



## Press Release

Embargoed until 00.01 hours on 15 November 2013

### **Norwich Historic Churches Trust is awarded Heritage Lottery Fund support.**

Today, The Norwich Historic Churches Trust has received £9,300 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project in Norwich. The project will allow volunteers, trustees and staff along with members of their tenant organisations to benefit from specialised training in fundraising.

The project will give the Trust the tools to raise funds to maintain the eighteen churches in its care to a far better standard than previously. It may also help to bring in enough donations to allow alterations such as water supplies, toilets and heating to make these beautiful buildings, some of which are currently vacant, attractive to prospective tenants.

The Norwich Historic Churches Trust cares for a large proportion of the medieval churches of Norwich; these churches are no longer used for regular worship but are lovely buildings at the heart of the city. They house medieval wall paintings and monuments that are invaluable to historians and researchers.

By extending some of this Heritage Lottery funded training to our tenants we hope to work more closely together and learn by each other's experiences.

Commenting on the award, Felicity Hartley, the chairperson of the Fundraising Committee, said: "It is wonderful that the Heritage Lottery Fund recognises the work we do with the medieval churches in Norwich and has provided the funding to help put our fundraising on a stronger footing."

ENDS

#### **Notes to editors**

About The Norwich Historic Churches Trust (NHCT):

The NHCT is celebrating its fortieth anniversary this year. It was created in 1973 by the Norwich City Council to care for the redundant medieval churches, repairing them and finding suitable uses for them. Our current tenants include the Norwich Puppet Theatre, The Thalia Theatre Group and The

Wharf Academy. We are marking this anniversary by using the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to help to ensure the future of these churches.

#### About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported almost 35,000 projects with more than £5.3bn across the UK. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk).

For further information, images and interviews, please contact Stella Eglinton, Executive Officer at The Norwich Historic Churches Trust on 01603 611530/ 07775 968890 or [stella.eglinton@norwich-churches.org](mailto:stella.eglinton@norwich-churches.org).