



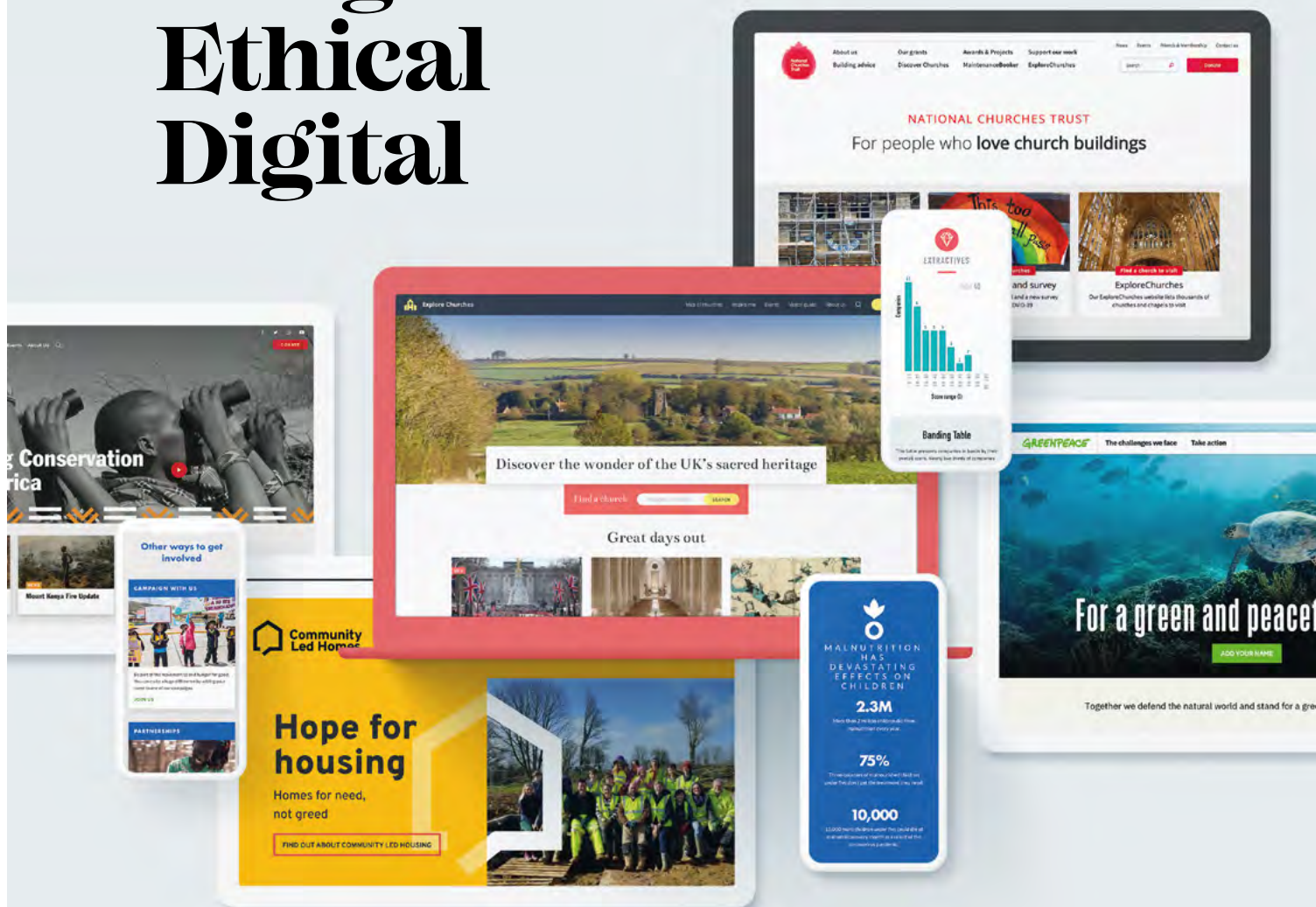
ANNUAL REVIEW

2020-2021



For people who love church buildings

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Cover photos: Front cover photographs (left to right clockwise): St Boniface church, Bunbury © Revd Hayward, celebrating the completion of work to restore the two east towers of All Saints in Hove © Peter Millar, Huw Edwards playing the organ at Holy Trinity Church, Clapham Common, London © Huw Edwards and Saul Church, Downpatrick © TourismNI

Editor: Eddie Tulasiewicz eddie@nationalchurchestrust.org Design: GADS

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From our Chairman



The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in many personal tragedies. It has also brought out the best in people, who in some cases sacrificed their lives to help others.

At the National Churches Trust, we have long known that churches, chapels and meeting houses are at the centre of local communities. Covid-19 has shown just how real that is.

With churches serving as vaccination centres and food banks, and clergy and volunteers helping those socially isolating in many ways including telephone counselling and delivering medicines, places of worship have been magnificent first responders during these difficult times.

In 2020 we evidenced the economic and social value of church buildings in our pioneering report 'The House of Good'. For the first time, this enabled us to put a monetary figure on the services and support that church buildings provide for our communities, as well as the health and wellbeing they create in our society.

Food banks, youth groups, drug and alcohol support, after-school care, mental health counselling. Church buildings house a growing number of essential activities and services. Together, the economic and social value of church buildings is worth over £12 billion each year. They provide the social glue that keeps our communities together.

We published 'The House of Good' report to help us, and others, make the case for church buildings in a way that is relevant for the times we live in. We will continue to work with academics, think tanks and economists to provide further data and research in the coming years.

£1.7 million of grants

In this most difficult of years, churches were closed for long periods of time and unable to raise income from their many activities, including normal collections and the hiring out of buildings. To help support them we provided £1.7 million in grants for urgent repairs, essential maintenance and the installation of community facilities.

That was an increase of 28% over the previous year and was achieved in part thanks to our new partnership with the Wolfson Foundation.

In 2020 we continued our work throughout the UK. With the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and other local funders, we started our Treasure Ireland project in Northern Ireland. For three years we will deliver funding for repair projects, expertise and support in building maintenance and promote the tourism potential of churches and chapels of all traditions in this part of the United Kingdom.

In Wales, we continued work on our Experiencing Sacred Wales project which will allow UK and international visitors to experience the wonderful sacred heritage of Wales, particularly along and close to The Wales Way.

Through our linked Experiences project we are investing in a new online system for booking travel to churches, chapels and cathedrals, and then exploring the wider natural, built and community heritage in and around them. This has great potential for bringing the tourist pound not just to places of worship but to the wider local economy.

As 2020 concluded, we received news that with grateful thanks to the Pilgrim Trust, one of our most longstanding and valued supporters, we will have £60,000 of funding in 2021 exclusively earmarked for Scotland to support projects including gutter and roof repairs. The funding will be administered in partnership with Scotland's Churches Trust.

Magnificent ecclesiastical heritage

As the majority of the UK's church buildings are situated in England, over 80% of our funding in 2020 went to support these places of worship. Our work keeps churches in good repair so that the magnificent ecclesiastical heritage we see from Cornwall to Northumberland can be safe for future generations.

We also want to make sure that church buildings can continue to be 'Houses of Good' and this is reflected in the fact that we continue to support all places of worship, to which we often provide funding to install loos and kitchens so that they can better respond to social need.

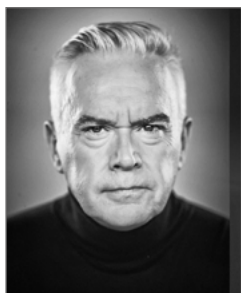
We are all proud of the work of the National Churches Trust; however there is much to be done and the challenges are ever increasing. Climate change for example is seriously affecting some churches by bringing more rain and stronger winds.

Together we will continue to make a difference to the many millions of people who care for and use churches every year. Thank you for the generous support and encouragement which makes this possible.

Luke March

Pipe Dream

by **Huw Edwards**



Huw Edwards is a journalist and presenter and the Chief Anchor for BBC News at Ten. He is a Vice President of the National Churches Trust.

💧💧 ***Church and chapel organs are a direct link with previous generations.*** 💧💧

A few years ago, I ventured into an abandoned chapel in Caernarfon. Engedi, a Welsh Presbyterian chapel which closed its doors in the 1980s, is a place frozen in time. The rich plasterwork ceiling is still there – with its mouldings and ornate roses in dazzling azure and white – as are the grand pulpit and elders' seat which face ranks of pews caked in thick layers of bird droppings. The eyes are then drawn to the richly-decorated pipes of a Victorian organ, their style immediately recognisable to any enthusiast as the work of Peter Conacher of Huddersfield.

It was clearly an impressive instrument in its day, but any effort made to save it – since the chapel closed – has clearly failed miserably. The pipe facade is all that remains. The three-manual console with its mahogany casework has been ripped apart, the soundboards and ranks of pipes torn out.

A salvage exercise by an organ builder looking for spare parts? Not remotely. It's just another familiar case of vandalism in disused chapels and churches across the United Kingdom. Pipe organs are favourite targets for



The organ keyboard, Engedi chapel, Caernarfon, Wales

© Huw Edwards



The organ, Engedi chapel, Caernarfon, Wales



Engedi chapel, Caernarfon, Wales

vandals. And even when they're not vandalised, most are left to rot and fall apart. They are seen as worthless boxes of pipes, relics of a despised age when organised worship was central to the life of the community.

Why bother with these old instruments? They are, after all, discarded objects in discarded buildings. If the buildings are left to rot – for a range of reasons, including a lack of local interest – why should others care?

The truth is this. Just as some church or chapel buildings are notable for historic or cultural or architectural reasons, so, equally, are parts of the fabric of those very buildings. And just as many of our religious buildings were built with the pennies of the poor, so, equally, were some of the handsome instruments installed to enhance the music and the quality of the congregational singing in particular.

Cathedral glories

Some of these pipe organs were modest in size but exquisite in design. Some were much more ambitious in scale, designed by experts to world-class standards. The installation of high-quality organs in villages, towns and cities throughout Britain is truly one of Britain's cultural glories.

For some years, this rich heritage has been casually thrown away as places of worship close and the contents are stripped for cash. That process has now gathered momentum as the rate of closure of chapels and churches has soared.

I learned to play the organ from the age of 16. My piano teacher, Idris Griffiths, was an excellent organist who refused to introduce me to the organ until I had passed my Grade 6 piano. My greatest mistake was not switching entirely to the organ at that point. I kept my focus on the piano and squeezed in some organ lessons when I could. I regret that decision to this day, but I have still enjoyed playing the organ over the years.

Keyboard skills

My interest in technique has intensified, and the wonders of YouTube have allowed me to see as well as hear some of the great organists at work. There is a truly stupendous film of the great Karl Richter playing (entirely from memory!) the Bach Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor BWV 582 – I have probably watched this more than a hundred times and never get tired of watching his sublime pedal technique and his mind-boggling keyboard skills. It really is a case of a genius performing the work of an even greater genius.

The chapel where I learned to play in Llanelli was demolished in 1998 – complete with a lovely two-manual Nicholson pipe organ and the minister's excellent library – without the slightest note of concern from local authorities. A few remnants were rescued – some chairs from the elders' seat, for example, and a bilingual New Testament used for Communion services, now in my possession – but the place was bulldozed with little thought given to the treasures within.

This is a horribly familiar story. During the 1960s, some local authorities in the valleys of South Wales engaged in what one historian called 'officially-sanctioned vandalism' as they blessed the demolition of dozens of chapels every year. Many disappeared without the commissioning of a basic photographic survey to preserve some kind of record of what had been.

Instruments at risk

Before we get too depressed, let's praise the few heroic individuals – Martin Renshaw springs to mind – striving

to save instruments, often helping to transfer them to churches in the European Union where the demand for good pipe organs is actually on the rise. But the scale of the British problem is too much for solo operations. A credible strategy is needed to identify the most important instruments at risk – the criteria are fairly easy to specify – and to find them new homes, or at least safe storage until a new home can be found.

Don't be deflected by the ignorance or indifference of others. This is a vitally important part of our cultural story. These church and chapel organs are a direct link with previous generations – our ancestors – whose cultural values and priorities are reflected in the buildings they funded. They are a musical window into a very different world.

A strategy – probably on a devolved basis given the cultural responsibilities – would at least safeguard the organs in a state of decay right now, making some of them available for future generations to enjoy. A pipe dream? Maybe. But the time to act is now, before we lose so much more.



Huw Edwards playing the organ at Holy Trinity Church, Clapham Common, London

National Churches Trust Friends' Vote

Your support of our work as a Friend of the National Churches Trust means that we can keep churches, chapels and meeting houses in good repair so that they can continue to be there for the people and communities who rely on them.

This year we celebrate the 5th anniversary of our Friends'Vote Grant. This special annual award enables you to have a say in the work that we do. We invite churches to whom we have already awarded a grant to let us know if they still need additional funding in order to complete their project and we put together a shortlist.

We then ask you to vote for the church and the project you think most in need of a funding boost.

2021 Vote

2020 - 2021 has been a really tough period for churches with the effects of the lockdown seriously affecting their income and ability to fundraise. The four churches selected for the Friends'Vote in 2021 have all been awarded grants from the National Churches Trust, but the effects of Covid-19 mean they are still short of the total amount of funding needed to complete their projects.

The four projects are:

St Peter ad Vincula, Ratley.

Our Lady Star of the Sea & St Michael, Workington.

St Catherine, Sacombe.

St Michael, Llanfihangel y Creuddyn.

Please do vote online at www.nationalchurchestrust.org/friendsvote where you can find full details of the four churches including a video explaining why they need your support.

The church that wins will receive a Friends'Vote Grant of £10,000.

Below we look at the churches your Friends' Vote has helped in previous years



© St Machar's Cathedral

2020 Friends'Vote Winner – St Machar Cathedral, Aberdeen



The most outstanding feature is its oak ceiling which is of international importance. Built in 1520, it is decorated with 48 carved and painted heraldic shields representing monarchs of Scotland and the Church.

But the ceiling was in danger. The roof, last re-slatted in 1867, was losing slates causing water damage to the ceiling below and we awarded a £40,000 Cornerstone Grant in 2019 to a major project to protect and restore the ceiling.

David Hewitt, of St Machar's said: "We were trying to secure the future of an important building, and we felt we had a very imaginative project, thanks to our architect. To find that the Friends of the National Churches Trust were engaged in the project, and wanted to support it, was a tremendous fillip. Frankly it was exciting, and the people of St Machar's were thrilled. We thank you all, and we hope that at some point you will all be able to come and have a look at what you have helped to achieve."

The Covid-19 pandemic meant timescales slipped and work started late but the good news is the restoration of St Machar's has now been completed, within budget.

St Machar Cathedral, Aberdeen

2019 Friends' Vote Winner – St Just-in-Penwith, Penzance

St Just's is located in England's most westerly town, St Just-in-Penwith. The church, which dates from the 15th century, is full of surprises, including medieval frescoes and a 5th century inscribed slab known as the Selus Stone.

