A look backwards ... and forwards

The Forum continues to be amazed by the very positive work done by churches trusts around the country to help places of worship with the funding repairs and maintenance, and by the help they give to them with so many different issues which crop up from time to time. For example, Suffolk HCT has done some splendid work with churches regarding the avoidance of metal theft. Dorset HCT has invested significantly to develop Ride+Stride and income has increased significantly, thereby increasing the amount of support they can give. Herefordshire’s “Music in Quiet Places” has also been very successful. It is heartening to read of these different initiatives – please keep the good stories coming for inclusion in our twice-yearly Newsletter.

2. I am sure that all our readers appreciate the huge amount of support which the Forum and individual trusts receive from colleagues at the National Churches Trust. This support is unstinting and has been extensive in its scope and

Chairman’s message continues on page 2
depth during the past year – from taking a very major role in organising the Annual Conference; to the production of this Newsletter; to the provision of secretarial and professional support for meetings of the Forum; to investing in a major rebranding of Ride+Stride, guidance on what to do to enable trusts to become Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs), and development of support pages for local trusts within the NCT website. A partnership with the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust and some other organisations was also established under the banner of the Yorkshire Maintenance Project. The year was rounded off with two further important developments – the release of a new section of the NCT website “ExploreChurches” which I think is stunning; and the establishment of a churches trusts’ Fundraising Group. Please do look at the ExploreChurches website and watch out for details of the work of the Fundraising Committee. Our grateful thanks to all colleagues at the National Churches Trust – we are immensely grateful for our partnership with you.

3. National fiscal developments, overall, have been either benign (with the continuation of the LPOW Vat Grants), very helpful (the LPOW Roof Repair Fund), or a cause for concern (with the need to oppose strongly the Government’s original proposals for the Landfill Communities Fund). As always, it is vital to keep a critical eye on what is emanating from Government departments.

4. I have been delighted with the interest in our Annual Conferences over the past couple of years. We have been fortunate to have them in special venues, attendances have increased significantly and we have had some brilliant speakers. I am looking forward very much to our 2017 Conference on May 18th in Manchester, which is being hosted by the Greater Manchester Churches Preservation Society (2017 is also the 10th Anniversary of the Trust). Do try to join us.

5. I think the major item on the horizon for next year is the outcome of the Churches and Cathedrals Sustainability Review, due to report to the Secretary of State for Culture and the Chancellor of the Exchequer in April. Briefly, the remit of the Review is to explore possible new models of funding for repairs and maintenance, and to consult with stakeholders about ideas for the wider use of listed buildings and the associated current barriers for income generation. I’m sure that all of us await the outcome with great interest.

6. One final point which you may wish to ponder – from a fundraising perspective with possible legators and other grant making bodies, it is increasingly important to think about the “impact” which each of our trusts is having. The competition for legacies and grants becomes tougher each year and it is vital that we tell “our story” to describe the very positive impact we have on places of worship. It is not rocket science – we all do incredible work and we need to think about how we best inform the public, government, donors and grant makers of this.

May I thank you for your support and the very best wishes of the season to you!

John Mills, Chairman, Churches Trust Forum
Dec 2016

What do you think of our Newsletter? Please give us ten minutes of your time so that we can improve what we do.

Your views shape our activities and help fellow trusts across England. Representatives from local trusts have told us that you want networking opportunities to exchange ideas and gain inspiration. So, do you like the Newsletter,? Should it change or simply continue? Would you like additional or different communications, such as, a Google Group or Facebook Group?

Please tell us what you think by clicking through to a short survey which should take no more than ten minutes to complete. An editable version is also provided with the email accompanying this newsletter.

Please complete that version if you prefer and email it back to alison.pollard@nationalchurchestrust.org
The CTF is grateful to Ecclesiastical Insurance Group for their support

What you told us in 2016 and what we did about it

Earlier this year some of you completed a survey asking you about the priorities and challenges for your trust. Thank you to those of you that took part. Please do use the Forum as a vehicle to address your views. We are here to help.

