



PRESS RELEASE

February 2020

Generous grant for All Saints' Brightlingsea

The ancient church of All Saints' Brightlingsea has received a generous grant of £9,000 from the Allchurches Trust for its ambitious project to preserve, enhance and share the heritage of the church and churchyard with the wider community.

This means that an equal-access indoor toilet and small kitchenette can be installed, at the same time as repairing the Tower to make the church safe and fit for wider use. This is a Grade 1 Listed building, first built 800 years ago, with an iconic wall frieze of tiles commemorating all parishioners lost at sea during the past 150 years, as well as other significant features on the walls and floor brasses. As a landmark building, which every visitor to the town passes, the church represents home-coming and safety to today's townspeople as much as it did in the past when riding-lights were lit on the Tower to guide sailors to safe harbour.

The project will not only see the Tower parapets, stone and leadwork made safe but with a new toilet and kitchen facility it will allow more cultural, musical, educational and community events to take place. Making the most of the famous maritime links locally, sharing the heritage of the church interior as well as exploring the resources of the very large churchyard outside, will enable upwards of a 1000 more participants and visitors per year, in addition to what happens currently. Also – an encouraging number of local people have offered themselves as supporters or volunteers to get the heritage programme up and running.

This grant enables the project to get going, contributing about 10% to the first development phase but there is still more fund-raising to be done overall, in order to complete the project, as there is a shortfall of over £300,000. Allchurches Trust is one of the UK's largest grant-making charities and gave more than £16 million to churches, charities and communities in 2018. Its funds come from its ownership of Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

The spokesperson for the All Saints' Project said "We're delighted that we have received this generous grant from Allchurches Trust, as it will enable us to continue to honour our heritage and ensure a flourishing future, which will give generations to come a sense of history, community and purpose". A local inhabitant spoke of the delight she felt because the project would "make the medieval church a modern living building".

The project looks forward to including many more of the local community, whether young or old, newcomers or older inhabitants, in the life and activities of this ancient well-loved church. With modern comforts and better access to the historical and interesting artefacts, there is plenty of scope for bringing echoes of the past into our modern life.

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About: Brightlingsea Parish covers the town of Brightlingsea, Essex and the Parochial Church Council has two parish churches to maintain with all running costs, churchyard expenses etc.

The Friends' of All Saints' is a charity established in 1969 to fund-raise for the repair of the fabric of the church building.

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For more information see

www.Allsaintswithstjamesb-sea.co.uk

www.friendsofall saintsbrightlingsea.com

www.facebook.com All Saints & St. James Brightlingsea

www.facebook.com Friends of All Saints' Brightlingsea

About Allchurches Trust:

Allchurches Trust is one of the UK's largest grant-making charities. Our grants further our charitable objectives of promoting the Christian faith and other charitable causes. We welcome applications from all parts of the UK and Ireland, particularly from areas of social and economic deprivation. We fund projects that tackle homelessness, poverty and social exclusion. We also support the repair, restoration and wider community use of churches and cathedrals of all denominations. Follow Allchurches Trust on Facebook [@AllchurchesTrust](https://www.facebook.com/AllchurchesTrust) and Twitter [@AllchurchesT](https://twitter.com/AllchurchesT) or visit our website: www.allchurches.co.uk/ for more information.