

**Application for Financial Assistance (Historic Buildings Grants) from the Conservation and Heritage Fund**

**St Margaret's Churchy, Church Lane, Betley (Ref: 16/17005/HBG)**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Working Party indicate its views on proposals going to the Planning Committee that:-**

**A grant of £5,000 be approved for the repointing the tower, replacing and re-facing defective sandstone blocks and re-gilding clock face at St Margaret's Church, Betley, subject to the appropriate standard conditions**

**Purpose of report**

To inform the Working Party of an application for financial assistance towards the cost of stonework repairs, repointing and re-gilding of the clock and give the Working Party an opportunity to express its views on that application.

St Margaret's Church in Betley is the parish church and is a Grade I listed building. It has a timber framed core but has been encapsulated with ashlar sandstone.

The church tower is in need of repointing and the church architect has compiled the schedule of work and arranged a tender process. The pointing will be in appropriate lime mortar mix and new stone will be replaced with red Hollington, again samples to be agreed with architect before any work undertaken. The clock face is to be repainted and the hands and numerals re-gilded and the preferred contactor has undertaken satisfactory work on the church before. The architect (conservation accredited) is retained and will inspect the work during the contract.

The total cost of the works is estimated at £35,500 excluding VAT which is recoverable. Architects fees are £4,600 so total cost is £39,600. The works are eligible for grant up to 20% of the total cost which is £7,920. The maximum grant which can be awarded to a Listed Building is £5,000, so in this case it is recommended that the Church is offered £5,000 towards the cost of the above works.

The views of the Conservation Advisory Working Party will be reported to the Planning Committee.

**Financial Implications**

There is sufficient funding to meet this grant application with £30,000 in the Fund allowing for commitments.