

## St Day Old Church Project

### Quarterly Report

01 January to 31 March 2020

#### Conservation works and equipment

Following the busy schedule of ensuring the window replacement and repairs were undertaken by the Christmas/New Year break, work centred on getting the weatherproof and secure vestibule area (beneath the tower) completed to enable electricity to be brought into the building. This work was of utmost importance to enable the 'Signs and Wonders' community event to take place in February.

10 January – a wayleave to dig a trench for the electricity supply from the highway to the building was received from the Parochial Church Council. Western Power agree dates when works to connect the power supply will commence.

24 January – Ben Rowley of Rowley Carpentry and Joinery began work on the inner vestibule construction in accordance with the approved Listed Building Consent.



*Construction of the 'inner vestibule'*

30 January – PJB Electrics began preparatory works for connecting electricity in the building to the supply from Western Power.

03 February – Western Power started works from the highway and Matt Bardoe Groundworks dug a trench and laid cable from the highway to the building.

05 February – the electricity supply to the building was completed and tested.



*Trench for electricity supply*

*internal electricity connection*

07 February – initial works to provide a secure and weatherproof 'inner vestibule' completed. it was decided to delay the works to refurbish the former vestry until April.



*Internal vestibule elevation with existing doors to be re-painted*

*High level lighting installed on south elevation*

16 February – works to clean the floor of the building and remove items not required were undertaken.

17 February – PJB Electrics continue work on the cabling for high level lighting, emergency exit lighting and low-level power supply throughout the building.

19 February – works to resurface the access from the highway to the building affected by the trench works were completed.

25 February – consent was given by Cornwall Council for the CIC to slightly reposition one of the fallen pillars prior to planned resurfacing work of building.

30 March – the awnings were shipped from Shanghai to UK. Because of the Covid-19 situation in China, there was a long delay in manufacturing the items.

#### Community activities

The period was dominated by the first major event to take place at the Old Church since the CIC took ownership and the Project began – the 'Signs and Wonders DiaspAURA' Spectacular in February.

January - contact was made with 12 Cornish societies and interest groups around the world via social media and email to tell them about the project and appeal for family stories and connections with St Day and the Old Church. All the memories gathered to date were collated by Lesley Trotter, along with her research on diaspora connections in St Day Churchyard, and the stories behind the memorials inside the Old Church, were passed on to Clare Summerson of Day-Light Group as material to inform the art workshops for the Signs & Wonders 'DiaspAURA' event planned for February.

January - The 'Be the Solution' refill shop in the centre of St Day continued to support the project, featuring it in their window display, selling glass crosses produced by a local artist, and the calendar produced by Clare Summerson, in aid of the project. A donations box

has been provided at the owner's request. Donation boxes were also placed in St Day General Stores and the Post Office.



Local Store supporting the Project

Workshop Poster

10 January - Clare Summerson and Lesley Trotter went into St Day & Carharrack School to tell Year 6 pupils about the stories behind the memorials inside the Old Church in advance of their sessions with a professional animator Amanda Lorens to create works inspired by these stories.

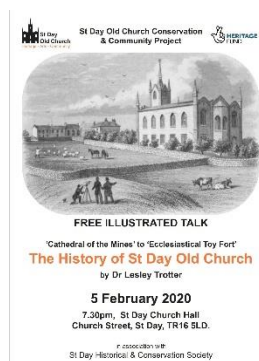
Throughout January the Day-Light Group artists ran various workshops for the pupils of the school in preparation for the DiaspAURA animations, and the Day-Light Choir rehearsed new songs for the 'DiaspAURA' and other musical events later in the project.

19 January - 12 members of a local tourist guide organisation visited the Old Church and were told about the project and history of the church.

January - A full-page ad was placed in the St Day Newsletter promoting the free talk about the history of the Old Church, and the Day-Light Group also promoted the 'DiaspAURA' event in the same issue.

01 and 02 February the Day-Light Group organised the 'Laboratory of Light' delivered by Greenwave Interactive and ran family animation workshops, with contributions from Flat Packed Theatre. Numerous community groups were engaged in decorating chandeliers for display at the 'DiaspAURA' event. The Day-Light Group also ran lantern making workshops for the event.

05 February - The evening talk given by Dr Lesley Trotter proved very popular and was attended by 43 people. The interactive connections chart was on display at the event enabling further opportunity for engagement.



History talk poster



Walk, talk and sketch day

08 February - Braving bad weather, seven amateur and professional artists took part in the 'walk, talk & sketch' day (ref: photo above) run in the Old Church by Sue Hill (Wildworks) with Lesley Trotter.

08 February - Six volunteers attended the oral history volunteer training session delivered by Dr Garry Tregidga of the Institute of Cornish Studies.



The Signs and Wonders DiaspAURA community event

21 to 23 February - Despite storms and strong winds in the run up to the event, the 3-day DiaspAURA Light Festival was held in the Old Church over a weekend. Informed by research on the history of the church, its memorials and links to the Cornish diaspora, the festival celebrated community ownership of the Old Church and its connection to the wider world, telling its story using light and laser technologies, lanterns and animations, which were displayed alongside the illuminated 'chandeliers' decorated by individual community groups. A large-scale light installation threaded its way around the building revealing key dates in the building's history, and at the event visitors could make origami boats decorated with UV paint that would light up when placed in 'harbours' representing the destinations of the Cornish abroad.





*Images of the Signs and Wonders spectacular*

The entire front of the church was illuminated with a projected animation incorporating the community animation work, whilst inside a stunning ten-minute laser light show, produced by professional practitioners under Clare Summerson's direction and inspired by the diaspora and the history of the church, reduced the audience to silence, and in some cases tears. The audience could also interact with the light displays by playing an illuminated pipe organ and using real bell ropes to control bells projected by lasers onto the church tower.



Over the three nights a wide range of live music was provided by local musicians, bands and choirs. The Day-Light Choir performed songs representing the countries and stories of the Cornish diaspora, as well as celebrating Cornwall's links to Brittany. A highlight of the final evening was the 'Spirit of Light' dancer leading a large part of the audience in a traditional serpent dance around the Old Church to the choir singing a Breton folksong. The event engaged all ages in the community, as creators, participants, volunteers and audience in the story of the Old Church and the Cornish diaspora, and created a truly memorable event attended by approximately 500 people over the three nights, and resulted in much positive comment in social media and on the local radio. Clare Summerson and the Day-Light Group have been nominated for a Gorsedh Kernow Community Award for the event.



Images and videos of the DiasAURA Light Festival can be found on The Day-Light Group's website: <https://thedaylightgroup.wixsite.com/stday/copy-of-restoration-gallery> And Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/daylightstday/>

### **Outdoor Learning**

13 January – 'Cornwall Outdoors' began work on the Outdoor Learning digital pack for teachers and schools together with collection of Victorian artifacts. This work was curtailed in March (ref: below).

### **Social Media**

The website and Facebook were particularly active during this period promoting and providing information on the 'Signs and Wonders' and other events (ref: above)

### **Funding**

09 January – the financial contribution for works to the windows was received from Truro Diocese.

02 March – a grant application for £10K was submitted to the Cornwall Development Company 'Coast to Coast' Fund.

During early March work began on an application to the National Lottery Community Fund

24 March – Part of the grant from the Cornwall Heritage Trust was received

### **Covid-19**

As a result of Government policy, from 17 March all Project work and community events were suspended. The Project will resume when permitted to do so. This will mean the planned events for the summer of 2020 will now not take place. The timetable to complete the project will need to be reviewed when future Government policy is known.

*Dr Lesley Trotter and Mike Hawkey  
St Day Old Church CIC  
April 2020*