In 2018, the slate roof was letting in water, damaging the interior and threatening to damage the frescoes. We awarded a £10,000 Cornerstone Grant towards costs of repairing the roof and making the church water-tight, but there was still a shortfall and so the church was nominated for the Friends' Vote.

St Just's was thrilled to have won the Friends' Vote. Andrew Burt of the church told us that they were overwhelmed by the news that so many of the Friends of the National Churches Trust thought the cause was worthy of their personal vote.

2019
Friends' Vote
WINNER



Toni and Andrew Burt (centre) receiving the 2019 Friends' Vote Award from Stephen Sklaroff, National Churches Trust Trustee

© Andy Sillett

2018
Friends' Vote
WINNER

2018 Friends' Vote Winner – St Botolph, Boston

Known locally as 'The Stump', St Botolph's is the largest and one of the most significant historic churches in the country and has always been a landmark to both seafarers and people travelling across the flat fenland that surrounds Boston.

St Botolph's put the £10,000 Friends' Vote Grant to excellent use to help complete a repair project to replace the lead belfry roof and the wooden platform at the top of the lantern tower.



St Botolph's, Boston

2017 Friends' Vote Winner – St Mary Magdalene, Paddington

Our first Friends' Vote winner was St Mary Magdalene, Paddington, West London. Built in the 1860s-70s by G.E. Street, the church is recognised as an outstanding example of neo-Gothic architecture and decoration.

The Friends' Vote Grant helped fund a major project which restored the Grade I listed church to its former glory and also created an innovative hub for arts, education, culture and heritage.

2017
Friends' Vote
WINNER



Fr Henry Everett receiving the 2017 Friends' Vote Award from Claire Walker, CEO National Churches Trust and Sir Paul Britton, Chairman of the Trust's Grant's Committee

© Eddie Tulasiewicz

Treasuring Churches



Matthew Byrne, whose new book 'The Treasures of English Churches: Witnesses to the History of a Nation' has just been published by Bloomsbury/ Shire for the National Churches Trust, writes about his love of photography and why churches contain some of the greatest art, architecture and furniture. Publication of the book has been generously supported by CCLA Investment Management.

Matthew Byrne has been exploring, studying and photographing English churches for nearly 40 years. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society in 1988 for his work in architectural photography.

by *Matthew Byrne*

Looking back on it now, my interest in photography probably started when we had family holidays.

The first family holidays away from home were nearly always in Cornwall. On fine days we all went to the beach, but in England there's lots of rainy days, and in our family the traditional thing to do would be go and look at historic places.

We started wandering round the Cornish village churches, and then, as we started to extend our range of travelling, we went round to the Cotswold churches, which are much more sophisticated. And then we had holidays in Norfolk, where you see magnificent flushwork combined with the limestone.

From the very beginning I was much more interested in photographing historic places rather than taking snaps on the beach. This gradually developed as I learned more

about churches. I wanted to read about them to find out their background.

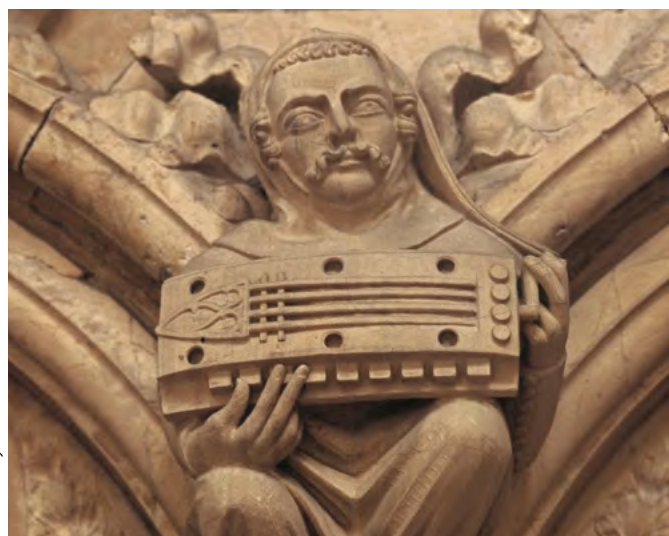
Back in the days of Cornwall, the thing that families would have had then would be a box cameras, which couldn't take photographs inside churches. I progressed to a whole series of improved cameras until finally I ended up with a special camera, which is designed for architectural work.

During a lifetime of exploring churches I've always been fascinated by the very diverse nature of church treasures. There's the obvious ways that art historians and connoisseurs define great art, the technical skill of the artist and the way their work gives spiritual and intellectual inspiration. There are several examples in my new book 'The Treasures of English Churches'.

Deeply glowing radiance

For instance, Anglo Saxon sculpture with extraordinary moving images of Christ, Mary and the saints. If we jump forward a few hundred years, there's the stained glass in the Becket shrine at Canterbury Cathedral, which was made around about 1200. It has a deeply glowing radiance that's never been bettered, and it tells fascinating stories of people who visited the shrine at that period. Jumping forward another few hundred years, we come to more humble places like Norfolk village churches where the late medieval rood screens have been exquisitely designed and exquisitely executed.

In the 17th century, Grinling Gibbons and his contemporaries produced masterpieces of wood carving in the London city churches of Sir Christopher Wren. In the 18th century, the greatest sculptors in Europe produced grand monuments to the aristocracy in hundreds of village churches, and not just in Westminster Abbey or St Paul's Cathedral.



A 14th century stone carving at Beverley Minster of a musician playing a version of a hurdy gurdy or a portable organ.

© Matthew Byrne



Liverpool, Tuebrook, St John the Baptist. As with Pugin's church at Cheadle, every available surface of G. F. Bodley's church of 1870 is brilliant with colour. The tie-beam roof outmatches most of its medieval predecessors in bright colour.



Ludlow, St Lawrence, Shropshire. Edward Waties, d.1635, and his wife face each other kneeling at a prie-dieu. This colourful pious type was ubiquitous throughout the later sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

In the 19th century, William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones created spectacular glass in hundreds of Victorian churches. And in the last 60 to 70 years, church people have commissioned leading artists in several different media to produce fine work in both ancient and modern churches.

For 1,500 years English churches have been the meeting places of the divine spirit and the human spirit, and they reflect this. The visible spirit of the divine, of course, is evident in the sacred iconography, stained glass, statues and paintings.

But the older churches give fascinating glimpses of the lives of millions of people of all types of society, who have used them on a weekly, and indeed on a daily basis. This is what I've made one of the central features of my new book, and why I have subtitled it, 'Witnesses to the History of a Nation'.

Obviously the most visible people are the wealthy and the powerful, represented in their monuments. In most churches we may have just one or two, but in some churches that are close to an ancient stately home, the whole church may be absolutely crammed with them.

The spirit of the age

These monuments speak to us in a number of different ways. While we learn of the history of individuals, famous or obscure, what's specially striking about these monuments is the way that they tell us something about the spirit of the age.

Most of the monuments contrive to produce a sense of drama, and I present them in the form of four theatres. The Theatre of Piety, this is largely concerned with the Middle Ages. The Theatre of Pomp and Pride, this is largely concerned with the 18th century. Then there's the Theatre of War, which covers all periods. And finally the Theatre of Pathos, which is largely concerned with the Victorian period.

I've deliberately balanced four chapters on the monuments of the great and the wealthy with four chapters showing common people, and by contrast, these are shown in life rather than in death.

In Beverley Minster, East Yorkshire, there is a long line of stone carvings of eight musicians playing a variety of string and wood and percussion instruments.

At Ripple church in Worcestershire, there's a fascinating series carved on the choir stalls. These represent a series known in medieval art as The Labours of the Months, and

they show portraits of medieval people engaged in all sorts of farming activities, inside and outside, during the months from January to December. In this church you can stand alone and look at these things at leisure, in total quietness, and you do feel in contact with people who lived several hundred years ago doing the ordinary sort of things that people are doing today.

At Sloley village in Norfolk, there's a remarkable font. It's known as one of the Seven Sacrament Fonts, where each of the sides of the font have a representation of the Seven Sacraments. And each of them is a cameo showing four or five or six people engaged in these sacraments, from baptism to the last rites. So they show the whole span of human life from birth to death.

It's interesting to consider the one that shows the sacrament of baptism. There will be people today there who are celebrating a family christening, and they'll be not just looking at this, but they'll be taking part and touching an item of furniture which has been in use for the same purpose for several hundred years.

Churches are unique in the way that they occur in every part of England. You get palaces and castles and stately homes, but they only appear in certain parts of England, but churches are everywhere, in every kind of environment. And the important thing is that they're still being used.



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St Michael's Ledbury, Herefordshire. John Hamilton, d.1851 aged one year, is guarded by two angels. The monument was exhibited at the Great Exhibition in 1851.

Original materials

The other important thing, of course, is to be able to maintain them. All of us who have houses know the immense amount of money you spend every year on the roof, on the plumbing, on the electricity, on the windows, and heaven knows what. Well, you can imagine with a church which is 1,500 years old; simply to re-roof it, you've got to do this in proper materials, original materials, which may be limestone, or may be slate, which is extremely difficult to come by these days, and very expensive.

The same thing applies to the interior. A magnificent hammerbeam roof may be absolutely rotten with death rot beetle, magnificent stained glass may be leaking and letting wind and water in. And all these things require a huge amount of money, so the ability to get funds from outside of the parishes themselves is very important. And as far as structural things are concerned, the National Churches Trust, of course, helps in a very important way.

There's one treasure of English churches that you can't easily show in a book. These churches are situated in the most marvellously diverse, interesting and beautiful landscapes, from vibrant city centres right down to thousands of villages. There are also hundreds of churches which today stand quite alone, for various reasons, historical and geographical, and that exist in perfect peace and quiet.

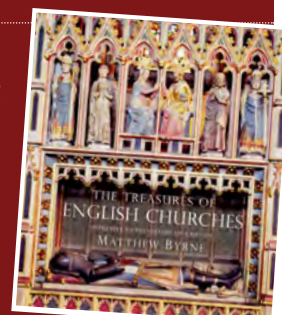
I've often said that if you explore English parish churches, you have explored England. So, if you can't go to the Mediterranean this year, or to Australia, or to Japan, do go out and visit English parish churches, you'll find that it's a joy for life.



The Bewcastle Cross of c.700–750 stands in a remote hamlet in the wide, rolling hills of the Cumbrian border country. The west face shows three figures in recesses. From top to bottom: St John the Baptist with an Agnus Dei; Christ; St John the Evangelist.

Discover churches to visit on our ExploreChurches website at www.explorechurches.org

Friends of the National Churches Trust can purchase the book direct from us for £20 including postage and packing. Order your copy: www.nationalchurchestrust.org/friendstreasure



CCLA

GOOD INVESTMENT

2020 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW

A YEAR OF GROWING SUPPORT FOR THE UK'S CHURCHES, CHAPELS AND MEETING HOUSES



The UK's historic churches and chapels are a vital part of our national heritage and have done so much to help local people during the Covid-19 lockdown. I'm delighted that in 2020 the National Churches Trust provided 259 grants to keep churches and chapels in good repair and with up to date facilities so that they can remain open and continue to serve local people.



Broadcaster and journalist Huw Edwards, Vice President of The National Churches Trust

HELPING HERITAGE

26 CHURCHES REMOVED FROM HISTORIC ENGLAND'S 'HERITAGE AT RISK' REGISTER WITH THE HELP OF OUR GRANTS

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

40% OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF OUR GRANTS SUPPORTED CHURCHES LOCATED WITHIN THE MOST DEPRIVED AREAS OF THE UK

MAKING FRIENDS

1,344 NEW FRIENDS JOINED US BRINGING THE TOTAL TO **4,282** – A **31%** INCREASE

VALUING CHURCHES

£12.4 BILLION – THE ANNUAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFIT OF CHURCH BUILDINGS TO THE UK

INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

£10 INVESTED IN CHURCH BUILDINGS CREATES A SOCIAL RETURN OF AT LEAST **£3740**

HELPING DURING COVID-19

259 GRANT AWARDS TO CHURCHES AND CHAPELS OF **£1,718,419** – **28%** MORE THAN IN 2019

Sustaining Church Buildings

Ensuring church buildings are in good condition

We work to keep churches, chapels and meeting houses well maintained and in good repair so that their heritage is there for the future and so they can remain open and serve local communities. Church buildings have been the focus of much help to local people during Covid-19 and will be key to rebuilding and strengthening communities in the post-pandemic future.

Keeping church buildings well maintained

One of the best ways to keep church buildings open and their heritage safe for the future is regular maintenance. As well as being practically important, it also saves churches money in the long-run, as when things go wrong, it can cost a lot to put right.

Regular maintenance contributes to the sustainability of buildings by preserving resources and contributing to the carbon neutral agenda. By keeping buildings in good condition, more original fabric is retained, embodied carbon is preserved and the use of resources needed to produce replacement materials is limited.

Support for maintenance

For many churches, raising funds for maintenance work, sometimes seen as routine and less important than a repair project, can be difficult.

In 2020, with the support of the Pilgrim Trust, we once again offered targeted funding for maintenance work through our Preventative Maintenance Micro-Grants and Foundation Grants for Maintenance. Through these programmes we awarded 93 grants totalling £266,749.



© St Helen's church, Stillingfleet

Keeping rainwater goods well maintained is essential for church buildings. St Helen's Church, Stillingfleet, Yorkshire is one of many churches that have received a grant from the National Churches Trust for repairs to gutters, downpipes and hopper heads.

In 2021, we will continue to provide Preventative Maintenance Micro-Grants to fund up to 50% of a project (excluding VAT) and to a maximum of £500, towards the costs of fabric repairs booked through our MaintenanceBooker service.

Churches will also be able to apply for Foundation Grants for Maintenance of between £500 and £5,000 towards urgent maintenance works and small repairs as well as small investigative works and surveys.

In partnership with Scotland's Churches Trust, we will also step up our support for church buildings in Scotland, thanks to £60,000 of ring-fenced funding from the Pilgrim Trust. This will support projects including gutter and roof repairs.

Maintenance plans

Effective maintenance requires keeping an eye open for possible problems, undertaking regular 'health checks' and carrying out any work needed at the appropriate time.

We encourage churches making an application for a grant to have a maintenance plan in place. Calendars, checklists and plans are especially useful for ensuring that routine maintenance tasks are carried out regularly.

To make maintenance easier for churches, in 2020 we worked with Historic England and The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) to provide a new maintenance checklist. The checklist is divided into five sections: roofs, rainwater goods, exteriors, interiors and building services.

Endorsed by the main Christian denominations in England, the checklist can be used by any church, chapel or meeting house, regardless of whether or not they have applied to us for a grant.

