



## Cemetery Road Baptist Church

### Press Release

22 July 2020

#### **By the Power of God .... Sheffield church starts roof repair project with solar power**

After raising £4,000 from its 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal, Cemetery Road Baptist Church is praising God and thanking funding bodies for donations totalling £134,000 to re-cover its main roof, improve its insulation and install tucked-away solar panels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Funding donations are from Veolia Environmental Trust, FCC Communities Foundation, Sheffield City Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Fund, the Henry & Harry Bottom Baptist Trust, The Bernard Sunley Foundation and Allchurches Trust.

Work has started to replace the Grade II listed building's porous concrete roof slates with natural slates, topping-up its roof insulation and installing photovoltaic solar panels on a part of the roof that cannot be seen from street-level. The church's carbon dioxide emissions are expected to fall by over 80 tonnes over the next 25 years.

The work is part of an ambitious masterplan to return the building to the heart of the community. The church's next fundraising challenge is to replace the building's inefficient gas heating boilers, to install double glazing and repair its hall windows, and to refurbish its Napier Street entrance and welcome areas.

Councillor Jim Steinke, Member for Nether Edge and Sharrow Ward, Sheffield City Council said, "CRB Church have consistently demonstrated a community spirit, which is exemplary in our view. A significant number of activities have originated from their passion to engage with the different communities that make up Sharrow and surrounding areas, which have vastly enriched those communities. The need to provide these from a building with better infrastructure is clear and they have demonstrated commitment to trying to raise funding from a wide variety of sources, including the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Fund".

Lizzie Cooke, Head of Grants at The Veolia Environmental Trust which awarded £75,000 through the Landfill Communities Fund added, "It's wonderful these improvements have been able to start. The new roof will sustain not only the church building, but all the valuable community activities which take place within it, the benefits of which will

undoubtedly be felt for generations to come. We're glad to have been able to support this project".

Peter Kennett, Fabric Officer, CRB Church said, "For 20 years our architects have been stressing the need to replace the failing 1960s concrete tiles with slate, as originally used in 1859, but we could not raise sufficient funds to do so. Thanks to the generosity of various trusts, we can now carry out the work, and an unforeseen benefit of the delay means that solar panels, which were only in their infancy 20 years ago, can now be installed, to make our church's contribution to helping to save this world's resources".

#### Photos:

1. Birds-eye view of the re-roofing - [here](#)
2. Church with wild flowers on Cemetery Road - [here](#).

#### Media information:

For further information please contact:

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#### Notes to editors:

- **Cemetery Road Baptist Church** is a vibrant multi-ethnic congregation just to the west of the city centre of Sheffield. It is open during the week for different activities, as it seeks to serve God in the local community of Sharrow, the City of Sheffield and the wider South Yorkshire region. For more information visit <http://www.crbchurch.org.uk/>
- **Veolia Environmental Trust** supports community and environmental projects across England through the Landfill Communities fund, using money provided to it by Veolia. For more information visit <https://www.veoliatrust.org/>
- **FCC Communities Foundation** awards grants to community projects from funds donated by FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund and Scottish Landfill Communities Fund. For more information please visit [www.fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk](http://www.fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk)
- **Community Infrastructure Levy** (CIL) is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities in England and Wales to help deliver infrastructure that supports development in their area. For more information visit <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/cil>
- **The Henry & Harry Bottom Trust** assists local Baptist churches by awarding grants towards their restoration and maintenance costs and assisting local Baptist ministers by awarding grants to help and enable them to better conduct their ministry. For more information visit <http://opencharities.org/charities/1120467>
- **The Bernard Sunley Foundation** is a family grant making foundation which supports charities in England and Wales working to raise the quality of life and provide greater

opportunities for the young, the elderly, the disabled and the disadvantaged. For more information visit <http://www.bernardsunley.org/>

- **Allchurches Trust** supports churches and Christian charities to care for heritage, but also to engage with their communities, For more information visit <https://www.allchurches.co.uk/>
- **The Project Team** comprises: Tom Crooks of [Tom Crooks Architecture Ltd](#); Eddie Murphy of [Ollio - The Sustainability and Building Performance Consultancy](#); Adam Hickey of [Pinnacle Conservation](#) and Chris Neil of [HomeEco Energy](#).