

Application for Financial Assistance (Historic Buildings Grants) from the Conservation and Heritage Fund – Templar window, St Johns Church, Keele (Ref: 19/20006/HBG) and Churchyard wall, St James Church, Audley (Ref: 19/20007/HBG)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the following grants are approved:-

- 1. £1,584 Historic Building Grant be given towards the restoration of the stained glass window at St Johns Church, Keele, subject to the appropriate standard conditions and a condition to ensure that any glass protection systems are in line with current research.**
- 2. £5,000 Historic Building Grant be given to repoint a stone section and rebuild sections of the churchyard wall at St James Church, Audley subject to the appropriate standard conditions**

Purpose of report

To enable members to consider the applications for financial assistance.

1. Stained glass window, St John the Baptist Church, Keele

The medieval glass within the church is limited to one panel on the west elevation at the foot of the tower. This glass is both painted and stained and is subject to a detailed historical study by Dr Robin Studd: 'Keele's Templar Window and the Templars Jacques de Molay and Thomas Totty'.

The glass is considered to be in good condition considering its age but there is some corrosion evident to elements of the window. Some glass is broken and this is causing bowing to the lead and a small section appears to have suffered from an impact. Some painted areas of the glass have suffered loss and some panels have been reversed, so the paint is on the outside. It is also suggested that to arrest this loss a protective glazing system is put in place. A full specification and method statement, including careful removal and replacement has been received from a specialist glass conservator.

Two competitive quotations have been received by specialist contractors and an application to the Diocese has been made for approval to carry out the work. The cost of the work is estimated at £7,920 including VAT. St John the Baptist Church is a Grade II* Listed Church, and the work is eligible for 20% grant towards the cost of the works.

2 Boundary wall to churchyard, St James Church, Church Street, Audley

The Church is a Grade II* Listed Building. The church and churchyard lie within the centre of the ancient village of Audley which is designated as a Conservation Area. The perimeter boundary wall to the church, also listed, has been identified as dangerous and is currently shored up. Partly built from stone the boundary wall is contemporary with the church with some later additions. Sections of the wall are later brickwork and a mixture of styles and textures. The Council is responsible for the wall and has received permission, both from the Diocese and the Local Planning Authority to take down and rebuild the most dangerous sections of wall and repoint the stone sections. An appropriate brick match

has been chosen and the wall has been archaeologically recorded prior to the works being undertaken.

Three tenders have been received for the work and the lowest quotation for the work is £79,977 plus fees of £5,417.43. Total cost £85,394.43. The work is eligible for 20% of the cost of the works including professional fees which is £17,078.89. However the maximum grant the scheme can offer is £5,000.

The Conservation Advisory Working Party considered these grant applications at its meeting on 19th November and is fully supportive of the giving of these grants. They wish to ensure that the method of protecting the stained glass window is undertaken in accordance with the latest research to safeguard the glass. It is proposed that the offer letter adds a condition to ensure that this is taken into consideration.

Financial Implications

Historic buildings and structures are entitled to apply for up to a maximum of £5,000 from the Conservation and Heritage Grant Fund. The intervention rate is 20% of the cost of the work for Listed Buildings. Buildings within Conservation Areas or on the Register of Locally Important Buildings are eligible to apply for 10% of the cost of such work.

There is sufficient funding to meet this grant application with £24,786 in the Fund; allowing for commitments.