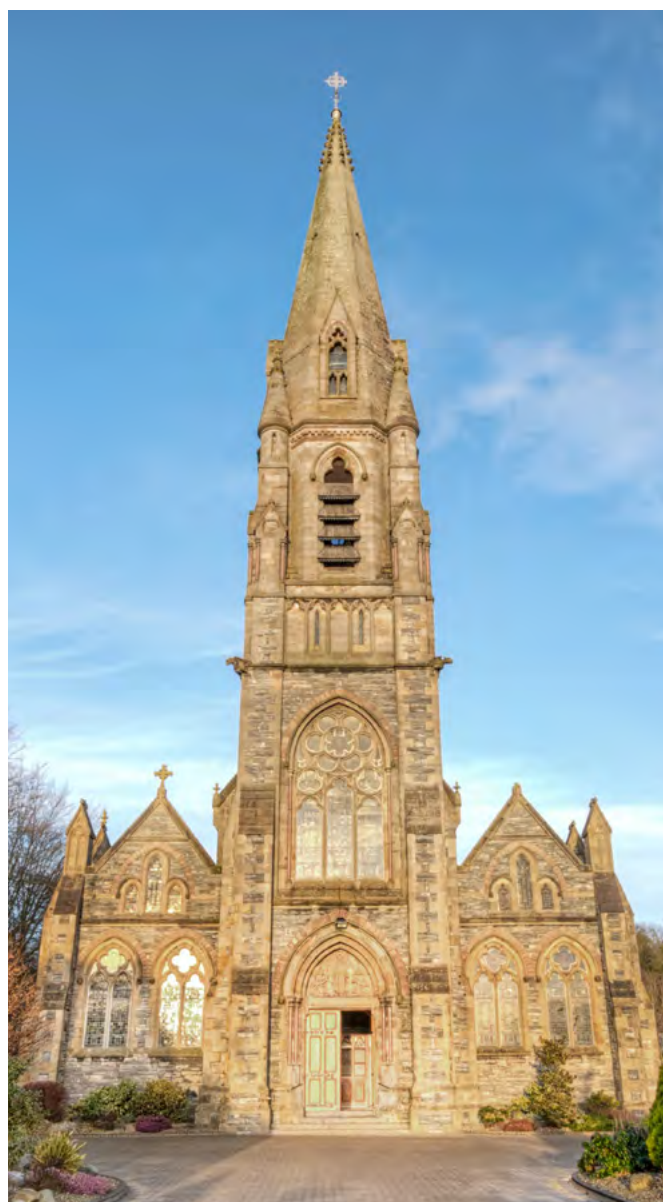
We also worked with SPAB on a series of video guides that support the use of the checklist to make it easier for volunteers to spot signs of damage and make use of professional support.

MaintenanceBooker

In 2020 our MaintenanceBooker church maintenance website continued to make it easier for churchwardens and others to find contractors to help look after their buildings.

A key feature of the service is that all contractors are carefully vetted by procurement experts 2buy2, and have adequate and appropriate insurance for the services they are delivering.

In 2021 MaintenanceBooker will be extended to Northern Ireland as part of our new Treasure Ireland project.



© Gareth Wray



© National Churches Trust

Celebrations at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Strabane, Northern Ireland (also pictured top of page), which was awarded a £7,500 Repair Grant from the National Churches Trust 'Treasure Ireland' project and a £2,500 Wolfson Fabric Repair Grant in 2020.

💡 I honestly feel that the National Churches Trust is one of the only organisations which understands that buildings per se are still worth funding in and of themselves... It is so encouraging, and you and your team make it all so easy for us. THANK YOU. 💡

Eleanor Whalley, St Andrew's church, Soham, Cambridgeshire, awarded a £585 Foundation Grant in October 2020.



© National Churches Trust

In April 2021, following the death of The Duke of Edinburgh, we joined with the Nation's churches and places of worship in sending our condolences to The Queen and to the whole Royal Family. The Duke of Edinburgh was the President of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust (HCPT), the National Churches Trust's predecessor charity, and in 2003 with Queen Elizabeth attended a service of thanksgiving at St Bartholomew the Great in London to celebrate the Trust's 50th anniversary.

Funding repairs, improving facilities

A major part of our work to support the UK's church buildings is through our grants programme. The National Churches Trust continues the work of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, founded in 1953. Together, we have allocated over 15,000 grants and loans to churches.

We receive no regular direct funding from government or church authorities, so our grant funding is only possible thanks to the support of our Friends, trusts and foundations and major donors.

Our grants continued to be extremely important in safeguarding the future of the UK's churches, chapels and meeting houses. That was especially the case in 2020 when less money was available from sources such as the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the ability of churches to fundraise was severely curtailed due to Covid-19.

Our grants help to ensure that church buildings are watertight and windproof and that roofs, towers and spires remain structurally sound. This is vitally important to ensure church buildings remain safe and can continue to be used.

They also help fund the installation of modern facilities, such as toilets, kitchens and heating. This funding helps ensure the sustainability of church buildings by allowing them to be used for a wide range of community activities and as places of worship both for congregations physically present and those taking part in services digitally.

In 2020 churches responded rapidly to the challenges of Covid-19. Even when it was not possible to keep doors open for services, many churches found new ways to support their communities. Churches will continue to be essential to local communities once restrictions are lifted.

Applications and awards

In 2020 demand for our grants was extremely high. 722 applications were received across the Trust's grant programmes, a 40% increase from 2019.

We made 259 grant awards to churches and chapels totalling £1,718,419 (including recommendations on behalf of other grant-giving organisations). **This total was 28% higher than in 2019.** The increase in support was in part due to the Trust distributing, for the first time, £200,000 of funding on behalf of the Wolfson Foundation.

61 projects for major structural repairs and the installation of facilities were funded through our flagship Cornerstone Grants programme which supports projects with costs of at least £100,000. This also provided funding for 4 Friends' Grants.

Many church buildings serve communities facing great economic and social need. Some of these find it especially hard to raise money from their congregations and in some cases lack fundraising experience. **In 2020, we awarded 89 grants worth £684,224 to churches located within the most deprived areas of the UK.** This equated to 40% of the total value of grants awarded.

We awarded £237,282 to non-Anglican places of worship, including £94,959 to Roman Catholic churches (a 22% increase from 2019) and £64,122 to Presbyterian churches.

We continued to prioritise projects run by qualified conservation professionals so that we have confidence our investment supports work of the highest quality to the UK's highly valued church heritage.

In 2020 we had over 700 phone and email enquiries about church building projects (a 10% increase from 2019); as in the previous year the largest percentage of these were enquiries about roof repairs (19%).

Understanding historic church buildings and raising funds for projects is often a complicated task. To help, we took part in 12 events, reaching over 450 delegates from over 200 churches in locations including Northern Ireland and from denominations including the Church of England, the Roman Catholic, Methodist and Baptist Churches.

We are immensely grateful to The National Churches Trust for again supporting The Selby Abbey Trust in the continuing efforts and work to repair and upkeep the fabric of this wonderful 950 year old Abbey. Without this help, the task, as difficult as it is, would become near impossible.

John Engelhart, Selby Abbey, Yorkshire, awarded a £25,000 National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant in July 2020.



Celebrating the completion of work to restore the two east towers of All Saints in Hove, part funded by a £40,000 National Churches Trust grant.

Priority areas

Prioritising areas which have been underserved by our grants helps achieve a more equitable distribution of funding across the UK. **£237,027 was awarded to places of worship in these priority areas, a 31% increase since 2019.**

Our grant giving in Northern Ireland rose to £76,100, a 19% increase since 2019. This was boosted by our National Lottery Heritage Fund project, Treasure Ireland, which has been made possible thanks also to the support of local agencies, and funding awarded by the Department for Communities and the Pilgrim Trust. It has also been boosted by funds allocated by us on behalf of the Wolfson Foundation.

At the end of 2020 we were given additional funding from the Covid-19 Culture, Languages, Arts and Heritage Support Programme to deliver further grants and more support and advice services in Northern Ireland in 2021.

The Wolfson Foundation

We started to distribute the funding for Wolfson Fabric Repair Grants. Projects typically include urgent roof repairs, improving rainwater goods, and masonry repairs.

The funds had previously been administered by the Cathedral & Church Buildings Division of the Church of England. Applicants for these grants must be highly listed and can be of any Christian denomination in the UK.

In 2020, 35 awards were made totalling £200,000. In 2021 the Wolfson Fabric Repairs Grants programme will continue to support fabric repairs with a total budget of £400,000 available.

This change creates a simplified funding application process for fabric repairs so that churches can submit one application form and be considered for up to two grants, if eligible – one funded by the National Churches Trust and the second by the Wolfson Foundation.



© Robert Curtis

Holy Trinity Church, Bristol which was awarded a £15,000 National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant in 2020 to help fund roof repairs to their Grade II listed building, making the church watertight and preserving its historic fabric.

Grants available in 2021



Preventative Maintenance Micro-Grants

Grants of up to **£500**

Our Micro-Grants of up to £500 to support the cost of maintenance services direct to the church building, booked on our MaintenanceBooker website. In 2020 the average grant size was £340.



Foundation Grants for Maintenance

Grants of **£500 – £5,000**

Our small grants to support urgent maintenance, and small repair issues, or to carry out small investigative works costing up to £10,000. In 2020 the average grant made was £3,030.



Gateway Grants

Grants of **£5,000 – £10,000**

Our medium sized grants to help churches in their project development up to RIBA stage 1; to support initiatives by local churches trusts; and for essential repair projects with estimated costs of between £10,000 and £100,000. In 2020 the average grant awarded was £5,760.



Cornerstone Grants

Grants of **£10,000 – £50,000**

Our large grants for urgent and essential structural repair projects with estimated costs of at least £100,000 that will help places of worship become windproof and watertight, and for installing kitchens and toilets with estimated costs of at least £30,000, to improve access for all. In 2020 the average grant made was £14,260.



The National Churches Trust has been incredibly supportive to us throughout our project and have saved us at our hour of need. I cannot thank you enough. Our project can now be fully completed and will look amazing.

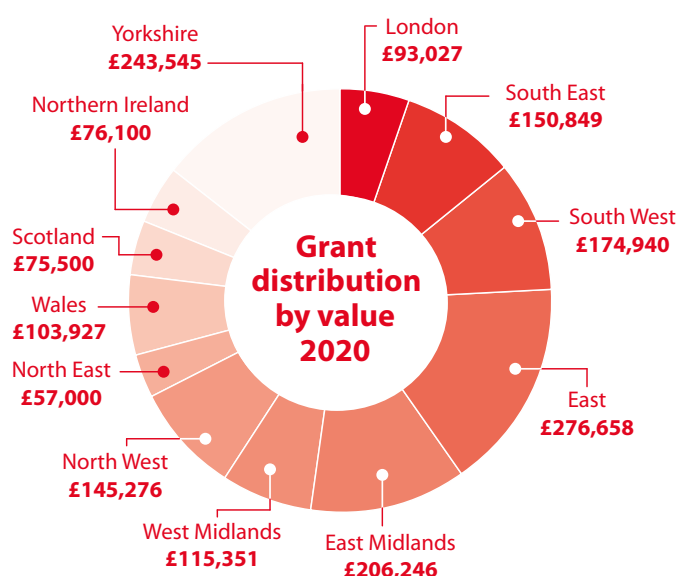
St James Church, Leckhampstead, Berkshire, awarded a £15,000 National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant and a £2,500 Friends' Grant to fund urgent roof repairs.

Small churches such as ours face considerable challenges in maintaining the fabric. The support of the National Churches Trust is of the greatest importance in terms of both the valuable funding received and the encouragement and advice given.

Christopher Purvis, Churchwarden, St Michael and All Angels Church in Clifton Hampden, Oxfordshire awarded a £10,000 National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant in December 2020.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

Grants from the National Churches Trust – 2020



Awards

London	16
South East	23
South West	26
East	38
East Midlands	32
West Midlands	25
North West	19
North East	6
Yorkshire	34
Wales	14
Scotland	9
Northern Ireland	17

Regional distribution of the 259 grants awarded in 2020



Our people

Sir Paul Britton
Trustee and Chair of Grants Committee

Few things have given me more pleasure in life than looking at churches.

I began as a child and have continued avidly for more

than 60 years. These buildings and their rich and varied contents are the physical embodiment of our history: they can give great visual enjoyment and intellectual stimulation as one seeks to work out the building's history.

When I was young, I was an ardent medievalist and would not have given a second glance to later buildings but my tastes have become more eclectic as I have grown older and it is now rare to find a church or chapel which lacks interest of some sort. Indeed, some of my favourite churches are Victorian – Skelton, Hoar Cross or Hornblotton, for example.

Whenever I visit a church I have not seen before, I still experience that same thrill of anticipation I first enjoyed when looking at churches around Bristol where I grew up.

Churches deserve help

I have chaired the Trust's grants committee for five years. This brings both joy and sorrow: joy because it is wonderfully rewarding to be able to help secure the future of so many fine buildings, sorrow because we can give grants to only a minority of applicants and it is often painful to turn away churches which deserve our help.

Our splendid inheritance of churches is under great threat from dwindling congregations, probably to be accentuated by the current pandemic. One fears that many churches currently closed will never reopen. Some people in the Church of England in particular see this as an opportunity to be rid of buildings which they regard as an encumbrance. That seems to me to be a mistake and I say this not just as someone who admires these buildings but as a committed Anglican.

The importance of the National Churches Trust and other organisations which campaign for our churches and chapels has therefore never been greater. But, despite the threatening horizon, I remain optimistic that the great majority can have a viable future, provided that their congregations are willing to engage with their communities and make these buildings useful for both secular and religious purposes. Luckily, this is now widely understood, not least because of the Trust's efforts.



© David J. Green / Alamy Stock Photo

The interior of St Peter and St Paul in Lavenham, Suffolk. Professional Trades Directory member Nicholas Jacob Architects are the church's Quinquennial Architects and have undertaken a number of repairs on the building.

Looking after a church building is a complex and challenging task. Whether it is a Grade I listed medieval country church, a Victorian inner city chapel or even a modern suburban building, finding expert help can be a time consuming task.

That's why the National Churches Trust runs the Professional Trades Directory (PTD). This online guide provides information on over 120 companies and individuals who can help with looking after, repairing and modernising facilities for churches, chapels and meeting houses throughout the UK.

The PTD is organised into around 50 key categories including asbestos removal, woodwork and carving experts and scaffolding companies. The directory also lists companies providing more general help, such as IT support, audio visual installations and fundraising consultants.

Enormous pride

Architects is one of the directory's biggest categories, listing over 30 practices. One of these is Nicolas Jacob Architects. Church commissions, says Pippa Jacob, are satisfying because of the dedication of everyone involved. "The clients - the Parochial Church Councils - are really passionate about the buildings. The contractors have years of experience and are master craftsmen who take enormous pride in what they do. These are projects that need, and get, exceptional care and attention."

Almost every church or chapel has an organ. One of the companies that look after them, and a member of the PTD, is Hampshire based Organ Design.

Director Edward Dove learned his craft from Matthew Copley who founded Organ Design and Construction in 1974. The company services pipe organs of all kinds for 150 clients. Edward says that the most satisfying part of the job is making a pipe organ that doesn't sound or work well back into a usable musical instrument. As well as restoring Victorian and older instruments, he can also make new ones and is a specialist in voicing.