Whilst each county trust has its own identity, we share much in common and our findings this year reflect how important it is to work together where possible.

Your main priorities

Overwhelmingly, you told us that your main priorities are fundraising and promotion.

A problem shared ...

Succession, attracting new trustees and volunteers were a common concern. Many also expressed concern over asking hard pressed volunteers to do more.

Keeping up with changing regulations was also a concern. In response to these priorities and issues, in addition to our usual activities, the CTF has worked with the NCT on the following this year:

1. Setting up a new group to look at fundraising. The aim of the group is to identify good ideas either being used already or to come up with new ones. The group will focus on sharing and supporting good fundraising practice, develop shared campaigning and develop case studies. The group has had its first meeting. A small core of regular members will meet twice a year, with each meeting focusing on particular fundraising ideas or topics. According to location, additional attendees will be welcome.

2. NCT organised a series of pilot events bringing representatives from places of worship together with local trust representatives.

3. NCT drew up a trustee recruitment package which will be on the NCT website in the New Year.

Celebrating Ten Years of the Greater Manchester Churches Preservation Society on 18 May 2017—the CTF Annual Conference

The Churches Trusts Forum Annual Conference 2017 will be held at the Methodist Central Hall in Manchester on 18th May. Please join us to celebrate GMCPS’s tenth anniversary. We aim to bring you an inspiring mix of presentations and conversations to fuel your passion for churches, to share ideas and to look at how we can work together to help churches now and into the future.

This year we will be joined by fundraising support charity, the Directory of Social Change, to tell us about important trends in fundraising. Attendees will be able to purchase a bundle of their excellent books on trusteeship, fundraising and volunteers.

The theme will be on contrasts and similarities between urban and rural churches, post-Georgian architecture and working in a multi cultural world.

Tickets will go on sale early in 2017. Please keep the date in your diary.
Promotion

Trusts have told us that promotion is one of their highest priorities. It is essential to communicate our cause, attract supporters, raise awareness and support fundraising. In this issue we feature the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust looking at their new Engage Awards and their well established Annual Conference.

Engage Awards: a Cambridgeshire Project

A new initiative
Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust, led by its Chair of Trustees, the Rt Revd Dr David Thomson, Bishop of Huntingdon, has this year undertaken a new initiative designed to encourage innovative projects.

“to engage fully and courageously...”

The Diocese of Ely is encouraging its churches “to engage fully and courageously with the needs of our communities” – and reimagining our church buildings is named as a vital way of supporting that ambition.

To encourage such re-imagining and engagement the Trust is presenting ten Engage Awards each year for three years in recognition of good work done in that direction, by churches of any denomination, large or small.

The “what”s and “how”s

The church must have completed a building project (large or small) within the previous two years that helps it to engage with its community. The project must have received permissions and approvals such as a Faculty where needed. Entries are adjudicated by an out-of-county independent judge with experience of church building projects.

Prizes
The awards are small – just £100 – but Bishop David toured the recipient churches on the Trust’s annual Ride, Drive and Stride Day, 10th September, to present them in person.

David Stazicker,
Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

CHCT was founded in 1983 and since then has offered well over £2,000,000 in interest free loans and over £550,000 in grants for works of repair and improvements to places of worship across Cambridgeshire.

Ride, Drive and Stride is part of Ride+Stride for Churches.

Inspiring and Informing

To encourage everyone to enjoy and to understand the art and architecture of the county’s marvellous 350 churches and chapels, Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust organises an annual conference in the spring on a specific ecclesiastical theme. The 2017 Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust Conference will be held on Saturday 8th April 2017 at Wolfson College, Cambridge.

The 2016 Conference was held in April at Wolfson College Cambridge. It was arranged in association with the University of Cambridge. The theme was “Pilgrimage: Location and Imagination in Medieval England”. The day was a resounding success, attended by more than 120 delegates and speakers.

