

27 of Greater Manchester's historic places of worship restored thanks to government pilot scheme

- **A £1.8 million fund has helped to repair, protect and preserve listed places of worship in Greater Manchester**
- **The pilot has so far supported 27 places of worship in Manchester**
- **The scheme provides opportunities to work with experts on maintenance and repair plans and on increasing community engagement**

A £1.8 million pilot scheme to help listed places of worship has provided grants towards repairs at 54 historic buildings in its first year.

The Taylor Review pilot scheme, which was launched in September 2018, provides advice, guidance and financial support to listed places of worship of all faiths and denominations in Greater Manchester and Suffolk in order to build a sustainable future for these important historic buildings.

Thanks to this scheme, maintenance and urgent repair works have been brought forward by congregations who may have previously been unable to afford such works to keep buildings stable and weatherproof. In total, 54 places of worship in Greater Manchester and Suffolk have received support and been offered advice, with work underway on a number of other projects as the pilot enters its final year.

Heritage Minister Helen Whately said:

"I am delighted that so many buildings in Greater Manchester have benefitted from this funding.

"Our country has a rich and fascinating religious history and places of worship have been at the heart of communities for centuries. The Taylor Review pilot scheme is helping to protect and preserve these important places of worship and keep them central to our communities."

Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive, Historic England said:

"We are delighted that the Taylor Review Pilot has successfully repaired and restored 54 listed faith buildings in its inaugural year. We look forward to continuing to work with local communities nationwide to help maintain some of our most important places of worship."

Of the 54 grants provided, Greater Manchester received 27 with churches including the Monton Unitarian Church in Salford, St Paul's Church in Halliwell, Bolton and the Church of All Saints, Barton receiving financial support.

- The Grade II* listed 19th century Monton Unitarian Church's grant helped to pay for repairs, including those to the historic Philomena leaded stained glass window. The

Church is also working with the pilot team on a five-year maintenance and community engagement plan.

- Grade II listed St Paul's used funds from the pilot scheme to replace missing roof slates and repair stone copings. The church cafe was turned into a Place of Welcome, helping to create a place for activities and programmes to engage the local community.
- The Grade I listed Church of All Saints in Barton, Stretford, received funding for removal of plants from stone work, treating exposed rafters and replacing missing lead work and slates. The church has also started to recruit volunteers to assist with maintenance going forwards.

The scheme also sees expert advisors work with those looking after listed places of worship on increasing community engagement with, and the maintenance and repair of, the buildings.

The interim report of the Taylor Review Pilot has also been published today. This sets out evidence from the first seven months of the scheme and can be viewed here [LINK]. The final report is expected to be published in summer 2020.

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- 46% of all Grade I Listed buildings in England are places of worship. UK wide, there are approximately 14,795 listed places of worship, many of which are in need of repairs that are complex and costly.
- The Taylor Review - which focused on Church of England church buildings - presented a model for how listed places of worship could become more sustainable through regular maintenance and repair and wider community involvement.
- The Taylor Review pilot aims to test the recommendations with all faiths groups and denominations.
- The Pilots are run and managed by Historic England that works closely with faith groups and denominations.

Additional quotes:

Reverend Anna Jarvis, Monton Unitarian Church, Salford said:

"The workshops that the Taylor Review Pilot has been running have been absolutely invaluable – we have learnt about repair and maintenance issues, community engagement and good governance structures. We are currently converting to a CIO and so the governance workshop gave us a lot of guidance. And Historic England have been brilliant - brimming over with advice, support and enthusiasm - we can't thank them enough."

Mandy Rushton, Church Warden at St Paul's Church, Halliwell said:

"The grant has enabled us to complete urgent repairs, make our church watertight and preserve it for future generations. These works would not have been addressed without the

pilot scheme and we can now plan the next stage of our maintenance work. The team at Historic England are very knowledgeable and have been friendly and enthusiastic.”

Father Agnellus M. Murphy, Administrator of All Saints Church, said:

“What an excellent initiative! The Taylor Review Pilot has done so much more than provide a grant to help with some necessary maintenance work on our church. Through a programme of excellent workshops, and helpful meetings with dedicated experts from the Taylor Review Pilot team, it has equipped us to plan and carry out projects for our church. I have gained a much better understanding of the whole process of project management, and I feel I know how to go about getting support and help in the future. The whole project seems to me to be an example of resource management at its best. We are really grateful.”