



LOTTERY FUNDED



We have saved our Church from Closure

News from St Peter & St Paul's Church in Watford Village in Northamptonshire - We are pleased to announce that HLF have awarded us a grant of £210,100 to repair two of the roofs of St Peter and St Paul church, a Grade 1 listed church in Northamptonshire with a rich history. This grant continues the support from HLF who had already awarded a development grant of £13,000 to investigate what repairs were required, which resulted in discovering that the roof was in worse condition than previously anticipated.

The Church has been targeted by Roof Lead thieves on two separate occasions & this has resulted in an aging Church Roof desperately in need of Repair to the extent that the Church was considering closure. As this Church has stood for over 700 years, has rich Historical connections & is the hub of this small Village - it couldn't be allowed to happen. The Community have rallied in their support & approached Heritage Lottery to ask if they could fund the project to repair the roof & save the Church.

We are indebted to Heritage Lottery Fund for the grant, made possible by National Lottery players, to help save our Church as a small Village of 85 houses & no pub or shop, we felt the monies to be raised would be impossible. This could have meant that the Church may have to close, however the Community have rallied in support and are well on the way to raising the shortfall for the project via local events & other grant requests.

The project aims to Repair the badly damaged Chancel & Nave roofs with a steel-based alternative to make the church wind and weather tight making it available for future generations to appreciate. We hope to start the work in January 2019 with completion by September. The project also aims to encourage people to engage with the history associated with the church with the production of a website, a range of leaflets, exhibitions about the history of the church, and offer educational visits for schools & Community groups.

The Initial project included replacement of drainage works, stonework repairs & installation of a toilet but the project has had to scaled back until more funds can be raised, and we will continue to raise the money to fund this.

The church has rich historical connections which go back to the time of William the Conqueror (Gilbert 'The Cook' c1066-c1110). Of particular interest are links with The Pilgrim Fathers, whose four hundredth anniversary is in 2020. Thirty-five million people can now claim ancestral lineage from them, that's twelve percent of the American population. Thomas Rogers and his wife Alice

Cosgrove were from Watford village families, generations of who had their baptisms, weddings and funerals in the church.

Other history represented in the church includes Sir George Clerke, a Royalist at the nearby Battle of Naseby (1645), and links with the Henley, Eden and Peel families who have had important roles or connections as ministers and Prime Ministers in government from the eighteenth to twentieth centuries.

Jonathan Platt, Head of HLF East Midlands, said: "Historic places of worship like St Peter and St Paul's have fascinating stories to tell, and are often at the heart of local communities. Thanks to National Lottery players' we can help to address the church's urgent conservation needs and share its heritage widely"

Commenting on the award, The Revd Graham Collingridge said "We're delighted that we've received this support thanks to National Lottery players. The church has connections with Watford Village going back almost 1000 years, and it's great to know that we are a step closer to preserving it for future generations, and increasing awareness of its rich historical connections, particularly the Pilgrim Fathers as we approach their 400th Anniversary".

Notes to editors

About St Peter & St Paul's Church Watford, Northamptonshire.

St Peter and St Paul's Church is located in the small village of Watford in rural Northamptonshire (not to be confused with the larger town of Watford in Hertfordshire). It is grade 1 listed, and is on Historic England's Heritage At Risk Register in a condition rated 'very bad.' In May 2016 it was also subjected to removal of lead from the Nave roof by thieves, and again in June 2018 when they stole Lead from the Chancel roof. It has a small congregation of worshippers (approximately fifteen), and is part of four churches in the Benefice of Long Buckby with Watford and West Haddon with Winwick, whose Vicar is Revd Graham Collingridge. Local villager and historian Dan White has promoted a new interest in the history of Watford Village and its church- see the Village Website <https://watfordvillage.weebly.com>.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Grants For Places of Worship applications are assessed in two rounds. A first-round pass is given when HLF has endorsed outline proposals and earmarked funding. A first-round pass may also include an immediate award to fund the development of the project. Detailed proposals are then considered by HLF at second-round and as long as plans have progressed satisfactorily and according to the original proposal, an award for the project is confirmed.

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. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLottery and #HLFsupported.

Further information

For further information, images and interviews please contact Revd Graham Collingridge (Vicar) on 01327 842204, vicar.longbuckby@btinternet.com), or Project Lead, Linda Ariss on 07770 735690, arissl@yahoo.co.uk