The Trust also runs popular church tours led by experts during the Summer. Three churches are visited followed by a delicious tea and evening prayer for those that stay on.

https://www.camhct.uk/
Marsh Awards for Innovative Church Projects

Support local volunteers by nominating their projects by 13 January 2017

Please nominate inspiring church led groups and activities that are making a real difference in their local communities. The activities will have been made possible through additions such as accessible toilets and catering facilities to places of worship.

Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs)

From January 2013 charities have been able to register as Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs). This simplified structure allows local trusts to protect their trustees from being personally liable for the activities of the charity.

A CIO structure may not be the ideal solution for all local trusts and we would always recommend that you consult with professional advisors. However, a CIO structure is likely to be attractive to those trusts that enter into contractual obligations, employ staff, own property or take on leases.

It is important that you receive professional advice before amending the corporate structure of your charity. The leading charity law firm Stone King LLP are prepared to offer local trusts a standardised package for completing the incorporation process. Information about this package can be found on page seven.

Please find information here.

The Devon Historic Churches Trust and Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust are pursuing the change from charitable trust to Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Other trusts are known to have been discussing this option which is being recommended as a better way forward for charitable trusts.

Plan, plan and plan

The keys to successful campaigns, projects and events

It is often useful to start from knowing what you want to achieve and working out the steps that will get you there.

Know your story: to build a strong case, underpin it with research, whether this is facts and figures or opinions gathered from relevant people, groups and organisations. Be sure what you are raising money and/or awareness about and what difference the campaign, project or event is aiming to make.

Know your audience: who is your message for and what do you want them to do? If you do not know who your audience is, e.g., information on why certain people are coming to an event, you can find out ahead of time by issuing a questionnaire or brief survey. This helps to target and enrich your campaign or events or build an evidence base for your project.

Locations and logistics: Work out ticket prices, or ask for donations, set a fundraising target. Ensure venues are well located and booked and that you know what facilities they have. Catering makes a big difference to the atmosphere of events.

The legal stuff: Always be careful about people’s personal data and how you ask for money. You will need clear statements about how people’s data will be stored and how it will be used on any materials that you issue. You will also need to take account of Gift Aid if you are asking people to contribute. If running events, it is important to check that your trust is insured to run public events and be aware of health and safety.

Use technology to make administration easier and safer:

For events an online booking system such as Eventbrite aids administration, handling payments and people’s data. Other advantages include setting up updates to go out to attendees and being able to produce guest lists for events.

For campaigns: social media, email and websites are essential these days for maximising the potential of your message. You could also make videos. The Friends of Kent Churches filmed and used a great video for their Ride+Stride for Churches this year.

Ask for feedback: Feedback is essential to help you in future marketing, planning, fundraising and in moving forward. Collectively, using SurveyMonkey online or ensuring that forms are filled out at events are time efficient ways of gathering information.
Community Spirit captured in Ecclesiastical’s Nationwide Church Competition

A church in County Durham is celebrating a £10,000 prize after winning Ecclesiastical’s nationwide church competition. St John’s in Shildon was announced as the overall grand prize winner at a special awards ceremony in London on 9 November 2016. The church was shortlisted as a finalist with just five others from over 370 entries. Each of the other finalists received a prize of £2,000 to help fund their ongoing community projects.

Ecclesiastical held the nationwide competition to identify the best community projects being run by Anglican churches in the UK. The company received entries from every diocese demonstrating the wide range of engaging and positive activities that are helping churches add real value to the communities they serve.

The winning Shildon Alive project, run by St John’s, particularly demonstrates the impact churches are having on their communities. It stood out to the judges due to the diversity of the activities and the sheer volume of support it provides to its community.

Ecclesiastical hopes that the competition will inspire more churches to reach out to their local communities by highlighting the tangible difference they can make to people’s lives.

