

## Tower Roof Restoration Project (July 2019)

The church tower roof has been on Historic England's 'at risk' list for some years but repairs are costly and needed a grant. Fortunately, the National Lottery Heritage Fund came to our aid. In September 2017 we were awarded a grant of £56,000 towards a total estimated cost of about £100,000, with the balance being raised through our Roof Appeal and VAT reclaim.

The Heritage Fund gave us a year to do the 'development phase' when specialist investigations are carried out, plans and schedules are drawn up, planning approvals are obtained, and tendering with firm quotes is completed. All this is re-submitted



to the Heritage Fund for permission to do the works – the 'delivery phase'. The delivery phase was awarded in December 2018 and it was decided to start in the Spring of 2019.

The large scaffolding project was completed in May and the lead roof was lifted. This exposed the timbers which were more rotten than anticipated and it was also

discovered that part of the parapet walls had been repaired in the past using cement mortar which is not flexible enough to preserve the stonework. This extra work has delayed the project works and added extra cost, but it had

to be done. Work is now progressing as planned. The belfry opening lintels have been renewed and the parapet repaired. The old roof timbers are being repaired or replaced. The main (north-south) beam is having major repair work to ensure that it is strong enough to support the two bells when they are lifted or lowered, and also has a new fixing for the renovated weather vane.

The roof will have improved drainage and a new base laid overall. Then the new lead will be laid and have parts of the old lead (dated 1700) with important graffiti re-laid on top of the new lead.

The works should be completed by end August when it is hoped to have a celebratory event combined with a Heritage Day. The photos show the work in progress.

