

Clough church is open for business

Celebrations as work pays off

A SMALL but stalwart band of parishioners has battled against the odds to save one of the area's more unusual little churches.

Their hard work paid off at the weekend, when St Gilbert and St Hugh's Church at Gosberton Clough re-opened with major celebrations.

The Bishop of Grantham, the Rt Rev Alistair Redfern, led a service of re-dedication and members and visitors turned out in force to view the extensive renovations and enjoy a special display of flowers.

At one stage the fight to save the church seemed almost hopeless, especially when the National Lottery turned down an application for funds.

Mary Burton, secretary to the parochial church council, explained what happened next:

by Pam Browne

"The work cost nearly £200,000 but we explored other avenues when the Lottery application was rejected and managed to raise the money.

"The Historic Churches Preservation Fund had special funds for millennium grants and we qualified. That gave us £80,000."

Members organised fundraising, received donations and more grants, enabling them to bring in specialist firm Bowmans of Stamford to begin the work in November.

"They were all skilled craftsmen and did an excellent job," Mrs Burton said.

The timber-framed building with a pebbledash exterior was completed in 1903.



Sylvia and Peter Warby, who were married at the church almost 52 years ago, returned on Saturday to see the work carried out over the last few months. NJ110502-25



Mary Burton outside the newly-restored church of St Gilbert and St Hugh. NJ110502-09