

## **Dunscore Church Heritage Project: GP-14-03236**

**Press release- July 2015.**



### **Dunscore Parish Church wins Heritage Lottery Support.**

Dunscore Parish Church has been awarded a splendid grant of over £64,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This grant is to

- undertake urgent repairs to the fabric of the building.
- develop a facility to display artefacts and educational material relating to the heritage of the church building and to the life of Jane Haining who was born in Dunscore and died in Auschwitz as a direct result of her work as a matron in a school which taught Jewish children in Budapest in the 1940s.
- make alterations to the interior of the church to enable it to accommodate the heritage centre and make it more suitable for additional community uses.

Initial development funding of up to £13,600 has been awarded to help the Dunscore Church progress their project plans in full. If the plans are accepted then further grants will be released by Heritage Lottery and Historic Scotland of £50,700 each towards the total project cost of just under £160,000. The aim is to complete the work in 2016.

This initial development grant was awarded in competition with other projects and means that the project has the potential to deliver high-quality benefits and value for Lottery money.

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums,

parcs and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, HLF invests in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported almost 37,000 projects with more than £6bn across the UK. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

A requirement of the grant is that the Church raises at least 5% of the costs of the work and it is planning a full programme of fundraising events. The Church will also be applying to a range of charitable trusts for grants to raise the total project costs.

Dunscore Church is an A-Listed building and has been a very prominent landmark in Dunscore village for nigh on 200 years and was widely recognised as an important feature in a local survey conducted in 2005. Rebecca Cadie, of ARPL, the project's Conservation Architect, describes the Church as "*a gem hidden in the countryside*".

Colin McLean, Head of HLF Scotland, said "Scotland's historic and diverse places of worship are so often at the heart of our communities. Thanks to National Lottery players HLF funds urgent structural repairs and also improved facilities and visitor information. Dunscore Parish Church is an excellent example of how HLF can help conserve a much loved building so it can continue to serve its local community".

Colin Mitchell, who is both Chairman of Dunscore Community Council and Church Session Clerk, said "We are absolutely delighted with the Heritage Lottery Fund Support and the opportunity, not only to get essential church repairs completed, but also to develop the historic church building as a community amenity and a locally important heritage centre".

Since the screening of a BBC Scotland documentary last year and the publication of a book celebrating the extraordinary story of Jane Haining's courage during the Second World War, there has been an increase in visitor numbers. It is expected that the heritage project will provide a new focus for local schools, researchers and passers-by.

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For further information about the project, please contact Matthew Aitken 01387 820448 or Rona Gunnell 01387 740326.