

Repairs start on historic church

DELIGHTED worshippers are celebrating after their church was awarded £120,600 towards a major refurbishment.

The historic St George's Church in Portsea was awarded the cash by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) as part of its drive to become serve the local community better.

Scaffolding went up around the church over the summer, as repairs to its roof, stonework and windows were begun. The work started in July and was expected to take 15 weeks.

The £167,000 project also includes refurbishing the toilets, installing a historic time-line along the south wall to help tell the church's history, new leaflets for adults and children, and a display cabinet to showcase some of the tools used by shipwrights when they built the church in 1753.

It will be the first step towards a vision for the building to be used by local community groups throughout the year.

Worshippers hope a second phase will see new heating installed in the church and halls, as well as the complete refurbishment of the halls at the back of the church. At the moment, lack of heating means that community activities can't



Scaffolding around St George's Church as repairs start

continue in the winter.

The vicar, the Rev Belinda Davies, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have received a second round funding award from HLF, without whom these essential repairs to St George's Church would have been impossible to carry out at this time."

"We are taking the opportunity given to us by funding to open up access from the church to refurbished toilets, which will enhance not only the appearance of the church, but also the quality of experience for those who use it."

"Phase 1 of the project has

taken about five years work. Now that we can see a physical change to the building and our plans coming to fruition, I hope we may be encouraged and experienced enough to tackle the challenge of installing an effective and efficient heating system in the church."

"This is going to involve more fundraising, but as an important building in this community, and with hopes of seeing the church being used by more people, I am confident we can rise to the challenge of continuing to improve the facilities."

Meanwhile, work also

started over the summer on the restoration of the tower and east wall of Portsmouth Cathedral. The tower clock chimes went silent in July to allow builders to start their work.

The £700,000 grant came from the First World War Centenary Cathedral Repair Fund announced by the Chancellor last year.

The lead of the domed cupola in its 17th century tower will be replaced, as will timber in the cupola and tower, while damaged stonework will also be repaired. The 12th century east wall will also be repointed with lime mortar.

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Summer fun includes games in the rain

CHURCHGOERS from All Saints, Denmead, invited the local community to a summer fun day to celebrate being part of God's family.

The celebrations began with a family praise service in church, which included lively worship with a variety of instruments, Bible stories, drama and a quiz.

There were free drinks, snacks and a barbecue lunch, which included a selection of cakes baked by congregation members.

After lunch there was the chance to play team games in the steady drizzle that was falling. The games in the rain included cricket, rounders and tug of war.

More than 100 people joined in the fun, aged from just a few weeks old to 95.

The barbecue chefs cooked food outside in the rain while others remained dry indoors.

There were toys for toddlers, creative crafts and even the chance to play croquet on the damp vicarage lawn.



Families were welcomed to the fun day at All Saints

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