

**Parish Church of St. John the Baptist
(with Badley)**



Needham Market's Medieval Masterpiece

LOTTERY FUNDED

**NEEDHAM MARKET'S MEDIEVAL MASTERPIECE
WINS NATIONAL LOTTERY SUPPORT!**

On behalf of the PCC I have great pleasure in announcing that the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist in Needham Market, Suffolk, has received a confirmed grant of £227,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for its roof repair project.

Made possible thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, the project aims to repair the Church's unique oak single hammerbeam roof, which has been damaged by infestation, rotting wood and water ingress, and restore it to its former glory. The National Lottery grant will ensure the survival of the roof, and consequently the whole Church building, for the benefit of future generations in Needham Market and beyond, and the target date for commencement of this essential work is January 2018.

One of the aims of the National Lottery funded project is to have the building in good repair so that it will be possible to expand the number and range of events in the Church, including concerts, stage presentations by dignitaries and question time events, in addition to using St John's as a drop-in centre for advice on social issues, such as poverty and isolation. The building's value as an educational resource will also be developed, with opportunities for more school visits and full day projects. The Church is the starting point for the Heritage Trail for Needham Market set up jointly by the Church and the Town Council.

St John's is a Grade I Listed building and was built in the late 15th century at the request of the Bishop of Ely. Visitors come from around the world to appreciate this medieval masterpiece. The building is ideally located in the centre of Needham Market High Street and, when the work is finished, the Church will be able to better meet the community's expanding need for public space and voluntary services, including the provision of a bereavement support group.

St John's Church is a much loved spiritual home for many people, used not only for Sunday worship, weddings, baptisms and funerals, but also as a place of prayer and reflection for the community and beyond. The open door policy means that those who wish to can always come in and spend time with God in the Nave or in the newly created prayer space.

Commenting on the award the Vicar, the Revd. Diane Williams, said: "St. John's is a glorious building and greatly valued, not just by the Church family but by the wider community in the town, and we are delighted that we will now be able to carry out the work necessary to enable even greater use to be made of this building by an increasing number of people. We are extremely grateful to National Lottery players and the Heritage Lottery Fund for granting us the sum of £227,800 for this essential work so that this wonderful building may be repaired and its glorious heritage preserved for generations to come."

We still have a shortfall, so the fundraising is ongoing, however the PCC wish to thank everyone who has supported our efforts over the past two and a half years. **We couldn't have done it without you!**

Ray Levett
PCC Member