Church buildings require specialists to look after interior design elements. One of these is PTD member Janie Lightfoot, an accredited conservator and an expert at restoring church textiles.

A new lease of life

Janie's interest in textiles began at an early age. She now runs Janie Lightfoot Textiles, a restoration and conservation studio based in North West London, that gives a new lease of life to textiles of all kinds.



One of the studio's most recent church projects saw its eight-strong team of conservators restore two carpets by William Morris and a 1907 Edward Burne-Jones tapestry of the Adoration of the Magi (pictured above).

Janie said: "The tapestry required a lot of surface cleaning. As the colours were unstable it was decided to take it to Belgium where a very specialised steam clean was undertaken. This was very successful. Not one colour ran. When it was reinstalled, nobody recognised it."

"We fitted the tapestry back in the frame and it looked fantastic. Together with the Morris carpets, the whole of the nave was transformed."

Find out more at: nationalchurchestrust.org/ptd

Encouraging and supporting communities

Our work puts churches at the centre of their communities and encourages care from volunteers to ensure their long term viability. We provide information and recognition for the people who look after churches and chapels, and promote best practice and knowledge sharing.

Expanding our training offer for churches

Covid-19 presented us with a real challenge in the delivery of our training on caring for, and managing and promoting the use of church buildings. Prior to the lockdown this was based on face to face sessions in key locations around the UK. Suddenly, in early 2020 this was no longer possible and we had to use what was then the unfamiliar technology of Zoom and other online meeting software.

“Your tourism training webinar was the best webinar this year and there have been a lot – can't thank you enough.”

Grimsby Minster

After a few teething issues had been sorted out and people started to become familiar with the new way of working, online training proved to have many advantages. These included no longer having restrictions on how many people could attend, as well as savings on travel costs.

Our Church Support Team devised a new training module on maintenance and this proved to be highly effective at delivering practical information on how to care for church buildings. A total of four sessions were run in 2020 and reached 128 attendees from rural, suburban and inner city churches.

In October a new training session was trialled for new grantee churches. This allowed attendees to find out about how we support churches including advice on fundraising, promoting churches to tourists and visitors and on using our MaintenanceBooker service. This training session will become a regular session in 2021.



© Mount Merrion Church

Online training was particularly helpful for our Experiencing Sacred Wales tourism project. We delivered nine sessions to over 400 participants. Subject matter ranged from a general introduction to church tourism to more focussed sessions on interpretation and promotion, as well as how to create itineraries for groups of visitors for our 'Experiences' project.

Zoom is here to stay and so is online training. Our calendar for 2021 is already filling up and includes online seminars designed specifically for places of worship in Northern Ireland about project development for repair and facilities projects.

Showcasing good practice

2020 saw an extraordinary response of voluntary effort to help people through the initial Covid-19 lockdown and subsequent uncertainties. Church communities were

frequently at the forefront of vital local initiatives to help people in need.

We were delighted to continue our partnership with the Marsh Christian Trust and Distributed Sound & Video



Ltd (DSAV Ltd) for the 2020 Marsh Awards which celebrated the selfless contributions made by church volunteers across the UK.

With the focus on individuals and groups of volunteers with inspiring stories to tell, eight churches from the four parts of the UK were shortlisted for the Marsh Church and Community Heroes Awards. Each winning church received a prize of £1,000.

- St Mary's Church, Port Glasgow was the winning Scottish entry for the vital community support it provided, tailored to the specific needs of local people in this very deprived area. The church overcame challenges including the fact that a large proportion of their community had no access to the internet to help local people during Covid-19.
- Mount Merrion Church, Belfast (pictured left) was the winning church in Northern Ireland. Each year, the church delivers support programmes with a strong focus on wellbeing, health, good nutrition through allotment projects, shared meals and education. The church serves an area of high deprivation and in 2020 it lobbied local councillors to provide free wifi for school children.

- SHINE at St Stephen Church, Bowling, Bradford was the winning church in England. Judges were impressed with the church's wide range of community help which included a children's clothes bank. This had been set up after a head teacher noticed children arriving at school in unsuitable clothing during winter.
- The fourth winner was Tabernacle, Morriston in Swansea. Known as the 'cathedral of chapels', it is famous for choral music. In an area with many social and economic challenges, the community activities at the Tabernacle have been and will again be key to promoting social life and provide a way for people to combat loneliness.



© Matthew Jenkins

Huw Williams at the organ of Tabernacle, Morriston in Swansea, one of only twelve Grade I listed chapels in Wales (below), and the largest and loftiest.



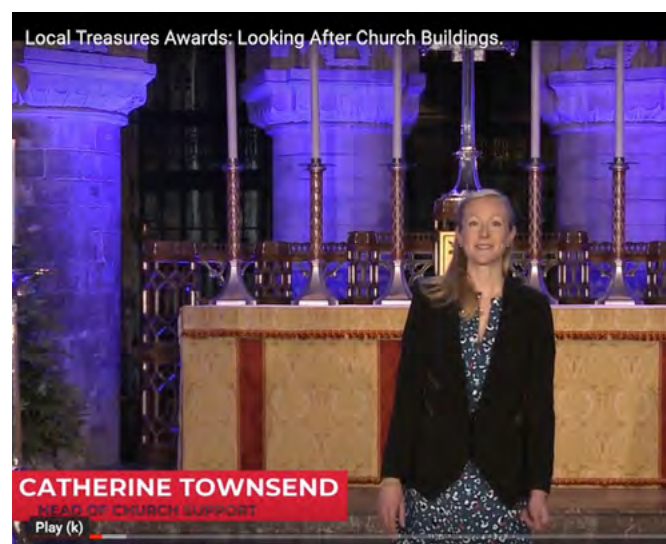
© Matthew Jenkins

💡 **Particularly during these difficult Covid times people need special places to drop into, spend structured or informal, shared or private time, to rest, celebrate and maybe mourn. Thank you National Churches Trust for your support of projects like ours, not just with funding but a whole infrastructure of information, advice and inclusion.** 💡

Kate Burnett, renovation co-ordinator at Edale Methodist chapel, Derbyshire, awarded an £8,000 National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant in July 2020.

Maintenance awards

Our 2020 Local Treasures Awards also included the presentation of the Nayler Award for Excellence in Church Maintenance, which were supported by the Pilgrim Trust.



Catherine Townsend, our Head of Church Support, introducing the 2020 Local Treasures Awards which took place on Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The Nayler Award and a prize of £7,500 was won by the team that looks after Christ Church in Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire. The present church opened in 1821, but has roots going back to 1526.

Judges were impressed with how the church approached maintenance as a team effort, involving the architect, the Parochial Church Council, churchwardens and volunteers. This coordination helps to ensure the church knows what is wrong and can fix any maintenance problems quickly. Very innovatively, the maintenance team use social media to share news about maintenance with the congregation, making sure that the whole church community is aware of key issues.

There were also prizes for St Leonard's church, Southoe, Cambridgeshire and the Presbyterian Cardross parish church in Dumbartonshire which both won a special Runners Up Award and a cash prize of £2,500.

Focus
on

Northern Ireland



© Tourism NI

Saul Church, Downpatrick is built on the site of Saint Patrick's earliest place of Christian worship in Ireland, founded by the Saint in 432 AD.

In March 2020, just as the Covid-19 pandemic had started to intensify its grip, there was a welcome boost for the churches of Northern Ireland when we received the go-ahead for our Treasure Ireland project to support historic places of worship.

The project aims to change the dynamic of church heritage in Northern Ireland so that churches and chapels can be kept in good condition and their architecture and history appreciated by more people. It includes a new grants fund which offers between £500 - £10,000 for repairs and maintenance to keep churches in good condition and so prevent expensive repairs.

Treasure Ireland will also offer training and mentoring to support people who look after places of worship. This includes developing skills on writing funding bids, maintenance and interpretation and tourism.

The project also aims to increase the number of people visiting churches in Northern Ireland for days out or as part of a holiday. At least 100 churches will be added to the National Churches Trust's ExploreChurches website providing visitors with a one stop digital gateway into discovering the architecture and history of Northern Ireland's religious heritage.

Treasure Ireland is funded jointly by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Pilgrim Trust, the Department for Communities and the National Churches Trust.

Extra boost

An extra boost for our work in Northern Ireland came in late 2020 when we received a £263,000 grant from the Department for Communities through their Covid-19 Culture, Languages, Arts and Heritage Support Programme.

£200,000 boosts the National Churches Trust's grants for urgent repairs and the provision of modern community facilities such as toilets and kitchens. £63,000 helps churches and chapels developing repair and maintenance projects, including funding for drone surveys to help identify problems with buildings and to scope possible work.

Overall, since 2018, the National Churches Trust has helped 44 places of worship in Northern Ireland with funding of £425,400 for urgent repairs, the provision of toilets, kitchens and other community facilities and essential maintenance.



Nina McNeary, our Northern Ireland Church Support Officer.

Inspiring Support for Church Buildings

Helping people value and enjoy church buildings

Our work makes it possible for more people to value and enjoy our shared heritage of church buildings and so increase their long term sustainability.

Engaging more Friends and supporters

Through our growing Friends scheme we provide an opportunity for people to join with us in celebrating the architectural and human riches of churches and chapels.

1,344 new Friends joined the National Churches Trust in 2020, a record number, bringing the total to 4,282. The year also saw an increase in the number of members of our Cornerstone Club to 45, and the number of Life Friends to 236. We aim to continue growing our supporter base and encourage Friends to introduce others who are interested in church heritage and in the work done by churches to strengthen local communities.

Events

Covid-19 meant we were unable to hold our in person tours for Friends. That did not stop us from delighting many of our Friends with tempting online alternatives.

In June, we held our first Afternoon Tea Party. Held on Zoom, everyone who joined had to make or buy their own scone which was then put into a 'sconeoff' competition to deem which was the most tempting. Friends then enjoyed an online talk by John Campbell, Dean's verger of Lincoln Cathedral.

In September, Friends were treated to an online talk by ecclesiologist John Vigar about 'Murder, Sex and Mayhem in English churches' and in December the Revd Fergus Butler-Gallie, Assistant Priest of Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square, London, entertained us with stories about great British clerical eccentrics.

How to support our work



Become a Friend

As a Friend of the National Churches Trust, you'll help us protect even more church buildings. Choose from individual, joint or lifetime membership.

nationalchurchestrust.org/membership



Make a donation

A one-off or monthly gift will fund community facilities and essential maintenance – and ensure more church buildings remain at the heart of their local communities.

nationalchurchestrust.org/donate



Stay connected

Sign up for our e-newsletter and find us on social media to see more about how we're saving the UK's church buildings.

nationalchurchestrust.org/enews

Our most popular event for Friends is our annual Christmas Carol Concert. In 2020 we presented the concert digitally in partnership with St Paul's church in Knightsbridge with the generous support of CCLA Investment Management. Taking part were a star studded line-up including the renowned choir of St Paul's church, Bill Bryson, Richard Clifford, Joanna David, Hugh Dennis, Huw Edwards, Michael Palin and Joe Stilgoe. The event raised over £7,000 for our work.

It is really encouraging that this well-coordinated network of church-saving enthusiasts exists, and I am so pleased to now be part of it.

Sarah Tebbit, Friend

Friends' Vote Grant

Through their support and generous donations, our growing number of Friends help us with our work supporting the UK's churches in many ways. One direct way is our annual Friends of the National Churches Trust Grant vote, in which Friends select a church for an additional award of £10,000.

The Friends' Grant started in 2017. Each year churches that have received one of our flagship Cornerstone Grants in the previous twelve months and that still require additional funding for their project are asked to apply and are then shortlisted for the vote.

In 2020, St Machar Cathedral in Aberdeen won the vote and the £10,000 Friends' Grant. Belonging to the Church of Scotland, a Presbyterian church, which has neither bishops nor cathedrals, St Machar is in fact a parish church and a cathedral only by name.

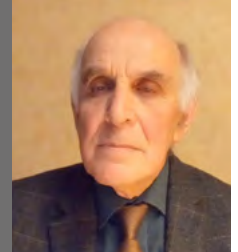


Examining one of the 48 heraldic shields on the ceiling of St Machar Cathedral in Aberdeen.

In 2019, St Machar had received a £40,000 grant from the National Churches Trust to fund extensive roof repairs to the A-listed building. The additional Friends' Grant will fund work to make the church watertight and preserve its historic fabric and its magnificent oak ceiling. The ceiling was erected in 1520 and is of international importance. It is decorated with 48 carved and painted heraldic shields; both carving and painting are of very high quality.

Professor David Hewitt, on behalf of St Machar Cathedral, said:

"Winning a prize as a result of the Friends' Vote is a great surprise. I greatly admire the work of the National Churches Trust and I appreciate its understanding of the life of churches. On behalf of the church, the congregation and indeed the people of Aberdeen, thank you very much."



The good news for the other three churches that were shortlisted for the Friends' Grant in 2020 is that, in recognition of the exceptional challenges posed by Covid-19, they all received a Friends' Grant. St Peter's church, Appleshaw, Hampshire, the runner up, received £5,000 and the other two churches, St Nicholas, Churchstoke, Powys and St James, Leckhampstead, Berkshire each received £2,500.



St Peter's church, Appleshaw

I have been a member, with my wife, for three years and it has been a very positive experience and that is because you and all around you are positive. The principal reason for writing is to support you entirely in your views that church buildings are most certainly not an irrelevance, quite the opposite.

Martin Ward

Legacy giving

Since 1954, over 750 supporters have left a bequest to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, our predecessor charity, and to the National Churches Trust.

In 2020 we had 12 bequests from legators which totalled £159,429, compared to 20 totalling £778,444 in 2019.

We are very grateful to our Friends and supporters who supported our work by leaving a gift in their Will, as this is a vital source of funding which helps keep the UK's precious church buildings alive for generations to come.

We encourage supporters who have not yet included the National Churches Trust in their Will to consider doing so.

Trusts and Foundations

We are incredibly grateful to the trusts and foundations that supported our work in 2020.

Among others, The Pilgrim Trust has been a supporter of our work for many years and as a result of increased funding we were able to expand our work in Northern Ireland, with a further increase allocated for Scotland in 2021. We were also delighted to work with them for a second year on awards which honour volunteers demonstrating excellence in maintenance planning.

The Dulverton Trust offered exceptional support in 2020 and generously offered funding over a three year period which will enable us to move forward with greater certainty.

Our ongoing relationship with the Mercers' Charitable Trust developed further in 2020 and their valuable support allows us to develop our work in promoting community projects in churches.

2020 marked the start of our partnership with the Wolfson Foundation, with grants totalling £200,000 awarded.

Growing church tourism and visits

Church buildings are a vital part of the UK's heritage. Encouraging more people to value and visit them is a key part of our work to help ensure their long term sustainability. It is important to make visiting churches attractive and accessible for all, so everyone can discover the heritage of the UK's churches, chapels and meeting houses.