The five other finalists each receiving a prize of £2,000 were:

- Bar Hill Church, Ely, Cambridgeshire
- St Stephen’s Church, Dulwich, London
- St John the Evangelist, Angell Town, London
- All Saints, Kilnwick, York
- A church in the Diocese of Guildford

A short video about each church can be found on the Ecclesiastical church website.
An important local presence: Shildon Alive!

The competition winner: St John’s, Shildon, County Durham

Strange things are afoot in Shildon, County Durham. Flowers are appearing in some unusual places. Little Santa Clauses are marching the streets bearing gifts. The sound of laughter, worship and conversation is coming from a retail park...

The changes are all due to a project called Shildon Alive, which is breathing new life into the community. Shildon was once a proud steel town, yet the industry has disappeared and the community has been blighted by vandalism, poverty and dependency.

Saint John’s church decided it could make a vital difference. “We wanted to challenge the issues that people faced and show them there was a different way of being,” explained David Tomlinson, one of the project organisers. “We wanted to give the community ‘permission’ to own and create new opportunities.”

Nothing was off limits. So if someone had an inspiring idea that would transform the community, then the management team listened and supported them.

Inclusion was very important. Schoolchildren dressed as Santa and took presents to isolated elderly people. People met for informal get-togethers at ‘The Hub’, a retail space rented by the project. And green-fingered older folk passed on their gardening skills to the younger generation in two Community Gardens.

The gardening was such a success that surplus vegetables were donated to the food bank, which provided 6,417 meals in 2015. “We are the only food bank I know that supports itself through growing its own food,” laughs David.

Hundreds of schoolchildren also took part in ‘Guerrilla Gardening,’ planting flowers and shrubs at 70 different sites across the town. From Credit Unions to fun days, from rehabilitation support to craft groups, there are so many life-changing initiatives taking place.

Run for everybody, by everybody

One of the aspects that really impressed our judges was just how many people are involved in Shildon Alive. Sixty-two volunteers currently work for the project, and apart from the Youth Worker they all live in Shildon itself. “Our emphasis is on local people supporting local people,” agreed David.

Many of the volunteers are from outside the church congregation. “We have worked hard to get away from the idea that the church is here to fix things, or to preach at people,” said David. Instead, the church is the conduit to inspire people and then give them the tools to make their dreams happen.

To find out more and watch a short video please go to the Ecclesiastical website.

Ecclesiastical offers a range of insurance services and great advice for places of worship. The CTF is grateful for their ongoing support of our activities through sponsorship of this newsletter and of the CTF Annual Conference.
Trusts in the East take action

In last December’s issue we looked at the Alarms for Churches campaign and grants programme conceived and implemented by the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. Here is an update and a look at developments around church security.

Alarms for Churches—Suffolk Historic Churches Trust

In the summer of 2015 a wave of Suffolk churches had their lead roofs stripped by thieves - Lavenham, Stratford St Mary, Dennington, Parham, Combs, Chevington, Hundon and Groton. Each theft leaving a wake of despair and bills often exceeding £40,000 a church - with only nominal insurance payouts, as none of these churches had roof alarms. The classic Suffolk ‘wool church’ is C15 Perpendicular with battlemented shallow aisles covered in lead – rich pickings for the unscrupulous and organized gangs.

Confronted by this mounting problem, on September 14th 2015 the Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich asked the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust (“SHCT”) to help orchestrate a campaign to protect Suffolk’s beautiful heritage of mediaeval churches. It was agreed that SHCT, under the banner of its mission for the preservation, maintenance, repair and protection of the Suffolk churches, would set out to protect 100% of Suffolk’s ‘lead churches’ by alerting the PCCs involved to the grave risks and by grant aiding half of the cost of a roof alarm system up to a maximum of £2,500 - the average system costing approx £5,000. We called it the “Alarms for Churches” Appeal.

There have been six pillars to the Appeal.

Pillar 1 was to find out which of Suffolk’s 400 listed churches and chapels had lead roofs. With the aid of Google Images and Google Earth – the same tools we believe the organized criminal gangs use - a list of over 150 churches was assembled.

