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Burton Bradstock Church undergoes £30k restoration project

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The new window at St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock

A TIME capsule has been placed in a newly restored village church wall as part of a project costing more than £30,000.

St Mary's Church in Burton Bradstock has undergone essential restoration to the wall and the window of its south transept thanks to the support of a £10,000 grant from the Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT)

The project has seen this part of the church transformed into an 'updated accessible and welcoming space'.

The works, carried out on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's, were made possible through donations, legacies and annual fundraising efforts.

A time capsule has been placed in the wall with contents including recent local newspapers, details and photos of the Rector's Licensing, photos of the current building work and reference to future improvements plus guide books, post cards and an old prayer book and coins.

St Mary's is a Grade 1 listed historic building and the work entailed the removal and re-setting of the leaded window, the repointing of the external face of the wall and the re-plastering of the internal face using traditional lime based materials.

These will enable the wall to 'breathe' and dry out more easily. The works were specified and supervised by Daniel Cantrell of Stark Crickmay, architects and carried out by C G Fry and Son, builders of Litton Cheney.

The DHCT awards grants of more than £110,000 each year for restoration and development projects in the county's parish churches and raises funds each September with the sponsored Ride+Stride event.

Rector the Reverend Jane Williams said: 'One of the things which convinced me to come to work with the churches across the Bride Valley was this project at St Mary's Burton Bradstock. It was clear that this church was forward-thinking since, even whilst they were in vacancy, they were keen to progress God's mission in this community and ensure their church building is fit for worship in the 21st century.

'We are unable to meet in our church building at the moment due to the Covid-19 restrictions. When this changes, I'm sure I'm not the only one looking forward to a brand-new way of worshipping together, made possible by our updated accessible and welcoming space.'