

Annual Review

2022-2023



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The UK's biggest heritage challenge



Sir Philip Rutnam, Chair



Claire Walker, CEO

Church buildings are the single biggest challenge facing the heritage of the United Kingdom.

There are over 900 on the latest Historic England Heritage At Risk Register. The repair bill for the Church of England's buildings alone over the next five years is estimated at over £1 billion, and the backlog is growing by some £75 million a year. In Scotland the Church of Scotland is expecting to close up to 40% of its churches, and the position in Wales is also severe.

We know just how valuable the UK's 39,000 churches are. From the wool churches of Suffolk to the mountain chapels of Wales, they are amongst the most priceless heritage we have. And they are at the centre of every community, providing vital services like foodbanks and toddler groups. Our work shows they contribute over £55 billion every year to the UK's society and economy; they remain essential to the future of human flourishing.

To meet the challenge, in 2022 we stepped up the pace and ambition of our work. In 2023 we produced 'For Churches', a new strategy that will guide our work through the rest of this decade. Thank you to all our partners in the church and heritage sectors who contributed to its development.

National wellbeing

'For Churches' will see us **Build Up** churches through grants and support, **Open Up** churches so they are welcoming places for more and more people, and **Speak Up** on their behalf so that the whole country realises how important they are for national identity and wellbeing.

Each year, many churches face the challenge of raising the money needed to keep their building windproof and watertight. Since we were founded in 1953, we have distributed over £135 million to help pay for urgent repairs and essential community facilities such as loos and kitchens.

In 2022 we awarded a further 258 grants. These helped to remove 18 churches from Historic England's Heritage At Risk Register. 86 of our grants went to churches in the most deprived parts of the UK.

We also helped to ensure the completion of work at 32 churches and meeting houses in England, which we funded with £3.6 million thanks to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's Heritage Stimulus Fund.

Delight and celebrate

The success of our Heritage Stimulus Fund project allowed us to discuss with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) how we could work together to support church buildings better. This has resulted in 'Cherish', a £1.9 million three year NLHF funded project which will provide grants and support to places of worship in Scotland, Wales and the North West of England.

Although our work makes the national news, much of the everyday business of keeping churches open and thriving takes place out of the public gaze. Yet, there is so much to delight in and celebrate.

In 2022 we ran our first ever National Church Awards. 15 winners were awarded prizes for church architecture, maintenance, volunteering and tourism. St Macartan Church in Northern Ireland won our Church of the Year Award.

Last year we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth, our Royal Patron since 1953. In September 2022, just a few months later, we joined the nation in expressing our deep sadness at her death.

In 2014, in a special message included in 'English Parish Churches', written by Matthew Byrne and published by us in association with Bloomsbury Books, Her Late Majesty wrote:

Keeping churches in good condition is essential for their survival. It allows us to explore the beauty, history, and significance of these buildings which provide such vital support to local communities and to preserve them for future generations.

The coming years will see us work even harder to keep the UK's churches, chapels and meeting houses open and in good repair, for the benefit of all.

Sir Philip Rutnam, Chair
Claire Walker, CEO

Stained glass in Welsh churches – a national gallery of art

By *Martin Crampin*

Martin Crampin has been recording stained glass for nearly twenty years and is the author of *Stained Glass from Welsh Churches* and *Welsh Saints from Welsh Churches*. He has also published a series of acclaimed studies of stained glass at individual churches, and his online catalogue of stained glass in Wales can be found at <http://stainedglass.llgc.org.uk>, which continues to grow as new material is added.



Apart from a very few fragments that date to the fourteenth century, most surviving medieval glass in Wales was made in the fifteenth century or in the years preceding the Reformation in the sixteenth century. It is found in large and small parish churches, mostly across north Wales and with a concentration in north-east Wales.

Some near-complete religious scenes and figures can be found in the area at churches including Gresford, Llandyrnog and Llanasa. Two impressive windows representing the Tree of Jesse survive at Dyserth and Llanrhaeadr-yng-Nghinmeirch, in the same part of Wales, both of which can coincidentally be dated to 1533, although they seem to be the work of different craftsmen.

These relatively complete Tree of Jesse windows contrast with the mostly fragmentary form in which most medieval stained glass is seen in Wales today. Medieval stained glass suffered iconoclasm in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries but was subsequently neglected when it was regarded as a dated and fussy way to fill windows long after the Reformation. Dimly-coloured glass disrupted the whitewashed aesthetic of Georgian Protestant interiors and it continued to be discarded into the middle of the nineteenth century.

The use of coloured glass returned as the fashion for the medieval period began to take hold in the early nineteenth century. Aristocratic buyers enthusiastically took the opportunity to acquire late medieval stained glass from the near continent as monasteries in the low countries, Germany and France were closed and their contents sold. Some of this stained glass found its way back into churches, such as the remarkable set of sixteenth and seventeenth century panels now at Llanwenllwyfo on Anglesey.

Among the glass painters who were employed to fill windows of churches in the first half of the nineteenth century was the Welsh artist David Evans, who became an apprentice to John Betton of Shrewsbury in 1808. By 1825

he had taken over the studio after Betton retired and Evans made windows for churches and cathedrals including the set of figures for the east window of Bangor Cathedral. Evans often copied Old Master paintings and heavily shaded his figures and scenes, but around 1850 new medievalising styles became popular for stained glass commissioned by Tractarian patrons influenced by the architect and designer A.W.N. Pugin and the Oxford Movement.

Gothic Revival

This stained glass was made by a growing number of London firms and English regional studios and images of



© Martin Crampin
St Cadog by F.C. Eden, 1921, Church of St Cadoc, Trefethin

biblical saints and stories from the Bible once again lit the interiors of churches from the mid-nineteenth century. The addition of this stained glass was usually dependent on the availability of funds which generally came from the local gentry who also often paid for the building of churches. The new industrial wealth of south Wales enabled a wider range of patrons who expressed their piety by building new

churches in industrial communities and providing stained glass to adorn them.

The design of stained glass was often strongly influenced by Gothic Revival architects and used to add colour and make their buildings look more medieval. As the quality of stained glass rapidly improved and diversified in the second half of the nineteenth century, patrons could increasingly choose from a variety of makers. The stained glass made by Pugin's

Right: The Angel of the Resurrection by Lavers & Barraud, 1865, Church of St Eleri and St Mary, Llanrhos © Martin Crampin





friend John Hardman in Birmingham and the Newcastle firm of William Wailes often imitated fourteenth-century styles and colours, while the work of the firm founded by William Morris and the firm Burlison & Grylls adopted a more muted colouration from the 1860s and was less influenced by the simplified draughtsmanship of the medieval period. Morris' firm made windows for the Llandaf diocesan architects John Prichard and John Pollard Seddon, including work for their restoration of Llandaf Cathedral. Burlison & Grylls and the artist C.E. Kempe were influenced by the later Gothic Revival style of the architect George Frederick Bodley, and their work attracted Anglo-Catholic patronage.



© Martin Crampin

Receiving the Crown of Life by Karl Parsons, 1917, Church of St Mary, Tenby

Local saints

The majority of subjects for stained glass windows in churches were usually taken from the Gospels, with most others from elsewhere in the Bible. Many windows depicted standing figures of saints, and while Catholic churches embraced images of a wide range of saints for their stained glass, Anglican patrons initially tended to favour biblical characters. The Anglican preference for biblical subjects loosened in the later nineteenth century as a variety of saints and other historical figures with local connections were depicted in windows.

St David and other diocesan saints were sometimes depicted alongside local patron saints. Occasionally standing figures of these saints were accompanied by scenes with stories of the saints, or images of them preaching to the local population.

Most stained glass windows were commissioned by wealthy families in memory of their loved ones. Some commemorated particular events or anniversaries and were sometimes funded by public subscription.

Left: The Ascension by Celtic Studios, 1961, designed and painted by John Edwards, Church of St Mary and the Holy Innocents, Merthyr Vale

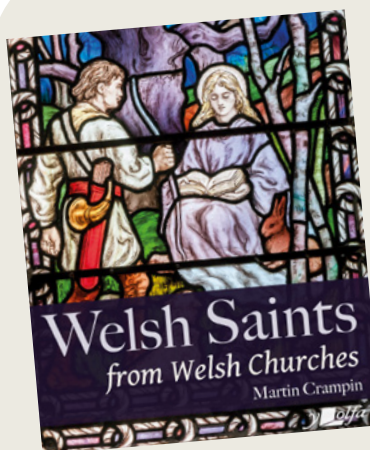
© Martin Crampin

Two World Wars precipitated memorial windows for those who had died, and sometimes windows were given in thanksgiving for those who returned safely.

During the twentieth century the large Victorian firms that produced so many stained glass windows in the nineteenth century reduced in size and many closed. At the same time a growing number of individual artists such as Mary Lowndes, Christopher Whall and Karl Parsons designed and made their own windows according to the influence of the Arts and Crafts Movement. The first artists in Wales to make more than a handful of windows for churches were the cousins Howard Martin and Hubert Thomas whose firm Celtic Studios was established in Swansea after the Second World War.

They were joined by the artist John Petts in the 1960s and from the 1970s a number of innovative artists who trained at Swansea College of Art began to make windows in a wide range of styles and using new techniques. Artists such as Tim Lewis, Amber Hiscott and Gareth Morgan made exciting modern windows for churches across south Wales from the 1980s, influenced by abstract work made by contemporary German masters.

The long history of stained glass has bequeathed a varied legacy to large and small churches across Wales. Thousands of Gothic Revival windows and stained glass in more contemporary styles by dozens of artists and studios can be found across the country, occasionally in association with medieval stained glass. It is a national gallery of art accessible to all – courtesy of those that regularly keep their churches open for visitors.



Special offer

The beautifully illustrated book 'Welsh Saints from Welsh Churches' is published by Y Lolfa and is on sale for £35. Thanks to a special offer for Friends of the National Churches Trust, you can order the book online and benefit from a 20% discount.

All you have to do is visit the Y Lolfa website, search for the book in the white search bar at the top of the home page, and once you have added the book to your online shopping basket, enter the discount code, WelshSaints20. <https://stainedglass.llgc.org.uk>

You can discover hundreds of churches to visit in Wales on the Explore section of our website

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/church/find-a-church

We've been keeping churches

A message of thanks from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York



© Jaqui J Sze



As Joint Presidents we want to put on record our thanks to the many faithful supporters of the National Churches Trust. Your support builds on the work of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust whose 70th anniversary we celebrate this year.

Your patronage is vital to maintaining so many of our churches and chapels, allowing visitors and worshippers the opportunity to reflect on the beauty of these important buildings and to preserve a slice of history which each generation can enjoy and experience afresh.

We are blessed with so many church buildings which create a sanctuary for our worshipping communities to regularly gather, pray and worship God. But of course, God isn't simply

cocooned within buildings. As the gospel is proclaimed in churches, our prayer is that this message of good news continues to be a catalyst for sending people out to our homes, schools and workplaces to share more of the person of Jesus Christ and His saving grace.

Your generosity has enabled 258 grants to be awarded by the National Churches Trust throughout 2022. With the ever-increasing number of buildings requiring attention, never has your commitment been more critical.

These buildings continue to be an invaluable resource in our villages, towns and cities. Over the past year, as both of us have visited churches across our respective provinces, we have seen first hand the countless initiatives which take place and are so central to community life.

As the essential work of the National Churches Trust goes from strength to strength, may the beauty and blessing of these buildings continue to facilitate the growing of the Kingdom of God and be a place where all are welcomed for generations to come.

Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

Stephen Cottrell
Archbishop of York

Joint Presidents of the National Churches Trust

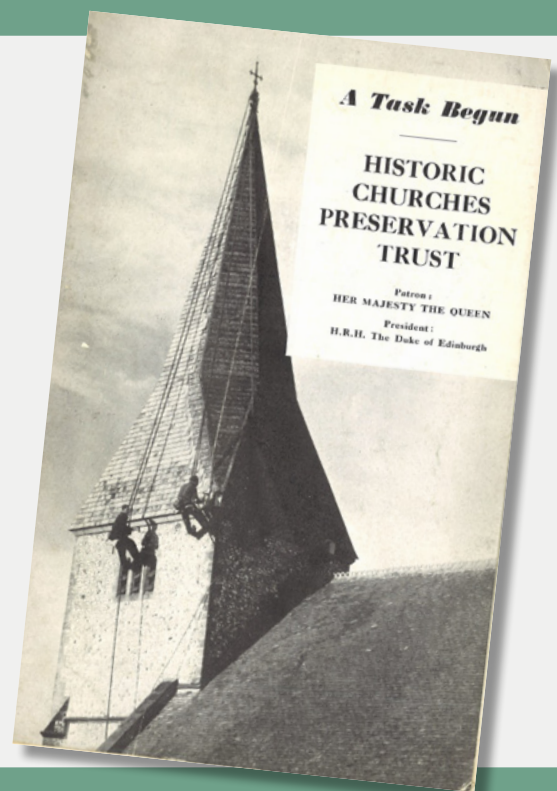
1953 – Our work begins

In 1951, the state of repair of parish churches in Britain was a serious problem. Urged on by the Pilgrim Trust and the Society of Antiquaries, the Church Assembly (now the General Synod) set up a Commission to determine what needed to be done to reverse the position.

The Commission found that £4,000,000 was needed to put the ecclesiastical built heritage of the country in order. It was the recommendation of the Commission that a charitable trust should be set up to raise and distribute funds to churches of architectural and historic significance.

Historic churches

So, after discussions in 1952, a trust deed for the Historic Churches Preservation Trust (HCPT) was drawn up in 1953. From the outset, the HCPT supported churches of all the major Christian denominations, as well as chapels and meeting houses.



alive for 70 years

Keeping churches open and in use

We have helped virtually every church named in Simon Jenkins' 'England's Thousand Best Churches'. Whichever way one analyses our grants – by architectural style or importance, historical interest or significance, by geographical area, by rural or urban community, by denomination – our net has been spread wide.



© Bailey-Cooper Photography / Alamy Stock Photo

Mill Hill Chapel, Park Row, Leeds – one of the first places of worship to receive a grant from the Historic Churches Preservation Trust

In addition to England and Wales, we have been giving grants to places of worship in Northern Ireland since the 1980s and in Scotland since the 2000s.

Geographically, all four corners of the British Isles have been covered by grants; from St Lawrence, Jersey to St Magnus, Lerwick in the Shetland Islands, from Christ Church, Lowestoft in Suffolk to St James, Moy in County Tyrone.

By the end of 2022, the total of grants and loans allocated by the Trust since 1953 was in excess of £135 million, at current prices.

Grants for repairs have always formed the majority of the Trust's support of places of worship. A continuing priority has been repairs to roofs and rainwater goods. If a roof leaks, then the building gets damaged and one gets an even bigger problem. But we also fund the installation of essential community facilities and more routine maintenance projects and support churches in many other ways.



Awarded a grant in 2012 was the Roman Catholic church of St Augustine in Ramsgate where Augustus Pugin realised the principles of design that he used throughout his career

£2,875 for old Devon churches

FURTHER grants totalling £2,875 have been made by the Historic Churches' Preservation Trust for the repair and upkeep of churches in the Exeter Diocese. In addition, loans of £1,500 and £1,000 respectively have been made to Lapford and East Portlemouth parish churches.

Lapford parish church, dedicated to St. Thomas of Canterbury, is partly in the Perpendicular style and has a fine and richly carved rood screen of the 16th century.

The grants are being allocated as follows: Ashwater, £400; Churchstow, £500; Colebrooke, £250; Coleridge, £300; Cookbury, £150; Ilington, £300; North Bovey, £400; Pilton, £400; Teigngrace, £75; Widecombe, £100.

YORKS. CHURCHES GET GRANTS

Parish churches in the Diocese of York, Sheffield, Southwell, and Wakefield are to share grants totalling £6,800 announced to-day by the trustees of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust.

A £4,000 allocated to the Diocese of Sheffield goes to the Church, while the £800 allocated to the Diocese of Ripon is shared by two churches—£500 to St. Peter's in Elmet, and £300 to St. Mary's in the diocese of Canterbury.

£1,150 GRANTS TO CHURCHES

Historic Churches Preservation Trust help for Kent

Trustees of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust announced on Tuesday the making of grants totalling £1,150 to parish churches in the diocese of Canterbury.

St. Peter's, Canterbury, will receive £500, St. Lawrence, Ramsgate, £500, and Brookland £150.

£14,725 GRANTED TO THIRTY-EIGHT ENGLISH PARISH CHURCHES

THE Historic Churches Preservation Trust has made grants totalling £14,725 to thirty-eight parishes in the Provinces of Canterbury and York. The Trust is also making two loans of £1,500 and £1,000 respectively to Lapford and East Portlemouth, Devon.

Some of our early grants

2007 – The National Churches Trust

Drawing on the generosity of private donors, legators and charitable trusts, for over 50 years the HCPT operated primarily as a grant giving trust, providing vital funds for repairs to historic churches.



In 2007, a new charity, the National Churches Trust, was created to take forward the work of the HCPT. As well as funding repairs, it also had a wider remit to support and promote church buildings, provide guidance,

advice and information, raise awareness and act as a catalyst for bringing in new resources to the sector.

Today, the National Churches Trust remains the national, independent, non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting and supporting church buildings of historic, architectural and community value across the United Kingdom.



Our first Chair, Michael Hoare with Joanna Lumley



One of the National Churches Trust's first marketing leaflets



Sir Michael Palin with Luke March, Chair from 2012 – 2022

Our Patrons, Presidents and Trustees

At its foundation, Her Majesty the Queen graciously agreed to be the HCPT's Patron, and remained as our Patron throughout her reign. The Duke of Edinburgh accepted the Presidency from 1953 to 1965.

We are proud that since 1953 each and every Archbishop of Canterbury and Archbishop of York has endorsed the work of the Trust by acting as Trustees up to 2005 and as Joint Presidents from 1980.

The appointment of Sir Winston Churchill in 1953 started a tradition of Prime Ministers joining the Trustees which lasted until 1976. The renowned champion of churches, Sir John Betjeman, was a Trustee from 1967 to 1980.

The Trust has also been honoured by the support of HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO as a Trustee from 1985 and since 2004 as Vice-Patron.

Vice Presidents appointed to the National Churches Trust in recent years have included The Most Reverend George Stack, Emeritus Archbishop of Cardiff, Bill Bryson and Michael Palin.

Support and generosity

Over the years the variety and scope of fundraising that has driven the Trust forward is remarkable and testimony of the goodwill, existing to the current day, for supporting the cause. From exhibitions, premieres, concerts, performances and benefit dinners, to donations by authors of their royalties, people across the UK have continued to help.

Our funds have been augmented by the generosity of the charitable, corporate and individual donors who have supported the Trust; some since its foundation. The Trust has attracted donations from many charitable trusts, from City livery companies such as Goldsmiths, from business and from private individuals.

We are fortunate to have received many generous bequests over the years and continue to benefit from gifts left by way of a legacy. The enthusiasm of our supporters is reflected in the good work their donations enable.

© Keystone Pictures USA/ZUMA PRESS



Queen Elizabeth meets Mary Martin, the American star of the show, at the gala performance of the American musical "Hello Dolly" in aid of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, at the Drury Lane Theatre in December 1965

Support us for the future

There are many ways in which you can support our work. Please contact Ben Sims, our Head of Fundraising, to find out how you can help us keep more of the UK's magnificent historic churches open and in use.

ben.sims@nationalchurchestrust.org



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2022

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



For hundreds of years churches, chapels and meeting houses have provided support to the local communities in which they are rooted. Whether in large city centres, bustling market towns, quiet rural villages, or windswept coastal hamlets, church buildings are some of our most important examples of heritage and history. They provide a warm welcome, a place to worship, and somewhere to admire amazing architecture. With an increasing number of churches facing possible closure because of a shortage of funds, the National Churches Trust's work keeping churches open and in good repair is more important than ever before.

Sir Philip Rutnam, Chair

AMAZING SUPPORT

75% of UK adults agree that churches and chapels are important for society

MAKING FRIENDS

500 new Friends joined us to help keep the UK's churches open and in use

HELPING HERITAGE

18 churches removed from the Heritage at Risk Register with the help of our grants

EXPLORING CHURCHES

3,759 brilliant churches to discover all around the UK on our website

LEVELLING UP

40% of our grants awarded to churches in the most deprived areas of the UK

FINDING WINNERS

193 entries from churches across the whole of the UK for our new National Church Awards

OUR GRANTS IN 2022

The National Churches Trust helps to keep the UK's churches, chapels and meeting houses open and in use. Whether for quiet reflection, access to critical community services, a warm welcome, a place to worship, or a space to explore, churches should be loved and supported.

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

Since 2007, we have awarded 3,000 grants and distributed £28 million to help churches, chapels and meeting houses stay open and in good repair.

In 2022 we continued to support churches, chapels and meeting houses throughout the UK with funding for maintenance, repair, project development and the installation of kitchens and toilets.

One of our key projects in 2022 was ensuring the completion of work at 32 churches and meeting houses in England (which we had supported in 2021) with £3.6 million of funding for urgent repairs from the DCMS's Heritage Stimulus Fund. We were able to provide additional funds of £217,101 to nine of the projects in 2022.



Friends Meeting House, Kendal



St Lawrence Church, Bigbury, Devon



Newport Minster, Newport, Isle of Wight

In 2022 we made or recommended 258 grants (including those issued on behalf of others) worth a total of £1,961,578 for work including urgent roof repairs, installing modern community facilities and helping churches to plan for the future.

Our thanks to all our supporters of our grant programmes, including the Dulverton Trust, the Pilgrim Trust and the Wolfson Foundation.

THE DULVERTON TRUST

Pilgrim
Trust

The Wolfson*
Foundation

2022 Grants

£1.96 million of grants awarded or recommended

39 grants totalling **£356,874** to non-Anglican places of worship

86 grants totalling **£787,460** to churches in the most deprived areas of the UK

52 grants totalling **£490,499** to churches in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

18 churches removed from Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register
with the support of one of our grants

131 rural church projects supported with funding totalling **£777,163**

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support

OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

It is always wonderful to know that we have the support of our Friends in our work of helping to safeguard historic churches.

In 2022 we continued to grow our Friends scheme, with over 500 new Friends joining during the year. The difference our Friends and supporters make to places of worship and their local communities is immeasurable and vital in ensuring church heritage is preserved for future generations. We were delighted too that the number of our Friends and supporters in the USA continues to grow.

Membership of our Cornerstone Club grew to over 70. The Cornerstone Club is a group of our closest supporters who enjoy a deepened involvement in our work. Each year we award significant grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 to churches that are tackling major works and our Cornerstone Club members help us to raise sufficient funds.

Friends' Vote Grant

In 2022, All Saints Church, Wilby, Norfolk, was awarded the National Churches Trust Friends' Vote Grant. Thanks to our Friends, the church received a £10,000 grant to help fund the completion of urgent roof repairs.

Situated in a tiny hamlet in rural Norfolk, All Saints dates from the first half of the 14th century. It was threatened with closure in the 1970s but is still with us today; it is a valuable lesson in how important it is for us to help keep churches open for the future.



Friends enjoying our tour of The Charterhouse in the City of London

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/friends

TELLING OUR STORY

In 2022 we adopted a clearer visual identity and more focussed messaging to help inspire our supporters and audiences about our work.

This is the first time we have done this since we were launched as the National Churches Trust in 2007 as the successor charity to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust.

Our updated identity boosts our visibility and increases trust in our work. That means we can ensure more of the UK's wonderful churches stay open, and in use for good.



Yours for good.

