

NATIONAL CHURCHES AWARDS 2022

**NATIONAL
CHURCHES**
TRUST

**24 October
Mercers' Hall
London**



Hugh Dennis

Actor, writer and comedian.



Canon Ann Easter

Honorary Associate Priest in the East Ham team,
Newham. Former Chaplain to HM The Queen.



Hello and welcome

The Mercers' Company has been supporting churches and the National Churches Trust for many years. So there could be no better place than this wonderful setting of the Mercers' Hall, steeped in history, with the legendary Dick Whittington as former Master, to hold our first National Church Awards which celebrate the many aspects of churches that provide so much good for people and their communities.

Churches bring out the best in people. Whether it is their fine architecture, the wonderful services provided by volunteers from all walks of life, spaces for prayer, contemplation or solace, or somewhere to visit and take in the history, art, craftsmanship and heritage, churches have something to offer everyone.

We want to shine a spotlight on our amazing collection of church buildings right across the UK and so we are delighted you are joining us today as we present awards and also congratulate everyone who has told us about their church.

You are all making such a difference in keeping these buildings alive for today; and also for tomorrow.

If you are not already a Friend of the National Churches Trust please consider joining today and tell your family and friends about our work. Together we can support many more church buildings from Land's End to John O'Groats, urban and rural, listed and unlisted.

Thank you

Sir Philip Rutnam
Chairman

Claire Walker
Chief Executive



The National Churches Trust is very proud to honour churches and the people who care for them through a range of award schemes.

Every year we attract hundreds of entries that exemplify the talent, dedication and innovation of individuals and teams.

Whether it's great maintenance, a wonderful welcome, careful repair and conservation work, a superb volunteer team or installing vital new facilities.

This is the first year that we have brought all our awards together into one event. It's also the first year we have opened them up for any church, chapel or meeting house to enter.

We're very grateful to the Pilgrim Trust for supporting the Nayler Awards for Excellence in Church Maintenance, and to the Marsh Charitable Trust for supporting the Church and Community Volunteer Awards. We work together with the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association to celebrate the architecture awards; the King of Prussia Gold Medal, the Presidents' Award and the Young Architect or Surveyor of the Year.

Our judging stages have brought together representatives from heritage organisations,

denominations and churches, sector experts and individuals working in the awards category fields.

We're extremely grateful to everyone who has been involved.

Also we are thankful to the Mercers' Company for hosting us today, and particularly to Matt Roche, Xenia Dennen and Fay Richards for helping us to stage such a fantastic event.

And finally we would like to thank the capable and wonderful Hugh Dennis and Canon Ann Easter, who will guide us through the afternoon with skill and entertainment. Thanks to you both!

Pilgrim Trust

MARSH

Charitable Trust





Programme

4pm	Welcome	
4.15pm	Nayler Awards for Excellence in Church Maintenance	Generously supported by the Pilgrim Trust
4.30pm	King of Prussia Gold Medal Presidents' Award Young Architect or Surveyor	In partnership with the Ecclesiastical Architects & Surveyors Association
4.45pm	Break	
5pm	National Churches Trust Friends Vote Award	
5.05pm	Open for Visitors Awards	
5.20pm	Church & Community Volunteer Awards	Generously supported by Marsh Charitable Trust
5.35pm	Break	
5.45pm	Church of the Year	
6pm	Thank you and goodbye	

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the National Church Awards
President's Award 2022



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Nayler Awards for Excellence in Church Maintenance

We place great importance on good maintenance and the usefulness of a detailed plan to ensure ongoing upkeep of a church building and to help reduce the likelihood of future repair projects.

The awards shine a light on the people who look after local churches.

In partnership with the Pilgrim Trust.

The awards will be presented by:
Sue Bowers, Director, Pilgrim Trust
Shirley Adams, Trustee, National Churches Trust

The overall winner is

Pilgrim
Trust

*There's a
real sense of
looking after
the building
as a way to
look after the
people*

*The judging panel about
St George, Kidderminster*

St George, Kidderminster Winner in England

St George's is a Waterloo church, one of the largest in the country and built in 1824. The church is open regularly, and hosts a variety of community activities.

The dedicated maintenance team are active every week. They have become friends as well as fellow volunteers and love the fellowship.

The judges were impressed by the grasp of maintenance principles and very good record keeping. They loved how the volunteers collaborate, have learned new heritage building skills and are training others in their area.



St Deiniol & St Marcella, Marchwiel Winner in Wales

A church has stood near this site for more than a thousand years. This 18th century building is a living church, available in every way possible to the community and open everyday.

