# Vital £1m for London's most important places of worship

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The money comes from the Repair Grants for Places of Worship scheme*, which is funded by HLF and administered by English Heritage.

Across the Capital these vital grants will help repair places of worship at risk including St Leonard's Church in Shoreditch High Street and St John the Evangelist, St John's Grove, Islington.

Sue Bowers, Head of HLF in London, said: "Historic places of worship are an irreplaceable part of our heritage that continues to play a vital role within local communities today. In the last ten years, the Heritage Lottery Fund has invested £155million into these wonderful buildings and I am delighted we are able to continue supporting congregations across the capital to safeguard them for future generations."

Paddy Pugh, English Heritage's Planning Director for London, said: "We are delighted that these important buildings will benefit from HLF funding and English Heritage's expert advice. Many of these places of worship are only maintained through the hard work of small and hard-pressed communities. Today's grants will fund essential repairs and help the people who care for these wonderful buildings on behalf of us all"

**St Leonard's Church, Shoreditch High Street, Hackney**
Grant: £193,000
Star of the recent BBC comedy REV, St Leonard's is a Grade I listed parish church built in 1736 to the design of George Dance the Elder, whose notable works include London's Mansion House. Currently on English Heritage's 'At Risk' register, this classical church will now undergo vital repairs to its roof and gutters along with investigative work to ascertain the condition of its192 ft spire.

**St John the Evangelist, St John's Grove, Islington**
**Grant: £91,000**
This Grade II* listed Anglican church was built between 826-28 by Sir Charles Barry, architect of the Houses of Parliament. This grant will enable the reroofing of the north aisle, gutter repairs and associated stone and brickwork repairs to the parapet and clerestory walls.

**Notes to editors**

*The Repair Grants for Places of Worship in England Scheme is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and administered by English Heritage on behalf of both organisations.

Until 2010, the scheme was jointly funded by HLF and EH. Since then, HLF has provided the majority of the funding to ensure that the scheme continues in its current form until 2013.

Listed places of worship in England of all denominations and faiths are eligible for grants which support urgent repairs to the fabric of the building with a focus on projects costing less than £250,000. There is a two-stage application process with development funding available at Stage One to help work up proposals.

To be eligible for the next round of funding, applicants need to apply by 30th June for Grade I and II* and 30th September for Grade II listed places of worship. www.english-heritage.org.uk

English Heritage is the Government's statutory advisor on the historic environment. It provides advice on how best to conserve England's heritage for the benefit of everyone. While most of England's heritage is in private hands, it works with all who come into contact with it - landowners, businesses, planners and developers, national, regional and local government, the Third Sector, local communities and the general public - to help them understand, value, care for and enjoy England's historic environment.

It is also entrusted with the custodianship of over 400 sites and monuments which together form the national collection of built and archaeological heritage. These include some of the most important monuments of human history such as Stonehenge and Hadrian's Wall.

**Further information**

Natasha Ley or Lydia Davies, HLF Press Office on 020 7591 6143/6035 or 07973 613 820 or natashal@hlf.org.uk