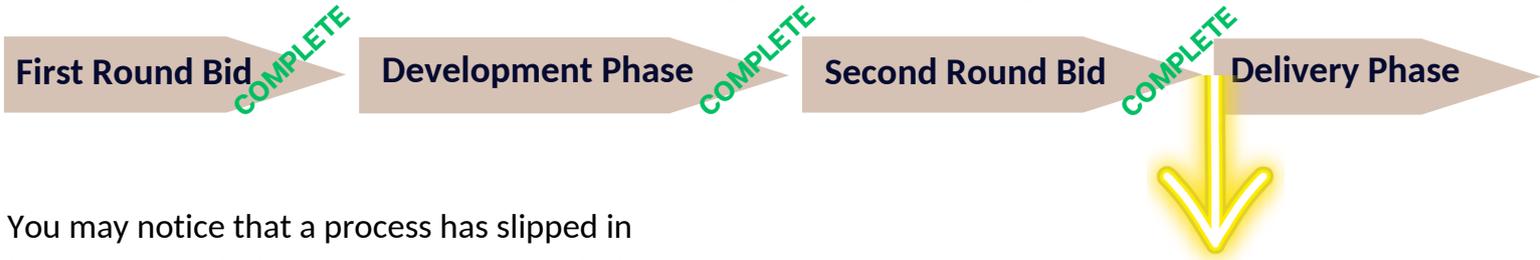




## Forward Momentum

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE WAY FORWARD PROJECT

### The National Lottery Heritage Fund Stages for Funding



You may notice that a process has slipped in between completing the “second round bid” and beginning the “delivery phase” of the project.

## Permission to start

Although the arrows above have been part of this newsletter since its inception a year ago, the “permission to start”, in between securing the second round bid and starting the delivery phase, is a relatively small but crucial part of the process required by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. We rightly congratulated ourselves on being awarded the £1.57m towards The Way Forward project; this was what the second round bid was for. But, between the award which was granted just prior to Christmas, and starting the delivery phase, we had the permission to start meeting with our Heritage Fund investors at the end of February. **Sadly we were not given permission to start.** This was because we had been unable to raise £120k towards the project cost. The Heritage Fund fund 79% of the project. See page 2 for more details.



Other organisations had been applied to for funding. 26 applications totalling £137k went in last autumn; only one expressed an interest. Our Heritage Fund colleagues told us that we are not alone in this situation. The difficulty with these applications is that you only get contacted if the funder wants to donate or meet up prior to a funding decision. So we were left wondering if any of the money would come in, hopeful that some would come forward during January and February, but none did.

Applications continue to be made to charitable trusts and other grant funding bodies; we now have 6 trusts who have made contact who may choose to give over the next few months. We're delighted that one of these has confirmed a donation of £15k. We await contact (or not) from a further 20 organisations.



...cont/d p.2

# What happens next?

- We work towards obtaining Permission to Start by 14th June by raising £120k: if funding does not come in, we lose the £1.57m grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund
- We continue to apply for funding from charitable trusts and meet with interested parties
- We develop a funding strategy
- We move the start date for the capital work from April to later in the year to allow time for funding to come in; work will start in the autumn if we raise £120k by the June deadline

