



# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026 No. 11

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

## SPRING IS SPRUNG!

**But what a winter!**

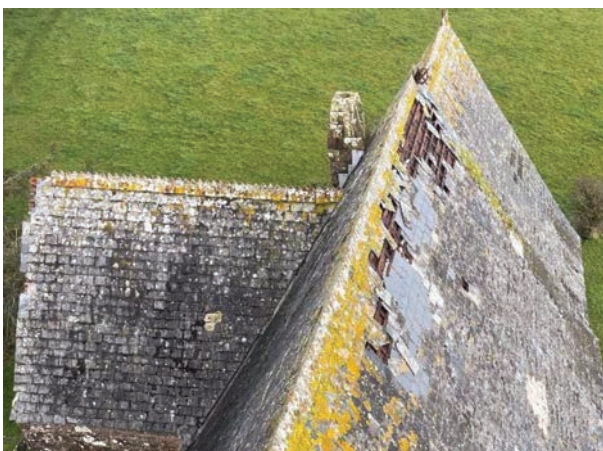


Yes it's official, Spring has arrived and many thanks to Jack Cook for this picture of Grade Church on a beautiful evening. See page 3 for an update of our fundraising appeal for the restoration project.

It's been a harsh winter and Grade Church suffered significant damage following Storm Goretti on 8<sup>th</sup> January. We were fortunate to get a large proportion of the

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costs covered by an insurance claim and it was promptly repaired. Storm Gorette was unusual as it changed direction as it passed over Cornwall producing a wrap-around circulation which resulted in very powerful localised winds. For Grade this meant the normally sheltered side of the roof was badly affected



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A new Quinquennial Inspection took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 and observed:

“Having undertaken quinquennial inspections on churches within the Diocese of Truro for over 40 years, it has to be stated that the condition and vulnerability of this relatively isolated, rural Church is possibly the worst and in most urgent need of care and attention of any church that I have seen during those 40 years. The roof covering is so vulnerable that with a good storm, further slates will come through. Having had plasterboard under drawing the ceiling within, this is going to hold water, get heavy and collapse, or encourage ongoing issues of wet and dry rot infestation which is going to cause serious risk to the fabric and the structural integrity of the building. St Grada Church is, at the start of February 2026, in an extremely vulnerable condition that could deteriorate very rapidly.”

### ***So what's happening - when will be able to restore Grade?***

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October last year The National Lottery Heritage Fund invited us to make an application for our restoration project following submission of a formal Expression of Interest.

We submitted our application prior to the deadline of 26<sup>th</sup> February this year. On June 11<sup>th</sup> we will be informed whether we have been successful in getting through to the “Development Phase”. This is when we are expected to further develop our project, with Lottery funding support as needed. A further application is made after approx. 12 months for “Delivery” of the project.

We are hoping, if we are successful, that we can reduce this time table and the Heritage Fund have said they will consider this if we can show we have satisfied all their criteria. We are applying for funds for the complete restoration of Grade Church, not just the roof and if all goes well work should start at some point in 2027. Funding continues apace as we may not succeed and even if we do there are cash flow challenges which means having our own funds available is essential.

Meanwhile since our last newsletter the Listed Places of Worship Scheme which refunded VAT for listed buildings (recently capped at £25,000) has closed. We await information about the new scheme which will be open to all places of worship and is not limited to VAT recovery. Applications will be managed by Historic England who have indicated that we will be at the forefront of their engagement with the needy churches in the Truro Diocese - so fingers crossed!

As you can see we have had a busy winter preparing the very detailed application for the Heritage Fund and continue to be grateful to those who are supporting us with individual donations for the restoration appeal. Our current balance is approximately £175,000 - we have had to discount the £25,000 we were expecting towards our VAT liability.



# FRIENDS NEWS

We had a magical and well attended **Christingle Service** on December 14th. The tree was decorated by the children and the church looked very festive and welcoming in the candlelight. Plenty of mince pies and mulled wine to warm everyone up was in order heralding for some the real start of Christmas. Many thanks to Sarah and James from Tregaminion Farm for donating the beautiful tree.

Who knew that **Dr Who** used Grade Church in one of their episodes? Well they did - Season 4, the Smugglers in fact. They filmed in June 1966 - 60 years ago!!! They're coming back this June for a follow up documentary which will include Grade and although the church didn't have a large role in the filming it is nonetheless exciting that it will form part of this programme. We will let you know when we are told when and on what channel it will be broadcast.

**Angela's Teas** will be returning on the afternoon of July 18<sup>th</sup> 2025 at The Old Post Office. This is always such a lovely afternoon and we look forward to seeing you there.

The **Cadgwith Singers** will be back on 25th September but this year we will have a double bill as they will be joined by **Spectrum Music** who are a wind band specialising in popular music including favourites from stage and screen, they are including us in their Cornish tour! So the formula will be the same, Pasties and Pimms, but twice the fun - tickets will be £15

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