

## Project Type: Slate roof repair

**Project Title:** Roof Repairs

**Location:** St Paul's Church, Gorefield, Cambridgeshire.  
Grade II.

**Total Cost:** £90,000 including VAT

### Funding Sources:

- Legacy - £60,000
- VAT reclaim (LPWGS) - £14,400
- Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust - £2000
- Garfield Weston - £6000
- Other – local donations and a loan from the village hall.

**Project Duration:** Planning started in November 2020.  
Work commenced in October 2020 and was completed in January 2022.

### Brief Overview

The quinquennial inspection in 2017 highlighted that the slate roofs were in need of repair, in some places this was urgent and there was concern that numerous rusted and failing nails could cause more slates to slip. As with many church projects it took time to plan the repairs, but in the meantime maintenance and patch repairs were carried out. Apart from the roofs, the church was in a good condition but as water ingress through failing roofs can lead to major problems, the church was added to the Diocese' list of vulnerable buildings. This was by no means a criticism of anyone at St Paul's, but a way to highlight the challenges faced and provide additional support if needed. Towards the end of 2020 the roof project received new impetus and grant applications began to be submitted. A just giving page was launched early in 2021.

### Potted History and Key Features

The first independent Church at Gorefield was erected and opened for worship in 1834. Prior to this date a few people used to meet and worship in the house of Mr GH Meadows who lived next door and in fact gave the land on which the Church was built. It was soon extended, but even this became inadequate and the present church was erected in 1869 at a cost of £2000. Made of flint and stone in the early English style, it contained a chancel, nave, vestry, south porch and a turret with one bell.

Original tiled floor, stencilled wall decoration depicting the last supper and a painted boarded roof.

### Top Tips:

- Apply to as many funders as you can but do check that you are eligible first!
- Local people can be really generous, but they need to know that things will happen soon.

**Website:** <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14016/>

**Contact:** If you would like to know more about this project or speak to the people involved, please contact Holly Isted, Historic Church Buildings Support Officer [holly.isted@elydiocese.org](mailto:holly.isted@elydiocese.org) 07948 35021 |

