

Church opens doors again after revamp

A CHURCH has reopened its doors following a £200,000 revamp.

The Church of St Gilbert and St Hugh in Gosberton Clough has had new roof timber frames, and areas of the exterior pebbledash facing have been replaced or improved.

Fundraising to pay for the refurbishment had been going on for almost three years, with churchgoers and organisations giving money in an attempt to reach the huge target.

Churchgoer and fundraiser Mary Burton said: "When we first told people how much we needed to raise I think there was a bit of shock because they felt it was too much for such a small community.

"But we worked very hard and held lots of fundraising events and we have got there.

report by
ROB JERRAM

"It started well because we received a millennium grant for £80,000 from the Churches Preservation Trust.

"Then we received £12,000 from the waste recycling group WRGN, and the Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust gave a further £5,000 so the ball was well and truly rolling."

The rededication of the church was attended by the Bishop of Grantham the Rt Rev Alastair Redfern and John Hayes, MP for South Holland and The Deepings.

Church services have been held in the church hall since November but parishioners were delighted to be welcomed back into the church.

Mrs Burton said: "I haven't heard a bad word said about it yet and I can't see any reason

why I ever would. Everyone seems very pleased and it looks as good as new.

"We are delighted all of our hard work has paid off and a big thanks must go to Judy Berridge for all of her efforts.

"The church is a big part of our community and we are really pleased it is back looking at its best."

The next big event for the church will be in September 2003 when it celebrates its 100th anniversary. The church was opened by the then Bishop of Lincoln the Rt Rev Edward King and dedicated to St Gilbert and St Hugh.

● **RIGHT: As good as new: (Back, from left) - Harold Hill, Judy Berridge, Sally Spridgen, Bishop Alastair Redfern of Grantham, the Rev John Furst, and MP John Hayes. (Front) Amy Dickinson and Amy Dunn outside the refurbished church. (1142w48)**

