



**THE FRIENDS OF
LYDIARD PARK**
Registered Charity No: 1107635



St. Mary's Church Lydiard Tregoze

PRESS RELEASE 18th March 2019

SUBJECT: VOLUNTEER LAUNCH: St. Mary's Conservation Project

DATE: Thursday 2nd May 6.30pm – 8pm

VENUE: Lydiard Park Conference Centre

St. Mary's Lydiard Tregoze which lies within Lydiard Park is known as one of the most beautiful small parish churches in this country. Today it is undergoing a major Heritage Lottery Fund project to conserve its medieval wallpaintings and historic art interiors. Wall painting conservation began before Christmas and is already revealing the beauty of long hidden pictures.

The £1million project which is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and The Friends of Lydiard Park along with other generous donors, is also enabling a two year programme of events and activities for the public, local schools and colleges.

An exciting new volunteer programme to support the project is being launched at Lydiard House on Thursday 2nd May. The event is being hosted by The Friends of Lydiard Park and all those interested in finding out more about volunteering for the project are invited to attend.

There are a wide variety of volunteering opportunities including providing history tours, conservation care of historic furnishings and objects; helping with school groups, wildflower planting in the churchyard; and stewarding in the House and Church. **To register for the event you will need to email St. Mary's Church office – wspartnershipoffice@gmail.com**

There are also a limited number of volunteer training placements to work with the church's internationally renowned wallpainting conservators. For those interested in this type of hands-on conservation a minimum commitment of 2 working weeks is required and candidates should contact the partnership office as soon as possible.

Project Chair, Paul Gardner says:

'Volunteering at St. Mary's is a great way to discover more about St. Mary's rich heritage. People may have skills and ways of volunteering which we haven't even thought of and we're keen to hear from anyone who is interested whether they are already very familiar with the church or have never visited before'.

Friends of Lydiard Park Chair, Sarah Finch-Crisp says:

'The Friends of Lydiard Park are really excited about the Volunteer Launch. There are so many opportunities for people to get involved, learn new skills and have fun at the same time. The Friends have donated over £100,000 to the conservation project and we are delighted to be hosting this event for St. Mary's and look forward to meeting enthusiastic local residents on the 2nd May.'

END

Editors Notes

Contact: Sarah Finch-Crisp

Sarah@finch-crisp.com

Mob. 07763 059 645

St. Mary's Church is widely regarded as one of the most important small parish churches in the country on account of its exceptional interiors and monuments to the St. John family who owned Lydiard Park.

The current Heritage Lottery Fund project includes conservation of the medieval wall paintings and architectural paint schemes. Alongside that is the repair of historic pews, new heating and lighting and improved access and new interpretation.



LOTTERY FUNDED