In 2020, we used the Covid-19 lockdown to develop new online tourism training, delivering 12 online sessions and reaching over 450 delegates. We also added new content and features to our ExploreChurches website, promoting virtual tourism and visits to churches.

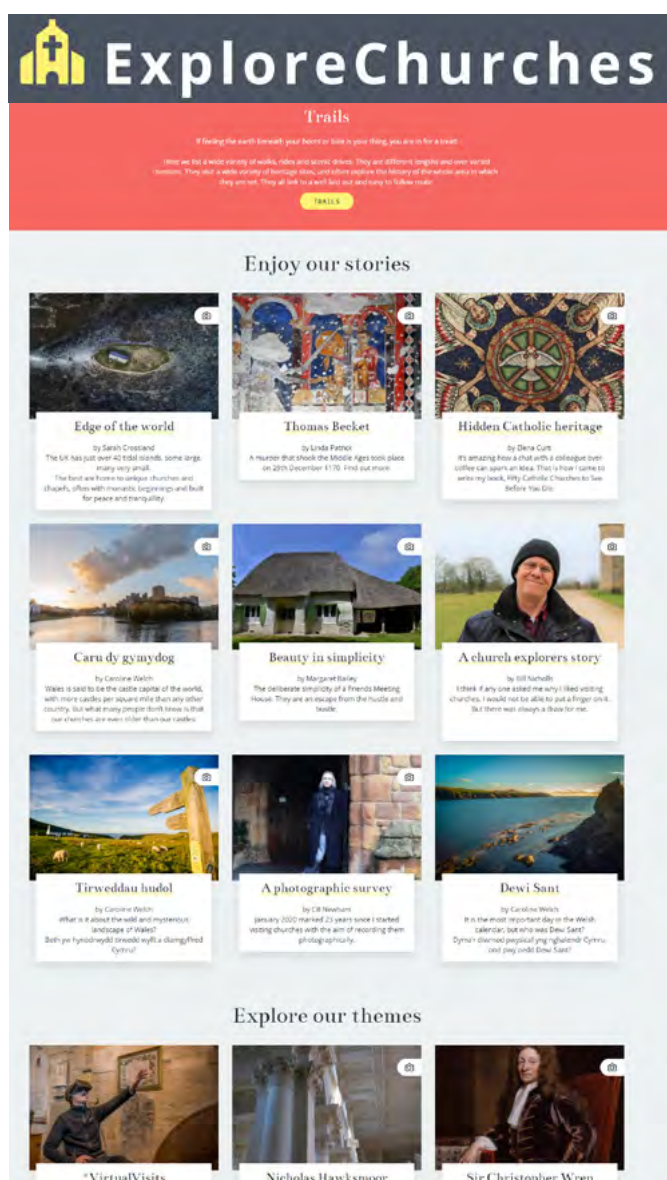
Going forward, domestic tourism is set to experience a boom. Churches are great places to visit as they are some of the UK's most beautiful historic buildings.

I greatly admire the transformation you have personally led and achieved in the professionalism of your organisation's literature and public face including online. It is a fantastic transformation. Well done.

David A Roberts



St Beuno's Church, Gwynedd, Wales, on the pilgrimage route to Bardsey Island.



ExploreChurches

Our ExploreChurches website is our main entry point for anyone wanting to discover the best of the UK's churches and to find out the information needed to visit them.

In 2020 we introduced a new page layout, making it possible to combine narrative, images, video, audio and mapping to create immersive stories, which has been well received by users, churches and the travel industry.

We also added more regional pages and encouraged people to share their favourite church with us. Other new content included stories showcasing Meeting Houses, 'hidden' Roman Catholic heritage, tales from church crawlers and a Tirweddau Hudol (Sacred Landscapes of Wales) feature.

In 2020 we carried out a review of the website. A key learning was the need to make sure that the site is part of the Trust's core proposition. We will be making some changes in the future, and use what we have learned in this very challenging year to create quality content and a smoother user experience.

Experiencing Sacred Wales

Our tourism project in Wales was a major focus for our work in 2020. Experiencing Sacred Wales is a highly creative and innovative project which makes historic churches and chapels a key part of Wales' tourism offer and introduces new 'products' to the tourism industry.

We worked with churches, chapels and meeting houses to help them tell their stories and promote Wales' sacred heritage to the world. This included three online chronicles telling the stories of the amazing historic churches and chapels along the Wales Way and three national routes exploring the very best of Wales. We developed nine new walking routes in conjunction with the Wales Coast Path project and created pages for the Cistercian Way and the North Wales Pilgrimage Route.

CYMRU SANCTAIDD | SACRED WALES

We also created new travel itineraries about churches linked to Wales' famous castles and about tidal island churches.

The project was made possible thanks to the support and funding of VisitWales through the Tourism Product Innovation Fund (TPIF) and through project partners: the Church in Wales, Archdiocese of Cardiff, Friends of Friendless Churches, Addoldai Cymru, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, and Cadw.

All our Wales content can be found in the visitor guide on ExploreChurches or at explorechurches.org/cymru.



Church of the Holy Cross, Mwnt, Ceredigion, Wales

💧💧 *I became a Friend when our church was fundraising after the lead from the roof had been stolen. With so many churches in need of funds to keep them viable for future generations, I kept up my subscription after our roof was restored, so others could also enjoy the benefit we received.* 💧💧

Alexander Plumb, PPC Secretary of St Mary Magdalene church, Gillingham and also a Friend.

Experiences

Through our Experiences we help churches and chapels create bookable tours, helping boost their income and long term sustainability. Experiences offer 'hands on' tourism, including exploring history, discovering architecture, indulging in extravagant afternoon teas and above all absorbing the atmosphere of our sacred heritage.

Following delays caused by Covid-19, our initial Experiences are now live on the ExploreChurches website, including several linked to our Experiencing Sacred Wales project.

As well as appealing to individual visitors, these have attracted the attention of UK, European and USA tour operators, who are excited about including them in their itineraries.



St Tydecho Church, Mallwyd, Powys, a base for a guided walking tour exploring the life of Dr John Davies, 16th century priest who translated the Bible into Welsh in 1620.



Our people

Sarah Crossland
Engagement
Manager

I have led on the wide ranging tourism work undertaken by the Trust since 2012.

A key area of work is promoting churches as places to visit, especially to people who have never thought of stepping inside a church, or who may not know just how much fun it is to visit or what to look for.

Most recently this has included working with VisitWales on the Experiencing Sacred Wales project. We have created new stories and visitor guides for explorechurches.org (I especially love our feature on tidal island churches, the images are just stunning), developed new bookable Experiences (fancy a day of kayaking and church visiting in Pembrokeshire, or dark sky stargazing from a churchyard?) and attending tourism trade shows, introducing our churches to tourism companies across the world.

Amazing church buildings

I'm especially proud of the amount of press coverage we have had this year. National newspapers, Country Life, high end travel blogs and the BBC and ITV have all wanted to know more. What could be better than that for getting people interested in our amazing church buildings!

I also work with volunteers and clergy to encourage them to open their churches to visitors. I love delivering training, sharing good practice and seeing the positive benefits which come from opening the doors to churches and telling their stories imaginatively. Most recently, of course, the training has been delivered online; that has been a real success story with more people able to attend regardless of where they are based.



St Beuno's Church, Gwynedd, Wales

© National Churches Trust

For me, turning an ancient door handle and slowly opening a creaky door to a never before experienced church is always a thrill. And that church often becomes my favourite, until I pop into the next one.

I hope that my work will make it possible for many thousands of new visitors to experience that thrill for themselves and in doing so, ensure the future for our nation's fabulous churches, chapels and meeting houses.

During lockdown, churches around the country continued to use their buildings for the benefit of society as people suffered the fallout of the pandemic. 'The House of Good' report makes the argument for why it is appropriate for church-based community services to be funded by national government.

Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, Joint Presidents of the National Churches Trust

THE HOUSE OF GOOD



Campaigning for church buildings

Campaigning and engaging with the public, key church and heritage stakeholders and national, regional and local government helps us to generate more support for the future of the UK's church buildings.

Valuing church buildings

In 2020 we published 'The House of Good', a pioneering study that quantifies the economic and social value of church buildings to the UK. Not the bricks and mortar but the welfare and wellbeing they create in our communities.

Churches, chapels and meeting houses are some of the most beautiful and historic buildings in the world. But church buildings provide the social glue that keeps our communities together.

The report found that church buildings are a ready-made network of responsive hubs providing increasing levels of care and wellbeing to local communities throughout the UK. New research conducted for the report found that 89% of churches found a way to provide community support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

'The House of Good' followed a methodology consistent with HM Treasury's The Green Book, the UK Government's key source of guidance on how to assess the value of expenditure. It found that the total social value of church buildings (excluding cathedrals) is at least £12.4 billion annually, roughly equal to the total NHS spending in England on mental health in 2018. That is an average of £300,000 per church building.

Cost benefit analysis shows that for every £1 invested in church buildings there is a Social Return on Investment (SROI) of £3.74 using the most conservative methods, with some wellbeing valuation methods estimating the SROI to be up to £18.10.

'The House of Good' was launched in October 2020 at an online event hosted by Huw Edwards and attended by over 300 people including MPs, civil servants, journalists, church leaders and charity and heritage bodies.

Our report received widespread media coverage, including on BBC Radio 4, in The Observer and The Daily Telegraph. We also coordinated the publication of a letter in The Times calling for more funding for the UK's church and chapel buildings, signed by representatives of leading church building support organisations from across the UK.

The report was welcomed by the church and heritage sectors as highly innovative. We are using its findings to make the case for investing in church buildings with national government and politicians at Westminster, with the devolved administrations as well as with a broad range of charitable funders.



**THE
HOUSE
OF
GOOD**

"People are no longer isolated."

"People are happy to talk to the volunteers and happy to share their issues and problems which really boosts their mental health and wellbeing. Building personal relationships with people is key. The community activities we hold in church bring our neighbours through our doors. It's not about getting increased attendance figures at Sunday service but just showing the love of God to our community."

Jean Rose, PCC Secretary at St Mary's Church, Wollaston, Northamptonshire



"An essential part of the church is the sense of community and friendship."

"During Covid-19, St Michael and All Angels had to adapt quickly. In the lockdown, we took our worship online. However, Zoom worship lacks the personal touch, the laughter, the hugs, the kisses, the warmth and exchange of gifts and presents – all vitally important for emotional, spiritual and mental flourishing."

Fr Steve Gayle, St Michael and All Angels Church, Stoke Newington Common, London

Championing church buildings

The closure of church buildings as part of the Spring 2020 Covid-19 lockdown proved to be controversial. Disquiet was expressed about the fact that churches in England were grouped together with pubs, cinemas and hairdressers as the last public buildings to re-open in July 2020.

In May 2020 we commissioned an opinion poll by Savanta ComRes which revealed that half (49%) of UK adults agreed that churches and chapels should be allowed to re-open sooner than July as long as they could maintain social distancing. Our poll attracted considerable public and media attention and helped to influence a more flexible approach to the closure of churches later on in the pandemic.

During 2020 we continued to vigorously champion the cause of church buildings. We were active participants in the meetings of Places of Worship Forums run by Historic England and those in Wales and Northern Ireland. We also contributed to high level discussion with partners in the Heritage Alliance and partnered with the University of York led Churches, Covid-19 and Communities report.

Churches are public buildings and part of the heritage of the country

by *Elena Curti*



Elena Curti interviews Bishop Nicholas Holtam, who has recently retired as Bishop of Salisbury and is a former Trustee and Chairman of the National Churches Trust's Grants Committee.



© Diocese of Salisbury

Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam

There are many wonderful vistas of Salisbury Cathedral, but the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam particularly cherishes the bishop's 'privileged views' from the altar.

"I got wonderful views of people at worship, a whole community there before you. You think of the bishop blessing the people but it also works the other way around. The people are a blessing to the bishop too."

Bishop Nicholas retired in July 2021 shortly before his 67th birthday, after a decade at the helm in the Diocese of Salisbury. These days, he enjoys gazing out to sea from his flat in a Georgian terrace on the Brighton seafront. He and his wife moved to the South Coast to be closer to their four children and grandchildren. The views are very different from those he enjoyed at Salisbury but then church, community and the natural world all constitute 'home'.

This becomes clear as he speaks about his career as a vicar, bishop and campaigner for the environment, as well as his work for the National Churches Trust (NCT). He was a trustee from 2008 to 2016, and chaired the grants committee for much of that time. He relished this last role as a way of learning about the activities of churches all over the UK and to do significant good by helping them to realise their ambitions.

"The key thing is having people who are thoughtful, prayerful, and committed to the use of the building for the purposes of the Kingdom of God," he says.

Purposes plural? "Absolutely! The best churches have a sense of serving others, of serving the whole community. Rural churches can be really useful meeting places and they need kitchens and toilets. That is where the National Churches Trust is really good."

The heart of parish life

Salisbury is a largely rural diocese covering most of Dorset and Wiltshire and Bishop Nicholas mentions projects that place churches at the heart of parish life. Two, Donhead St Andrew, Dorset, and the Grade I listed Abbey Church of St Mary and St Melor in Amesbury, Wiltshire, have benefited from NCT grants. There is St Peter's, West Nighton too, near Dorchester, also Grade I, transformed by a legacy of more than £100,000 in what the bishop calls a really successful bit of reordering.

Professional fundraisers

"There is a place for professional fundraisers particularly with the bigger projects. They have considerable insight, experience, and knowledge, but most churches fundraise off the back of their own communities. Sometimes they want a bit of advice. Maybe the archdeacon or a diocesan advisor can help, or someone who lives in the parish and can gather people together to make a project work. At Donhead St Andrew there was a person who galvanised an entire community."

*Tourists sitting on the steps outside St Martin in the Fields,
London, England*





© John Bradshaw / Alamy Stock Photo

St Nicholas Church, Moreton, Dorset

His own £36 million refurbishment of St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square came about when he was vicar of the parish from 1995 to 2011. He calls the project “a lovely mix of church, charity and commerce”. It included major restoration of the church; a centre to support the homeless; a community centre for the long-established Chinese congregation; rehearsal rooms, bookshop, popular crypt café and much else besides.

“It’s an interesting church with the whole social width - the Royal Parish Church and the church for those who are homeless. It’s a church where everyone can find their place. That’s how any parish church ought to work. A parish is literally the people gathered around the house, from the Greek word *paroichia* from which we get *parochial*.”

Bishop Nicholas was, from 2014 until his retirement, Chair of the Church of England’s Environmental Working Group and lead bishop for Environmental Affairs. A high point came in 2020, when the General Synod voted for a target of net zero emissions across the Church by 2030. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has said this will be his legacy along with the Church’s first ever Green Lent campaign, and initiatives aimed at helping parishes reduce their carbon footprint.

Holtam was greatly inspired by Pope Francis’s encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si* and especially the Pope’s designation of the earth as “our common home”. He echoes Francis’s call for a spiritual revolution in which people stop being consumers and become co-creators with God in building a sustainable future.