Pillar 2 was to understand the roof security market and the insurance position. We discovered that Ecclesiastical Insurance Group had half a dozen accredited roof security suppliers of which the only one dedicated to churches was a family company called E-Bound from Peterborough, who had installed alarms in over 600 churches across the country and whose alarm system when activated sets off howling banshee claxons, strobe lights and alerts keyholders – and if required a national guard company call out. By end September 2015 we had agreed terms with E-Bound as the “Alarms for Churches” preferred supplier, although we were happy to grant aid systems from any other Ecclesiastical accredited supplier and in the event a number of churches went with other suppliers.

Pillar 3 was a media campaign with a blitz of newspaper, TV and radio articles in late September/early October. It was announced that SHCT would guarantee a grant of 50% of the cost of installing a roof alarm up to a maximum of £2,500 each for the first 10 churches to apply.

Pillar 4 was to raise funds to back the campaign and, although we have received generous support from the people of Suffolk, we are particularly grateful for the large donations from those Charitable Trusts which have supported us.

Pillar 5 was to orchestrate and manage the flood of requests from churches seeking to protect themselves and to do so whilst grant aid was available. Here the SHCT office and our suppliers have done a great job in smoothly and swiftly processing requests. The typical church was fitted within 3 or 4 weeks of enrolling in our scheme. We have also been helped by the Archdeacons and the office of the Diocesan Advisory Council (DAC) who have “fast tracked” the necessary faculties. By end October 2015 20 more churches had been added to the 38 already protected on September 22nd 2015 when we started out; by end December a total of 50 churches had been added; and by end November 2016 a total of 80 had been added. So in total 118 churches are now protected from lead theft. Over that period the SHCT has handed out over £175,000 in grant aid across some 73 churches; the other 7 churches generously agreed to waive their entitlement to a grant.

Pillar 6 has been to shepherd in the final churches whom the publicity had not reached or who still believe that divine providence alone will protect them. Today there is a much reduced number of them to go, but the work continues as we strive to achieve our goal of 100% of Suffolk ‘lead churches’ protected and insured against lead theft.

Martin Favell, Chairman of Trustees, SHCT

Martin Favell
Chairman
SHCT

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust
Registered Charity No. 1007947
Inspiring others

Tackling metal theft in the East of England

Both the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust and the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust have turned their attention to this issue. They are both helping churches and chapels to install alarms, thwarting the thieves and enabling places of worship to be better insured.

Andy Clarke, Grants Secretary, CHCT writes “The Trustees are putting an emphasis now on supporting the installation of alarms and any related equipment required by some insurers. Church treasurers are encouraged to check their insurance and investigate the need for an alarm. So far we have been able to help Comberton, Great Gransden, Horningsea, Orton, Waterville and Swaffham Bulbeck.”

AllChurches offers grants for roof alarms

For a limited period, Allchurches Trust is making available grants to churches of any denomination that would like to guard against metal theft by installing a roof alarm system.

The scheme is simple. Allchurches will give a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of an alarm or protection system approved by the church’s insurer (whoever that may be), and in return, the church council or equivalent must maintain the system for five years.

Churches from all over the country have been applying and receiving their grants quickly and easily and Allchurches want to help more.

Jeremy Noles, Allchurches Grants Officer in charge of the scheme, said: “If you’ve been thinking about getting round to installing an alarm, now is the time! Do apply for one of our £1,000 grants while funds last and before the scheme closes to new applications on 28th February 2017.”

On 27th August, a lightning storm injured six people at an agricultural show in Warwickshire. It also struck the tower of St Peter’s and St Paul, Long Compton in Warwickshire, bringing down a pinnacle, damaging the corner of the tower and causing masonry to fall on the north aisle.

St Peter and St Paul is a local landmark, dating from the 13th century and standing at the centre of a Cotswold village. It is well known for its lych-gate which passes under an old thatched cottage.