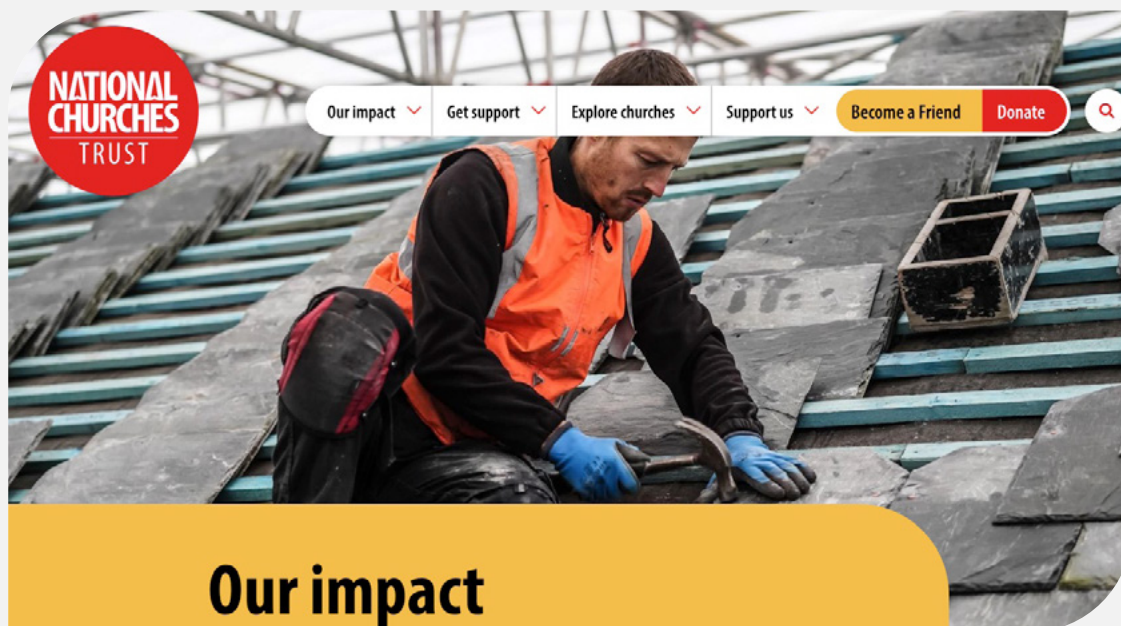
Our passion for churches

We went live with a brand new website bringing together the National Churches Trust and ExploreChurches websites.

The new site offers a very rich visitor experience. It makes it easy for churches to apply for a grant, for visitors to discover churches to explore and for everyone to find out about and support our incredibly important work – all in one place.

With bright colours, stunning photos and showcasing our impact around the UK, the new www.nationalchurchestrust.org makes clear our passion for churches.

**500,000 +
Pageviews**



OUR NEW CHAIR

Sir Philip Rutnam became our new Chair in September 2022, succeeding Luke March DL, who had served as Chair since 2012.

Sir Philip served as Permanent Secretary at the Department for Transport from 2012 to 2017 and at the Home Office from 2017 until 2020, and was also Acting Permanent Secretary at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in 2010. He and his family are active members of Church of England congregations in London and Herefordshire.

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/people

MAKING THE CASE FOR CHURCHES

The public overwhelmingly support the nation's 39,000 churches, chapels and meeting houses, according to the findings of our new opinion poll carried out in December 2022.

Key findings include:

Three-quarters (75%) of UK adults agree that churches, chapels and meeting houses are important for society. A large majority of UK adults (73%) also agree that the UK's churches are an important part of the UK's heritage and history.

The poll found that 50% of UK adults agree that the Government should give financial support to churches, chapels and meeting houses to help pay for building repairs to keep them open. 22% disagreed and 25% neither agreed nor disagreed.

The poll found more than half of UK adults (54%) had visited a church in the past year. A quarter (25%) visited for a religious service, one in five (22%) for a non-religious community activity or service such as a foodbank, playgroup, lunch club, concert or meeting, and one in six (17%) went to a church, chapel or meeting house as a visitor or tourist.

The findings of the poll will help us make the case for church buildings and prevent unnecessary church closures.

75%

of UK adults agree that **churches, chapels and meeting houses** are important for society

73%

of UK adults agree that **churches, chapels and meeting houses** are an important part of the UK's heritage and history

50%

of UK adults agree that the Government should give **financial support** to churches to help **pay for building repairs**

54%

of UK adults visited a **church** in the **past year**



54% of UK adults visited a church in 2022

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/impact

'For Churches' – our ne

For hundreds of years churches, chapels and meeting houses have provided support to the local communities in which they are rooted. Whether in large city centres, bustling market towns, quiet rural villages, or windswept coastal hamlets, church buildings provide a space for those seeking quiet reflection. They provide a warm welcome, a place to worship, somewhere to admire the nation's history, and offer vital community services to those in need.

With the world reeling following a global pandemic, conflict and political change in Europe and the worst economic shock for decades, there has never been a more important time for the support that churches give. Following the decline of High Streets, and increasing climate and societal change, communities are seeking a positive future.

Church buildings find themselves playing a significant role in placemaking, adapting to changing needs, serving as 'cool' places in excessive summer temperatures, and 'warm' places to shield the needy as energy prices rise. Churches are there for all people at all times.

“
*We want to keep
churches open
and in use available
to all*
”

But just at this time of increased need for church buildings, many find themselves in a parlous state, with growing repair bills, leaking roofs and crumbling stonework, and struggling to pay for the work needed to maintain a warm and weatherproof building. Despite a desire to keep their church building open and in good repair, a small band of willing volunteers often find that caring for a substantial heritage asset is beyond their abilities.



A walking tour visiting St Tydecho, Mallwyd, Gwynedd

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/forchurches

Our strategy 2023 – 2026

In 2022 trustees and staff worked together to develop our new strategy, 'For Churches', which will guide our work from 2023-2026 but look even further ahead to 2030 and the needs of churches in the next decade.

Focussing on three themes, our strategy aims to **Build Up**, **Open Up** and **Speak Up** for church buildings, chapels and meeting houses in all four countries of the UK.

We will **Build Up** churches through funding vital maintenance, repairs and development, providing specialist advice, and establishing new resources to train and support the amazing individuals who give their time to look after church buildings.

We will help churches to **Open Up** and become welcoming spaces where communities can be supported and served; churches can be seen as

great places for worship and prayer, to visit and explore, and in which heritage can be experienced and recognised.

We will **Speak Up** on behalf of churches, helping those in positions of leadership and influence to see the unrivalled role churches play in supporting the wellbeing of the nation.

Our aim will be to find new audiences and build enthusiasm for church buildings, including through innovative use of technology, to help tell the story of churches and their community support and heritage.

'For Churches' will ensure that the work we do makes a difference to churches, local congregations, volunteers, communities and the UK's heritage sector.



<p>For Churches</p> <p>Our vision is that church buildings across the UK are well maintained, open for everyone, sustainable and valued</p>	<p>Our strategy 2023-2026</p> <p>Our mission is to keep the UK's wonderful collection of church buildings well maintained, valued and in use</p>		
Be straightforward	Provide support	Join forces	Drive change

Build Up: Churches are well maintained, adaptable and in good repair

- Establish a network of specialist local officers across the UK
- Position ourselves as a leading conduit and partner of choice for funding church buildings
- Deliver many small grants for church building projects across the UK that bring impact and sustainability
- Help churches prioritise environmental improvements to meet targets
- Resource churches and support volunteers

Open Up: Churches are sustainable, open and welcoming

- Show the need for vibrant, locally centred churches
- Create and develop a mutually beneficial church membership
- Help churches to meet community needs, and understand how to better serve visitors
- Be the first place to discover brilliant churches to visit
- Recognise the value of church buildings and volunteers

Speak Up: Church buildings are valued and supported

- Put research and evidence-based data at the centre of our work
- Speak on behalf of churches nationally and regionally
- Champion the case for church buildings through focussed external communications
- Work with partners to align around a common campaign
- Mobilise our Friends and supporters to create an effective network



SCAN ME

TREASURE IRELAND

We are proud to be a UK wide charity and in 2022 our Treasure Ireland project continued to provide wide-ranging support to churches and chapels in Northern Ireland.

Keeping church buildings in good condition is a priority, so through the Treasure Ireland project we supported maintenance projects at 12 places of worship with funding of over £90,000. The projects were selected by our Northern Ireland Grants Committee who bring expert knowledge to our work.

In 2022 we also supported £200,000 of urgent repair work through our Cornerstone Grant programme thanks to funding received from the Historic Environment Division at the Department for Communities, Northern Ireland. This supported historic places of worship such as Ballintoy Parish Church located on the stunning Causeway Coast.

In 2023, we will launch a series of new heritage trails which will allow visitors to discover the breathtaking church heritage of Northern Ireland. In preparation, 2022 saw us mapping, photographing and filming breathtaking architecture and features such as sacred stained glass and early Christian sculpture.

Making it easy for more people to visit, appreciate and understand the ecclesiastical heritage of Northern Ireland is an important way in which we keep historic churches open for the future.

Our grateful thanks go to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Pilgrim Trust and the Department for Communities for their support of Treasure Ireland.



Saul Church, Downpatrick

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/treasureireland

© Northern Ireland Tourism

NATIONAL CHURCH AWARDS

In 2022 we created the National Church Awards. For the first time, we brought all our award schemes together into one nominations process and one celebratory event. Winners were invited to a sparkling high tea at Mercers' Hall in the City of London on 24 October 2022.

We received almost 200 entries from churches for our new awards which had categories for architecture, maintenance, tourism and volunteering. As well as overall UK wide winners, there were also awards specifically for churches in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.



A special award was made for The Church of the Year, a shining example of a church, chapel or meeting house which is open, available to all and supported by the local community.

The 2022 Church of the Year was St Macartan (The Forth Chapel), Augher, County Tyrone in Northern Ireland. The judges singled out the church for the combined strength of its approach to looking after the building, the involvement of local people as volunteers and the way that St Macartan is promoted as part of the heritage of County Tyrone.

We are hugely grateful to our wonderful hosts, Hugh Dennis and Canon Ann Easter, who led us through the event and announcements with warmth and brilliant humour. Special thanks to the Pilgrim Trust, Marsh Charitable Trust and the Ecclesiastical Architects & Surveyors Association, who partnered with us, and to the Mercers' Company who generously gave us such a magnificent venue and delicious tea.



The 2023 National Church Awards will take place on Monday 6 November.

**193
Entries**

**15
WINNERS**



Canon Ann Easter and Hugh Dennis hosting our 2022 National Church Awards

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/awards

EXPLORE CHURCHES

Churches, chapels and meeting houses are impressive, exciting and surprising places. We want to get more people to visit them so they can share in their history and heritage and experience their wonder.

The Explore section of our new website is a digital gateway to discovering 1,000 years of church history.

The widely praised content includes visitor information on over 3,500 churches, regional pages that make it simple to find churches to visit around the UK, fascinating facts about what to find in churches ranging from organs to bells, and themed listings of churches on subjects ranging from the churches of Queen Victoria to Bill Bryson's favourites and from amazing ancient wooden churches to stunning 20th century churches.

- **Deep Dive – 49** in depth stories about churches, people and places
- **Get Walking – 10** church trails with many more links to other trails
- **UK Wide** – Dedicated church pages for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland
- **A to Z – 3,759** churches with opening times and visitor information, all easy to find on our map

**3,759
Churches
to Explore**



Sunset Panorama, Brentor Church, Dartmoor

© Jose FitzGerald/Patrick/Namy Stock Photo

nationalchurchestrust.org/explore

TRAINING – SUPPORTING CHURCHES

**750
People
trained**

In 2022 we delivered a valuable programme of online training, with content covering church tourism, grants and funding and how to develop church buildings for the future.

We trained over 750 people in 2022, with many benefiting from small groups and longer sessions than in previous years.

We also delivered bespoke training with individual churches and church and heritage organisations, as well as providing expert input delivered at conferences and events.

One highlight was a series of three special webinars produced for the Welsh Places of Worship Forum. The sessions attracted 292 attendees. Funded by Cadw, they included speakers from churches and chapels across Wales.

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/training

Warm spaces – tackling loneliness and soaring heating bills

By Catherine Pepinster

Catherine Pepinster is a journalist, author and broadcaster, and a former editor of *The Tablet*, the Catholic weekly. She is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's *Thought for the Day* slot. Her most recent book is *Defenders of the Faith - the British Monarchy, Religion and the Coronation*. She is a trustee of the National Churches Trust.