The bishop believes Anglican churches are listening, with over 3,000 registered with Eco Church, a scheme that invites them to collect points towards bronze, silver or gold awards based on how they care for the earth in areas of their life and work. Salisbury Cathedral has a silver award achieved, in part, by the installation of 93 solar panels on the roof of the South Cloister, fortunately not visible from the ground.

Support for churches

The same sense of Christian solidarity characterises Holtam’s thoughts about the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, even if the scale of the crisis has sometimes felt overwhelming. He acknowledges government help for larger churches and cathedrals via the Culture Recovery Fund, and wants similar support for smaller churches.

“It’s magnificent the way communities have cared for their churches,” he says, “but coming out of the pandemic I am worried about the burden being placed on them. Churches are public buildings and part of the heritage of the country. There needs to be public money devoted to them.”

An enthusiastic church-crawler since childhood, he says Salisbury has many “fantastic” churches. Asked to name a favourite, he settles on St Nicholas, Moreton, Dorset (pictured left), an early Gothic Revival church featuring 13 unusual engraved glass windows executed by Sir Laurence Whistler between 1955 and 1985.

“It’s that mix of contemporary and ancient that is so wonderful,” he says. The recollection has struck a chord and he goes on to describe three contemporary artworks in Salisbury Cathedral that, by pure chance, brilliantly interpret the building between them.

The first is William Pye’s font (pictured below), its cross-shaped bowl overflowing with water and the surface reflecting a view of the cathedral from west to east. Then Gabriel Loire’s window at the east end, in Chartres blue, peopled by figures from the Passion and contemporary prisoners of conscience. Its theme, says Bishop Nicholas is the vision of what God does for humanity in Isaiah (61:1) that begins “The spirit of the Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor”.

Finally, outside, Elizabeth Frink’s *Walking Madonna* strides away from her cathedral and into the city. Like the bishop, she is going from one home to another.



© Chris Beard Images / Alamy Stock Photo

The great west, stained glass window reflected in the Infinity Font at Salisbury Cathedral, Wiltshire.

"It always needs something doing."

The Reverend M Cox cleaning windows in Swanscombe, Kent. 1937

From raising money to repair a stolen lead roof to dealing with blocked drains, keeping churches in good repair presents many challenges. Catherine Pepinster meets some of the clergy on the front line of looking after the UK's churches to find out whether they find their buildings a blessing or a burden.



Catherine Pepinster is a writer and broadcaster. She was the editor of the Catholic weekly, *The Tablet*, for 13 years. She is a Trustee of the National Churches Trust.

Think of someone considering they have a calling to the priesthood. Why might they believe they have a vocation? Because they love God and want to serve him? They want to serve people? They want to make a difference to the community?

It's unlikely to be about coping with repairs to stonework, or finding it satisfying to install a new damp proof course. Or even raising money to replace a stolen lead roof, or trying to balance the books. Yet for most ministers, a sizeable part of their lives is taken up with their church buildings, their maintenance, and finding the money to look after them.

St Silas, a substantial Victorian Gothic Revival church in Blackburn, Lancashire, first opened in 1904 to serve a rapidly growing population employed in the cotton mills. But over the years the mills have closed and the congregation has dwindled. While the church can accommodate 400 people for a service, it has around 40-45 on a Sunday morning.

Its vicar, the Revd Sheelagh Aston (pictured below), developed plans during lockdown to make more community use of the building in the future, such as using the narthex for a lunch club and for art classes. Aston and her parishioners have also decided to convert the former parish rooms into housing for the homeless. In 2020 they were awarded a £5,800 National Churches Trust towards a feasibility study to identify local needs in order to create a community hub and accommodation.



But unless the building is kept in good order, both its spiritual and community roles would be in jeopardy.

"It's a very good, Grade II listed building, big and airy with lots of features including windows by William Morris," says Aston. "There are activities that we would like to bring into the church but it does have to be

fit for purpose".

The building is a huge asset

Coming into ministry, Aston recalls, was all about people, for her, and looking after the building can be a real burden. "If something goes wrong, you have to pay for it. And there's always heating and lighting and you're having to find substantial sums of money. But having said that, the building is a huge asset too".

Helpful advice

The diocesan advisory committee (DAC) of the Diocese of Ely gave Reed plenty of helpful advice on her church buildings, including their re-ordering. Many DACs not only offer advice but also provide training which has expanded online in the past year. The Diocese of Leeds, for example, offers courses on preserving a heritage building, developing a maintenance plan and environmental sustainability.

Often, those responsible for church buildings have to reimagine how they can be used today to secure their future. In Swansea, the Revd Jill Hailey-Harries is responsible for three churches, one of which is the huge Tabernacle, Morriston, Swansea, with its rich history of both worship and choral music. The Tabernacle Morriston Choir is one of the most celebrated of Welsh choirs and has Bryn Terfel as its president.

At its peak in 1910, more than 1,000 people worshipped together at Morriston but today the congregation numbers 144 and the cost of maintaining the Grade I listed building is too great a burden for them. Now Hailey-Harries and her team are using Welsh Government funds to study how they can reconfigure the vestry as a communal space, while a heritage trust will become the custodian of the building.



St Oswalds Church Filey North Yorkshire

© MSRF / Alamy Stock Photo



© Annette Reed

Canon Annette Reed is in charge of four churches

That was brought home to Aston during lockdown when services could not take place in the church and they had to be livestreamed. "There was a disconnect with people when we had to use Zoom", she recalls. "People were longing to come to the altar together. The church building is our spiritual home and it's about being together in one place in the presence of God."

In East Anglia, Canon Annette Reed was experiencing a similar sense of loss among local people when the churches under her care were locked during the pandemic. Reed is vicar of four different churches: Holy Trinity, a Saxon church in Great Paxton; St James, in Little Paxton; St Leonard's, Southoe, where there is a service once a month, and St Lawrence, Diddington, a church serving estate workers again with a once-a-month Sunday service.

That sense of history is particularly strong in Holy Trinity Church, Great Paxton, with its tradition of Christian worship stretching back 1,000 years. Reed has had the pews removed in the church and is now applying to do the same in St Leonard's, Southoe, although removals of this kind often attract the ire of local people. In St James', Little Paxton, handmade oak chairs have enabled the church to be a more flexible space.

"For me, my role as vicar is about both the people and the buildings," says Reed, "and I want the buildings to have a future. We have to find ways of using the churches and if they closed that would be very distressing. We have to be like farmers who diversify".

Diversifying means keeping the church buildings connected to the wider community. But Reed has discovered that getting people interested in the building itself can also lead to pastoral involvement with them.

"Sometimes I've started with a meeting about the building but it spins off into conversations about people's lives. They can be really meaningful encounters; the pay off is huge".

Hailey-Harries acknowledges the grandeur of the tabernacle's interior but, she says, "In days of dwindling congregations, the need for more flexible and innovative forms of worship, its size, formality and the restrictions imposed by its listing make it less than ideal for the needs of today".

Love and care

However much the clergy try to learn about maintenance, everything cannot be planned for. In January 2020, Canon Charles Patrick, who is responsible for the Horncastle Group of seven churches in Lincolnshire, faced the most dramatic day of his time in the benefice when the tower of St John the Baptist, High Tooton, collapsed suddenly one Sunday morning. Fortunately nobody was injured but the collapse left a gaping hole in the church, which had been rebuilt by Ewan Christian in 1872, and replaced the original 13th-century building.

According to Canon Patrick, even before the collapse, the church was "a Forth Bridge job; it always need something doing". St John the Baptist, which was previously used as a "festival" church – for Christmas, Easter and other major feast days – is now closed, and consultants and surveyors are advising the parish on the building's future and applications for grants.



© Linda Patrick

Revd Canon Charles Patrick and Andrew Bunker, verger of St Mary's, Horncastle carrying out a monthly maintenance check.

Canon Patrick is used to responsibility for many buildings at one time – his previous benefice had 15 churches with many of them used as festival churches – but he finds the combination of people and the actual buildings stops the responsibility from being overwhelming.

"The responsibility of doing what is right to protect these churches into the future could weigh you down. Yet as Rector, I am guardian of my churches. Each day I ensure their doors are open so they can be a place of solace, offering guidance, prayer and compassion to all who need it. Yet the buildings all need love and care. Each one is different with different problems to address."

Tradition and history

In the heart of one of London's most fashionable shopping areas, Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, was described by Poet Laureate, John Betjeman, as "the cathedral of the arts and crafts movement", and any visitor to the Grade I listed church, with its stained glass windows designed by Edward Burne-Jones, can see why.

The Revd Fergus Butler-Gallie, its Assistant Priest, finds the church, embodying a Victorian vision of heaven, particularly uplifting. "People come to know God here because of the built environment – the way the light refracts and the glass and the tracery are all inspiring".

"It's a building where you feel tradition and history", he says. Responsibility for keeping that tradition going lies with the clergy. Their predecessors fought plans by the Church of England in the 1970s and 1990s to close down Holy Trinity as unviable due to a declining congregation, and were helped by Betjeman and others who recognised the church's historical and aesthetic importance.

The congregation has since grown again, with people from beyond Chelsea drawn to the church's architecture and its fine acoustics, while the local population is now more diverse, with hotel and domestic staff among the worshippers.

The church staff now includes a full-time facilities manager who looks after the building, enabling the clergy to focus on more pastoral matters. But the building is part of that pastoral mission too.

Custodian of a place of beauty

For some parishes, their church buildings are a constant challenge as even basic repairs can involve scaffolding and other expensive outlays. One such church is the Roman Catholic Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Gorseinon, near Swansea which was chosen by author Elena Curti in her recently published volume, 'Fifty Catholic Churches To See Before You Die'.

The Blessed Sacrament is a remarkable 1960s building, designed by local architect Robert Robinson as a 14 sided gabled building with a hall below and the church on the upper floor. The circular metal roof matches the building below with 14 steel ribs and a 14 sided glazed lantern – the shape of the church reflecting the ideals of the Second Vatican Council which brought priest and people closer together.

But 54 years after its opening, the Blessed Sacrament Church is causing the current parish priest, Fr John Paul Thomas, and his congregation, a great deal of distress. In the 1980s the building had to be rescued from subsidence and since then there have been other problems to deal with, from trying to make it waterproof and repairing cracked windows. Just gaining access to the highest levels of the church is costly for it always requires scaffolding.

“The overriding problem is funding”, says Fr John Paul. “It is practically impossible to maintain in terms of the time it takes up and the money”.

Financial problems have been made more acute by the trustees of Menevia Diocese deciding that social clubs

attached to churches should be closed; before, the Blessed Sacrament’s club provided £12,000 in revenue. Now Fr John Paul is looking for tenants who might take over the church hall to help restore some funding and is hoping other organisations might help with grants towards repairs.

But for all its problems, the church is much loved by Fr John Paul and his congregation. The circular building, he says, makes it a very inclusive place to worship. “It offers a natural atmosphere for prayer,” he says. “It is a very beautiful place”.

Being a custodian of a place of beauty is for Fr John Paul and so many priests, a sometimes onerous responsibility. But it is also a great privilege.

Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square, London



Historic Churches: 'to live is to change'



Nigel Walter is a Specialist Conservation Architect helping church communities change their historic buildings to better fit their shared life. He is a member of the

Church Buildings Council and author of *Buildings for Mission* (Canterbury, 2015) and *Narrative Theory in Conservation* (Routledge, 2020).

www.archangelarchitects.co.uk

by Nigel Walter

Our understanding of 'what a church is good for' is not a static thing; it has shifted in the past, and we can see it doing so again today, not least in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. After some two centuries of treating churches as exclusively religious buildings – with the attendant need to move those 'messy' community activities into separate church/village halls – the pendulum is swinging back to seeing church buildings themselves as 'open for all', as hubs for their local community.

Potential change

That shift of understanding involves multiple dimensions of change. First, there are changes of use, with churches accommodating a much wider range of community activities – such as cafés, food banks, post offices, and indeed vaccination centres. Second, those changes often entail changes of *mindset*, whether for those inside a church community, those in the wider local community or those from further afield (including heritage professionals like myself). Third, those changing patterns of use can also be expected to bring *physical change* to the buildings themselves.

But how do we recognise 'good' change? As human beings, we grow and change through our lives yet remain recognisably the same person, even though the physical



Church of St Leonard, Southoe

© Nigel Walter

material of our bodies is renewed every few years. We are also story-telling creatures, and we typically use narrative to account for our continuity of identity through time.

Church buildings as narratives

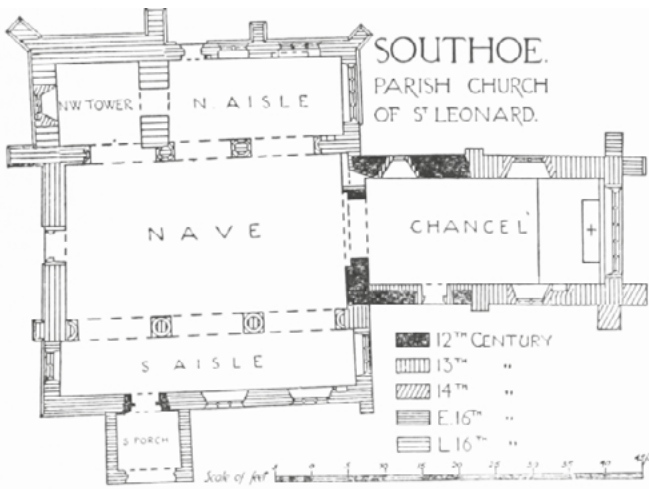
Similarly, a narrative approach to church buildings understands that they will already have changed multiple times, with the exceptions proving the rule. The coherence of their resulting 'biography' derives from the substantial continuity of the building's 'story', with each 'chapter' having typically added to and developed its character, not destroyed it.

'Living buildings' are generally defined as those which continue in use, particularly the use for which they were originally built. Our churches are perhaps the preeminent example. They will often have survived multiple episodes of change; but more than that, many owe their very survival to having adapted to changing needs and circumstances.

Further, the richness of their character is precisely the collective product of this varied history of change. The task for heritage professionals is, therefore, not how to frustrate change, but how to change these fantastic buildings well, that is, in ways that enhance rather than detract from what makes them special in the first place, while still retaining their original purpose as places of worship. Too little change and the building will die – too much and it will lose its value.



Church of St Nicholas, Great Wilbraham – the ringing gallery in use



Plan of the Church of St Leonard, Southoe, showing its phases of development

Rather than treating church buildings as finished artworks, as we have tended to, I suggest it is healthier to see them as unfinished and continuing narratives that are:

- intergenerational – seeing the past in dialogue with the present;
- communal – created by and in turn creating a coherent community across time; and
- ongoing – accepting that those who follow will add further chapters to the story.

