

## PRESS RELEASE

### Lighthouse Project at St Michael's Byker awarded National Lottery support!

It was announced today that St Michael's Church Byker is to receive up to £147,000 from funds raised by National Lottery Players and awarded through the Heritage Lottery Fund for urgent repairs to the building. The 'Lighthouse project' aims to repair and restore the roof of the Grade 2 listed church, within the Byker Wall housing estate. The project will also see the restoration of the War memorials within the Church, in time for the countrywide Armistice Commemorations later this year and enable the church to carry out a community wide project to engage current residents in the social history of Byker's contribution to both world wars.

The Rev Mark Wroe, Acting Achdeacon of Northumberland said:

**"I welcome with great delight and huge gratitude the news that HLF have awarded St Michael's Byker such a generous grant towards urgent roof repair and the War Memorial restoration Project. The funding of both these elements ensures that St Michael's continues as a place of joyful worship and lively witness to the surrounding community while acknowledging the significant value and heritage of this Grade II listed building."**

Izzy McDonald-Booth, chair of the Lighthouse development group said:

**"I'm absolutely thrilled we have been able to secure this funding for the Lighthouse Project! St Michael's is a beacon in the community of Byker and this is the first phase of our ambitious development. We can now be confident in seeking other grants to finish the interior of the church and get more projects going to help us better serve the needs of people in Byker."**

The 'Lighthouse Project' has a vision to repair and restore the 1862 St Michael's Church building in Byker. Once restored the church can be a place of worship, friendship and aspiration in the community as well as being a place of significant heritage. After many years of the building not being in a usable state, the congregation of St Michael's moved back to the building 1 ½ years ago. we have a desire to make this iconic building an inviting and flexible space that can be used for a variety of purposes for the community.

#### Notes to Editors

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