

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the following grant is approved:-**

**£5,000 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 enable members to consider this application for financial assistance.

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

The church tower is in need of repointing and the church architect has compiled a 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, samples of which would be agreed with architect before any work was 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 the 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 Conservation Advisory Working Party are supportive of this application.

**Financial Implications**

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