Volunteers work on the principal that 'a stitch in time saves nine', keeping on top maintenance issues to prevent further damage and escalating expense. They love seeing a project completed and knowing it will last generations.

The judges really liked the interaction with other churches and how volunteers have established good ways of raising money locally for small jobs.



Bishopton Parish Church Winner in Scotland

Bishopton grew around the estate of the Earls of Mar in Erskine. The church, built in 1814/15, is one of the earliest examples of the neo-Gothic style in Britain and is used throughout the week.

Thanks to a computerised system to plan and record tasks, the team is largely self starting. Annual inspections help draw up a work list for the year and volunteers love working together to look after their much cherished church.

Judges loved the well organised plan and that maintenance is very much a team effort, with good matching of tasks with volunteer skills.



St Macartan, Augher Winner in Northern Ireland

Open and welcome is the ethos at St Macartan's, also known as The Forth Chapel. Home to four amazing Clarke Studio stained glass windows, the church is spectacularly set in the heart of the lovely Clogher Valley.

Maintenance tasks are organised on a monthly basis and brilliantly led by Canon McGahan. Everyone in the parish takes part.

The judges felt like this church has been on a real journey, there is a real sense of vibrancy. They loved that volunteers are ecumenical, there's a sense of bringing everyone together to share in activities.



*Often
clergy
think that
the gutters have
nothing to do with
their vocation, it's
great to see the
involvement from
them here*

*The judging panel about
St Macartan, Augher*

Church Architecture Awards

The King of Prussia Gold Medal celebrates innovative, high quality conservation or repairs.

The Presidents' Award is given for the best new addition, including re-ordering, extensions or alterations.

The Young Architect or Surveyor of the Year is given to an individual responsible for one of the two winning schemes.

In partnership with the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association.

The awards will be presented by:

Andrew Wood, Honorary President, Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association

Luke March, Vice President, National Churches Trust



St Mary & St Melor, Amesbury King of Prussia Gold Medal

A gorgeous former abbey church established in 979AD. This is a large flint cruciform church, the south aisle has a painted medieval ceiling.

After prolonged water ingress, the central truss above the nave was given just 6 months until structural collapse. The repair solutions retained as much of the historic fabric as possible.

The judges noted the complex nature and urgent timescale to rescue the roof. The final result looks stunning, and is clearly fit for the next century and beyond.



Bath Abbey Presidents' Award

Bath Abbey has been the centre for Christian faith in the UNESCO City of Bath for more than 1300 years. The Footprint Project is ensuring that it remains so for future generations.

The main focus was the repair and conservation of the historic floor, which has more memorials than any other church in the UK. The Abbey has also made use of the Roman Great Drain, which carries over 1 million litres of hot spring water each day as a low carbon heat source.

The judges recognised the immense challenges and complexity of the project. The heating scheme must be more innovative than any to date in terms of sustainability.



Emma Mullen RIBA SCA AABC Ecclesiastical Young Architect or Surveyor of the Year

Associate at St Ann's Gate Architects.

Emma is inspecting architect to St Mary & St Melor, Amesbury, and over 30 other churches in south England. She is also cathedral architect at St Woolos Cathedral in Newport.

The judges were impressed Emma's attention to detail and technical input. They also liked the references to bees and the NHS in the new timber carvings, bringing a contemporary note to the project. They look forward to seeing more of her work in the future.



National Churches Trust Friends' Vote Award



Whitehead Methodist Church



St Saviour, Hanley Road

©NaomiWilde



St David, Newbold on Stour

©PhilipHalling



All Saints, Wilby

©JohnFielding

Through their support and generous donations, our growing number of Friends help us carry out our work.

Each year we invite churches to whom we have already awarded a grant to let us know if they still need additional funding.

Friends vote for their favourite.

Our finalists this year are:

- : Whitehead Methodist Church, County Antrim
- : St Saviour, Hanley Road, London
- : St David, Newbold on Stour, Warwickshire
- : All Saints, Wilby, Norfolk

The winner is



Lathams is a multidisciplinary built environment practice consisting of architects, interior designers, planners and historic building advisors.

We have extensive experience working on the design and delivery of projects which involve the adaptation, re-use and conservation of historic buildings and places.

Our work has helped to secure valuable planning permissions and form successful grant applications.

Recent work includes the reordering of St Wilfrid's Church, Barrow upon Trent, which is a finalist for the Presidents' Award 2022, an award by the National Churches Trust and Ecclesiastical Architects & Surveyors Association (EASA) honouring excellence and creativity in church architecture.



