



# News Release

## Two Norfolk Communities Receive Funding Boost

Elsing Memorial Village Hall and St. Margaret's Church, Swannington, have both received funding as part of the tenth round of donations from The Bernard Matthews Fund which is administered by the Norfolk Community Foundation.

The rural-based memorial village hall in Elsing received £1,403 from the fund. A typical small village, Elsing is faced with issues of rurality such as no school, shop or bus service. The village hall provides a safe, comfortable and practical venue for a range of activities. Those on offer include: keep fit, painting, toddler groups, quiz nights and a monthly Saturday market. The funding will go towards upgrading facilities in requirements to health and safety to ensure the continued safe use of the hall for the community.

St. Margaret's Church, Swannington, received £2000 to upgrade its facilities. The church wishes to undertake more activities as a result of the upgrading. This will include church and parish meetings, social coffee mornings, the annual produce show, bring and buy sales and evening parish social events. St. Margaret's Church is very important to Swannington's residents as it is the only public building remaining in Swannington, following the closure of the village hall, shop, post-office, school and village pub.

Pip Wallwork from Elsing Memorial Village Hall said:

"The management team at Elsing Village Hall are very grateful to have received the money from the Bernard Matthews Fund. We are focussing on improving health and safety and security at our community hall and this awarded money will go towards achieving that. Our old door was ill fitting and did not comply with fire regulations, however it is with tremendous

relief, that the new one has now been installed thanks to the money received. Our sincere thanks go to Bernard Matthews for making this happen.”

Commenting on the funding Mark Hassall from St. Margaret’s Church said:

“This is a very welcome and generous grant from the Bernard Matthews Fund which brings us significantly closer to our target of installing a new heating system. This will enable Swannington parishioners to use the new community space throughout the whole year. The expanded community facility has been created as a result of hard work by a small group and this extra grant from the foundation will go towards the space being used more effectively for the local community.”

The Bernard Mathews fund, which was launched in October 2009, has already provided over £60,000 worth in grants to help a wide range of rural charities and voluntary initiatives across Norfolk, Suffolk and Lincolnshire. It is administered by the Norfolk Community Foundation.

Andrew Sherwood, Human Resources Director at Bernard Matthews, commented: “Supporting groups located in the heart of our communities has always been important to Bernard Matthews and the fund is just one aspect of our commitment to corporate responsibility.

“The fund aims to give at a truly local level and make a real difference to community support projects such as Elsing Memorial Village Hall and St. Margaret’s Church Swannington. These are worthy projects fulfilling vital roles within Norfolk.”

The Bernard Matthews Fund awards grants of up to £2,000 to support community groups working in Norfolk, North Suffolk, and Lincolnshire. To find out more information about the fund or how to apply for grants, visit [www.norfolkfoundation.com/funds/bernard-matthews-fund](http://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funds/bernard-matthews-fund).

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**Notes for editors**

- Details of the Bernard Matthews Fund can be found on The Norfolk Community Foundation website at: [www.norfolkfoundation.com/funds/bernard-matthews-fund](http://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funds/bernard-matthews-fund)
- The fund for applications for January 2015’s round of grants is now open