



**ST MARY'S GRASSEDALE HERITAGE PROJECT**  
**YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW (YTT)**  
**CONSULTATION FEEDBACK AND UPDATE**



**KEY OUTCOMES**

- A total of 76 responses were received. This number allows us to treat the responses as highly reliable.
- A total of 24 respondees have indicated an interest in being involved in the project, 13 of which specified areas of work they are interested in.
- The responses indicated a high level of support for all the proposals.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART. IT HAS GIVEN US A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD.**

**SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION**

- **CHURCH TOURS – 98% strongly support/support**
- **CHURCH HISTORY – 94.5% strongly support/support**
- **ARCHIVE OF CHURCH MATERIALS – 97.2% strongly support/support**
- **175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDATION STONE – 98.7% strongly support/support**
- **CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE – 100% strongly support/support.**
- **CHURCH HALL ARCHIVE – 95.8% strongly support/support**
- **DRAMA PRODUCTION: HALL HISTORY 94.4% strongly support/support**
- **ST. MARY'S CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL – 95.8% strongly support/support**
- **75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MARY'S SCOUTS – 94.4% strongly support/support**
- **ST. MARY'S GUIDING – 93% strongly support/support**

We have also studied and taken note of individual responses that many of you took the time and trouble to pass on to us.

**INITIAL DECISIONS**

- We are clear that a project like this requires careful phasing over the next few years. Currently, we are aware that some activities are already being prepared while others will be developed from scratch. To this end, we are now considering how the phasing could roll out.

## POSSIBLE PHASING PROGRAMME

We are anticipating the following three areas of work will form the first phase of our heritage programme:

- **CHURCH TOURS.** We currently run tours across the year in three ways: adult tours on request; as part of a national programme in September each year; and tours for local schools on request. We are considering expansion by contacting other organisations e.g. local churches and expanding our work with schools. We anticipate expanding our church guide volunteer team.
- **CHURCH/HALL ARCHIVE.** Our development of St. Mary's archive will combine both the church and hall archives. We anticipate the building of a permanent archive/display/exhibition over time. The development of the archive will be an ongoing process over several years. An emphasis on bringing heritage 'alive' and the use of digital technology will be important considerations. The archive will be both a physical entity and a source of memories using actual testimonials from members of the church community.
- **HISTORY OF THE CHURCH.** We already have some materials on the history of the church which will be expanded, using a variety of formats to suit all audiences.

These three areas of work have attracted the most offers of support, this being another factor in our phase one thinking.

## WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE PROJECT?

We intend to begin preparatory work on remaining elements of the project. They will not be forgotten.

- The celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Mary's scouts will take place across 2026 and a programme of events is in place.
- The actual laying of the foundation stone was 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1852. We will begin preparations to celebrate this event in September 2026 well in advance of the 2027 anniversary.
- We are considering tying in the opening of St. Mary's Primary School in 1897 with the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- We received the strongest support for our proposal to use our heritage resources to promote activities for children and young people and the arts. Currently, we will need to prepare some new ideas to get this off the ground. This approach

will also be used around the possible development of a drama production and girl guiding. We will keep you informed.

## **WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?**

The steering group will continue to meet regularly over the next few months to complete preparations for the implementation of the project. A key piece of work will be preparing a series of meetings for anyone wishing to help with the project. We aim to send details of a series of meetings to this end which we hope will take place around mid to late April 2026. We hope you will be able to attend one of the meetings which will be open to all.

Work has also begun in developing the project as a vehicle for Mission. More details of this to follow from April onwards.

## **WHEN WILL IT BEGIN?**

We have deliberately decided not to set a start date just yet. We need to be confident about when the necessary preparations are in place. At that point we will plan a launch event and dates for phase one of the project.

We hope you find this update helpful and again, many thanks for your support.