Our clients include:



Historic England



We are members of:



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Open for Visitors Awards



Whether for quiet reflection, a warm welcome, a place to worship, or a space to explore with wonder, churches need to be open, loved and supported.

These new awards celebrate churches where being open and welcoming is part of their ethos, and that encourage others to do the same.

Presented by:

Sandra Lynes-Timbrell, Director of Visitor

Engagement, St Paul's Cathedral

Sarah Stewart, Trustee, National Churches Trust

The overall winner is

.....

Church & War Graves Heritage Centre, Scampton Winner in England

St John the Baptist church dates from the 14th century. It sits near RAF Scampton, from where the Dambusters flew and home to the Red Arrows. There is an RAF chapel and 107 Commonwealth War Graves in the churchyard.

The church is open everyday for visitors from around the world and is on the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Trail. Thousands of people have been touched by what is represented here.

Judges loved the real sense of warmth coupled with knowledge of how tourism works, working with other places people want to visit.



St Saeran, Llanynys Winner in Wales

A hidden sanctuary of tranquillity steeped in centuries of prayer, the site dates back over 1,500 years to St Saeran. It is a special, liminal place.

Open all day and night, the church strives for people to be replenished within its tranquil ancient walls, engaged through pilgrimage music, story telling and just being present.

The judges loved the ethos here, a lot of love and care for the place has gone into creating something unique. The music festival and virtual pilgrimage activities sound wonderful, and show the church has thought about how it sits in the tourism landscape.



©SteveGalloway

St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall Winner in Scotland

Known as the Light in the North and founded in 1137, the church dominates Kirkwall.

St Magnus is owned by the people. It's open everyday and offers tours and other heartfelt interpretation of stories and architecture. The church has worked with the St Magnus Way to develop a defined pilgrimage route, presenting pilgrims with a commemorative scallop

The judges were very impressed with the warm welcome given to over 200,000 visitors per year - wow! They also loved the professional approach to tourism.



©FranFlettHollinrake



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images: left: 2021 President's Award-winning re-ordering scheme at St.Thomas' Church Salisbury; above: New annexe at Sacred Heart Church Battersea; right: Solar PV array on the nave roof at Gloucester Cathedral



Church & Community Volunteer Awards

Celebrating the vital contribution volunteers make to both looking after and making the best use of churches to benefit local communities and people.

We're particularly excited about incredibly innovative and engaging activities which involve the wider community.

In partnership with Marsh Charitable Trust.

Presented by:

Charles Micklewright, Trustee,
Marsh Charitable Trust

Donna McDonald, Trustee, National Churches
Trust

The overall winner is

MARSH
Charitable Trust

We're bowled over with how they have moved mountains by just getting on with it

The judging panel about St Paul, Rhosesmor

St Peter's & The Hub, Peterchurch Winner in England

St Peter's has stood on the banks of the River Dore in Herefordshire's Golden Valley since before the Norman conquest.

The Hub is open everyday and completely accessible. Volunteers bake cakes, make soup, serve in the café, help in the library and support residents. They adapted to offer much needed help during the worst of the pandemic.

The judges loved that this visionary project has proved it's sustainability. They're impressed how the church faced up to making radical changes in the building to enable community activities.



©Bilw Charity

The Outpost, Rhosesmor Winner in Wales

St Paul's is a small village church, in all senses.

The Outpost shop and coffee area and its social activities provide a welcome sense of belonging and well being. The 37 volunteers work together as a cheerful team, undergoing training as needed and involved in all decision making. The Outpost radiates connections across the village.

The judges really loved the way the volunteers respond to specific local needs and faced the challenges of an ill equipped building in a rural community far away from anything. It feels like a very warm project, something people want to be involved in.



©LynnFearnhead

Saint Gregory's Foodbank, Wyndford Winner in Scotland

The church started life in a wooden hut in 1965, in one of the most deprived areas of Glasgow.

The foodbank, one of the busiest in the city, has been open every weekday throughout the pandemic, thanks to volunteers from churches across the area. Several were or are users of the foodbank and want to give back.

The judges loved that the church cares deeply about the health of volunteers and them moving into training and employment.



Living History in the Community, Strabane Winner in Northern Ireland

Designed by John Pearson in a gothic style and built in 1895, the church is open most days.

The church has created a wonderful professional exhibition space with volunteers researching and sharing it's heritage, learning museum skills and tour guiding.

Judges really liked the idea of using heritage to connect objects, church and community, keeping them in context. It's a brilliant way to get new people involved in a variety of ways.



