



Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Penzance Baptist Church
Clarence Street
Penzance
TR18 2NY
Cornwall

www.penzancebaptistchurch.com
info@penzancebaptistchurch.com



News Release

Penzance Baptist Church receives £19,300 from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund

Penzance Baptist Church in Clarence Street, Penzance will benefit from £19,300 to address a number of urgent issues concerning the chapel roof and drainage. PBC successfully applied for the grant through the Government-funded Listed Places of Worship: Roof Repair Fund.

The chapel building itself is a visually stunning and has a unique frontal design which has attracted visitors from around the world. Built in 1836, designed by P Sambell of Truro, it is one of the few original Baptist chapels that exists in Cornwall. It is a Grade II* listed building which places it in the top 7% of listed buildings in the country. The congregation passionately works to maintain the building internally and externally in a manner that preserves its historical value and beauty. This is a significant undertaking for the local congregation that is independent from any denominational tie. The vast majority of costs concerning church life, and the building are paid for by the congregation itself.

Beyond the historical beauty and value of the building, the life of the church is full and growing. The church provides regular worship services every Sunday, as well as additional services throughout the year. The building is used for much more than the worship services, as regular meetings are held in the week along with other provision for the local community (parent and toddler group, youth club etc). Details of these can be found on the church website - www.penzancebaptistchurch.com Visitors are always welcome.

The grant will be used to address some significant damp problems that are a consequence of weaknesses in the roof, gutters, and drainage. The project will look to remove the existing asbestos, gutters, drains, and fascia boards replacing them with new provision in keeping with the requirements of the listing. There will also be the opportunity to address some of the damage caused by damp in the south wall of the chapel.

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs - 'The awarding of the LPOW Roof Repair Grant is excellent news for the chapel. It is a unique building which has been home to the Baptist congregation in Penzance for 180 years. We are delighted that this money has been given to preserve that legacy. It also enables the church family at PBC to continue to add to the ongoing story of this local Gospel church under God's gracious hand.'

This money is part of a wider funding package of £22.9million to 401 historic places of worship across the UK. The fund was launched by the Chancellor in his Autumn Statement in December 2014 and the funding package has now seen a total of 903 places of worship across the UK receive a share of £55million. The Fund is administered by the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) on behalf of the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS).

A full list of awards across the UK can be found at www.gov.uk/dcms or www.lpowroof.org.uk

Notes to Editors

Listed Places of Worship: Roof Repair Fund

The Fund was open to organisations, trusts and congregations of all faiths and denominations with the responsibility of looking after a listed place of worship. To be eligible for funding buildings were required to be listed and used for public worship. Places of worship that had received a previous repair grant from English Heritage, Historic Scotland, Cadw, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the Heritage Lottery Fund and/or other National Lottery distributor, and where that project is not yet finished, were not eligible to apply.

The total funding package for the Listed Places of Worship: Roof Repair Fund is £55million. This includes grant awards, a grant increase contingency fund and the cost of administering the fund.

More information on the fund can be found at www.lpowroof.org.uk

The National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) was set up in 1980 to save the most outstanding parts of our national heritage, in memory of those who have given their lives for the UK. It is to receive £20m Government grant in aid between 2011-15 allowing for an annual budget of £4m-£5m. More information can be found at www.nhmf.org.uk