



THE ELECTRIFICATION OF CAYTHORPE CHURCH CLOCK

The existing clock on the tower of St Vincent's has for many years been wound by hand by a number of volunteers. Unfortunately, this involves an arduous climb up the steps to the bell tower and as time passes, this is becoming more of a problem for those involved, who have themselves been subject to the passing of time!

As the clock represents a significant landmark to the village, following discussions between representatives of the Church and the Parish Council, it was agreed that a project would be instigated to electrify the clock to negate the need to manually wind (and alter) the clock.

A faculty was obtained from the Diocese (granting permission to carry out the work), and quotes obtained from a number of specialists qualified to work on the clock. Although the Parish Council was willing to subsidise this work, it was agreed to seek grant funding towards the cost. The Parish Clerk was able to apply for and obtain funding towards the cost of the electrification project, Initially for £1500 from the Benefact Trust, and later to the tune of £ 12,977 from South Kesteven District Council through their UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This means that this project will be achieved without any cost to the Church or Parish Council.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. For more information, visit [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus)

An order has been placed and work should be carried out in the near future. Although there will not be any visible signs of the work having been completed, it will ensure that this landmark remains in good working order for many years to come.

The initial electrical work was completed by Carlton Electrical in September of last year and Time Assured began work to the clock in early December. After completely dismantling the mechanism a minor crack was discovered on the strike train and the gears were found to be well worn. If left, these faults would cause the clock to fail. Thankfully the Benefact Trust have agreed that their grant of £1500 could be used for this purpose. The Parish Council met recently at an Extra-Ordinary meeting to discuss this project moving forward. It was agreed that it was more than sensible to replace the gears at this stage