



Embargo *No embargo required.*

Title

The United Benefice of Kirkburton, All Hallows and Shelley, Emmanuel is excited to launch their Burial Ground Management System project - thanks to the support of the National Lottery

- Public launch of the pilot project by Ven Dr Anne Dawtry
- Wednesday 26 February 2020 at All Hallows and Thursday 27 February 2020 at Emmanuel - both at 10.30 am
- Everyone welcome

Main text

Kirkburton, All Hallows and Shelley, Emmanuel, two churches near Huddersfield in the Anglican Diocese of Leeds, received a Sharing Heritage grant of £6,100 in March 2018 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for the pilot project focused on their two churchyards. The reality of this project was made possible by money raised by National Lottery players. This innovative project involved pioneering research to develop the distinctive heritage of the two churchyards, and will add great value for the local and wider communities of all ages.

It is the first project of its kind in the UK to go live!

Genealogists, historians and interested parties will benefit greatly from easy online-access to search for information. Atlantic Geomatics (UK) Ltd digitally mapped the historic churchyards of Kirkburton and Shelley. Volunteers from the churches and local history group were trained to take high-quality photographs of approximately 6000 memorials, which are now linked directly to the memorial location on the map. The burial registers were scanned and the volunteers transcribed the text in the registers onto the portal, linking them to the images and map.

This project in conjunction with existing information, benefits the conservation areas of both churchyards, in particular in All Hallows' Churchyard which for many years has won the Green Flag Community Award. We are committed to upholding our conservation responsibilities and this project helps us to do this in a systematic way.

The project can now be shared with and benefit:

- The growing community of local, national and international genealogists who have an interest in this area.
- All who live/work in the two villages (now and ongoing) as they can learn about the people who are buried in the churchyards.



- Schoolchildren and their families, as the heritage project incorporates part of the whole school curriculum plans specifically on subjects including Maths, Geography, Science and History.
- Visitors to both churches can examine the results of the project in a variety of ways – by attending talks, guided trails, exhibitions, using the mapping system, educational resources and other events.

The local volunteers, with professional support, can share their new skills as this project continues (including photography, scanning, IT, and researching archives) and participate in a range of heritage activities centred on the burial grounds.

This heritage project is founded on the history of two churches:

- Grade I listed All Hallows' Church, situated in the ancient village of Kirkburton, dating to before the Norman Conquest. The old churchyard dates back to the 17th century with a 19th century major extension being established.
- Grade II listed Emmanuel Church, Shelley, with a churchyard that offers a rare resource on Victorian history.

Quotes

Add a quote from your organisation: keep it short, in natural speech and enthusiastic. Aim to create a 'sound bite' the media will want to use.

Dr Joseph Elders, Head of Strategy for Church Buildings of the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division of the Church of England said "I congratulate the congregations, volunteers and Sylvia Johnson in particular (as Chair of the Group), for all their hard work in bringing this exciting project to fruition. Many more churches could benefit from this kind of project across the country, protecting and enjoying the wonderful historic and natural environment of our churches for the benefit of all".

Commenting on the launch of the portal, Tim Viney, Atlantic Geomatics Ltd, said: "The team of volunteers at the United Benefice has been a pleasure to work with. They have dedicated much of their time to complement the mapping of the churchyards and added the value that has made it all worthwhile. We are excited at the prospect of the first public Burial Ground Management System to be launched today, the result of several years of hard work."

Notes to editors

Notes to editors is a useful way to include further background information about your organisation and HLF. Always use the HLF paragraph exactly as provided.



Notes to editors

The Major church of All Hallows, Kirkburton, is one of the finest historic parish churches in West Yorkshire. Perched on a slight rise at the Southern end of the Kirkburton Conservation Area, with large, award-winning churchyards shaded by mature trees, the quality and beauty of the building and its setting make a stunning backdrop to the village.

Its exceptional architectural, archaeological and historic importance is recognised in its Grade I listing by Historic England and recognition by the Church Buildings Council as being of “exceptional significance”. The church should, however, not be seen as an isolated historical monument, but understood within its wider human and natural environment, and as an asset for the local and wider community.

The Church of Emmanuel, Shelley is an exemplary specimen of a Victorian Church. When the population grew rapidly at this time the Church of England had trouble providing churches for so many people. Parliament made grants available for setting up new parishes and building new churches. Wealthy landowners were quite prepared to donate the odd acre of land on which these new churches would be built. In 1852 one acre of land was given by Thomas Richard Shipperdson and Isabella Margaret Appletree for the building of a parish church in Shelley.

On August 1866 the foundation stone was laid by the 5th Earl of Dartmouth, William Walter Legge who lived from 1823 – 1891 and the church was dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Ripon on 9th September 1868. The building work was completed by Moorhouses of Kirkburton and as with many Victorian village churches, is of a simple design built of local stone.

Atlantic Geomatics, based in Penrith, have been working for a couple of years now with both the Diocese of Carlisle and Church of England to develop a management system for their burial grounds. This is an interactive, up-to-date, web-based, map which uses the latest technologies to hold and protect church records.

By gathering experiences and knowledge from cemetery managers they have created a solution which facilitates complete burial ground management, protects the heritage this information contains and brings to life the potential it has to offer.

The Burial Ground Management System (BGMS) provides an accurate, interactive map showing not just the location of graves, memorials and art but also trees, ecology, paths and buildings, and offers a whole range of other uses that add value to any cemetery or burial ground.



About the National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we Inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future. www.heritagefund.org.uk.

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Further information

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