



# BOURNEMOUTH - POOLE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION



Registered charity number 1140071

## **Bookings by choirs and classical orchestra for 2017 now being taken**

Poole, 29 November 2016 - The Bournemouth & Poole Orthodox Christian Foundation is now taking bookings from choirs and classical orchestras for recitals and performances in St Dunstan's Church. The Grade II\* listed basilica has amazing acoustics, and the Foundation is sure that many choirs and orchestras will make use of this opportunity, including visiting international choirs and orchestras, who are also warmly invited to perform at the Church.

This initiative aims to make high quality cultural events accessible to the local community in Poole and wider region, by sharing the proceeds of the events with the performing artists. This will make it possible for more people to engage with the building, both as a place of worship and as an outstanding architectural and artistic testimony to the Arts & Crafts movement of the early 20th century.

The Foundation is the owner of Saint Dunstan's Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church, one of the Parishes of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland. The funds raised by the Foundation will be used to restore the historic Church building, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and guided by the Borough of Poole Conservation Officer of the Planning and Regeneration Service. Historic England has listed the Church on the "Heritage at Risk List", (published annually), to assist the owners of heritage structures in need of major restoration.

St Dunstan's Antiochian Orthodox Church is located on the corner of Bournemouth Road and Saint Osmund's Road in Parkstone. It is an early 20<sup>th</sup> century basilica in the Arts & Crafts style designed as the last work of the renowned architect E.S. Prior. It contains a number of furnishings and objects in the Arts & Crafts style designed for the church by W. Bainbridge Reynolds, and MacDonald and Eric Gill, as well as 18<sup>th</sup> century railings donated by St Mary-le-Bow, London.

## **Quotes**

**His Eminence Metropolitan Silouan, Archbishop of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland:** "I bless this initiative by our Poole parish and all who will support and participate in these cultural and musical events. I hope and pray that the opportunity will be taken by many British

and International choirs and orchestras to perform in this splendid building, which will benefit the local parish and community. It contributes to the restoration of this historically and culturally important Church, as part of the National heritage, so that we can pass it to bless future generations.”

**Commenting on the call for action, Father Chrysostom, the Parish priest, said:**

“We are seeking to do justice to the opportunity this unique space offers by attracting the most talented musicians and offer the public high quality performances. This will provide a wonderful and uplifting venue for the people to engage with and enjoy this amazing building in worship and music. We are a growing parish and believe that this building and these events will greatly benefit Poole and the wider community, through worship and in so in many other ways, culturally and economically, through the restoration and the events.”

## **Notes to editors**

### **About the Bournemouth & Poole Orthodox Christian Foundation**

The Bournemouth & Poole Orthodox Christian Foundation was set up to acquire the Church from its previous owners, as a place of worship for the Saint Dunstan Antiochian Orthodox Christian Parish and the growing numbers of Orthodox Christians in the South-West of England. Saint Dunstan’s has an important role in the Antiochian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland.

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

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk) @heritagelottery

### **Further information**

For further information and pre-booking visits please contact:

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