

Artist's impression of the new welcome centre

National Lottery players and thousands of donations have secured a bright and open future for St Albans Cathedral.

The oldest Christian site in the country has been awarded £3.9million to retell the story of St Alban, Britain’s first saint.

Revealing treasures

Robyn Llewellyn, Head of HLF East of England, said: “From its role in the evolution of Christianity, to the story of the city that grew around it, St Albans Cathedral is home to an incredible collection of artefacts, stories and architecture dating back 1,700 years.”

The project will transform the way these treasures are shared, from illuminating mediaeval paintings to rebuilding the ruined shrine of St Amphibalus.

Access for all at St Albans

Enjoyment and learning for people of all ages is at the heart of the project.

A new welcome centre, space for schoolchildren, exhibition space and a study centre and library will enable even more people to get involved with the story of St Albans.

Crucially, for the very first time, there will be level access to the cathedral and visitor facilities, which are also set for an overhaul.

[quote=The Very Rev'd Dr Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans]"Working with the city's own museum project and visitor strategy, we shall make St Albans a first-choice destination for tourists and pilgrims alike."[/quote]

The nearby Town Hall Museum is also benefiting from National Lottery investment, and both projects are set to create new jobs, volunteering and education opportunities for local people.

The Dean of St Albans, the Very Rev'd Dr Jeffrey John, said: "Working with the city's own museum project and visitor strategy, we shall make St Albans a first-choice destination for tourists and pilgrims alike."

Next steps

The project will get underway this autumn with building work planned to be completed in 2019.

Follow the cathedral's blog to follow the progress and find out how to get involved.



Hyde Park Picture House

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