Checking the electricity meter

For people whose heating bills went through the roof last winter, the chance to spend time in a warm space rather than turn their heating on at home was welcome relief. And the organisations which stepped up more than any others were churches which opened their doors and offered not only a warm place to spend a few hours but a welcome, a chance for a hot drink and a meal.

Yet at the height of summer, those churches have not closed their doors when people need no longer fret about the cost of heating their homes. The warm welcomes and the meals are still in place. For what churches have learned from their response to high energy bills is that the greatest problem facing many people is social isolation – and churches are well placed to do something about it.



Simon Perfect

As Simon Perfect, an ordinand who has helped organise Warm Welcome at St Peter's De Beauvoir Town in London put it: "It has revealed how big an epidemic loneliness is and how tragic it is".

St Peter's is a Victorian Anglican church in the De Beauvoir district of the London borough of Hackney where large council estates sit cheek by jowl alongside expensive private homes. What

Perfect has also found is that not only is there poverty and isolation but a strong desire, often untapped, among people to help others. "A huge amount of goodwill has been revealed by this too," said Perfect.

The company of people

One hundred and twenty miles north in Boston, Lincolnshire, the Centenary Methodist Church has had a similar experience. Like St Peter's, it responded to the cost of living crisis and set up a warm spaces project, where once a week it served a two course free meal as part of opening up its hall to the local community. People could come in for a hot drink, a chat, advice from experts on benefits, as well as something to eat. Martin Criddle, the church's safeguarding officer, noticed that "It's the company of other people that really matters".

The Centenary Church had previously offered community lunches on Wednesday, which is Boston's market day, but they stopped during Covid and instead the church helped the local council's efforts to provide meals for the homeless housed in hotels during the pandemic.

They then registered with the Warm Welcome campaign at the start of last winter and began offering hot drinks and snacks on Wednesdays and Fridays, opening the church hall from 9.30am to 2.30pm. They have been supported with grants from the local council and from the Asda Foundation.

Worrying about bills

“The government view was that people wanted somewhere warm to sit instead of worrying about bills at home but the driver of this has been the opportunity to be with others”, said Criddle. The visitors range from a 95 year old woman, to a mother and her toddler, but the majority in Boston, which has a large migrant population, are single men from Eastern Europe. “There was a certain amount of territory being marked out at first”, said Criddle, “but now people interact far more; I’d say that is a measure of our success. There have been some unlikely friendships made”.

The Centenary Church estimates it has hosted around 130 people at different times, with 20-30 coming for lunch on most days. It has responded to one unexpected need: places for people to charge their mobile phones, and so extra charging points are now provided.



© Dave Porter / Alamy Stock Photo

Centenary Methodist Church, Boston, Lincolnshire

Warm Welcome campaign

Many churches were drawn to offer warm spaces during the winter through the Warm Welcome campaign, established in September 2022 by a group of faith leaders, keen to support local organisations wanting to open their doors.

A recently published study of the Warm Welcome campaign showed that churches formed the majority of spaces that

opened their doors during the winter. According to the research organisation Eido, commissioned by Warm Welcome, 46% of the warm spaces were in churches, with another 7% in community hubs attached to churches. The only other local venues that came anywhere close to matching churches were libraries that provide 37% of spaces.

The spaces attracted more than half a million visitors. The Eido research confirmed the experience of St Peter's and the Centenary Church – that the spaces clearly provided a different kind of warmth: human contact – with nearly a quarter coming to meet people, and their feelings of isolation dropped significantly. People were attracted by not only the warmth of the space but also free food and drink sometimes offered, free wi-fi, a chance to read and play games, advice and information supplied, as well as spiritual support and above all, conversation.

More than half (54%) interviewed for the study said that if they had not been in the warm space they would have been at home with the heating off. And those who did attend reported that before they found the warm space, almost half were skipping meals at least sometimes. But that figure dropped to 40% after people had spent time away from home, saving on bills, by visiting a warm space.

A place of welcome

Eido's research also showed how important these warm spaces were to older people, with 55% of those who used them being over the age of 55. The space also mattered to those who were out of work, with 38% of those using the warm spaces either unemployed or unable to work. Around half were in receipt of means tested benefits – another sign of how people on limited incomes found warm spaces vital as they struggled to pay bills.

Many who made use of church buildings were not churchgoers at all, as both St Peter's and the Centenary Church discovered. Their intention was never to proselytise but they found a few did start coming to services. “It was never our primary goal”, said Simon Perfect. “Our main reason for serving our meals in the church is because we want to signal that the church is a place of welcome”.

For the hosts, warm spaces were a chance to renew their commitment to their local community. The majority opened once or twice a week for a couple of hours but some opened more frequently and for longer. These openings helped put their places on the map, including churches, with most of them reporting that their visitor numbers increased.

At the moment it looks as though the vast majority of those involved want to repeat the project, with more than three quarters saying they would do so again this coming winter. But there are some barriers to doing so, including a struggle to recruit volunteers and getting funding.



© Warm Welcome

A Warm Welcome in Bristol

High energy costs

Churches keen to help people cope with their rising bills by opening warm hubs will face high energy bills themselves. The Centenary Church's gas bills rose by just under 50% and electricity rose by 20%. So any church thinking about such a project needs to find funds, often by appealing to parishioners, local charities and national grant-givers to further their work. And if churches keen to run warm welcomes by becoming a warm hub need to install facilities like kitchens and toilets or carry out essential repairs, the National Churches Trust has a range of grants to apply for.

Dioceses can help too. The Diocese of Oxford, for example, allocated £550,000 last winter to churches facing high costs, plus £20,000 specifically for warm hubs. Diocesan help like this can make all the difference. In Milton Keynes, for example, the Walton Churches Partnership received a grant from the Diocese of Oxford that transformed what it could offer people. Its rector, the Revd Matt Trendall, said at the time: "As a multi-church parish, Walton has three church buildings to heat for weekly worship as well as a host of midweek events open to the community. Two of the churches have recently registered long-running weekly cafes/coffee mornings as part of the Warm Welcome initiative, and we are thrilled that the generous diocesan grant will help to cover the increased costs of continuing to offer these weekly to our parish."

But it is the volunteers that are essential to the churches' warm welcomes. At the Centenary Church in Boston, volunteers are involved in preparing meals, cooking, serving and clearing up. "The groups are good for volunteers as well as for the guests", said Martin Criddle. "It gives their lives structure".

At St Peter's De Beauvoir, many people who came forward to help were from the local neighbourhood but until then not associated with the church. And just as the church offered people struggling a welcome, it offered those wanting to help a focus too.

"People often felt that the opportunity to help others did not exist," said Perfect. "They recognised there was a crisis when people faced bigger bills but they did not know what to do. They found it in our Warm Welcome."

The mission of Warm Welcome is to support churches and other organisations to open their doors and provide a warm welcome for those struggling to heat their homes. You can register a church as a warm space and find out more on their website www.warmwelcome.uk



Historic Baptist Chapels

By Katie Wylie

For the past year, Katie has been Church Historic Buildings Support Officer and Secretary to the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee at the Baptist Union of Great Britain. Katie advises churches on the care of their historic chapels and guides them through the Authorisation for works to listed buildings process. She previously worked as Assistant Heritage and Planning Officer for a local amenity society and studied for an MSc in Architectural Conservation and a BA in Archaeology.



Baptists recognise believer's baptism – which means not baptising infants, but only those who are considered old enough to make a clear declaration of their own free will – and can trace their origins back to the sixteenth century when they emerged from the unstable world of the English Reformation

The first Baptist church in England was formed by Thomas Helwys in 1612 – meeting in Spitalfields, London. Since then, there have been various groupings, including the Particular Baptists, who held Calvin's views of predestination, and the General Baptists, who believed in the universal possibility of salvation. All were influenced by the 'Evangelical Revival', led by Methodists John Wesley and George Whitefield, and in 1891 most came together to form the Baptist Union.

Those not conforming to the state church were persecuted through the seventeenth century, then 'tolerated' from

1689 into the nineteenth century. In the twenty years following the 1689 Act of Toleration, thousands of places of worship were registered by Baptists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, and others. Most were houses and other secular buildings, but some were places that had been specially built or permanently adapted. One example is Tewkesbury's Old Baptist Chapel (pictured right), which was built as a timber-framed house in the fourteenth century and converted for the local Baptist congregation around 1700. It was restored to its eighteenth-century appearance by Tewkesbury Borough Council in the 1970s and is now managed by the John Moore Museum.

Indoor baptisms

Perhaps one of the most interesting features at Tewkesbury is the brick-lined baptistry, which is large enough for total immersion and could be revealed by moving back the benches and lifting the heavy floor-panels. Baptisms initially took place at natural sites – lakes, rivers, the sea – and outdoor baptistries were created for some chapels during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. However, over time, indoor baptism became more usual, and baptismal pools were typically placed beneath the chapel floor and covered when not in use.

Like many other nonconformist places of worship, early purpose-built Baptist chapels tended to be rectangular buildings, entered in one of the long sides, with a pulpit, communion table, benches, or box pews, and, if large enough, a gallery. Short-wall facades gradually became more popular (especially in towns where street frontages were at a premium) and were most common in the great burst of chapel building led by the Methodists in the first half of the nineteenth century. At that time, encircling galleries began

Left: Being baptised by full immersion

Right: Main image Baptist Chapel, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

Inset: Ground floor of Baptist Chapel, Tewkesbury, showing baptistry



© Homer Sykes / Alamy Stock Photo



to replace the straight-fronted kind, and accompanying Sunday schools and other social facilities became a priority. The style would depend on the fashions of the period, from Georgian classical to Victorian Gothic and beyond.

One of the first dissenting chapels

Today, nearly 300 Baptist congregations that look after a listed chapel are members of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. They are located across England and Wales (Baptist churches in Scotland are supported by the Baptist Union of Scotland) and encompass all the building types outlined above.

For instance, in County Durham is Hamsterley Baptist Church. This congregation can trace their origins back to 1652 and their initial meeting house, constructed in 1715, was one of the first dissenting chapels built in the north of England. It was rebuilt in 1774, the date which can still be seen carved above the door, and Grade II* listed in 1987. This Georgian chapel features two large, arched, sash windows and retains its gallery, pulpit, and pews.

Similarly, back in the south west, Chard Baptist congregation was in existence by 1653 and met in several other locations before the present church was built in 1842. This Grade II* listed

Greek Revival building features a Hamstone ashlar façade, an arched window with cast-iron glazing bars, and Doric pilasters supporting a cornice and pediment. The Victorian use of cast-iron can also be seen inside, where the pulpit is raised on two octagonal columns which fan out to carry a curved-fronted platform with cast-iron balusters of late nineteenth century bamboo design. There is also a three-sided gallery on cast-iron pillars, as was the norm by this time, with original pews.

Moving forward to the twentieth century, the Grade II* listed Sutton Baptist Church in London was built in 1934 by N.F. Cachemaille-Day (1896-1976). This Free Gothic style chapel, with its sheer brick walls and high windows, was built as an ensemble with a school block, church parlour, and large hall – reflecting the architect's interest in the inter-war programme to extend the church's mission within the community.

Inside is an almost complete set of oak fixtures and fittings, predominantly designed by Cachemaille-Day himself – not to mention the baptistry, which is on permanent view and has a backdrop of a stone slab carved with a baptismal scene and a stained-glass window above. Cachemaille-Day was a highly regarded specialist in ecclesiastical buildings, and Sutton is thought to be his only nonconformist commission.



Chard Baptist Church

© alpha image bank / Alamy Stock Photo



© A.P. Montblat

Sutton Baptist Church

With such varied architecture come numerous maintenance and repair issues, the cost and scale of which is one of the biggest challenges currently faced by Baptist congregations that look after a listed building. In 2020, the Baptist Union of Great Britain was awarded a National Capacity Building Grant from Historic England to help tackle this. Over the past three years, this has enabled the better understanding of church needs – and the delivery of new guidance, resources, and funding. This has included a Quinquennial Inspection Grants Scheme and support for putting together the Maintenance Checklist required by the National Churches Trust and other potential funders.

While some Baptist churches do unfortunately face closure, many others continue to act as lifelines for their local communities – not only through their mission and ministry, but also through the space and facilities provided by their building. Services are held at various times throughout the week in a variety of different languages, including Welsh, Mandarin, and British Sign Language.

