



**MUSEUM of
RICHMOND**

**RICHMOND
TEAM
MINISTRY**



LOTTERY FUNDED

Press Release for Immediate Release

National Lottery support for St Mary Magdalene's 800th Anniversary Partnership Project

The Museum of Richmond and Richmond Team Ministry have gained a National Lottery grant of £22,700 for an exciting heritage project celebrating the 800th Anniversary of St Mary Magdalene's, the historic Parish Church of Richmond. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players the project and resulting exhibition, opening in July 2019 and running until January 2020, will be split between the Museum and Church, encouraging visitors to go to both Richmond landmarks.

The National Lottery funding has been awarded through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) enabling the project to engage local volunteers and members of the congregation in contributing to the exhibition by taking part in research while learning new historical research skills.

New school and family workshops will be developed as part of the project as will a new booklet about the history of the Church and an audio guide app to enhance the exhibition. All of these additional resources will continue to be available after the exhibition closes for residents and visitors to Richmond.

The historic Parish Church celebrating its 800th Anniversary is a momentous occasion encapsulating a broad history of developments and changes in Richmond and the Church. The exhibition will highlight different parts of this story including the fascinating architectural history of the Church alongside the social history; how class and social hierarchy played out, how people were involved in the Church and what role this played in the rhythm of people's lives and that of the town. The Church of St Mary Magdalene continues to work as an active part of the local community with a regular congregation of 250 people, which represents Richmond residents of all ages.

Commenting on the award, Rebecca Arnott, Curator of the Museum of Richmond said 'We are so excited to have received this support from the National Lottery. This funding, along with that from Richmond Church Charity Estate, will mean we are able to work with our local community and the congregation to create a very high quality exhibition and other resources for residents and visitors to Richmond to enjoy.'

Rev Wilma Roest, Vicar of the Church of St Mary Magdalene and Team Rector of the Richmond Team Ministry said 'We are delighted to have received funding for this exciting project, bringing together the Museum of Richmond and the Church of St Mary Magdalene. This partnership will create wonderful new opportunities for volunteers and benefit many visitors to Richmond – it's impact will go beyond the exhibition and 800th anniversary year.'

Notes to Editors:

The Project is a partnership project between the Museum of Richmond and Richmond Team Ministry. It is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Richmond Church Charity Estates.

The Museum of Richmond is an independent museum, registered as a private company limited by guarantee and a registered charity (no. 295164). While it receives a Commissioning Grant from the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, this does not cover the running costs, so the Museum depends on pro-actively fund-raising in order to be able to open, look after its collections and to offer its regular programme of exhibitions, education sessions for schools and adult and family events.

Opening times for the Museum are Tue-Fri 11am to 5pm and Saturday (April-September) 11am to 5pm/ Saturday (October-March) 11am to 4pm.

Enquiries 0208 332 1141 or info@museumofrichmond.com

Website www.museumofrichmond.com

Rebecca Arnott (Curator) at The Museum of Richmond on 02083321141 or curator@museumofrichmond.com

For more information about St Mary Magdalene and the 800th anniversary: email SMM800@richmondteamministry.org. Updates will be regularly posted on St Mary's Facebook Page www.facebook.com/StMaryMagdaleneRTM and on a soon to be launched SMM800 Anniversary website.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect 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 #NationalLottery