



22nd February 2013

St Lawrence Church Community Project wins Heritage Lottery Fund support

Today, St Lawrence's Church, Denton, has been delighted to receive £100,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting new Community Heritage Project. Led by church members and involving volunteers from across the local community, the project focuses on the development of community-accessible facilities within the church to create an exhibition which will record the social and religious history of the community.

The project will enable the preservation of the heritage and history of this Tudor Church building within the local community, whilst providing the building with up-to-date facilities. Children from local schools alongside members of the local history society and other volunteers will be trained to conduct and record interviews, make short heritage films, prepare displays of photographs, documents and other artefacts relating to the social history of the area. There will be a Community room available for meetings, social events, clubs and adult education.

The project will be launched on Saturday 9th March 10am to 4pm with an Open Day. Visitors will be able to look inside the church, see the current state of the building works and be involved in creating items for our memory box for future generations and begin to share memories and photographs of the Denton area. Refreshments will be available. The church has been preparing for this project for a number of years and done much serious fundraising. However, even with this HLF grant, we do still have a funding shortfall of around £35,000 for the wider reordering project and donations would be gratefully received. Please refer to our web site www.stlawrencedenton.org.uk.

St Lawrence's Church is a well-known landmark, nowadays often referred to locally as 'The Black and White Church'. Built in 1531 a few years before the Reformation it is one of only 29 medieval timber-framed chapels and churches to survive in England and Wales - and the most intact - so its historical importance is much wider than the immediate Denton locality.

Commenting on the award, the church's oldest member, 100 year old Alice M^cMinn who has attended the church all her life, said: 'This was the best 100th Birthday present that I could have had. It is wonderful to think that our young people will have something for the future. It is nice that us oldies will still have pleasure in continuing to attend, knowing that it will still be a friendly and welcoming building for many years to come.'

Sara Hilton, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund North West, said:

“Historic places of worship are an irreplaceable part of our heritage that continue to play a vital role within local communities today. St Lawrence’s Church stamps a sense of identity on Denton while providing a venue for worship and many other community activities so HLF is delighted to give it support.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

About St Lawrence Church Denton

An Anglican Church in Denton Manchester offering a friendly welcome to all from 0 to 100. We are currently worshipping in Greswell Primary School as the church building is closed for the reordering project work to be undertaken. We offer a Sunday School, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers and Mothers Union. We have regular themed Open Weeks with topical interactive displays for visitors to experience in addition to exploring the church architecture and heritage.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported more than 34,000 projects with more than £5billion across the UK. www.hlf.org.uk.

For further information, images and interviews, please contact

Sheila Cant Church Warden at St Lawrence Church Denton on 0161 336 1566 or 07929 440791 sheila.cant@btinternet.com or admin@stlawrencedenton.org.uk

Laura Bates, HLF press office, 020 7591 6027 / lbates@hlf.org.uk