Moreover, churches respond quickly to current needs and issues through Community Fridges, Warm Hubs, and, most recently, events for Ukrainian refugees. From running



© Sutton Baptist Church

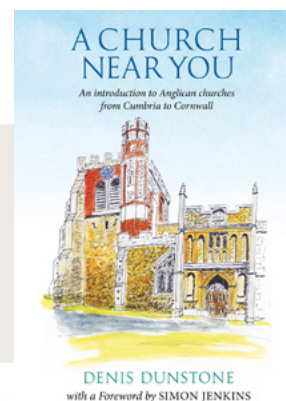
The congregation at Sutton Baptist Church

Dementia Day Cares and Wellbeing Cafes, to hosting NHS vaccination clinics and banks – churches are a vital part of the villages, towns, and cities in which they are located.

To find out more and sign up to the monthly newsletter, please visit **www.baptist.org.uk/listedbuildings** or email **listedbuildings@baptist.org.uk**.

A Church Near You

Written by Denis Dunstone, A Church Near You is a comprehensive volume covering churches in England and Wales, the proceeds of which will raise funds for both the National Churches Trust and the Churches Conservation Trust. We are delighted to have worked with Denis on the publication of his new book.



In the lengthening sunny days of Spring 2020 I crept out to visit churchyards and sketch in colour fifty churches that were within half an hour's drive from my home near Saffron Walden in Essex. The result appeared in a little book which was presented to local churches for sale. As lockdown rules persisted, I added further volumes county by county and reached nineteen. They ranged from Yorkshire to Somerset and Hereford to Kent.

Thanks to the help of the National Churches Trust and publishers Umbria, I then created a one volume edition which includes many of the most interesting and beautiful churches from the other volumes. Thanks in particular to designer Louise Millar for her great work in producing the book.

A Church Near You does not claim to be a history of Anglican churches nor an expert analysis. It is rather a valuable and helpful introduction to the subject, beautifully illustrated and seeking to point out major characteristics, to explain some peculiarities and to stimulate curiosity. I hope my book will raise interest in the future of church buildings, which is becoming a growing problem for the national church, while representing a rich part of our cultural heritage.

Denis Dunstone

The tower at St Mary's church in Stoke-by-Nayland church in Suffolk has fine proportions, modest decoration and an ability to fit gently into its site. For many it is the perfection of English style.

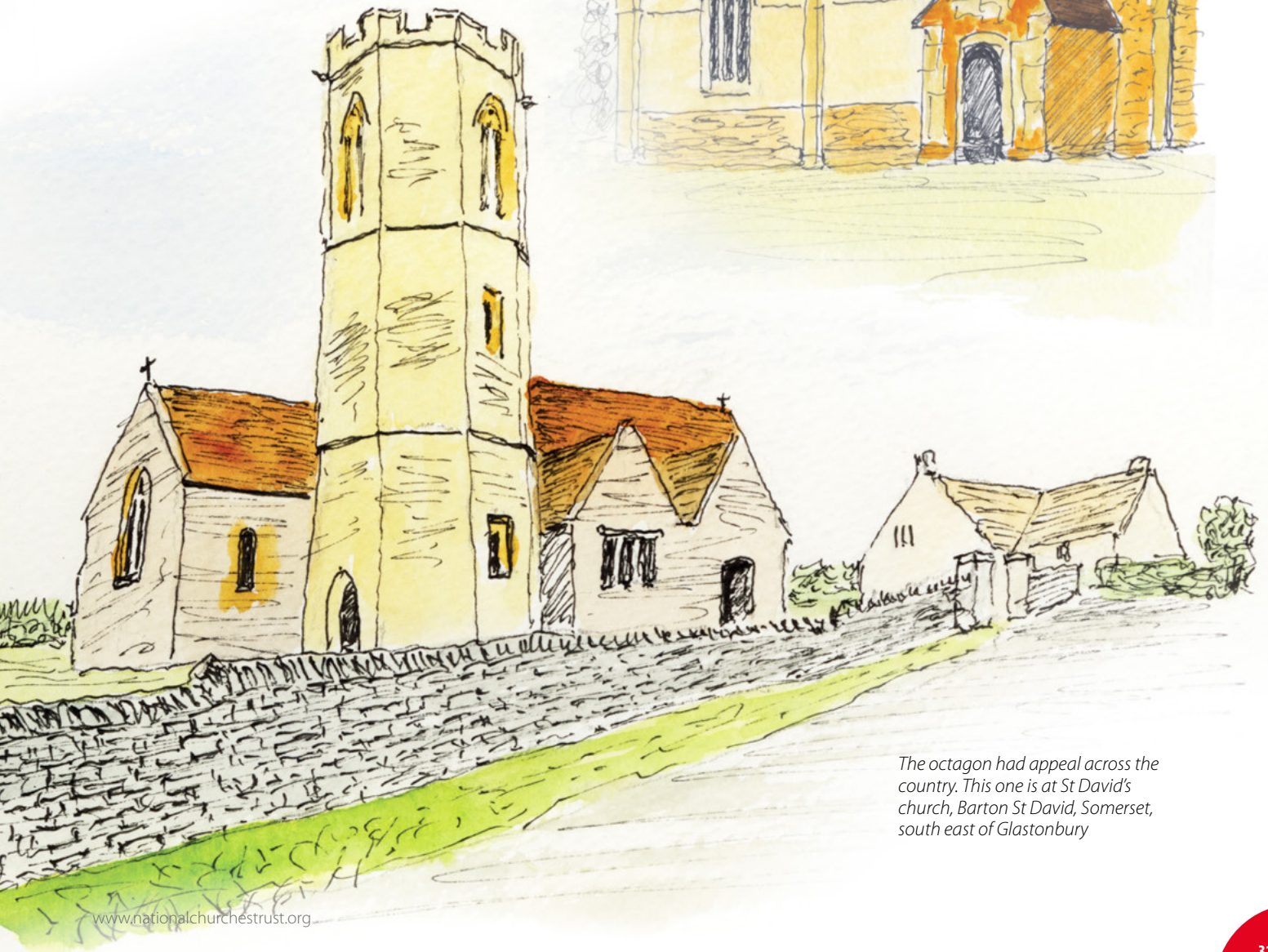
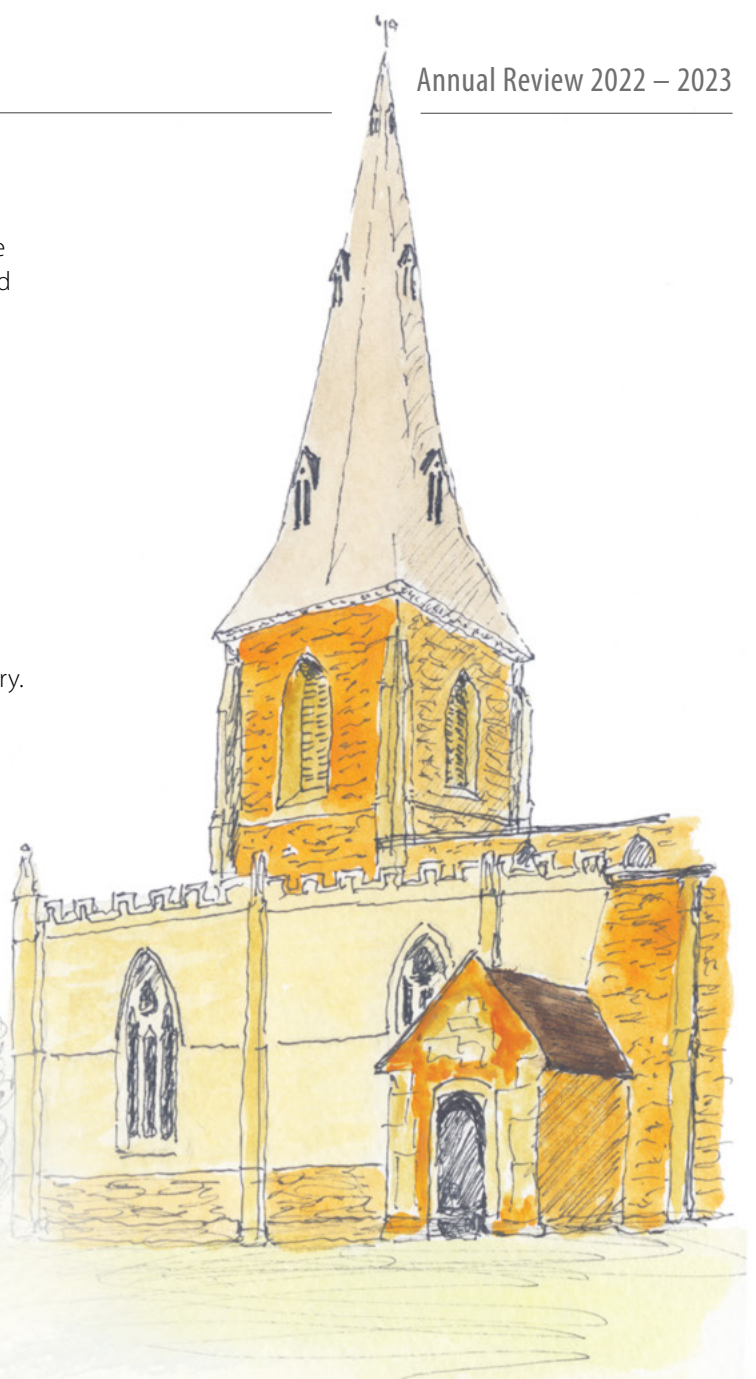


Towers and spires

Churches have had towers from the early days. It may have been no more than a bell-cote, but something was needed to hold a bell. The role of the bell was as a summons, but also in some cases as an alarm. Towers developed with masonry churches in the Anglo Saxon period. They had a number of roles. In areas of conflict they were a refuge or even a fortress; near the coast they served as an aid to navigation; up the east side of England they were a way marker; in York, illuminated, they served as a guide.

Later they became a matter of rivalry between towns, and between landowners. Initially they were capped with a pyramid-shape roof, but this slowly grew and by the 13th century spires were emerging. Here there was serious rivalry. Ulm in Germany has a steeple (tower and spire combined) over 500 feet tall. Salisbury Cathedral has the tallest in England at 404 feet.

