



PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 23 November 2017

Manchester Cathedral receives £88,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund

Manchester Cathedral has received £88,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for an exciting project, appraising a Transformational Heritage Project, in central Manchester. Made possible from money raised by National Lottery players, the project focuses on an exploration of how the Cathedral might adapt its buildings to interpret better its heritage and reach out to its community more fully.

The fourteen-month project will use consultants to look in detail at the options for possible change to the ways in which the Cathedral, internally and externally, might function better for its staff and become more welcoming and accessible to visitors and all who visit central Manchester. The project will include three major workshops, the third of which will be about the community use of and opinions about the Cathedral.

Manchester Cathedral sits at the heart of Manchester's Medieval Quarter. Founded as a collegiate church by Henry V in 1421, it became a Cathedral during the reign of Queen Victoria. Its wonderful historic interior includes major woodwork from the 16th century, superlative stained glass windows from the 20th and 21st centuries, and the superb Stoller Organ, newly completed and dedicated on 14 September 2017. Its records tell many stories of exciting times and people, including a skirmish in the Civil War and relief of hardship during times of poverty and distress in the 19th century and today.

The Dean of Manchester, The Very Reverend Rogers Govender, said: *"This award is a vote of confidence in the Cathedral's ability to shape its future for the sake of the people we serve. We are deeply grateful for this opportunity to plan carefully and constructively about our long-term future"*.

Notes to editors:

Manchester Cathedral, situated in Victoria Street beside the River Irwell, is the Cathedral church of the Church of England Manchester Diocese. Besides its regular worship and observance of special religious festivals, the Cathedral has an extensive programme of educational, musical and special events, including exhibitions and lectures. Its volunteer programme, Volition Community, seeks to help those in long-term unemployment.

Manchester Cathedral is open to all, every day, and welcomes visitors without charge.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund: thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and project 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.

For media requests, please contact the Communications and Marketing Officer, Joanne Hooper (0161 833 2220 ext 221), email joanne.hooper@manchestercathedral.org. For information about the HLF project, contact Anthony O'Connor, Director of Fundraising and Development (0161 833 2220 ext 233), email anthony.o'connor@manchestercathedral.org.

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