People and place

If change is in the nature of church buildings, then arbitrarily preventing change does violence to them. Our concern should be focused on the intimate relation between the physicality of historic buildings and the communities whose activity sustains them, the binding together of people and place. Where an approach based on art history sees change as negative and subtractive, the narrative approach regards it as natural to their life, and (potentially at least) positive.

Clearly, not all change is good; the issue – difficult for us to grasp as children of modernity – is how creativity works within tradition. John Henry Newman said (of church history) that ‘to live is to change’. But more than simply acknowledging that living things change, he went on ‘... and to be perfect is to have changed often’. Appropriate change in a tradition is proof of its vitality, and should be celebrated, not grudgingly conceded. So too with change to traditional buildings.

To give just one example – and a previous recipient of an National Churches Trust repair grant – the Church of Saint Nicholas, Great Wilbraham is a building of medieval origin with Victorian alterations. A recent scheme added a toilet and kitchen in the base of the west tower, with a new open gallery above for bell-ringers, and the limited removal of pews to create a gathering space at the rear.

The recent changes are unmistakably of their age, with modern detailing to the oak and glass. In narrative terms, the works comprise a distinct chapter in the ongoing story of the building, but one that works with the grain of that story to date. Practically, the changes enable the building to host more events (including with catering), bringing broader community uses back into the building. We see this as a return to the medieval understanding of the parish church as the hub of its community.

Reaping the benefits

To treat church buildings as narratives is transformative. One major benefit is that this approach appeals to people of all ages and backgrounds – after all, ‘everyone loves a good story’. Narrative creates community, and the narrative approach helps reach across demographic divides to engage groups often less connected with church heritage, such as the young and those of other faiths.

There are three key aspects of the narrative approach, as it applies to the living heritage of church buildings, which helps them play a positive role in our contemporary setting:

- first, narrative accounts for continuity across time, which is essential to any active tradition;
- second, it helps us see historic buildings as paused mid-narrative rather than as completed art objects, thus allowing scope for the creativity of present and future generations;
- third, because it’s their story, it allows a voice for (and ownership by) the community, not just heritage experts like myself.

In these ways, narrative makes sense of ‘what a church is good for’, helping us see that the stories of these buildings are constantly evolving (if only we will let them). It treats them seriously as ‘objects of tradition’, while also supporting one of the National Churches Trust’s key charitable aims, to enable the UK’s church buildings to serve their local communities, now and long into the future.



Church of St Nicholas, Great Wilbraham – view from the ringing gallery

Financial Summary, grants and acknowledgements

The ceiling of St Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen.

From our Chief Executive



The charity sector, like so many other areas of national life, has had to face major challenges in 2020 because of Covid-19. Some organisations have been overwhelmed with the demand for their services. Others have faced major financial challenges caused by the difficulty of fundraising and generating income during the lockdowns.

Church buildings have also been seriously affected by Covid-19. Many have been closed for long periods of time and congregations have been unable to use them for worship and in some cases repair and maintenance projects have been put on hold.

As the year closed, it was therefore such a boost of confidence to all of us at the National Churches Trust that 2020 had seen 1,344 people join us as Friends, a record number of new supporters.

Some joined us because churches provide spiritual solace, others because of their architecture and history. For some, churches provide a link to family memories, while for others they are essential places that help society and bring local people together.

Through their support, Friends help us to continue our work of ensuring that the heritage of some of the UK's most important historic buildings can be there for future generations to use and enjoy, making it possible for churches and chapels to carry on being Houses of Good, providing vital support to communities.

In this way, as Arthur Johnson, one of our Friends, put it: "The National Churches Trust is clearly a good news story."

Four key priorities

2021 marks the mid point of our five year strategy, Building Resilience. In 2020 we refined our strategy to focus on the two main goals of sustaining church buildings and inspiring support for church buildings. This will allow us to better support places of worship through four key priorities:

- Ensuring church buildings are in good condition
- Encouraging and supporting communities
- Campaigning for church buildings
- Helping people value and enjoy church buildings.

We also took the decision to start a programme of digital transformation, with a plan to update our systems so that we are better placed to grow our work and to make the most of new opportunities, including giving a higher profile to our church tourism and visitor work.

A friendly voice

The churches we help and our Friends and supporters greatly value the 'human touch' we bring to our work. Rest assured that we will not be replacing people with robots or a friendly voice with automated speech. Nor will we be phasing out our printed publications, which I know are much valued.

Of course, many of you already find out about our work on social media and via our e-newsletters. Sharing our news and information in this way makes it easy to communicate with both new and existing supporters and became even more important during the lockdowns.

Churches remain perhaps the most important part of our national heritage and are places where people work together to help others. Together, let's make sure they remain at the heart of the communities for which they were built – and can continue to play an integral part in our national life for all of us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Claire Walker".

About the National Churches Trust

Our mission and vision

Our mission is to help keep the UK's wonderful collection of church buildings well maintained, valued and used.

Our vision is that church buildings across the UK are well maintained, open to everyone, sustainable and valued.

Structure of the National Churches Trust

The National Churches Trust is a registered charity and is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. It is the successor to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust and the Incorporated Church Building Society. The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees who are appointed by the Trust's joint presidents, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. Trustees are appointed for an initial term of five years which can be renewed once for a further five years.

Financial summary

Financial resources

Excluding endowments, the funds of the National Churches Trust amounted to £3.5m at the end of 2020 (compared to £4m at the end of 2019). Of this, £2.7m can be used without restriction on any of the Trust's activities and objectives. Unrestricted reserves are important as they provide flexibility to maintain activities in the event of fluctuations in income. The other restricted funds of the Trust, totalling £0.8m, are held to be used in accordance with the wishes of the donors to maintain and enhance churches in general or particular classes of churches. The Trust had endowment funds of £2.5m at the end of 2020.

Spending in 2020

The Trust awarded £1.7m in grants from its own funds in 2020. Total expenditure increased by £0.4m in 2020, reflecting the increase in grants awarded.

	Spending £000s
National Churches Trust Grants to maintain and enhance church buildings*	1,608
Other spending to maintain and enhance church buildings	371
Promoting the benefit of church buildings and inspiring everyone to value and enjoy them	254
Fundraising	324
Services to churches and other heritage buildings	216

*Grants awarded during 2020 less previous awards not claimed of £72,000.
In addition the Trust recommended grants of £38,000 awarded by other charities.

Total 2,773

Where the money came from

Total income decreased by £650,00 in 2020 compared to 2019 with an increase in grants and donations offset by a significant reduction in legacy income and lower gains on investments.

	Where the money came from £000s
Trusts and Foundations	1,134
Support from Friends and other donations	454
Legacies	159
Investment returns & other income	613

Total 2,360

The Financial Summary above does not comprise the full statutory accounts of the National Churches Trust and is a summary of selected financial information. Our full Financial Statements for 2020 are available on request.
Please email: info@nationalchurchestrust.org

We awarded or recommended 259 grants in 2020,

Cornerstone Grants

Aberdeen, Cathedral Church of St Machar, Scotland	£10,000
Berkshire, Leckhampstead, St James	£2,500
Berkshire, Leckhampstead, St James	£5,000
Berkshire, Woolhampton, St Peter	£15,000
Birmingham, Quinton, St Boniface	£7,000
Bristol, Stapleton, Holy Trinity	£15,000
Caerphilly, Newbridge, Our Lady of Peace, Wales	£10,000
Ceredigion, Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn, St Michael, Wales	£15,000
Cheshire, Bosley, St Mary the Virgin	£15,000
Cheshire, Kelsall, St Philip	£15,000
Cheshire, Widnes, St Paul	£15,000
City of Glasgow, Carntyne, High Carntyne Church, Scotland	£10,000
Co Armagh, Loughgall, St Luke, N Ireland	£15,000
Co Tyrone, Fivemiletown, Kiltermon Church, N Ireland	£10,000
Cumbria, Workington, Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Michael	£10,000
Derbyshire, Edale, Edale Methodist Chapel	£8,000
Durham, Winston, St Andrew	£15,000
Gloucestershire, Olveston, St Mary the Virgin	£20,000
Hampshire, Appleshaw, St Peter-in-the-Wood	£5,000
Herefordshire, Brampton Bryan, St Barnabas	£10,000
Herefordshire, Withington, St Peter	£14,000
Hertfordshire, Sacombe, St Catherine	£10,000
Inverclyde, Port Glasgow, St Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church	£15,000
Kent, Willesborough, St Mary the Virgin	£10,000
Lancashire, Lancaster, Priory and Parish Church of St Mary	£13,000
Leicestershire, Loughborough, All Saints	£10,000
Lincolnshire, Algarkirk, St Peter and St Paul	£40,000
Lincolnshire, Scrivelsby, St Benedict	£12,000
London, Highbury, Christ Church	£10,000
London, Shepherds Bush, St Stephen and St Thomas	£10,000
London, Smithfield, St Bartholomew the Great	£10,000
London, Streatham Hill, St Margaret the Queen	£8,000
Manchester, Holy Name of Jesus	£15,000
Monmouthshire, Tintern, St Michael	£20,000
Newcastle Upon Tyne, Newcastle, St Luke	£15,000
Norfolk, Caston, Holy Cross	£10,000
Norfolk, Docking, St Mary	£5,000
Norfolk, Ludham, St Catherine	£10,000
Norfolk, North Tuddenham, St Mary the Virgin	£30,000
Norfolk, Paston, St Margaret	£10,000
Norfolk, Thurning, St Andrew	£15,000
Northamptonshire, Stowe, St Michael	£10,000
Northumberland, Alnwick, St Michael	£10,000
Nottinghamshire, Eaton, All Saints	£10,000
Oxfordshire, Clifton Hampden, St Michael and All Angels	£10,000
Pembrokeshire, Nevern, St Brynach	£15,000
Powys, Churchstoke, St Nicholas	£2,500
Shropshire, Upton Magna, St Lucia	£10,000
Somerset, Castle Cary, All Saints	£15,000
Somerset, Isle Brewers, All Saints	£5,000
Staffordshire, Stoke on Trent, All Saints	£7,000
Suffolk, Bentley, St Mary	£10,000
Suffolk, Dallinghoo, St Mary	£15,000
Suffolk, Ipswich, Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House	£40,000
Sussex, Hove, All Saints	£40,000
Warwickshire, Ratley, St Peter Ad Vincula	£8,000
Wiltshire, Amesbury, St Mary and St Melor	£30,000
Wiltshire, Kingston St Michael, St Michael and All Angels	£10,000
Worcestershire, Severn Stoke, St Denys	£10,000
Yorkshire, Doncaster, St George	£20,000
Yorkshire, Fulford, St Oswald	£10,000
Yorkshire, Hull, Hull Minster	£40,000
Yorkshire, Selby, Selby Abbey	£25,000
Yorkshire, Skelbrooke, St Michael and All Angels	£8,000
Yorkshire, York, Pavement, All Saints	£10,000

Gateway

Argyll, Lochgilphead, Lochgilphead Parish Church, Scotland	£8,000
Cambridgeshire, Southoe, St Leonard	£1,500
Cheshire, Chester, St John The Baptist	£5,000
Co Antrim, Belfast, Mount Merrion Parish Church, N Ireland	£2,600
Cornwall, South Hill, St Sampson	£4,000
Cornwall, St Neot, St Anietus	£10,000
Gloucestershire, Gloucester, St James And All Saints	£7,000
Gloucestershire, Highnam, Church of the Holy Innocents	£5,000
Hertfordshire, Abbots Langley, St Lawrence The Martyr	£3,400
Hertfordshire, Croydon Cum Clopton, All Saints	£3,600
Lancashire, Blackburn, St Silas	£4,500
Lancashire, Preston, St Michael and All Angels	£9,500
Leicestershire, Castle Donnington, St Edward King & Martyr	£5,000
Leicestershire, Thornton, St Peter	£6,900
Lincolnshire, Braceby, St Margaret	£7,000
Lincolnshire, Hough on The Hill, All Saints	£8,000
London, Barnsbury, St Andrew	£5,000
London, Belmont, St John	£5,000
London, Bow Common, St Paul	£3,950
London, Enfield, St John The Baptist	£5,000
London, Ladbroke Grove, St Michael and All Angels	£6,000
London, St Pancras, St Pancras Old Church	£5,000
London, Westminster, St Mary Le Strand	£6,000
Manchester, Salford, Sacred Trinity	£5,945
Newport, Bishton, St Cadwaladr, Wales	£1,175
Norfolk, Bracon Ash, St Nicholas	£7,000
Norfolk, Breckles, St Margaret	£3,000
Norfolk, Harpley, St Lawrence	£7,000
Norfolk, Wellingham, St Andrew	£5,000
North Lanarkshire, Motherwell, Dalziel St Andrew, Scotland	£5,000
Northumberland, Hexham, Hexham Abbey	£3,000
Nottinghamshire, Nottingham, St Saviours in the Meadows	£9,200
Powys, Newtown, All Saints	£8,000
Rutland, Stretton, St Nicholas	£6,000
Stirlingshire, Falkirk, Christ Church, Scotland	£6,000
Suffolk, Blaxhall, St Peter	£6,500
Suffolk, Hartest, All Saints	£8,000
Sussex, Old Heathfield, All Saints	£5,000
Sussex, Plaistow, Holy Trinity	£5,000
Warwickshire, Kineton, St Peter	£3,000
Warwickshire, Stoke Golding, St Margaret of Antioch	£7,000
Wiltshire, Lyneham, St Michael's and All Angels	£8,000
Yorkshire, Brafferton, St Peter	£7,000
Yorkshire, Burythorpe, All Saints	£7,000
Yorkshire, Halifax, Shelf, Bethel Chapel Independent Methodist	£9,900
Yorkshire, Horton, All Saints	£8,000
Yorkshire, Hull, St Mary The Virgin	£7,000
Yorkshire, Pontefract, St Giles	£4,000
Yorkshire, Sheffield, Ranmoor, St John the Evangelist	£6,000
Yorkshire, Slingsby, Slingsby Methodist Church	£6,000
Yorkshire, Wawne, St Peter	£3,000