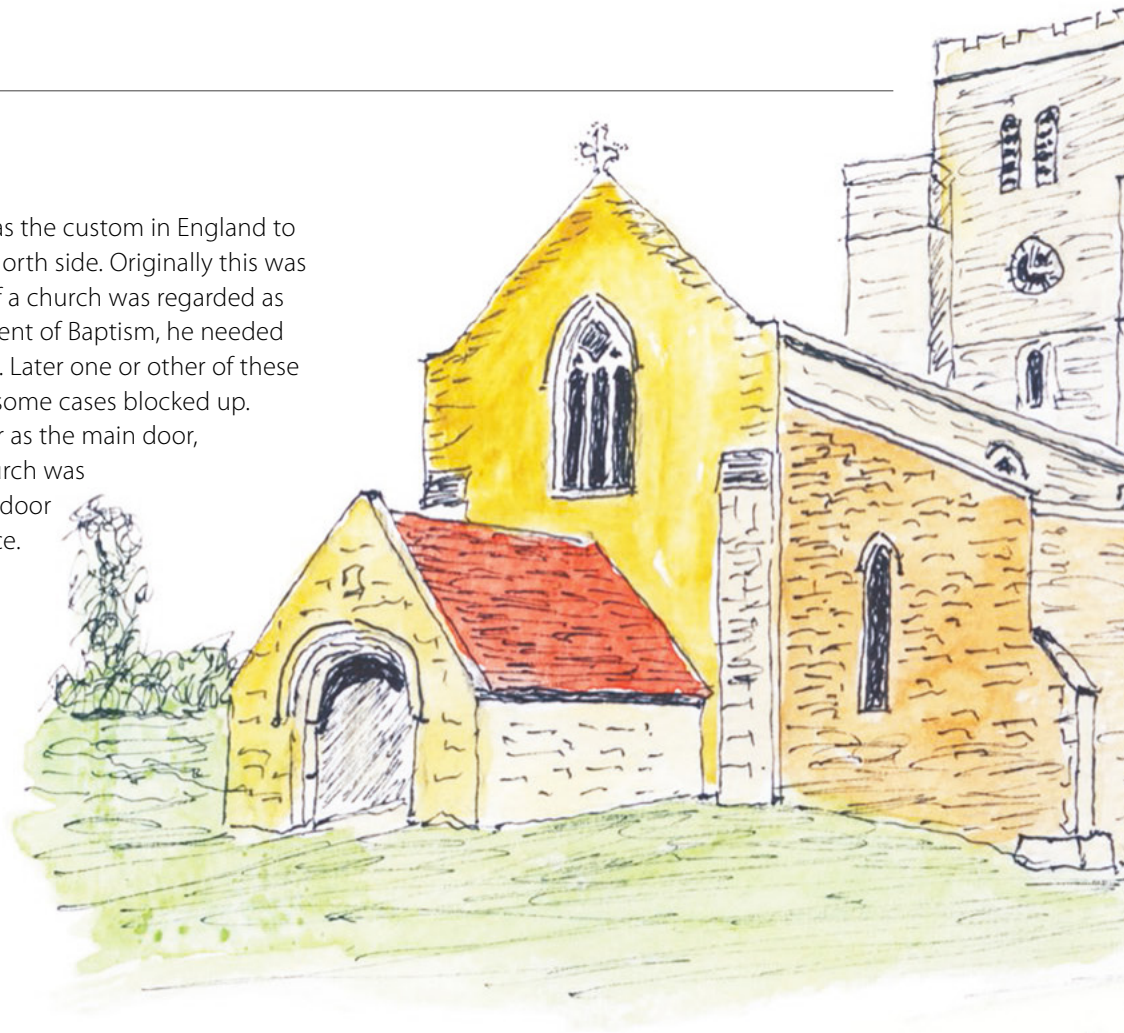
Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Rutland all benefitted from the availability of good masonry. They have as a consequence fine spires. St Luke's in Gaddesby, Leicestershire is a good example, with windows known as lucarnes, spaced up the spire.



The octagon had appeal across the country. This one is at St David's church, Barton St David, Somerset, south east of Glastonbury

Doorways

In the Celtic style of church it was the custom in England to enter a church on the south or north side. Originally this was because the colder north side of a church was regarded as the Devil's side and, at the moment of Baptism, he needed a door through which to escape. Later one or other of these doors was less used and was in some cases blocked up. This normally left the south door as the main door, but if principal access to the church was from the north, it was the north door which became the main entrance.



Another English characteristic is the porch. This may be derived from the Anglo-Saxon porticus. It may have been prompted by the weather, but it became a useful space for meetings and weddings. If an upper storey was built, called a parvise, it provided in some cases accommodation for the curate, and more often became a useful place to put things.

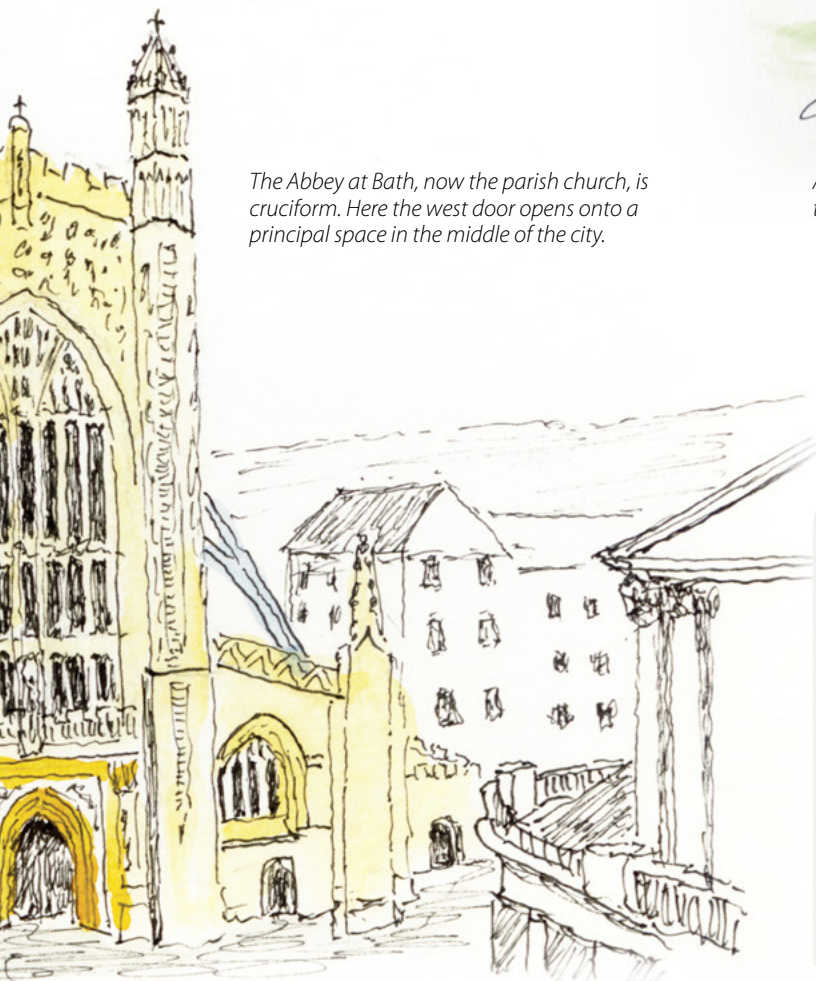
Another English peculiarity is the apparent reluctance to use a west door. On the Continent, in non-conformist chapels, and in English cathedrals and abbeys with twin west towers, it is normal to enter the church at the west end. A reason for this exception may be that, with a bell or bells in the west tower, the entrance would have been obstructed by bell ringers. As a result there are churches where the bells are rung from an upper chamber. The position was complicated in the 19th century by the Ecclesiastical Society who campaigned for order in church services. They advocated bell ringers being on the ground floor so that they would be more visible and less inclined to slip away to the pub.



All Saints church in Cuddesdon, Oxfordshire has a proper west porch, and a south porch as well.



The Abbey at Bath, now the parish church, is cruciform. Here the west door opens onto a principal space in the middle of the city.



At St Mary the Virgin in Radwinter, Essex there is an elegant timber framed porch with a rather West Country appearance.

How to order

Thanks to the generosity of Denis Dunstone, proceeds from the sales of *A Church Near You* will raise money to support our work. You can buy the book from our online shop for £19.99 and help keep churches in every corner of the UK open and thriving.



Denis Dunstone



SCAN ME

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/acny-book

Financial summary

In 2022 we were pleased to award 258 grants to churches totalling over £1.9 million, while continuing to promote the value of church buildings and provide advice.

Our income for the year amounted to just under £2.9 million, over £1.0 million of which came from trusts and foundations, while nearly £0.8 million was given by our Friends and other supporters. An unexpected highlight included within this figure resulted from the sale of a painting which had been donated in 2021. Valued at £40,000 in our accounts for that year, it was later attributed to Anthony van Dyck and sold at Christies for £260,000. The uplift was accounted for in 2022.

Legacies, which are an important but variable source of income for the charity, amounted to c. £0.5 million in 2022 (compared to £0.6 million in 2021), while the Northern Ireland Department for Communities provided £0.2 million and the Heritage Stimulus Fund a top up of £0.1 million to the £3.5 million granted in 2021.

At 31 December 2022, total funds amounted to £6.0 million, comprising £2.5 million of endowment funds, £1.0 million restricted reserves and £2.5 million unrestricted reserves.

Henry Stanford, ACA, Treasurer

Financial resources

Excluding endowments, the funds of the National Churches Trust amounted to £3.5m at the end of 2022 (compared to £4.0m at the end of 2021). Of this, £2.5m 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 £1.0m, 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 2022.

Spending in 2022

The Trust awarded £1.9m in grants in 2022. Non-grant expenditure decreased by £67,000.

	Spending £000s
National Churches Trust Grants to maintain and enhance church buildings*	1,722
Other spending to maintain and enhance church buildings	408
Promoting the benefit of church buildings and inspiring everyone to value and enjoy them	353
Fundraising	441
	Total 2,924

*Grants awarded during 2022 less previous awards not claimed of £190,000.
In addition the Trust recommended grants of £50,000 awarded by other charities.

Where the money came from

Total income before unrealised movements on investments decreased by £3,562,000 in 2022 compared to 2021, principally as a result of funding from the Heritage Stimulus Fund in 2021.

	Where the money came from £000s
Heritage Stimulus Fund and Northern Ireland Department for Communities	332
Trusts and Foundations	1,040
Support from Friends and other donations	779
Legacies	483
Investment and other income	250
	Total 2,884

Unrealised losses on investments amounted to £777,000, compared to unrealised gains of £818,000 in 2021.

The Financial Summary above does not comprise the full statutory accounts of the National Churches Trust.

Our full Financial Statements for 2022 are available on request. Please email: info@nationalchurchestrust.org

Will you help us to save more churches?



Andrew Smyth
Legacies Officer

I have been the volunteer Legacies Officer for the National Churches Trust for over 10 years. Based near Lewes, in East Sussex, I have been a Church Warden, so I know that looking after an historic church costs an awful lot of money.

A legacy to the National Churches Trust is of course of great benefit to the churches we help with grants for urgent repairs. But it is also a very sound piece of financial planning. It

costs you nothing in your lifetime and when the time comes, your estate benefits from inheritance tax relief. Leaving gifts to charity in your will means that your donation will either:

- be taken off the value of your estate before Inheritance Tax is calculated or
- reduce your Inheritance Tax rate, if 10% or more of your estate is left to charity

In this 70th anniversary year since our charity was set up, it is pleasing to note that over 800 legators have left us bequests. Each one has been recorded in our Memorial Book which lists the names of the people who have supported us in this way from 1953 to 2022. The first recorded legacy was in 1953 from the Rt Hon Sir Felix Cassel.

Over the past twelve years, we have received over £10 million thanks to gifts in wills, outstanding generosity that has allowed us to help historic churches, chapels and meeting houses throughout the UK.

The repairs to St Barnabas, Brampton Bryan, are just one example of what has been achieved with legacy gifts. With the help of our grant, in 2021 the delightful church was removed from Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.



© Jon Lewis / Alamy Stock Photo

St Barnabas Church, Brampton Bryan, Herefordshire

St Barnabas is a Grade I listed building and an integral part of the village, both of which have considerable historic importance. It is believed to be one of only six English churches built or rebuilt during the Commonwealth Period (1649–1660), after being destroyed together with much of the adjoining castle and the majority of the village during the Civil War.

A huge challenge

It may surprise you that, in the time that I have been volunteering as Legacies Officer, half of our bequests have been from people previously unknown to us. That speaks volumes about the importance of our work.

The other half has been from our Friends and donors, to whom we are really grateful. During those years Friends' numbers have tripled – I often say to myself that it would be splendid if the number of legacies could triple too!

As well as attracting us with their amazing architecture and history, churches also support local people and help build stronger communities. Of course, for you, as for many people, a church may be important as a place of worship. For others, such as our Vice President Sir Michael Palin, they are a refuge of calm in what is a busy and stressful world.

The scale of the challenge facing church buildings is huge. The Church of England alone has over 12,000 listed churches. Over 4,000 of these are Grade I Listed, around half the total of all buildings deemed to be our most important national heritage. But it faces a repair bill of around £1 billion over the next five years for its parish churches. Other denominations face similar financial challenges for their buildings.

Do please find out more about leaving a gift in your will so that we can do even more to save the UK's precious church buildings for future generations. A gift of just 1% of your estate will help to save more of our nation's rich heritage of churches and chapels.

Elsewhere in our Annual Review you can read about our work in 2022 and of the magnificent history and heritage of our local churches. Last year we also ran a legacies campaign to attract new legators and new bequests. As a result, 41 new legacy pledges were made. A huge thank you to all of you who responded in this way.

Find out more

Contact us today and Claire Walker our CEO will be delighted to send you information about how to leave a legacy to the National Churches Trust or arrange to have a chat, if you prefer. Thank you.

