



# Pugin's church of St Augustine, Ramsgate

**NEWS RELEASE. EMBARGOED 12 NOON, MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2015**

## **ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER FOUNDATION SUPPORTS PUGIN'S CHURCH OF ST AUGUSTINE'S IN RAMSGATE**



Andrew Lloyd Webber  
Foundation

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has awarded Pugin's Church of St Augustine, Ramsgate, a grant of £25,000 toward restoration work and plans to build an Education, Research and Visitor centre inside the church.

On awarding the grant, Lord Lloyd Webber said: "I'm delighted that my Foundation has been able to make a grant towards the restoration of Pugin's Church of St Augustine in Ramsgate. The church is a marvellous example of the work of one of the most celebrated architects of the Gothic Revival, and Pugin chose to be laid to rest in the beautiful surroundings of the church's chantry chapel. I'm looking forward to seeing the St Augustine's rood screen and chancel restored to Pugin's original design and wish them every success in securing the remaining funding."

Fr Marcus Holden, Rector of St Augustine's church said: "We are very grateful for the donation from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Fund and for Lord Lloyd Webber's personal interest and support for our project. It takes us one step nearer towards the church's restoration and the setting up of a Centre for Pugin inside the church."

A celebration event is taking place at **St Augustine's church, St Augustine's Road, Ramsgate on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 12noon** to thank the grant giving organisations, , volunteers and the local community, who have supported the project to save and restore the Grade One listed church to the original form envisaged by its architect, Augustus Welby Pugin. The event is also to thank those who have supported our proposal to provide St Augustine's church with its own Education, Research and Visitor facilities and to launch the next phase of work, which now has the backing of Lord Lloyd Webber.

To acknowledge the donation, at the event Christopher Maton, one of the Foundation's trustees, will present an Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation plaque to Fr Marcus Holden, on behalf of St Augustine's church.

The event takes place the day after the 203<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the birth of the church's original owner and architect, Augustus Welby Pugin, and also marks the third anniversary of the church's status as a Shrine to St Augustine of Canterbury.

The church, traditionally known as "Pugin's Gem" will make its final funds application for its proposed Education, Research and Visitor Centre to the Heritage Lottery Fund on that day. The grant by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation will go towards the match funding target set by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

**End**



For further information about St Augustine's church, please contact Andrew Sharp ([staugustineramsgate.appeal@gmail.com](mailto:staugustineramsgate.appeal@gmail.com) 07920 424990)

For further information on the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation please contact Truda Spruyt ([Truda.spruyt@fourcolmangetty.com](mailto:Truda.spruyt@fourcolmangetty.com) 020 3697 4248) or Hannah McMillan ([Hannah.mcmillan@fourcolmangetty.com](mailto:Hannah.mcmillan@fourcolmangetty.com) 020 3697 4260) at Four Colman Getty

## Notes for Editors

**Filming and photography is permitted. All the speakers will be available for interviews after the event. There will be a photo call at the end of the event at approximately 1pm, which will include the presentation of the plaque.**

### Notes

*The proposed Education, Research and Visitor Centre, which will be housed inside the Grade One listed church, will tell the story of Pugin, and display some of his fine works and copies of his documents not found anywhere else in the World. The proposed Centre will also be the nearest dedicated location to the landing site of St Augustine, will also tell the story of how he brought Christianity to England in 597 AD.*

*If St Augustine's is successful with its application for Round Two of the Heritage lottery funding for this proposed centre, it will enable it to provide a number of greatly needed facilities for the Pugin and Augustine experience: These will include:-*

- *The ability to display and interpret the stories of Pugin and Augustine in an exciting and engaging way within an environment which includes educational facilities;*
- *A dedicated research centre for Pugin, housing a unique collection of original and copied writings and drawings, not be found in one place anywhere else in the World;*
- *A reordering of the interior of "Pugin's Gem" to bring the church back close to how Pugin envisaged his "perfect church": A functioning church dedicated to St Augustine and Roman Catholic worship.*
- *Essential visitor facilities, including toilets, refreshments, a shop and disabled access making the church and centre more welcoming. This will make it more capable of handling the demand as St Augustine's becomes an increasingly popular location. It also helps the local economy by attracting more visitors to Thanet.*

*The proposed centre will make the church open and accessible to all: to the local community, to families, for schools, for tourist, for pilgrims and those interested in the Heritage, Culture, Arts and Architecture. This follows from a year of pilot projects and development activity funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Thanks to a team of volunteers, the church is open every day 10am-4pm.*

*The event on 2<sup>nd</sup> March will start at 12 noon with Sacred Music from the Victoria Consort.*

*Speeches will follow from:*

- *Award winning writer and journalist, **Clive Aslet**, Editor at Large, Country Life Magazine.*
- *Leader of Thanet District Council, **Cllr Iris Johnston**.*



- *The leader of the project to restore and provide facilities for the church, **Fr Marcus Holden**, Rector of St Augustine's church*
- *The great, great, Grandson of Augustus Welby Pugin, **Robert Pugin Purcell**, representing the Pugin family*

*The speakers will be joined by an audience from the local community, schools, heritage and religious groups, local volunteers, as well as the many people and organisations who have supported the project.*

#### **About the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation**

*The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation was set up by Andrew in 1992 to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit; since inception Andrew has been the principle provider of funding for all its charitable activities.*

*In 2010, the Foundation embarked on an active grant giving programme and has now awarded grants of over £9m to support high quality training and personal development as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities. Significant grants include £3.5m to Arts Educational Schools, London to create a state of the art professional theatre, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, £1m to The Music in Secondary Schools Trust and over £350,000 annually to fund 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need. The Foundation owns two important paintings, a Canaletto "Old Horse Guards from St James's Park", currently on exhibition at Tate Britain and a Stanley Spencer "The Garage" on exhibition at The Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham, Berkshire.*

[www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com](http://www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com)

#### **About the Heritage Lottery Fund**

*Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported almost 35,000 projects with more than £5.6bn across the UK. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)*

*\*A first round pass means the project meets the HLF criteria for funding and HLF believes the project has potential to deliver high-quality benefits and value for Lottery money. The application was in competition with other supportable projects, so a first-round pass is an endorsement of outline proposals. Having been awarded a first-round pass, the project now has up to two years to submit a fully developed proposal to compete for a firm award. On occasion, an applicant with a first - round pass will also be awarded development funding towards the development of their scheme.*

#### **St Augustine's church Ramsgate**

*The Roman Catholic archdiocese of Southwark own St Augustine's church in Ramsgate and since 2010 it is has been run by the Parish of Ramsgate and Minster. With the church in need of major repairs, there was a fear that it would close.*

*The Parish, led by Fr. Marcus Holden, set up a Friends of St Augustine's group in 2011 with its aim to restore the church to its former glory so that it can be enjoyed by future generations. The Friends of St Augustine's has attracted support from across the Ramsgate community and much further afield including the Pugin Society, Kent County Council, Thanet District Council, schools in Thanet, the*



*University of Kent, Members of both Houses of Parliament, historians, Arts and crafts, heritage organisations, writers and others involved in the media.*

*Significant support has been received from English Heritage, as well as support from the National Churches Trust, Friends of Kent Churches and many other Trusts and supporters who have either donated money, or have given their time and skills to helping the project.*

*While much work has been carried out to restore the exterior of the church, the Parish decided that it had to address the issue of increasing numbers of visitors and the need to ensure that there were adequate facilities. In March 2013 an appeal was launched to provide funds for a much needed education, research and visitor centre, and an application was made to HLF. The parish are looking to raise over £800,000 for this project and an HLF second round application will be made by St Augustine's on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015.*

**End**