



# NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2025 No. 10

The Friends of St Ruan and  
St Grade Historic Church Buildings  
Registered Charity No. 1164632

## VAT BLOW INCREASES GRADE'S PROFILE

The Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme has historically ensured that where restoration works are undertaken to a Listed building used for worship all the VAT is recoverable from the government. With a rate of 20% this has always been a welcome and valuable bonus.

The UK Government has decided that the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme will be renewed for one year – until 2026 and that a spending cap will now apply of £25,000 that can be claimed through the scheme. The overall budget of the scheme has been reduced by almost half to £23 million.

The National Churches Trust believe the scheme offers tremendous value for money. For every £1 invested in a church building, £16 of social good is generated. They believe that the scheme should be made permanent and are working with the Government to ensure the value of these buildings is understood.

As the leading UK church heritage charity, the National Churches Trust are doing all they can to urge the Government to make the scheme permanent and reverse the cuts and the budget cap.

Unfortunately no-one has any idea what will happen in 2026. It may be that the £25,000 cap will continue, it may be that there will be no contribution towards VAT at all.

The National Churches Trust are encouraging everyone to lobby their MP and we have made representations to Andrew George MP. Here is a link where they provide a template:

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/letter-template-help-you-write-about-listed-places-worship-grants-scheme>

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There is also a video that has been produced by the National Churches Trust and they have chosen Grade Church as one of the churches to feature. If you access the Friends website: <https://www.friendsofstruanandstgrade.co.uk/newsletters/> you will find it if you would like to have a look.

Alternatively go to the National Churches Trust website and click on their link to the Listed Places of Worship, find out more, you will see the video there.

As a result of the National Churches Trust campaign Grade church has also been featured on the BBC Spotlight programme and was broadcast on 16<sup>th</sup> July. There is still an article on the BBC website available if you search the church but unfortunately the footage is no longer available.

We would like to thank all who supported us with the filming including Wendy Elliot, Sarah Gosling and Mr Carl Newton, Deputy CEO of the National Churches Trust who were all featured. Clare Manning from the BBC was charming and Sarah and Richard Drummond looked after everyone providing refreshments.



Finally we would like to thank the National Churches Trust who have awarded us an additional £5,000 in recognition of the impact of the change to the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. They have been so supportive of our little church and it is much appreciated.

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## Thank you

Gill Preston passed away peacefully at Porthgwara, Coverack, on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January, at the age of 92. She grew up at Polstangey bungalow, and had been a regular contributor to the Gazette with her tales of the coast, countryside and characters in the 1940s and '50s, many of you will have read her articles. She was always enthusiastic and energetic about everything, and was a keen supporter of the Friends of St Ruan and St Grade and a life member. She will be remembered by many in the community.

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## Volunteers Appreciated

If you have any time available to help the Friends whether by joining the Committee or occasional assistance at events we would love to hear from you. Administrative/IT/Fundraising/Gardening/Maintenance skills are all helpful and just knowing you might be able to help when needed would be great to know. If you would be interested in helping please contact our Chairman, Mary Keeley on 01326 765458 or [marykeeley67@icloud.com](mailto:marykeeley67@icloud.com)

# SILENT AUCTION



A Silent Auction was held this summer with the results announced on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

There were 13 lots altogether. Some were by local artists and some pictures had quite a history, one picture being from the early 20th century. Some donated artworks came from other areas of the country and one of the lots came from one of our supporters in Germany.

It was great to have the opportunity to display most of the artworks in "The Store" with thanks to Clare Bollard who also received bids for those who were unable to take part on line.

We would like to thank all the donors and all those who bid on the lots. We are pleased to say that we raised £1400 for The St Grade Roof Appeal. Once again thank you to all our supporters from our community and visitors who made bids.

# WHAT'S ON

**WHEN**  
Friday  
26<sup>th</sup> September  
6.00 pm



**WHERE**  
At St Grade Church

## SINGING, PASTIES AND PIMM'S

**The Cadgwith Singers will be singing in St Grade Church**



**A CANDLE LIT EVENING IN AID OF  
"St Grade Church Roof Appeal"**



**Tickets £10**  
From Claire at the Post Office  
Pasty and Pimm's included

We are pleased to welcome the **Cadgwith Singers** to Grade Church on the 26<sup>th</sup> September. It was a sell out last year so don't delay in getting your ticket! The acoustics at the church are remarkable and the atmosphere is magical as the evening draws in and the candle light takes over. It's still light enough at half time to enjoy your Pasty and Pimms and if the weather's fine enjoy a stroll round the churchyard and enjoy the sea views.

We will be holding another **Music Night** in the Village Hall this November. These have proved to be very popular evenings with a strong following. We have our loyal band of performers and many guest musicians and singers who come along and there is even some dancing! We have referred to this as a Jazz evening but actually all sorts of music is played, including Jazz, Blues, traditional pop and many old favourites like 'La Mer'. Entry fee is £5 with wine, prosecco and beer on sale together with soft drinks and some nibbles.

We will be holding a **Christingle Service** on December 14<sup>th</sup>. This is always very popular service for all the family and for many it is when they really begin to feel 'Christmassy'. There will be some refreshments available, more than likely mince pies and perhaps even some mulled wine for the grown ups!