



Pathways to the Past

Exploring the Legacy of Ethelburga

Report to the Annual Meeting of Lyminge Parish **31 May 2022**

The Pathways to the Past Project was a project of Lyminge Parish Church. In our last report in July 2021, we reported on the many activities undertaken and new public information created following the conclusion in 2019 of the archaeological excavation of the Anglo-Saxon church in the churchyard. The project formally concluded in July last year, but there have been a few loose ends to tidy up in the period since then. The purpose of this report is to summarise what has been happening.

Work has progressed with analysing the results of the excavation in 2019. One particularly exciting outcome is that samples of mortar have been scientifically dated demonstrating a likely construction date in the 7th Century, and thus it is possible that Queen Ethelburga did build the first church in the 630s or 640s AD, as is recorded in historical records.

Samples of the mortar of the nave and chancel of the current church were also taken and scientifically analysed. The results show conclusively that the church is Norman, built most likely by Archbishop Lanfranc in the later years of the 11th Century after the Norman Conquest. The results disprove the theory that was advanced in the 19th Century that the church was built by Archbishop Dunstan in the late 10th Century.

The archaeological report of the excavation has now been written and is being edited for publication. The report will appear in a volume of *Archaeologia*, the monograph series of the Society of Antiquaries. This will be open-access, meaning that it will be freely accessible on-line.

Working in partnership with Lyminge Historical Society and Lyminge Parish Council, we have created new information posters that are now displayed in the Station Road carpark. A new visitor leaflet has been created for the Parish Council and this is available through a number of outlets throughout the parish, including a leaflet dispenser on the noticeboard itself in the Station Road carpark.

Pathways to the Past: Exploring the Legacy of Ethelburga is a project of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary and St Ethelburga, Lyminge.
Registered Charity 1130345

Its key sponsor is the National Lottery Heritage Fund

The White Cliffs Countryside Project leads on Community Engagement



From July to November 2021, the new artworks created by local artists as part of the project were part of the Fringe of the Folkestone Triennial, the internationally acclaimed art festival that takes place in Folkestone every three years. New permanent signage about the artworks has been created for the church, and the artworks themselves are publicised on the Parish Council website.

Last but by no means least, new signage has been installed in the churchyard, highlighting the new accessible route via the north door. This completes the work to provide the first level access into the church since it was built almost 1,000 years ago.

With the forthcoming publication of the excavation report, I am delighted to confirm that in the period from 2019 to 2022, the project will have achieved all its objectives, and it is now at an end.

Rob Baldwin, Project Manager

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