

Early Christmas present of £100,000 for St Mary's Prestwich

Thanks to National Lottery players, St Mary's Church in Prestwich is celebrating funding of £100,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards a heritage renewal and interpretation project at the north Manchester church. Work at the Grade 1 listed church will see a new roof for the Wilton Chapel – originally medieval and in later periods associated with the Wilton family from Heaton Hall. Work will also take place on the church's Victorian porch, which is the main access route into the building. Exciting new heritage interpretation resources will complete the project, including a new heritage website, improved visitor information and material designed for children and schools. St Mary's, which is a member of the *Inclusive Church* network, has seen remarkable growth in recent years and around 250 people now worship at the church in a typical week. Rev Chris Wedge, Rector of St Mary's, said "We are enormously grateful to National Lottery players and the Heritage Lottery Fund for their very generous grant – St Mary's is a progressive and inclusive church and our heritage project will enable more and more people to appreciate this wonderful place." Nathan Lee, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) North West, said "Greater Manchester has such a diverse range of churches, each one reflecting the social history of its community as well as the influences upon local architecture. St Mary's stamps a sense of identity on Prestwich while providing a venue for worship and many other community activities so HLF is delighted to give it support."

Notes for editors:

- St Mary's Church is on Church Lane in Prestwich, M25 1AN.
- The full project cost is £150,000 of which the Heritage Lottery Fund "Our Heritage" scheme is providing £100,000 with the remainder funded from parish resources and a grant from the Diocese of Manchester.
- More information on the project can be found on the [parish website](#).
- An exterior photo of the church is attached.
- Christmas services at St Mary's include a traditional Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 23 December, Crib Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve and Midnight Eucharist at 11.30pm. All are welcome.

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 #NationalLottery and #HLFsupported.



St Mary's Church Prestwich, M25 1AN