

AGENDA ITEM 11

Request for letter of support from Tony Evans – Churchwarden St Michael's Church, Lyneham

St Michael's Church, as reported in the 5 yearly report by the church architect (The Quinquennial Report) highlighted the need for a completely new roof.

We are in the process of raising Grants to help with the cost and have been pledged over a third of the money so far as well as raising money ourselves.

The Heritage Lottery Fund(HLF) are sympathetic to our need but, as part of their requirement, would like to see an indication that more people will use the facility once the Project is finished.

It has long been an aspiration for us to have the church open during the week for visitors to see inside our lovely church and the requirement by the HLF has been the catalyst for us to do something about it. There are security considerations and we are investigating the use of security cameras and even looking at self locking church doors which some churches now use.

As you may know there are lots of items in the church that would certainly attract visitors. The Lyneham stained glass window created by Henry Haig and unveiled by Her Majesty the Queen in 1990 is surely a major attraction. Then there are the 8 Squadron Standards laid up and the 47 Squadron window. The fact that Terry Waite, the Archbishops' Envoy came to the church after he returned from captivity in the Middle East and then returned 25 years later would be of interest. Parts of the Nave have work by the great Victorian sculptor William Butterfield.

So I think the church has enough to attract visitors but there are also the military graves in the churchyard along with the Memorial Hall and the regenerated Memorial Garden (which in itself will be an asset for the community).

As I said at the Parish Council meeting it would be nice if the PC could offer their support to the Heritage Trail Project. We are not looking for financial support but more in the form of perhaps using your website for promoting the HT and encouraging support within the community. We are enlisting the help of VIsit Wiltshire and the vast advertising resources available to them and, of course, are liaising with the REME Museum.

Any letters of support for the Project do add weight to the application to the HLF grant application. Visit Wiltshire have already sent a letter of support and I would be very appreciative if the Parish Council felt they could send a general letter of support as well.
