

# Church Tourism Awards



## Open for Visitors Awards

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/explore>

We believe that churches, chapels and meeting house should be open to explore.

They are remarkable sacred spaces, they are treasure houses of heritage, history and community. We want visitors to be surprised as they gaze open-mouthed at their surroundings, and inspired by engaging stories, themes and trails. Churches should help decode their art and architecture, reveal their hidden histories and show inspiring journeys of discovery.

Opening your door to visitors is one of the easiest things you can do.

Most churches, chapels and meeting houses were built to be at the heart of their communities, to be busy and used by all. There is a resurgence of interest in local history, and a growing number of people are visiting churches to discover the history of local communities. Welcoming visitors and helping them discover your church can help others to discover your mission of welcome and hospitality.

We promote churches as places to visit through our website and projects working in partnership with national and regional tourism organisations. We tell churches' stories and weave them into geographic trails. Find out more about what we can do for your church here:

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/explore/your-church>

For the first time we are shining a light on the wonderful welcome and brilliant storytelling by thousands of churches and volunteers across the country through our new tourism awards.

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## Entry requirements

Any church, chapel or meeting house may be nominated. This will enable us to celebrate the geographic spread of great work that is going on across the UK.

You just need to be able to tell us how the church involved creates a wonderful welcome. Do they tell their stories in an evocatively engaging way, offer everyone a cuppa and cake, decode their architectural heritage, lead group tours, open for everyone passing, welcome school groups or something else?

You don't need to be open every day, or have volunteers on hand. Many churches create a warm welcome with little financial cost. We can't wait to hear about what your church does!





## Submission and judging process for all awards

- You will need to start your submission with a title and a brief description.
- You will need to upload at least 5 images on the submission page.
- Then, to apply you will need to complete the detailed submission form.
- You will be able to upload a video.
- You will be able to amend your submission up until the closing date.

Overleaf are the questions, so that you can prepare your answers offline. Some questions are mandatory (marked with an asterisk), others are not. Some have a word limit, which is listed here.

## Church of the Year

We, together with our partners, want to see amazing churches that are open and available for use.

Vibrant and valued churches are open for worship and well supported, have effective maintenance and engage well with volunteers. They offer a warm welcome to visitors, offer great spaces for community activities, and tell their stories in brilliant ways. This is what makes churches sustainable. You might not be there yet, but we want to hear how you are doing. For the first time ever, we will announce a 'Church of the Year'. We are looking for brilliant churches which are open, well cared for, have the necessary facilities, and engage with visitors from far and wide.

If you would like your church to be considered for 'Church of the Year' please tell us what makes your church special.

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You can find the form to submit your entry here:

<https://www.zealous.co/nationalchurchestrust/opportunity/Welcome-Tourism-Awards/>

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## Questions

- Name of church or chapel \* (15 word limit)
- Address of church or chapel \* (150 word limit)
- Postcode of church or chapel \* (5 word limit)
  
- Name and phone number of a contact at the church \* (75 word limit)
  
- Denomination \* (5 word limit)





- Is the building listed \* (yes/no)
  - If the building is listed, please state the grade
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Tell us about your church. What's your ethos and what's important to you?

\* (150 word limit)

Tell us about where your church is located; not the town or village, but are you close to a national trail or footpath, a historic attraction, something that draws tourists, or are you alone on a remote village or country track? Help us understand your position.

\* (250 word limit)

How often is your church open outside worship? Tell us a bit more than just times; do you simply open the door, or do you have volunteers on hand or open when you have special events?

\* (250 word limit)

Why is being open important to you?

\* (250 word limit)

How do you create a warm welcome? How do you engage people when they visit?

\* (500 word limit)

How do you tell your stories or interpret your heritage?

\* (250 word limit)

If you hold events, or specific activities for visitors; what is your star activity? How did it come about and how has it grown over time?

\* (500 word limit)

How many visitors do you receive each year (let us know if this is an estimate)?

\* (250 word limit)

Tell us about the team of volunteers who help create your welcome to visitors?

\* (250 word limit)

What's the best thing about being involved and what issues have they faced along the way?

\* (250 word limit)

What other activities are you involved in, what difference are you making and what are you most proud of?

\* (250 word limit)





Please tell us anything else about tourism or visitor welcome at your church that you think has not been covered but you would like us to know.

\* (500 word limit)

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Brief description of your building's heritage / architecture

\* (150 word limit)

Your building in numbers (include opening times, congregation size, number of services and community activities)

\* (150 word limit)

Would you like to be considered for Church of the Year?

\* (yes/no)

If yes, please tell us what makes your church special.

\* (150 word limit)