Foundation and Preventative Maintenance Micro Grants

Bedfordshire, Shillington, All Saints Church	£4,875
Bedfordshire, Slapton, Holy Cross	£7,986
Berkshire, Furze Platt, St Peter	£2,453
Berkshire, Kidmore End, St John the Baptist	£1,580
Berkshire, Shaw Cum Donnington, St Mary	£893
Birmingham, Aston, St Peter and St Paul	£4,244
Birmingham, Hall Green United Community Church	£1,375
Birmingham, St Paul in the Jewellery Quarter	£4,450
Bristol, Lawrence Weston, St Peter	£2,047
Buckinghamshire, Buckland, All Saints	£4,820
Caerphilly, Rhymney, Peniel Baptist Church, Wales	£1,640
Cambridgeshire, Great Paxton, Holy Trinity	£1,964

totalling £1,718,419

Cambridgeshire, Soham, St Andrew	£585
Cambridgeshire, Somersham, St John the Baptist	£5,000
Cardiff, Urban Crofters Church	£1,125
Cheshire, New Ferry, St John the Evangelist	£4,149
Cheshire, Walton, St John the Evangelist	£3,700
Co Antrim, Ballymena, West Church, 3rd Ballymena Presbyterian Church	£3,700
Co Antrim, Giffnock, Orchardhill Parish Church	£9,500
Co Armagh, Armagh, St Malachy, N Ireland	£2,075
Co Armagh, Armagh, The Mall Presbyterian Church, N Ireland	£2,725
Co Down, Conlig, Conlig Presbyterian Church, N Ireland	£2,975
Co Down, Newtonards, St Patrick, N Ireland	£2,025
Conwy, Llandudno, St Paul, Wales	£4,887
Cornwall, Lelant, St Uny	£2,255
Cornwall, North Petherwin, St Paternus	£2,220
Cornwall, South Hill, St Sampson	£130
Cumbria, Ambleside, St Mary	£2,792
Cumbria, Gamblesby, Methodist Church	£4,250
Denbighshire, Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, St Peter, Wales	£4,950
Denbighshire, St Asaph, St Asaph and St Kentigern	£2,650
Devon, Kingsbridge, St Edmund King and Martyr	£3,880
Devon, Plymouth, St Jude	£2,493
Dumfries and Galloway, New Galloway, St Margaret's Episcopal Church	£4,500
Essex, Ashen, St Augustine	£778
Gloucestershire, Dumbleton, St Peter	£1,100
Gloucestershire, Rodmarton, St Peter	£5,000
Gloucestershire, Todenham, St Thomas of Canterbury	£6,000
Gloucestershire, Wick, St Bartholomew	£4,000
Hampshire & The Isle of Wight, Shedfield, St John the Baptist	£5,000
Hertfordshire, Langleybury, St Paul	£1,220
Lancashire, Preston, St Walburge	£3,160
Leicestershire, Thurlaston, All Saints	£362
Lincolnshire, Grimsby, Grimsby Minster	£1,710
Lincolnshire, Hameringham, All Saints	£5,000
Lincolnshire, Hemingby, St Margaret	£2,700
Lincolnshire, Hemingby, St Margaret	£3,000
Lincolnshire, West Allington, Holy Trinity	£2,900
London, Camberwell, Christ Church	£1,480
London, Clapham Park, All Saints	£5,000
London, East Dulwich, St John the Evangelist	£2,597
London, Mottingham, St Edward the Confessor	£5,000
Manchester, Chadderton, St Matthew	£880
Manchester, Newton Heath, All Saints	£900
Northamptonshire, Warmington, St Mary the Blessed Virgin	£925
Nottinghamshire, Nottingham, Bilborough, St John	£2,579
Nottinghamshire, Tollerton, St Peter	£5,000
Rutland, Oakham, All Saints	£345
Rutland, Oakham, All Saints	£3,625
Shropshire, Mainstone, St John the Baptist	£4,171
Shropshire, Newport, St Peter and St Paul	£3,425
Somerset, Axbridge, Church of St John the Baptist	£1,757
Somerset, Kingsdon, All Saints	£500
Somerset, Nynhead, All Saints	£4,974
Suffolk, Creting St Peter, St Peter	£1,250
Sussex, Falmer, St Laurence	£421
Sussex, Haywards Heath, St Richard	£9,000
Sussex, Ore, St Helen	£3,995
Sussex, Waldron, All Saints	£187
Warwickshire, Hartshill, Holy Trinity	£375
Warwickshire, Lillington, St Mary Magdalene	£387
Warwickshire, Whichford, St Michael's	£1,774
West Midlands, Hamstead, St Paul	£380
West Midlands, Stourbridge, St Thomas	£2,500
West Midlands, Tyseley, St Edmund	£1,150
West Midlands, Walmley, St John the Evangelist	£3,567
Wiltshire, Heytesbury, St Peter and St Paul	£684
Worcestershire, Little Witley, St Michael and All Angels	£3,453
Yorkshire, Bradford, St Peter	£2,625
Yorkshire, Bramley, St Peter	£3,900
Yorkshire, Burlington, St John's Methodist Church	£1,318
Yorkshire, Cullingworth, St John the Evangelist	£1,500

Yorkshire, Filey, St Oswald	£4,460
Yorkshire, Ireland Wood, St Paul	£3,500
Yorkshire, Kirby Misperton, St Laurence	£3,993
Yorkshire, Leeds, All Souls	£4,000
Yorkshire, Leeds, Lofthouse, Christ Church	£400
Yorkshire, Middleton Tyas, St Michael and All Angels	£5,000
Yorkshire, Mount Pellon, Christ Church	£1,429
Yorkshire, Thorney, St Peter	£1,440
Yorkshire, Wakefield, St John the Baptist	£4,720
Yorkshire, Womersley, St Martin	£2,500
Yorkshire, Woodhall, St James the Great	£860

Wolfson Fabric Repair Grants recommended

Buckinghamshire, Cheddington, St Giles	£5,000
Caerphilly, Newbridge, Our Lady of Peace, Wales	£10,000
Cambridgeshire, Little Wilbraham, St John the Evangelist	£5,000
Ceredigion, Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn, St Michael, Wales	£7,000
Cheshire, Chester, St John the Baptist	£7,500
City of Glasgow, Carntyne, High Carntyne Church, Scotland	£7,500
Co Tyrone, Augher, St Macartans, N Ireland	£2,500
Co Tyrone, Strabane, Church of the Immaculate Conception	£2,500
Cornwall, South Hill, St Sampson	£5,000
Durham, Brancepeth, St Brandon	£7,000
Durham, Winston, St Andrew	£7,000
Gloucestershire, Willersey, St Peter	£5,000
Herefordshire, Brampton Bryan, St Barnabas	£4,000
Hertfordshire, Abbots Langley, St Lawrence the Martyr	£3,500
Hertfordshire, Croxdon Cum Clopton, All Saints	£3,500
Leicestershire, Castle Donnington, St Edward King and Martyr	£5,000
Leicestershire, Harston, St Michael and All Angels	£7,000
Leicestershire, Loughborough, All Saints	£4,500
Lincolnshire, Scrivelsby, St Benedict	£4,500
London, St Pancras, St Pancras Old Church	£5,000
Manchester, Holy Name of Jesus	£10,000
Norfolk, Bracon Ash, St Nicholas	£3,000
Norfolk, Harpley, St Lawrence	£5,000
Norfolk, North Tuddenham, St Mary the Virgin	£10,000
Northamptonshire, Nether Heyford, St Peter and St Paul	£5,000
Oxfordshire, Spelsbury, All Saints	£5,000
Suffolk, Blaxhall, St Peter	£5,000
Suffolk, Hartest, All Saints	£5,000
Sussex, Cuckfield, Holy Trinity	£5,000
Warwickshire, Stoke Golding, St Margaret of Antioch	£3,000
Worcestershire, Ratley, St Peter Ad Vincula	£5,000
Yorkshire, Brafferton, St Peter	£5,000
Yorkshire, Horton, All Saints	£8,000
Yorkshire, Hull, Hull Minster	£10,000
Yorkshire, Pontefract, St Giles	£8,000

Treasure Ireland Grants

Co Antrim, Belfast, St Peter, N Ireland	£2,825
Co Armagh, Waringstown, Presbyterian Church, N Ireland	£4,722
Co Down, Newtownbreda, Baptist Church, N Ireland	£1,547
Co Tyrone, Augher, St Macartans, N Ireland	£7,500
Co Tyrone, Clanabogan, Parish Church, N Ireland	£3,406
Co Tyrone, Omagh, St Patrick	£2,500
Co Tyrone, Strabane, Church of the Immaculate Conception	£7,500

Other Grants recommended

Leicestershire, Thorpe Arnold, St Mary the Virgin	£5,000
Lincolnshire, Broughton, St Mary	£5,000
Norfolk, Old Buckenham, All Saints	£5,000
Norfolk, Thurning, St Andrew	£3,000
Suffolk, Cavendish, St Mary the Virgin	£5,000
Sussex, Pagham, St Thomas A Becket	£5,000
Sussex, Patcham, All Saints	£5,000
Worcestershire, Norton Juxta Kempsey, St James the Great	£5,000

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Full details at www.nationalchurchestrust.org/ptd. To join the Professional Trades Directory please email professionaltrades@nationalchurchestrust.org

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Charity Number

1119845

The Luke Trust

1000550

Company Numbers

NCT: 06265201 (England and Wales)
NCT Heritage Services Ltd: 11194504 (England and Wales)

Principal Address and Registered Office

7 Tufton Street London SW1P 3QB

Auditor

Buzzacott LLP
130 Wood Street
London EC2V 6DL

Bankers

CAF Bank
25 King's Hill Avenue
West Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

HSBC Bank Plc
First Floor, 60 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4N 4TR

Investment Managers

CCLA Investment Management Limited
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4ET

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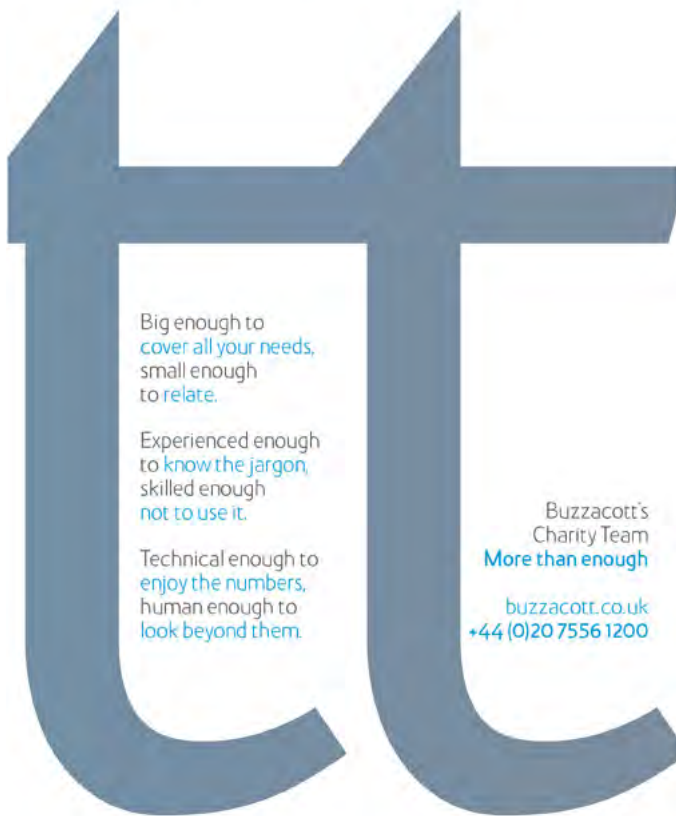
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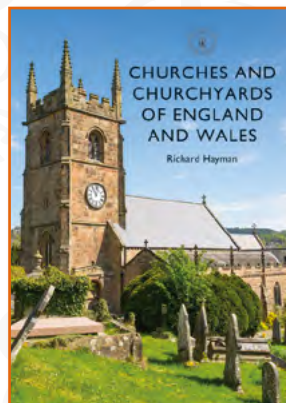
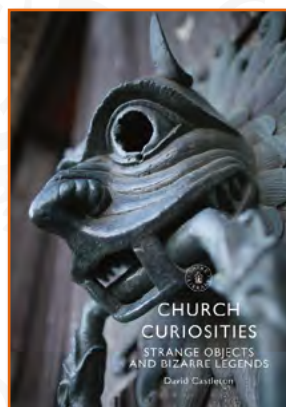
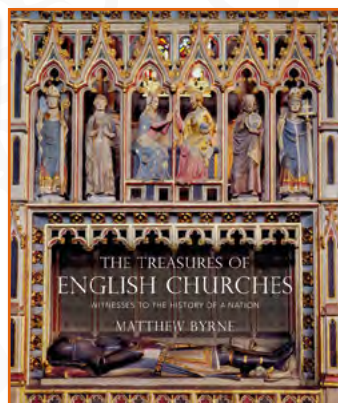
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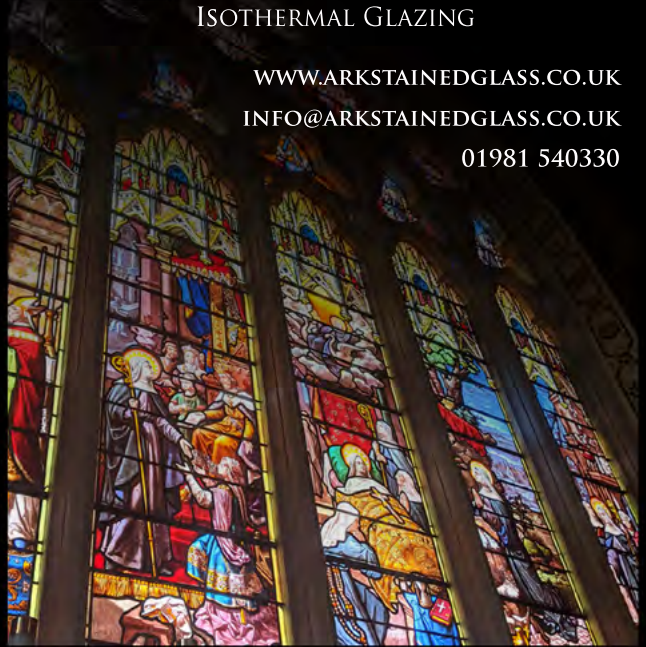
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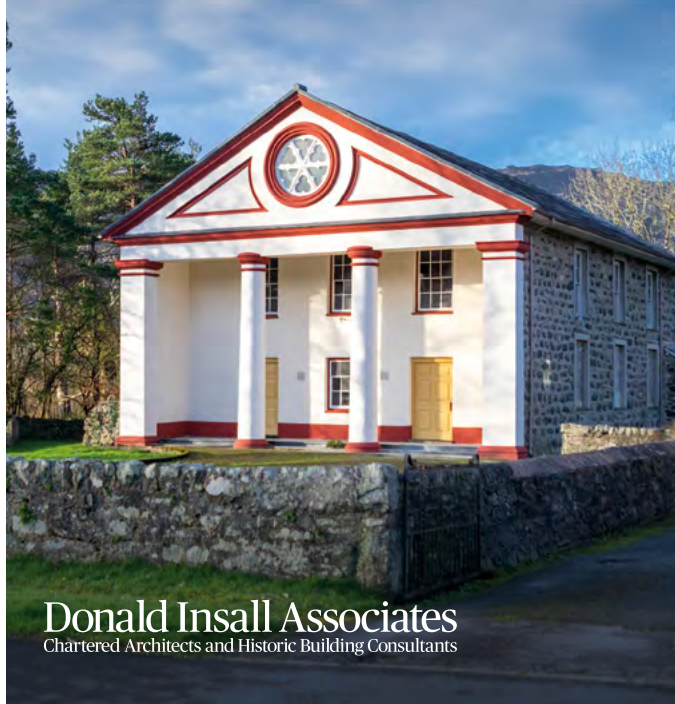
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