

Heritage Lottery funding in Southwark

Fund kick-starts plans to save Norwood church

St John the Evangelist Church, Upper Norwood has received initial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the 'Securing the Foundations Project'.

Funding of £63,000 has been awarded to help St John's Church develop their plans and to apply for a full grant towards the end of 2015.

Over the past 15 years, St John's has suffered significant damage due to subsidence, which has caused the foundations on the south side to break away from the main part of the building.

The development grant means that the church can begin the task of going to tender and commissioning the work which will lead to the repair of the foundations and secure the immediate future of this Cathedral-sized building.

The works of underpinning are expected to start in February 2016.

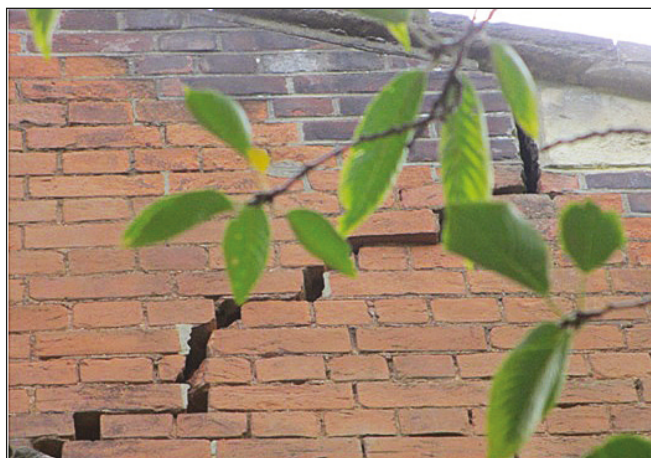
The Church will stay open throughout the project so that people can come and see what is happening.

It will also provide opportunities to teach a new generation of architects and surveyors about securing monumental buildings. Local volunteers will develop exhibitions and displays about the construction of the church and some of the personalities involved in its early story.

Commenting on the award, the Revd John Pritchard said: "This recognition by HLF of the importance of this building for the local area means we can look ever more confidently and securely towards the future".

Once the underpinning has taken place (and St John's still need to raise over £400,000 to make this happen) they will then be able to look at the restoration of the entire building.

This will remove it from the English Heritage At Risk Register and provide the worshipping and wider local community with a first class building, fit for the needs of a diverse population.



(l-r) Sir Steve Bullock, Fr Steve Hall, Julian Watson (St Mary's church historian) and Bishop Michael

Grant aids RENEWAL at St Mary's, Lewisham

St Mary the Virgin, Lewisham's ancient parish church and a Grade 2* Listed Building, officially launched its RENEWAL programme on 14 July. Bishop Michael spoke at the event along with the Mayor of Lewisham, Sir Steve Bullock.

The Vicar of St Mary's, the Revd Steve Hall said: "We have made 2015 a Year of Renewal at St Mary's, to renew the whole of our life together in Faith, Hope and Love.

"Our RENEWAL programme is a five year plan to renew our spiritual life and growth, our buildings and our outreach to the community.

"A major step forward this is the first phase grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, leading to a major re-roofing of St Mary's in 2016. It was great to celebrate all this with Bishop Michael and the Mayor, as well as so many friends, supporters and community links we have at St Mary's".

New choir in the heart of Blackheath

On 21 September, a new VOCALIZE choir will launch in Blackheath.

Led by experienced choral conductors, VOCALIZE Blackheath will rehearse on Monday evenings at All Saints Church, and will perform locally and further afield.

VOCALIZE was founded in 2013 by Hilary Campbell and Richard Harker, two expert conductors who have been working together for some years. Following a choral project in Northampton, the pair decided to develop a wider scheme and thus VOCALIZE was born.

VOCALIZE: Blackheath welcomes singers of all ability levels; there are no auditions, and music will be taught in a variety of ways. All they ask is that you turn up and be prepared to give it a go!

For more information about VOCALIZE: Blackheath and the larger scheme, VOCALIZE, and to sign up for the choir, please visit <http://www.vocalize.org.uk>



15 million children die or remain severely ill every year through potentially treatable or preventable cardiac diseases

Chain of Hope is an international children's charity, which provides vital treatment to children from countries where there is little or no access to cardiac care.

Through our International Child Referral Programme, we bring children requiring urgent heart treatment to the UK.

We need Host Families to support and care for vulnerable children whilst they are in the UK

receiving life-saving operations.

We are looking for Host Families who live within the M25 and can easily access central London.

The primary attributes we need from a Host Family are good-will, a spare room and some time to offer a child and their parent or carer. If you have these three things, then you have all the qualities of a great Host Family!



If you are interested, please contact Shaun for more information:

shaun@chainofhope.org

020 7351 1978

www.chainofhope.org

Chain of Hope is a registered charity in the UK no. 1081384