



Breage Church May 2016

A very interesting talk on the Godolphin Family was given by Anne Clegg. Breage Church has historical links with The Godolphin Family who worshipped here in the past. Many family members are buried within the church itself.

Breage Church Flower Festival

This took place during August and featured floral exhibits arranged by members of the local community. The event concluded with an informal concert given by the Cadgwith Singers. This was a very enjoyable event and we are grateful to the group who gave their services for free for the benefit of the church. There was no charge for entry but there was a donations jar.

Restoration of the Wall Paintings

Work is currently underway to preserve these wonderful works of art which were recently included in the 100 top National Treasures. The work is being undertaken by McNeilage Conservation and will take about 8 weeks to complete. A full report will be included in the next Newsletter.



Village Lights Switch On

This now seems to have become an annual event and was held on Saturday 10th December 2016. Mulled wine and mince pies were provided free but there was a donations jar which raised over £100 for funds for the Friends. We are grateful to Sarah Tresidder for arranging for her Cornish Choir to provide background seasonal music which created a lovely atmosphere.

Become a Friend of Breage Church

If you know someone who may like to become a Friend encourage them to contact:-

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The Friends of St Breaca Church

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2

April 2017

It has been a while since the last newsletter so there is much to talk about. In January 2015 we applied for a grant under the Government's Roof Repair Scheme and were very fortunate in being successful. The grant was specifically to replace slipped and missing slates, refurbish rainwater goods and improve low level drainage around the base of the entire building. The work began in the Autumn of 2015 and was finally completed in the Spring of 2017



St Breaca Church is a Grade 1 Listed Building so any work undertaken whether interior or exterior is subject to strict rules and regulations and before any work can be undertaken a FACULTY must be obtained. This process involves submitting an application with detailed information on the materials to be used and who will carry out the work. The work can only begin once this permission is granted. For instance only cast iron may be used for the hoppers, downpipes and guttering. This was in a very bad state and most of it was replaced.



The Roof Repair Project

The project took over a year to complete and began with the removal of the existing clay drainage channels around the church. A mini digger was brought in to excavate a deeper channel around the base of the building and a new system using perforated pipes laid on a membrane and topped with granite chippings has been installed in its place. It is hoped this will more effectively discharge rainwater and surface water and take it away from the base of the church. The interior level of the church is considerably below that of the exterior. This new system should ensure that the inside of the building remains less damp than it was originally.



A mini digger was used to excavate the drainage channels. A perforated pipe system was installed.



At the same time the exterior wall in the north aisle was repointed using lime mortar. This lay outside the scope of the roof project, so the cost of this was supported by just over £1,500 from the Friends and a grant of £2,500 from the Allchurches Trust. It was a good opportunity to have this work undertaken whilst the contractors were on site. The area is where the most significant of the church's wall paintings are situated and the work needed to be done before planned restoration work to the paintings was due to start later in the Spring of 2017.



All inappropriate cementitious mortar needed to be removed and the joints raked out in preparation for the lime pointing. Cement does not allow a stone building to breathe whereas lime mortar enables any moisture to evaporate naturally.

The final stage of the roof project was completed at the beginning of March 2017 with the replacement of the flat lead roof to the porch in the South Transept. The original lead sheeting dates back to 1770 and was the thickest lead that the roofing contractors had ever seen. There was some delay in finding a suitable contractor to carry out the work as it is very specialised. The work has been carried out to a very high standard and should hopefully ensure that this particular roof will last for a considerable time.



Removing the existing lead sheet proved difficult as it was very thick. It had to be cut into manageable pieces so that it could be removed.



The new lead sheet is being laid in sections. Each section has to be shaped carefully despite its thickness



Breage Church would like to thank all those who were involved in this project and in particular Chris Hunter of Scott and Company the church's architects. Thanks also to Sarah Palmer, LPOW Roof Repair Fund Grants' Officer.

Annual Friends' Events for 2017

Thursday 11th May, Breage Village Hall 7.30 p.m.
Cornish Shipwrecks an illustrated talk by John Strike
Free entry and refreshments. Donations welcome.

Event in August (to be confirmed)

December Christmas Lights Switch On with mulled wine and mince pies (TBC)