



St Mary The Less

Norwich French Church Charity

St. Mary the Less Church stands in Queen Street, Norwich, tucked almost out of sight.

From the sixteenth century until the beginning of the nineteenth century it was used by the 'Strangers' of the City – Protestant refugees from France and Flanders fleeing from religious persecution. They came with great skills in spinning and weaving cloth, and the clothing industry brought much prosperity to Norwich until the discovery of steam power shifted the industry northwards to the Pennine valleys and their fast flowing rivers.

By 1832 the Church's congregation had dwindled to almost nothing, and the Master of the rolls ordered that the Church's property be given to the French Hospital for the poor French Protestants, less a sum to be used for apprenticing boys in Norwich who were descended from the original refugees.

In 1902 the Norwich French Church Charity was established by the Charity Commissioners, to be responsible for the income arising from the Church. The Church has recently been sold by the Trustees and the proceeds invested to provide an annual income.

Half the income is still given to the French Hospital in Rochester, Kent. The other half is used to help the education and training of Norwich and Norfolk people.

Priority is given to those who can trace descent from Huguenot families, and then to those whose education or training is threatened by financial difficulty.

If you think that you or a member of your family might qualify for help, please complete the attached application form and return it to the address given at the bottom of the form.

Application Form

For help with education and training costs

1. Application in respect of:	
Name	
Address	
Date of Birth	
2. Full name of Parent or Guardian	
Address (if different from above)	
Occupation	
Employer	
No of Children living at home	
How long resident in Norwich	
Average gross weekly income (from all family sources)	£
Average weekly expenditure	£
3. Cost of education/training (Full details may be provided overleaf)	£
4. Grants receivable from other sources (eg local education authority)	£
5. Contribution parent or guardian is able to make	£
6. Details of any French Protestant connection	
7. Any other information in support of this application (Please write on the back if not enough space or provide on a separate sheet)	

Please return the completed application form to:

Mrs Sam Loombe,
 Clerk to the Norwich French Church Charity,
 Hansells Solicitors
 13 Close
 Norwich
 NR1 4DS