grade II listed monument at the Church became dangerous when several tiles were dislodged as the metal nails holding the tiles had rusted, causing them to slip. The work needed included stripping the roof and retiling it using half of the existing sound tiles and using matching second-hand peg tiles to replace the remainder.

In the process of investigating the repairs needing to be carried out, English Heritage deemed the landmark significant enough to grant it Grade II listed status. This was a great honour but it did make the repair bill more expensive meaning that every donation became even more valued.

The process of completing repairs on such an historic structure is not a simple one with involvement from the Southwark Diocesan Advisory Committee, the Conservation Officer from Reigate and Banstead Borough Council working with architect Andy Burrell of Carden & Godfrey Architect. The tiling was carried out by Richard Soan Roofing Services of Davey's lane, Lewes. The gate was repaired by Mark Harding, of Oakhouse Construction.

ENDS

Notes to journalists

Pictures attached: the lychgate before and after restoration

For more information contact Rev'd Canon Leslie Wells on 07804 231492
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Before Restoration



After Restoration