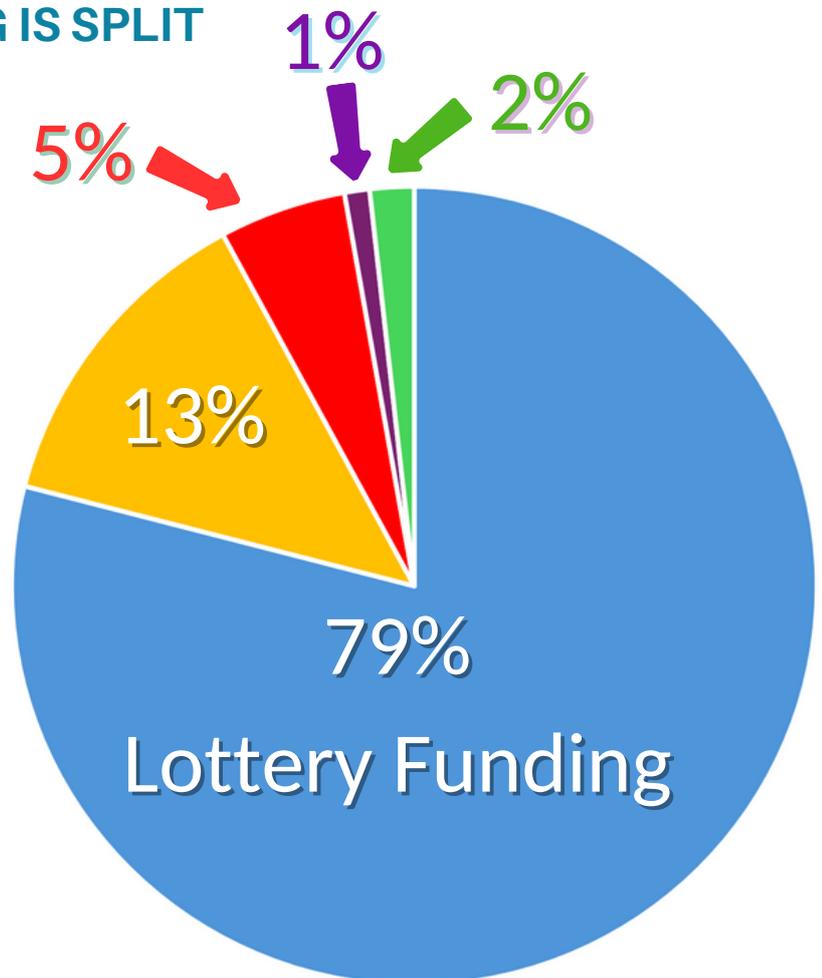
## HOW THE PROJECT FUNDING IS SPLIT

13% comes from a government scheme called the Listed Places of Worship VAT Reclaim Scheme and equates to £260k.

5% comes from charitable trusts and other grant funding bodies. It equates to £101,318

2% is an amount attributed to "volunteer time". This is calculated based on the amount of hours worked by the project team and PCC and others whilst putting together the second round bid. It equates to £35,250

1% is the £20k that St Mary's has to raise from its own charitable giving, from gifts from the congregation, to fundraising projects, to potential donations from local businesses and philanthropists.



This £20K will need support from our already generous church members, through additional giving to the project, and by working as volunteers to raise the funding through writing to businesses, approaching philanthropists and putting on fundraising events.

**In summary, we need to raise a minimum of £120k+ as soon as we can** in order to get our permission to start. Then we can begin moving things from the church into storage, employ people to assist with the project and really get going with The Way Forward project. The money from the Heritage Fund does not sit in our bank account; over the course of the project, the money we spend on the project has to be **retrospectively claimed back from the grant we have been given by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.**

# What happens if we fail to secure £120k+?

## If we don't have this amount by 14th June there are four options:

1. The National Lottery Heritage Fund withdraw the £1.57m and we start the application process all over again.
2. We ask if we can do a "phased start" to the project. This is problematic as the capital works would need splitting up into mini projects and would be a start/stop approach, difficult to manage, particularly for the contractor. We would need to know exactly how much each mini project would cost and see if we have the appropriate funds available.
3. We spend the next few years fundraising a significant amount of money simply to replace the heating system in the church, foregoing new furniture, renovated kitchen, new electrics, lighting, AV and the activity programme
4. We stop work on the project and continue in church as we are; the building would continue to deteriorate and would eventually have to close.

## Can you help?

### We are looking to put together a team of volunteer fundraisers.

We need several people who can generate fundraising ideas and bring these to reality. How much time this will take will depend on the ideas and the planning and execution of events. Interested? Contact Rhoda Herbert via email: [smvwayforward@gmail.com](mailto:smvwayforward@gmail.com)



### Could you donate?

- Scan the QR code here, or,
- Contact the church treasurer to give directly, email [smvtreasury@gmail.com](mailto:smvtreasury@gmail.com)



More communications and updates via church noticeboard, church website, Way Forward website, Facebook, Instagram and Next Door.