*Using
heritage
assets to build
pride in heritage
and storytelling
shows off the
interconnectedness
in communities*

*The judging panel about
Immaculate Conception, Strabane*

Thank you to all our judges

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG KCVO

Vice Patron National Churches Trust

Prince Nicholas von Preussen

Vice President, National Churches Trust

Shirley Adams, Trustee, National Churches Trust

Sue Bowers, Director, Pilgrim Trust

Richard Carr-Archer, Former Trustee,
National Churches Trust

Victoria Collison-Owen, Executive Director,
Historic Churches Scotland

Sara Crofts, Chief Executive, ICON

Xenia Dennen, Master Mercer, The Mercers' Company

Canon Ann Easter, Honorary Associate Priest, Newham

Diana Evans, Head of Places of Worship Strategy,
Historic England

Ian Greenaway, Director of Historic Environment
Division, Department for Communities

Anna Joynt, EASA

Sandra Lynes-Timbrell, Director of Visitor Experience,
St Paul's Cathedral

Caroline Macguire, Senior Architect, Historic
Environment Northern Ireland

Luke March, Vice President, National Churches Trust

Annie McCarthy, Trust Manager, Marsh Charitable Trust

Graeme Renton, Honorary Secretary, EASA

Sir Philip Rutnam, Chairman, National Churches Trust

Archbishop Emeritus George Stack,
Roman Catholic Church Wales

Sarah Stewart, Trustee, National Churches Trust

Robert Thompson, Awards Officer, EASA

Robin Tjolle, Discover England Fund, VisitEngland

Claire Walker, Chief Executive, National Churches Trust

Andrew Wood, Honorary President, EASA

Crafting the awards

We're thrilled to work with Rob Harris and Erik Winn at York Cemetery Memorials, part of York Cemetery Trust, to create our awards this year.

Each is skillfully hand carved in York limestone, and they took 43 hours to create. By working with local craftspeople each year we are championing and supporting heritage skills. It's been wonderful to see the awards come alive in stone. You can see more of Rob and Erik's work by visiting York Cemetery.

Our overall category winners, the Friends Vote winner and the Church of the Year will each receive one of these stunning awards. Every winning church will receive an aluminium plaque to proudly display.





Congratulations to all our winning churches

St George, Kidderminster
St Deiniol & St Marcella, Marchwiel
Bishopton Parish Church
St Macartan, Augher
St Mary & St Melor, Amesbury
Bath Abbey
All Saints, Wilby
St John the Baptist, Scampton
St Saeran, Llanynys
St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall
St Peter, Peterchurch
St Paul, Rhosesmor
St Gregory, Wyndford
Church of the Immaculate Conception, Strabane

Plus, of course, our Friends Vote Award winner and the Church of the Year, who will be announced live at the event.

Church of the Year

We are thrilled to make an award for our first ever Church of the Year.

We believe that for a church to be successful, it must be sustainable. Our definition of sustainable includes the following characteristics: relevant; looked after; in good repair; in use; and, open.

Our Church of the Year is a shining example of a church, chapel or meeting house which is open, available to all and supported by the local community. It should meet the needs of this community and be welcoming to those visiting from further afield.

We want to celebrate a church that values and uses volunteers successfully, and is an inspiration to others across the UK.

The winner is

National Churches Trust

We want to keep churches open and in use.

Churches, chapels and meeting houses are impressive, exciting and surprising places.

Whether seeking quiet reflection, access to critical community services, a warm welcome, a place to worship, or a space to explore open-mouthed, we believe they should be loved and supported. Available to all.

Working together with churches across all four nations, we help to maintain these wonderful historic buildings and keep them thriving today, and tomorrow.

We are more focussed than ever on the increasingly perilous state that church buildings find themselves in, following the global pandemic, one of the worst financial shocks for decades, and a decline in congregations and income.

Our strapline shows that we are not taking control of church buildings or that they are an exclusive resource saved for regular church goers. We believe that they are available for all to explore, enjoy, use and benefit from. Churches, chapels and meeting houses don't belong to the National Churches Trust, they belong to you and me; to all of us.

Yours for Good.





Some gifts are easily forgotten, a gift in your Will can last for generations.

Many wonderful churches, chapels and meeting houses are fighting a battle against the ravages of time. By leaving a gift in your Will to the National Churches Trust, you can help us restore churches in every sense of the word.

Help keep church buildings alive.

Please call Claire Walker on 020 7222 0605, email legacy@nationalchurchestrust.org or visit nationalchurchestrust.org/legacy



**NATIONAL
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Yours for Good.