



LOTTERY FUNDED

MAJOR HISTORICAL SHEFFIELD CHURCH AWARDED NATIONAL LOTTERY SUPPORT



St. Mary's Church, Ecclesfield, a Grade 1 listed building, has received confirmation of a grant of £220,000 for major repairs to the church roof and the installation of a state of the art security system. The grant, when VAT is taken into account, will fund work costing £250,000.

Ecclesfield church is one of only 5 Grade 1 listed buildings in the whole City and has recently been given "Major Parish Church" status. Serious deterioration to the Nave and Nave aisle rooves was identified over 2 years ago resulting in the building being put on the "At Risk" register. Temporary patching has kept most of the weather out but the grant ensures that permanent repairs to the wood and protective covering of the rooves can be carried out and will be complemented by a new sophisticated security system as well as improvements to the experience for visitors and school groups visiting the building. The Heritage Lottery Fund has been involved in the work from an early planning stage. A part of the grant was released in 2016 to enable the architect and experts to investigate the state of the roof and to design a solution; the resulting design was then put out to tender.

It is believed that a church has stood on the site of St. Mary's since 500AD. The early parts of the current building date back to 1200 when it was built by the monks of St. Wandrille in France (near Rouen) – they came over and built the Priory and lived there whilst building the Church. The building was significantly changed again in 1470-1500 and much of the exterior of the building dates from then. It is an unusually large building for a village and has a great beauty with large majestic windows which once held medieval glass now fitted with Victorian stained panels.



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The church continues to run a full range of services with different styles to suit everyone with music from a good pipe organ and choir, a music group and recorded music. The church remains at the heart of the community hosting weddings, baptisms and funeral services. The Church is well used by the community with regular coffee mornings each Tuesday and Friday. The local schools make frequent visits for their own services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas and also visit as part of their education curriculum. The local community groups including Village in Bloom, Ecclesfield Park Group and the local Conservation and History Group use the Church for coffee mornings and events; at Christmas each year, the local community organises carols around the Christmas tree followed by coffee and treats in Church. At various times throughout the year Craft Afternoons are held for children – parents drop them off and collect them later. The children all enjoy it and become regular visitors to the Church on these occasions.

The Church is also used for Concerts with recent events including - Emley Brass Band, the Master Singers and Grenoside Singers. History groups visit the church and we have many visitors from abroad searching for information of their relatives for family trees etc. A Heritage weekend is held once a year and hosts many visitors seeking historical information.

We have an extremely well maintained website which gives full information of all activities taking place in the Church and its grounds. www.stmarysecclesfield.com

St. Mary's is extremely grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund, enabling the building to continue to be at the heart of Ecclesfield as it will be water tight once again.

Quotes

"We can now be sure that this wonderful building will stand for generations to come"

"This is not an ancient monument, it is a living breathing well used building at the heart of the local community"

Notes to editors

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



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For further information, please contact:

Revd. Tim Gill 0114 257 0002 tim.gill@sheffield.anglican.org

Michael Waldron 0114 246 3091 waldronm@sky.com

Andrew Robinson 0114 246 3646 andrew.c.robinson@btinternet.com