Email: info@nationalchurchestrust.org

We awarded or recommended **258** grants

Aberdeenshire

New Aberdour, Aberdour Parish Church, **£10,000** Foundation

Antrim

Ballintoy, Parish church, **£40,000** Cornerstone (Dfc)

£5,000 Cornerstone (Wolfson)

Ballymena, All Saints, **£7,000** Gateway

Belfast, Woodvale Methodist church,

£15,000 Cornerstone (Dfc)

Carnmoney, Church of the Holy Evangelist,

£8,000 Treasure Ireland

Whitehead, Whitehead Methodist Church,

£20,000 Cornerstone (Dfc)

Armagh

Tandragee, St Mark Ballymore, **£8,000** Treasure Ireland

Lurgan, Shankill Parish Church, **£7,000** Treasure Ireland

Bedfordshire

Melchbourne, St Mary Magdalene, **£30,000** Cornerstone,

£10,000 Cornerstone (Wolfson)

Houghton Regis, All Saints, **£10,000** Gateway (Wolfson),

£3,000 Gateway

Birmingham

Birmingham, St Paul in the Jewellery Quarter,

£4,800 Foundation

Buckinghamshire

Mursley, St Mary The Virgin, **£10,000** Gateway (Wolfson)

£3,737 Gateway

Newport Pagnell, St Peter and St Paul, **£4,500** Foundation

Winslow, St Laurence **£3,333** Gateway

Cambridgeshire

Christchurch, Christchurch Parish Church, **£900** Foundation

Great Paxton, Holy Trinity, **£2,143** Foundation

Lode, St James, **£3,906** Foundation

Shelton, St Mary **£5,000** Gateway (Wolfson)

Southoe, St Leonard, **£10,000** Gateway (Wolfson),

£3,000 Gateway

Carmarthenshire

Llanelli, St Elli, **£15,000** Cornerstone

Ceredigion

Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn, St Michael, **£3,000** Tanner Trust

Cheshire

Baddiley, St Michael, **£4,350** Foundation

Dukinfield, St John The Evangelist, **£3,250** Foundation

Runcorn, St Berteline and St Christopher,

£25,000 Cornerstone

Cornwall

Lostwithiel, St Bartholomew, **£10,000** Cornerstone,

£5,000 Cornerstone (Wolfson)

South Hill, St Sampson, **£2,500** Foundation

Tuckingmill, All Saints, **£4,030** Foundation

Cumbria

Orton, All Saints, **£10,000** Cornerstone (Wolfson)

Workington, Our Lady Star of The Sea & St Michael,

£1,000 Foundation

Burton in Kendal, St James, **£8,000** Gateway (Wolfson),

£3,000 Gateway

Denbighshire

Llantysilio, St Tysilio, **£4,000** Foundation

Ruthin, Llanynys, St Saeran, **£500** Tourism Awards

Derbyshire

Buxton, Buxton Methodist Church, **£10,000** Cornerstone

Chesterfield, St Augustine, **£948** Gateway

Idridgehay, St James the Great, **£3,000** Gateway

Kniveton, St Michael and All Angels, **£780** Foundation

Tideswell, St John the Baptist, **£5,000** Gateway (Wolfson)

Devon

Hatherleigh, St John the Baptist, **£10,000** Cornerstone,

£5,000 Cornerstone (Wolfson)

Ilfracombe, St Philip and St James, **£10,000** Cornerstone,

£5,000 Cornerstone (Wolfson)

Harberton, St Andrew, **£4,485** Foundation

Marwood, Marwood Methodist Church, **£5,000** Foundation

Plymouth, Plymouth Methodist Central Hall, **£5,000**

Foundation

Sandford, St Swithun, **£2,534** Foundation

Teignmouth, St James the Less, **£4,500** Foundation

High Bray, All Saints, **£3,000** Gateway (Wolfson)

Dorset

Bournemouth, St Peter, **£25,000** Cornerstone, **£10,000**

Cornerstone (Wolfson)

Down

Armagh, Cremore Presbyterian Church, **£8,000**

Cornerstone

Newry, Cathedral of St Patrick and St Colman, **£40,000**

Cornerstone (Dfc)

Mountpottinger, Mountpottinger

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, **£8,500** Gateway

Annalong, Kilhorne Parish Church, **£10,000** Treasure Ireland

Castlewellan, St Paul, **£10,000** Treasure Ireland

Killough, St Anne, **£10,000** Treasure Ireland

Magherally, St John The Evangelist, **£4,800** Treasure Ireland

Durham

Leadgate, St Ives, **£2,000** Foundation

Stockton-on-Tees, St Peter, **£20,000** Cornerstone

East Lothian

Dunbar, St Anne, **£10,000** Foundation, **£5,000** Gateway (Wolfson)

Edinburgh

Edinburgh, King of Glory, **£5,000** Foundation

nts in 2022, totalling **£1.96 million**

Essex

Brightlingsea, All Saints, **£15,000** Cornerstone,
£5,000 Cornerstone (Wolfson)

Hadstock, St Botolph, **£3,000** Gateway

Fermanagh

Killesher, St Patrick, **£7,000** Treasure Ireland

Glamorgan

Cowbridge, St Hilary Of Poitiers, **£5,000** Cornerstone
(Wolfson)

Monknash, St Mary Magdalene, **£9,000** Gateway (Wolfson),
£3,000 Gateway

Gloucestershire

Kingscote, St John the Baptist, **£3,000** Foundation

Longhope, All Saints, **£4,000** Foundation

Redbrook, St Saviour, **£4,500** Foundation

Wick, St Bartholomew, **£4,720** Foundation

Gwynedd

Bangor, Bangor Welsh Evangelical Church
(Capel Y Ffynnon), **£1,638** Gateway

Hampshire & The Isle Of Wight

Binsted, Holy Cross, **£5,000** Gateway (Wolfson)

Damerham, St George, **£3,400** Foundation

Southampton, Swaythling, St Mary, **£10,000** Cornerstone
(Wolfson)

Herefordshire

Kilpeck, St Mary and St David, **£3,000** Gateway,
£3,000 Gateway (Wolfson)

Leominster, St Ethelbert, **£5,000** Foundation

Leominster, Priory Church of St Peter and St Paul,

£10,000 Gateway (Wolfson), **£3,000** Gateway

Tedstone Delamere, St James, **£5,000** Foundation

Hertfordshire

Kings Langley, All Saints, **£5,000** Foundation

Stevenage, St Peter, **£3,000** Foundation

Kent

Cobham, St Mary's Church Rooms, **£15,000** Cornerstone

Gillingham, St Augustine, **£4,000** Foundation

Maidstone, All Saints, **£15,000** Cornerstone

Lanarkshire

Glasgow, Cardonald Parish Church, **£10,000** Cornerstone,
£5,000 Cornerstone (Wolfson)

Lancashire

Bolton-Le-Sands, Holy Trinity, **£9,000** Gateway (Wolfson)

Chorley, St Laurence, **£9,000** Gateway (Wolfson), **£3,000** Gateway

Crawshawbooth, Quaker Meeting House, **£10,000** Cornerstone

Lytham St Annes, Lytham Methodist Church, **£3,500** Foundation

Preston, St Walburge, **£10,000** Cornerstone

Leicestershire

Leicester, Aylestone, St Andrew, **£2,145** Foundation

Owston, St Andrew, **£3,000** Foundation

Sutton Bassett, All Saints, **£3,000** Foundation

South Wigston, St Thomas the Apostle, **£10,000** Gateway
(Wolfson), **£3,000** Gateway

Lincolnshire

Bottesford, St Peter ad Vincula, **£7,600** Gateway

Burton-Le-Coggles, St Thomas of Canterbury, **£2,950** Foundation

Halton Holegate, St Andrew, **£3,000** Gateway,

£9,000 Gateway (Wolfson)

High Tooton, St John the Baptist, **£2,500** Gateway

Scampton, St John the Baptist, **£1,000** Tourism Awards

Stickford, St Helen, **£5,000** Foundation

London

Acton Green, St Peter, **£3,000** Gateway

Angell Town, St John The Evangelist, **£1,075** Foundation

Beddington, St Mary The Virgin, **£10,000** Cornerstone **£4,000**
Cornerstone (Wolfson)

Child's Hill, All Saints, **£3,500** Gateway

Islington, Union Chapel, **£25,000** Cornerstone

Lewisham, St Mary The Virgin, **£30,000** Cornerstone,
£10,000 Cornerstone (Wolfson)

Shacklewell Row, St Barnabas, **£8,500** Gateway

Londonderry

All Saints Clooney Church, **£15,000** Cornerstone (Dfc)

Londonderry, Ebrington Presbyterian Church,
£3,884 Treasure Ireland

Loughan, Kildollagh, St Paul, **£9,200** Treasure Ireland

Manchester

Manchester, Whalley Range, St Margaret, **£830** Foundation

Rochdale, St John the Baptist, **£15,000** Cornerstone, **£8,000**
Cornerstone (Wolfson)

Whitefield, Whitefield Methodist Church, **£5,000** Foundation

Wigan, Queens Hall Methodist Mission, **£1,710** Foundation

Middlesex

Enfield, St John the Baptist, **£625** Foundation

Monmouthshire

Caerwent, St Stephen and St Tathan, **£10,270** Tanner Trust,
£10,000 Gateway (Wolfson), **£3,730** Gateway

Norfolk

Blickling, St Andrew, **£5,000** Gateway (Wolfson), **£3,000** Gateway

Elsing, St Mary the Virgin, **£7,000** Gateway (Wolfson)

Geldeston, St Michael and All Angels, **£10,000** Gateway
(Wolfson), **£3,000** Gateway

Hingham, St Andrew, **£25,000** Cornerstone

Pulham Market, St Mary Magdalene, **£5,000** Gateway (Wolfson),
£3,000 Gateway

Whissonsett, St Mary the Virgin, **£12,530** Cornerstone

Wilby, All Saints, **£10,000** Friends

North Ayrshire

Ardrossan, St Peter in Chains, **£20,000** Cornerstone,
£10,000 Cornerstone (Wolfson)

Northumberland

Hexham, Priory Church of St Andrew, **£15,000** Cornerstone,
£6,000 Cornerstone (Wolfson), **£2,883** Foundation

Nottinghamshire

Annesley, All Saints, **£5,000** Gateway (Wolfson), **£3,000** Gateway
Hucknall, St Mary Magdalene, **£5,000** Foundation
Ordsall, All Hallows, **£1,500** Foundation
Plungar, St Helen, **£5,000** Gateway (Wolfson), **£3,000** Gateway

Orkney Islands

Kirkwall, St Magnus, **£500** Tourism Awards

Oxfordshire

Piddington, St Nicholas, **£4,800** Foundation
Sibford Ferris, Holy Trinity, **£2,397** Foundation
Swalcliffe, St Peter & St Paul, **£5,000** Foundation
Wheatfield, St Andrew, **£5,000** Cornerstone (Wolfson)

Pembrokeshire

Newport, St Mary, **£4,000** Foundation

Powys

Eglwysfach, St Michael, **£3,977** Gateway (Wolfson),
£3,000 Gateway

Renfrewshire

Bishopton, Bishopton Parish Church, **£2,500** Nayler Awards
(Maintenance Awards)

Rhondda Cynon Taff

Aberdare, St Fagan, **£10,000** Cornerstone

Rutland

Oakham, All Saints, **£7,513** Gateway (Wolfson), **£3,730** Gateway

Shropshire

Great Bolas, St John The Baptist, **£10,000** Cornerstone
Shifnal, St Andrew, **£3,000** Gateway, **£3,000** Gateway (Wolfson)
Stanton Lacy, St Peter, **£15,000** Cornerstone

Somerset

Combe Florey, St Peter and St Paul, **£5,000** Foundation
Curry Rivel, St Andrew, **£4,000** Gateway (Wolfson)
East Brent, St Mary The Blessed Virgin, **£3,333** Gateway,
£3,000 Gateway (Wolfson)
East Harptree, St Laurence, **£10,000** Cornerstone,
£5,000 Cornerstone (Wolfson)
East Pennard, All Saints, **£6,510** Gateway (Wolfson),
£3,000 Gateway
Othery, St Michael, **£5,000** Gateway (Wolfson), **£3,000** Gateway
Portishead, High St Methodist Church, **£1,825** Foundation
Wincanton, St Peter and St Paul, **£10,000** Cornerstone (Wolfson)
£5,276 Cornerstone

