

# Towering over Thursford for seven centuries, our heritage is too important to lose.

**St Andrew's Church  
PROJECT NEWSLETTER  
Issue 1  
March 2026**



## WELCOME

Welcome. Following the amazing news that the National Lottery Heritage Fund have awarded us a grant of £158,548, this is the first edition of our project newsletter, keeping you up to date as the conservation project gets going and wends its way to completion, hopefully by Summer 2027. Each month we'll share the latest project news, explain what work needs to be done and why, and give you a glimpse into the remarkable heritage of St Andrew's. From the earliest discoveries right through to the present day, there's a wonderful story to tell.

## LATEST NEWS

New Architect appointed to the project and the first 50% of our grant due to be released.

We are really delighted to announce that Purcell Architecture Limited have been appointed as architects to the project. Purcell bring a wealth of experience in heritage conservation and our Project Lead, Charlotte Pession, has worked on many historic churches including St Nicholas Church in Blakeney and our near neighbour at St Martin's in Hindringham.



Charlotte, along with her project team, are ready to start straight away planning out the project, completing the necessary faculty permissions from the Diocese and tendering the construction work.

AND the news is just in that following the completion of a number of requests from the **NLHF** the first 50% is about to be released, another milestone to get the project under way!

AND **Norfolk Churches Trust** have just awarded us a further £5,000 towards the project. A huge thank you to them, their support from the beginning has been an inspiration.

**THANKS ARE DUE  
TO ALL OUR  
SPONSORS AND  
SUPPORTERS**





## WHAT MUST BE DONE

It's all about wind, weather, water and the ravages of time!

St Andrew's in the snow paints a pretty picture, but every year the church is taking a battering from the cold, rain and wind and we really need now to address the damage.

The tower is a key focus for conservation. It has stood at today's height since 1350 and though repaired many times, sometimes well, sometimes pretty badly, it's time to have another go. The lack of any real protection to the four tower openings, beyond some now very tatty plastic mesh, means that water is constantly getting in and slowly damaging the interior floors and beams. Outside, the old lime mortar has been eroded away revealing significant cracks, while underneath areas of flint work have become worryingly loose. There's plenty of urgent work to be done elsewhere too.

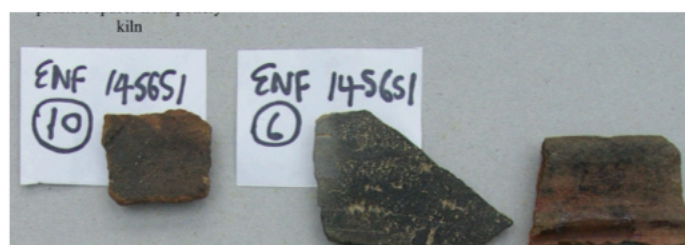
"Testing of the wall revealed extensive areas of detached flint work...indicating that work is necessary to the entire west elevation of the belfry."



## FINALLY - A BIT OF ANCIENT HISTORY

Finds around the church remind us that St Andrew's sits in a landscape that has been part of people's lives for 3000 years. Our conservation project is simply the latest chapter in a very long story.

An archeological survey carried out in 2020, in advance of installing a water supply to the kitchen and loo, provided a glimpse of what was going on at the church site well before the early church building. Two flints found, show that people were using this spot in around 1200 BC. Moving forward, Sandy Ipswich Ware pottery (7th - 9th century) was also recovered, while a Late Saxon (850 - 1066) harness mount and three Saxon metal tokens were found by metal detectorists in the field just North of the church.



Fragments of early pottery. Not hugely exciting! but a marker of habitation before the church was built.