St Peter's CHURCH

St Peter's Church Highfields

2 St Peter's Road, Leicester, LE2 1 DA
0116 255 3095. www.stpetershighfields.org.uk

St Peter's Church, Highfields, wins Heritage Lottery Fund support

St Peter's Church Highfields is delighted to announce it has received a £158,900 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a first phase in the repair of their beautiful Victorian church.

The Church will now be able to undertake urgent structural repairs to the church tower, stabilising the stonework and removing the risk to further damage to the roofs. The grant will also enable the church to develop heritage education work with children and families in conjunction with local primary schools.

For over 140 years St Peter's Church has stood at the centre of its community as symbol of stability in midst of constant change and development. It has become the spiritual home of the Caribbean Anglican community, the place to where the community always comes at times of need. Church Warden, Vernetta Hall, says: "*We have been coming to St Peter's for over 50 years from when we first arrived from the West Indies. We are delighted that our prayers have been answered and that our beautiful church has been guaranteed a long future.*"

Ted Cassidy MBE, Project Manager, says "*We are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund. We are now able to start the gradual repair and renovation of this important building, to increase public awareness and appreciation of this local heritage and at the same time help to protect the building for the future*."

Rev'd Jonathan Surridge, Priest-in-Charge, says: "*It is wonderful to see that all the hard work of the PCC has been so worthwhile. The Heritage Lottery Fund has been very helpful and supportive over the last few years and has shown faith in the future of St Peter's through this generous grant. It will help sustain it as an important place of worship, a place of welcome and hospitality, and a place of service to the local community*."

The work is due to start later this year and is part of ongoing work to secure the building.

Notes

Consecrated in 1874, Grade ll listed St Peter's Church is an important part of the heritage of Highfields, one of the most diverse and disadvantaged neighbourhoods in England. It was originally built as a memorial for Earl Howe and has been central to many events throughout the life of Highfields.

The church building is in urgent need of repairs and is listed as a Priority A on the Historic England "at risk" Register. It has many important artefacts including beautiful stained glass windows. The church organ and much of the carved wood was built and crafted in Highfields and is of national interest.

The congregation is supported by the Diocese of Leicester, and the church and community centre are also home to other churches and used widely by the local community. Other financial support has been received to assist in this building work.

The church worships Sundays at 11.00 and Tuesday at 9.30am. The church building is also accessible when the Lunch Club operates on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.