

Church & Community Volunteer Awards

In partnership with Marsh Charitable Trust

Please read these guidelines carefully.

You can find the form to submit your entry here:

<https://zealous.co/nationalchurchestrust/opportunity/Church-Community-Volunteer-Awards-2023/>

The closing date is 23 July 2023.

We have a long and cherished relationship with the Marsh Charitable Trust, and have presented several awards in partnership over previous years.

These have always centred around the brilliant contribution which volunteers make to both caring for and making best use of churches, and especially using churches to reach out to local communities and using the building as a hub for activity.

Churches are so much more than places of worship. From foodbanks to credit unions, churches across the UK provide a growing list of essential services for people in urgent need. We've long seen the power of churches to bring communities together and help them thrive. We highlighted this in our recent House of Good report: <https://www.houseofgood.nationalchurchestrust.org/>

We had some wonderful submissions, and brilliant winners in 2022. For inspiration, see them here:

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/impact/awards/winners-2022>

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/impact/awards/finalists-2022>

We will award one winner in each of the four home nations, plus an overall winner.

Entry requirements

Volunteers from 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 about the people involved, the fantastic things you do and the difference that it makes. Your application will be reviewed by an expert panel.



Submission and judging process for all awards

- You will need to start your submission with a title, brief description.
- You will need to upload at least 5 images on the submission page, and can add a description to each if you wish.
- 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.

Below 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.

Most of the questions relate specifically to this award. But there are some general questions about your church at the end. These help us to get an impression of your ethos, we will also use them if you agree to be considered for the Church of the Year.

Church of the Year

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

We realise it's sometimes hard to raise yourself up and say that what you do is wonderful. But, churches, chapels and meeting houses across the UK do brilliant things, and using the name 'Church of the Year' helps us to shed light on that.

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.

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



Questions

- Name of church or chapel * (15 word limit)
 - Address of church or chapel * (50 word limit)
 - Postcode of church or chapel * (5 word limit)

 - Name phone number and email address of a second contact at the church * (75 word limit)
 - Denomination * (5 word limit)

 - Is the building listed. If so, please state the grade * (5 word limit)
-

This section is about your volunteer activity specifically.

Tell us about the team of volunteers you'd like to nominate for this award?
* (250 word limit)

How do you encourage people to get involved and engage?
* (150 word limit)

We understand that your team are probably involved in more than one thing with your church, but what is your star community activity, what are you most proud of?
* (250 word limit)

What other activities are you involved in?
* (150 word limit)

What issues have the team faced and overcome along the way?
* (150 word limit)

What difference does the team and their work make to your church and community?
* (150 word limit)

What's the best thing about being involved as a volunteer?
* (150 word limit)

How do your activities contribute to the need for environmental sustainability or seek to reduce the building's carbon footprint?
* (150 word limit)

Please tell us anything else about volunteer involvement at your church that you think has not been covered but you would like us to know.
* (150 word limit)



This section is about your church more generally, as we would love to know more about you. It will help us to get a wider picture of your ethos and activities.

Tell us about your church. What's your ethos and what's important to you?

* (150 word limit)

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)

