

Worcester Cathedral Press Release 30 May 2020

## Historic England grant to benefit Cathedral Workers Fellowship

Worcester Cathedral are one of the founding partners in the Cathedral Workers Fellowship programme, a partnership between 9 Cathedrals who have in-house Stone Masons teams. They have come together to develop an innovative, sector leading Foundation Degree programme for Stone Masons and other Cathedral Crafts People.

We are delighted that Historic England have awarded a grant of £47k to re-shape the delivery of this programme in response to the challenges of COVID-19. Worcester Cathedral staff have been involved in delivering the course content, as well as benefitting from Stone Masons who have completed the programme and will continue to be core to the future delivery of the programme. At a time when retaining the vital heritage skills is at risk and a real challenge, this is a fantastic indication of support from Historic England.

Emily Draper, Worcester Cathedral's Assistant Works Manager and former CWF apprentice, said "*In my fourth year as an Apprentice at Worcester Cathedral I was privileged enough to be enrolled onto the Cathedral Workshop Fellowship Degree Course. Each module I undertook was carefully designed to improve my understanding of historical building conservation and took me on a journey of discovery across the country to visit and learn at our other great cathedrals and churches. Modules included subjects such as Architectural History, Conservation, Carving, Geometry and Work Based Projects.*

*The course is intrinsically designed to operate in tandem with the students own working life and I personally encountered many ways in which my degree learning experiences fed into my professional practices at the Cathedral.*

*Having graduated in 2017, I am now a Work Based Tutor for the CWF and continue to care for our precious Cathedral as the Assistant Works Manager."*

Frances Cambrook, Executive Director, Cathedrals' Workshop Fellowship said, "*The CWF is delighted to have been successful in our bid to the Historic England Covid-19 Emergency Fund. Covid-19 forced us to suspend delivery of our work-based craft skills training course in mid-March and we are unsure when we shall be able to welcome students back again. What we do know is that we shall have to make significant adjustments to the course to meet new social distancing and travel guidelines. This funding will enable us to maintain momentum and develop alternative ways of delivering our highly practical course for heritage crafts people using webcasts, video demonstrations and other remote learning tools".*

[cwfcathedrals.co.uk](http://cwfcathedrals.co.uk)

<https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/news/covid-19-emergency-grants-recovery-heritage-sector/>

For more information contact Worcester Cathedral's Chief Operating Officer, Val Floy at  
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