



St Laurence Church
Northfield, B31 2LX

Press release

28th January 2020

St Laurence Church awarded National Lottery Heritage Fund grant for Northfield Revealed project

Northfield residents are celebrating after St Laurence Church was awarded a £65,700 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund towards the *Northfield Revealed* community history project.

Thanks to National Lottery Players, the project will engage and involve a wide range of people with the heritage of the Northfield area.

The grant will fund a number of interpretation panels; a Northfield heritage trail brochure; a local history film; a schools' history project; a community heritage tapestry project; and a range of other public activities including open-days, talks, tours and family events, including a special service with the Bishop of Birmingham.

The project will also see the construction of a new internal glass porch to encourage more people to come and see inside and discover the Grade I listed St Laurence, which is one of the oldest churches in Birmingham.

The church will work with a host of community organisations to deliver the project, including Northfield Carnival, Northfield Library, Birmingham Civic Society and several local primary schools.

The Revd Canon Janet Chapman, Rector of St Laurence Church, said:

“Northfield was one of the areas of Birmingham that was rapidly developed immediately before and after the First World War. Although the core of the historic village - with the church of St Laurence at its heart – survives intact, it is tucked away off the main routes so many are not aware of its existence. A key aim of our project is to reconnect the historic and modern centres of Northfield – indeed to ‘Reveal Northfield’ and boost community pride.’

Anne Jenkins, Director, England, Midlands & East at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

“We are delighted to support this project which, thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, will mean that more people will be able to get involved with the exciting heritage right on their doorstep.”

For further information about the Northfield Revealed project contact Revd Canon Janet Chapman on **0121 477 3111** / email janet.rectory@gmail.com or Chris Rice on **07808 887183** / email rice200510@yahoo.com

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Notes for Editors

St Laurence Church, Northfield

Grade I listed St Laurence is one of only four medieval churches remaining in Birmingham.

The earliest surviving part of building is the round-arched Norman north doorway dating from around 1170. The church was rebuilt in the 13th century and the fine medieval chancel still remains from this time. At the end of the 13th century the Norman south aisle was rebuilt and the west tower was added.

The church has undergone further alterations throughout the centuries. The south porch is of 15th-century woodwork on a stone base and replaced an earlier porch of which evidence survives on the south wall. The Hanoverian royal arms, which now hang in the south aisle, date from the 18th century. The present Gothic Revival style internal fittings date from around 1900.

St Laurence sits at the heart of the historic village of Northfield which is a designated conservation area. Nowadays the church serves the substantial suburban parish of Northfield which is home to some 16,000 people.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

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