



PRESS RELEASE — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St Peter's Church in Horningsea Awarded £104,000 Grant Funding for Major Restoration Work

Replacement of Victorian floorboards and new safety features will improve service to the community, including local events and worship

Horningsea - 12 May 2026 - St Peter's Church, Horningsea, which is one of Cambridgeshire's oldest places of worship, is pleased to announce over £104,000 in recent grant funding for major restoration work. The project, to be completed over the next three months, will see rotten Victorian floorboards replaced and making the historic church tower safe for future generations. This includes critical funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Golden Bottle Trust, and the Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers Bell Restoration Fund.

St Peter's – From Vikings and Saxons, To Today

St Peter's Church, Horningsea, is of uncertain origin. Documentary evidence points to the existence of a Saxon Minster on the site prior to 870 AD. The church's current fabric includes pillars, a porch, doorways, a font, and a tower, all dating from the 13th and 14th centuries. The oldest surviving artefacts are tomb lids from the 10th century. Victorian-era works included the reconstruction of the north wall and aisle, and the laying of floorboards. Those floorboards, now approximately 140 years old, have substantially deteriorated and require replacement.

“St Peter's Church Council is so grateful to everyone who has contributed to providing these funds: National Lottery players, and The National Lottery Heritage Fund for awarding the grant; the Diocesan Bell Ringers; the Golden Bottle Trust; the Friends of Horningsea Church, those who worked so hard and organised fundraising concerts and exhibitions. We will no longer have to worry about someone tumbling down from the tower or their foot falling through the floor.”

— Reverend Canon Nick Moir, Vicar of St Peter's Church, Horningsea

Pre-restoration Celebrations and Community Events

Before work began, the Friends of Horningsea Church hosted a singing, dancing, and picnic event for younger members of the local community — the future custodians of the church. The Cambridge City Young Bellringers arrived by boat the same day in order to ring the bells before they fell silent during construction. The

group will be invited back for a special bell-ringing celebration and open event once the project is complete.

Throughout the period of the upcoming works, celebrations of Horningsea's heritage will continue. An exhibition — *1766 and All That* — is planned for the end of June, showcasing an altar cloth embroidered in 1766.

In September, following completion of the project, there will be a re-enactment of the Viking raid of 870 AD, with longboats arriving by river. Further details will be announced closer to the events – stay tuned!

The Project: Further Details

The £130,000 project has two main elements:

FLOOR RESTORATION	TOWER ACCESS
Replacing the collapsing Victorian floorboards throughout the church, funded principally by a £100,293 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.	Installing a new ladder, balustrades, and handholds, and replacing broken louvres — essential for safe maintenance of the bells. Funded by grants from the Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers Bell Restoration Fund (£1,197) and the Golden Bottle Trust (£3,000).

Funding Summary: The Numbers

Funder	Amount
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	£100,293
Golden Bottle Trust	£3,000
Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers Bell Restoration Fund	£1,197
Total grants secured	£104,490

Using money raised by National Lottery players, The National Lottery Heritage Fund supports projects that connect people and communities with the UK's heritage. The Golden Bottle Trust furthers the philanthropic aims of the Hoare family and the C. Hoare & Co Bank, and the Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers Bell Restoration Fund includes bellringers who live in the Diocese of Ely.

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Notes to Editors

About St Peter's Church, Horningsea

St Peter's is a historic Anglo-Saxon church that is very much at the heart and soul of Horningsea village life, its activities and celebrations. There are services on the first two Sundays of the month and either the third or fourth Sunday. We are also part of the 'Three Parishes' group with St Mary's Fen Ditton and All Saints Teversham, led by Canon Nick Moir. Once or twice a month, we join with them for worship in one of our churches. Our bellringers practise regularly - newcomers are welcome.

<https://www.horningsea.net/community-2/st-peters-church>

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. That's why as the largest funder for the UK's heritage we are dedicated to supporting projects that connect people and communities to heritage, as set out in our strategic plan, [Heritage 2033](#). Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations. We believe in the power of heritage to ignite the imagination, offer joy and inspiration, and to build pride in place and connection to the past.

Over the next 10 years, we aim to invest £3.6 billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to make a decisive difference for people, places and communities.

heritagefund.org.uk

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