Staffordshire

Haughton, St Giles, **£3,000** Gateway (Wolfson)
Stoke-on-Trent, Shelton, St Mark, **£30,000** Cornerstone

Suffolk

Glemham, All Saints, **£5,000** Gateway (Wolfson), **£3,000** Gateway
Stoke By Nayland, St Mary, **£12,000** Cornerstone, **£8,000**
Cornerstone (Wolfson)

Surrey

Betchworth, St Michael, **£3,000** Gateway, **£3,000** Gateway
(Wolfson)
Horley, St Bartholomew, **£5,000** Cornerstone (Wolfson)

Sussex

Balcombe, St Mary, **£10,000** Cornerstone (Wolfson)
Bexhill, St Barnabas, **£9,000** Gateway
Brede, St George, **£5,000** Foundation
Hastings, His Place Community Church, **£27,194** Cornerstone
Haywards Heath, St Richard, **£4,824** Foundation
Litlington, St Michael The Archangel, **£5,000** Gateway (Wolfson),
£3,000 Gateway
Old Shoreham, St Nicolas, **£5,000** Gateway (Wolfson),
£3,000 Gateway
Trotton, St George, **£5,000** Foundation

Tyrone

Augher, St Macartans, **£2,500** Nayler Awards (Maintenance Awards)
Cranagh, St Patrick, **£6,000** Cornerstone (Dfc)
Dunnalong, St John, **£10,000** Cornerstone (Dfc)
Fivemiletown, St Mary, **£24,000** Cornerstone (Dfc)
Moy, St James, **£30,000** Cornerstone (Dfc), **£5,000** Cornerstone
(Wolfson)
Omagh, St Columba, **£10,000** Treasure Ireland

Warwickshire

Warwick, St Mary, **£20,000** Cornerstone, **£10,000** Cornerstone
(Wolfson)
Warwick, St Nicholas, **£5,000** Cornerstone (Wolfson)

West Midlands

Cotteridge, The Cotteridge Church, **£2,000** Foundation

Wiltshire

Cricklade, St Sampson, **£6,700** Gateway
Farley, All Saints, **£5,000** Gateway (Wolfson)
Shrewton, St Mary, **£250** Foundation
Trowbridge, St Thomas, **£5,000** Foundation

Worcestershire

Kidderminster, St George, **£5,000** Nayler Awards (Maintenance Awards)

Wrexham

Marchwiell, St Deiniol and St Marcella, **£2,500** Nayler Awards
(Maintenance Awards)

Yorkshire

Amotherby, St Helen, **£3,000** Gateway
Austwick, Church Of The Epiphany, **£2,860** Foundation
Barwick-In-Elmet, Methodist Church, **£2,000** Foundation
Chop Gate, St Hilda, **£4,918** Foundation
Clifford, St Edward King and Confessor, **£10,000** Cornerstone
Fangfoss, St Martin, **£15,000** Cornerstone
Hull, St Mary The Virgin, **£5,000** Foundation
Hutton Magna, St Mary, **£3,000** Gateway
Leeds, Chapel Town, Church of the Holy Rosary, **£3,123** Foundation
Nunburnholme, St James, **£1,470** Foundation
Sharow, St John, **£2,600** Foundation
Sheffield, High Green, St Saviour, **£3,250** Gateway
Skipwith, St Helen, **£3,000** Gateway (Wolfson)
Snape, Snape Castle, St Mary's Chapel, **£5,000** Foundation
Sproatley, St Swithin, **£2,250** Foundation
Stanningley, St Thomas, **£4,500** Foundation
Thornaby, St Peter ad Vincula and St Mary Magdalene, **£2,199** Foundation
Thornton In Lonsdale, St Oswald, **£3,000** Gateway
Thurcroft, St Simon and St Jude, **£2,293** Foundation

We also awarded six grants totalling £50,000 on behalf of another charity and made nine uplifts totalling £217,101 to Heritage Stimulus Fund projects first supported in 2021.

Our Grants in 2023

Our grants are available to Christian places of worship of all denominations and in all parts of the UK.

For 2023 we have renamed our grants to make it easier for churches to understand which programme they should apply for.

The Small Grants programme offers grants of between £500 and £5,000 to help fund urgent maintenance and high priority small repairs, as well as small investigative works and surveys.

The Medium Grants programme offers grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 for essential maintenance and repair projects costing between £20,000 and £80,000. Medium grants can also help churches in developing projects, for example by funding feasibility studies or investigative work.

The Large Grants programme offers our largest grants of up to £50,000 for major structural repair projects, such as roof works, costing more than £80,000, or toilet and kitchen projects costing more than £30,000 – ideal if you are hoping to improve your church's accessibility or ability to host events.

All applications are online – find out more at:
www.nationalchurchestrust.org/grants



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 Catharine Kroon

We are grateful to the many Trusts, Foundations and donors who generously support us, including those listed here, and others who prefer to remain anonymous.

Specialist Skills Directory

Our Specialist Skills Directory showcases some of the expert and talented craftspeople working to preserve the nation's churches and heritage buildings. Whether you need a blacksmith or an embroiderer, a steeplejack or a stained glass restorer, our Specialist Skills Directory, with over 150 members around the UK, is there to help you find the right person for the job. Visit our website for full details about each member. You can also search by their expertise or category of skills nationalchurchestrust.org/specialistskills or contact Anna Tham at anna.tham@nationalchurchestrust.org



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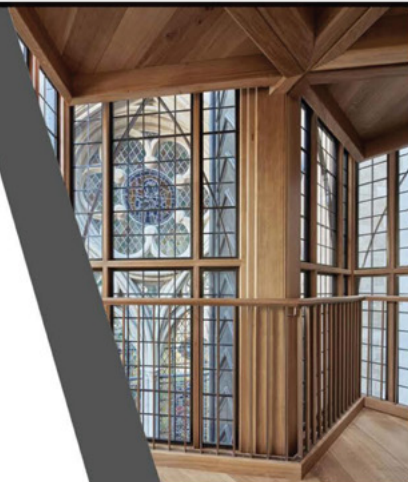
We are grateful for the support of all the members of our Specialist Skills Directory, who are listed above. We also thank members who are supporting the publication of our Annual Review by advertising in this special Specialist Skills Directory advertising section. If you contact them, please do tell them that you saw their advertisement in the National Churches Trust Annual Review.

The use of trade, firm or business names in the Specialist Skills Directory is for the information and convenience of the reader. Such use does not constitute an endorsement or approval by the National Churches Trust of any product or service to the exclusion of others that may be suitable.



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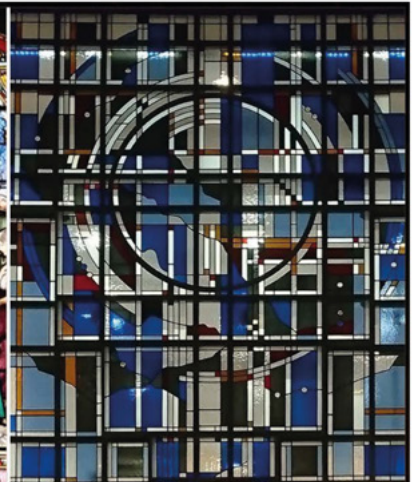
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London – Worcester – Hereford – Nationwide Service

Restoration

St Thomas Isle of Man Grade 1 listed, restoration of detailed smalti glass mosaic and various marble figures designs.



The fully restored Saint Thomas figure in smalti mosaic. The pictures above show the stages of restoration of the damaged Saints face, and full size picture showing the restored figure and face. The project had very large areas of marble and other smalti mosaic designs with restoration of those areas scattered throughout the floor.

This project was carried out 25 years ago and recently the church sent an updated reference to say the work carried out is still in excellent condition.



For full details of this project please visit <https://tinyurl.com/5n85r77b>

Contact M: 07946 478 901 T: (office) 01519 207 349 E: info@heritagetiling.com

W: www.heritagetiling.com for more information.



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Last year we helped to save over 200 churches

NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST

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Music needs churches.
Please help keep them open for the future.

(C) Marylebone Music Festival: photographer Sam Gregg

From Evensong to Elgar, Rock to Requiems the UK's churches are the perfect home for concerts and choirs as well as being vital venues for rehearsals and recordings.

Churches have also nurtured musicians such as Tasmin Little and Ed Sheeran.

But time takes its toll on all of us and churches are no exception.

Many are threatened with leaking roofs, crumbling stonework and the lasting effects of closure during the pandemic.

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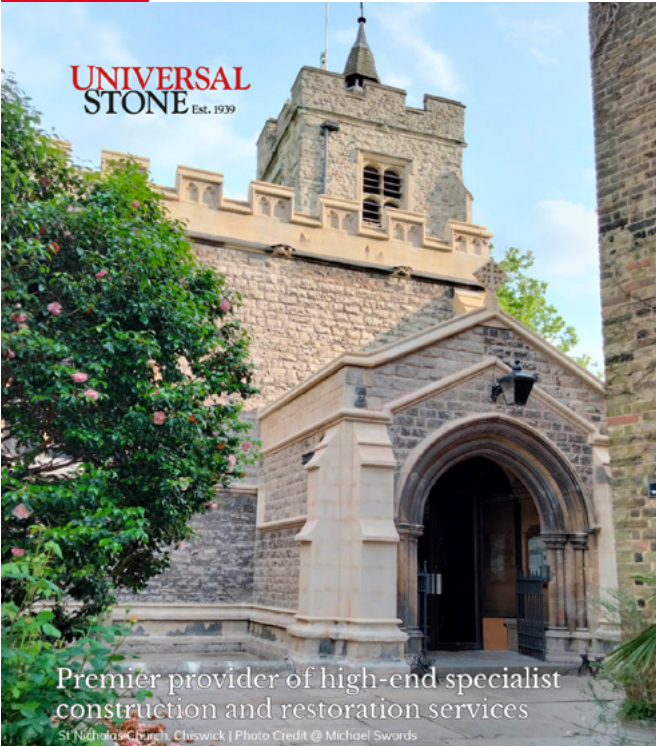
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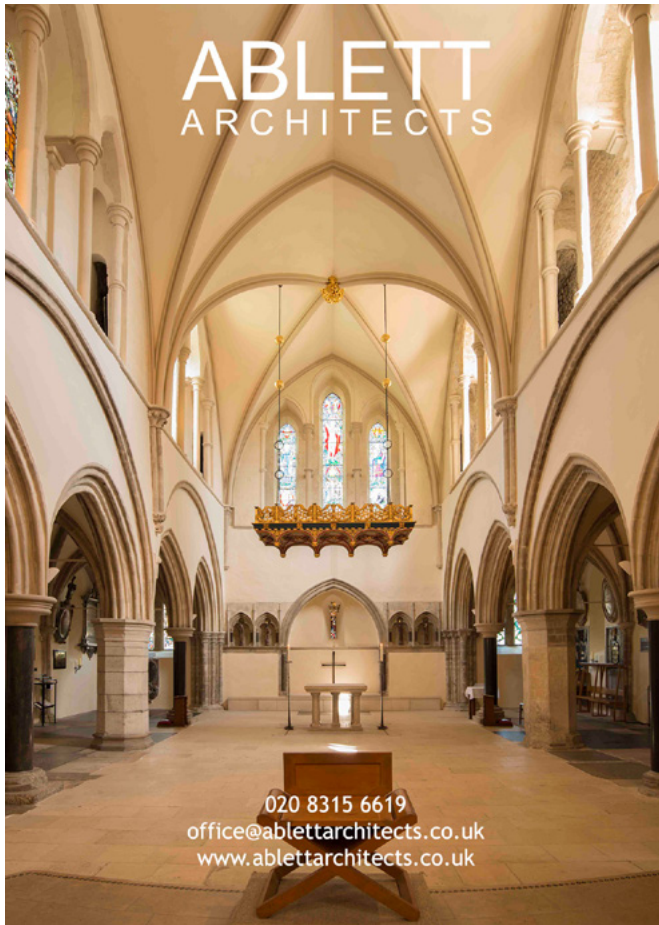
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