

Press Release



All Saints Church Turvey Secures Investment from National Lottery Players

All Saints Church Turvey has received a confirmed grant of £113,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) it was announced today. It will enable urgent roof repairs and will also fund projects aimed at developing closer links between the church and the local community.

Thanks to National Lottery players the grant will enable essential, urgent work to be carried out on the leaking roof, including the renewal of the roof timbers, and work is planned outside to restore a grassed, tranquil area in the churchyard and install a new bench.

Other projects to be funded by the grant are aimed at encouraging both the congregation and wider public to explore the heritage of All Saints, including the creation of a children's guide and a much-needed dedicated children's area in the South Aisle, a new Visitor Guide, interactive interpretation inside the building, and volunteer-led tours.

All Saints church, listed Grade 1 is situated at the heart of Turvey and has been at the centre of village life for a thousand years. It is one of the finest and oldest churches in the Diocese of St. Albans, with parts of the present building dating to Saxon times. It features in "England's Thousand Best Churches" by Simon Jenkins. In addition to regular church services, in recent years All Saints has been used as a venue for music concerts and drama performances involving the local community, including the "Turvey Mysteries" cycle of Mystery Plays.

Quotes

Commenting on the award, Rod Petty, Churchwarden, said "We are delighted and indebted to Heritage Lottery Fund for giving us their support and making it possible for us to revitalize the church in the community. The repair and renewal of the south aisle roof will ensure that visitors and church members will be able to enjoy the church for another phase of its long life. The provision of a children's area will open up the church to a new generation and a wider community."

Explaining the importance of the HLF support, Robyn Llewellyn, Head of HLF East of England said, "Bedfordshire's historic places of worship are so often at the heart of our communities, and have fascinating stories to tell. We are delighted that thanks to National Lottery players we are able to support this project, which will enable All Saints Church in Turvey to conserve a much loved building so it can continue to function as a space for worship, and serve local people of all ages."

Notes to editors

About All Saints Church

All Saints is the Parish Church of Turvey, Bedfordshire and is the largest parish church in the Deanery of Sharnbrook, part of the Diocese of St. Albans. The church is friendly and welcoming and all are welcome to visit, either to look around or to stay and attend Sunday services.

The church has a magnificent four-manual Hill organ and a ring of eight bells, the oldest dated 1682. All Saints has a strong tradition of music, with a four-part robed choir of approximately 20 members, who have recorded several CDs.

Turvey Mysteries is a drama group based at the church, who produce a cycle of Mystery Plays (continuing with "Doomsday" later this year), and involves people from both the church and the local community.

The church website <http://www.allsaintsturvey.org.uk/> has more information about the church and its aims and activities, and includes an events calendar and photo galleries.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk
@heritagelottery @HLFEoE

Further information

For further information, images and interviews please contact Rod Petty, Churchwarden at All Saints Church, Turvey on 01234 881619 or by email at rod.petty1@gmail.com