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Ely Cathedral successful in gaining support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for vital conservation works on stained glass windows.

Ely Cathedral has successfully gained support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for plans to conserve a number of significantly vulnerable clerestory windows and save them from further damage and permanent removal. Ely Cathedral has received initial support* from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for the '*Through Cracks and Colour*' project to conserve a number of historically significant stained glass windows, it was announced today.

Made possible thanks to National Lottery players, the project aims to repair and conserve a number of the Cathedral's clerestory level windows which not only are severely damaged but putting the ongoing preservation and maintenance of the building at risk.

Development funding of £95,752 has been awarded by the Heritage Fund to help Ely Cathedral progress their plans to apply for a further National Lottery grant of £599,284 to deliver the project.

Ely Cathedral's celebrated clerestory windows are a defining feature of its majestic Gothic and Romanesque architecture. Spanning the upper walls of the Cathedral, the clerestory windows on the south side of the nave and choir were painstakingly filled with vibrant stained glass by Victorian craftsman, resulting in colourful light patterns reflecting on the interior stone walls. Without funding, these damaged windows would deteriorate further, risk breakage and permanent removal. In addition, the colourful workmanship and the stories they depict would be lost.

The project will include participation from volunteers and input from local schools through interpretation, training and design opportunities, as well as highlight the unique craftsmanship of stained glass and show how significance glass was in interpretation and storytelling.

Gemma O'Shea, Head of Fundraising at Ely Cathedral said: "We are thrilled to have received this initial support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players we can now develop our plans to work towards conserving these remarkable Victorian stained-glass windows for future generations, while opening up new and inclusive ways for people to discover and connect with the Cathedral's heritage. Working in partnership with The Stained Glass Museum, we are excited to expand access through engaging interpretation, hands-on learning, and volunteer opportunities."

Notes to Editors

About Ely Cathedral

Highly regarded by historians and architects from all over the world for its beauty and size, Ely Cathedral is widely acknowledged as 'one of the wonders of the Medieval world'. Visible for miles around, the Cathedral is often referred to as 'The Ship of the Fens'.

The present building dates from 1081 and is a remarkable example of both Romanesque and Norman architecture. In addition to its unique Octagon Tower and magnificent Lady Chapel, Ely has the third longest nave of any UK Cathedral. The Cathedral's role today is not so far removed from its days as a Benedictine monastery and offers regular daily worship with a special emphasis on choral music. It still maintains a resident choir of 22 choristers and 6 lay clerks and so continues the tradition of choral evensong every day of the week during term time.

As well as being a major visitor attraction, the Cathedral serves as a cultural focal point for East Anglia by providing a unique venue for the arts & music, for exhibitions, concerts and theatre. Most recently Ely has gained global recognition a prominent film location including *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*, *Macbeth*, *The King's Speech*, *The Crown* and *Maestro*.

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

*Grant applications over £250,000 are assessed in two rounds. 'Through Cracks and Colour: Conserving the Clerestory Windows and Telling the Tales Held in Glass' has initially been granted round one development funding of £95,752 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, allowing it to progress with its plans. Detailed proposals are then considered by the Heritage Fund at second round, where a final decision is made on the full funding award of £599,284

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 £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to make a decisive difference for people, places and communities.

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Further information

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