Paul Field, a Church Warden, realised that to carry out the repairs would mean cladding the tower in scaffolding, making access to the roof easier for those with nefarious intent. He was pleased to discover that Allchurches was running a roof alarm grant scheme.

“I checked our insurance, “he said. “As we don’t have a comprehensive roof security system, our cover is limited to £7,500 which wouldn’t cover replacement costs. So, the grant towards a roof alarm is greatly appreciated.”

The Revd. Andrew Davey of St Margaret’s Clenchwarton in rural Norfolk visits other churches throughout Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire as an enthusiastic bell-ringer. Sadly, several of the churches he has visited have experienced lead theft and this prompted him to suggest to a PCC meeting that they ought to take precautionary measures.

“Thank you Allchurches!” he said. “We got a couple of quotes from alarm companies and one’s due to be installed any day now. We’re not going for an alarm system that involves guards turning up in the middle of the night as by the time they got out here – we’re in the middle of nowhere – the thieves would be off and away. But we believe a simple alarm will act as a deterrent.”

Grant giving remains the main charitable activity of most of our organisations. All of our charitable objectives are very similar, with local variation due to funds available or interpretation of objects. Whilst our trusts have a wide range of income, expenditure and reserves, we have more in common than not.

Some facts:

- All together, our counties, Scotland’s Churches Trust and the NCT currently contribute around £3.75 million per year towards the condition of places of worship.
- A third of Ride+Stride for Churches events are growing, a third have remained relatively static over the last five years and a third are showing a decline. Ride+Stride remains a crucial source of income for the majority bringing in c£1.4 million a year.
- Sixteen counties give towards facilities as well as repairs.
- The average grant awarded by the counties is £3,990. Grants range from £500 to £13,000.
- Individual counties give on average seventeen grants per year. The number ranges from four to forty!

[Click here to download a simple application form, which should be returned, preferably electronically by email to rps@allchurches.co.uk. Alternatively, you can return the form by post to:]
Events to Inspire and Inform

The CTF continues to develop opportunities for our local trust colleagues with NCT’s support. This year NCT invited trusts to attend a series of three trial events that aim to inform and inspire. The events being piloted were aimed at churches and also had great relevance for our trusts. Alison Pollard explains.

Taking support to churches and working with other organisations to do so is crucial for our sector. Further events will take place in 2017 and we hope to do more in the future.

Bidding for Success:

“Turning Donations Into Gifts” A two hour workshop in Church House in London on asking for money from individuals run by Gifted Philanthropy, a new fundraising consultancy.

Bidding for Success”, Wareham, Dorset on making grant applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund, NCT and the Dorset Historic Churches Trust

“More than Bricks and Stones: unlocking the potential of your church’s heritage” A one day event about heritage engagement at St Clement’s Church, Notting Dale, London.

Full details and materials from these events are available from NCT. If you are interested in being involved in an event, please contact Alison Pollard

More than Bricks and Stones: unlocking the potential of your church’s heritage”

The last and most complex of the three events, “More than Bricks and Stones”, was a ground breaking pilot that took place in late November. The day was well received and we received excellent advice from audience members about improving the day. There were a series of talks, presentations and discussions.

“The Parish Hall in Wareham, Dorset was full to the rafters at a grant application training day at the end of September. The event focussed on Heritage Lottery Fund grants available to churches, including the LPOW Repair Grant and other grant streams. Going beyond a general introduction, a team from HLF South West, took the audience through the steps of preparing to apply and applying for funding. The Dorset Historic Churches Trust gave a talk on their work and NCT staff gave an overview of their changing grants programmes and other resources.

We were pleased to welcome attendees from 45 churches and representatives from the Dorset Historic Churches Trust. Somerset Churches Trust and Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust. We received enthusiastic feedback and plan to run similar events next year.

“A really useful session not only informative speakers but an opportunity to talk to others following the same path”

Bidding for Success attendee

“Turning Donations Into Gifts” attendee

“A really useful session not only informative speakers but an opportunity to talk to others following the same path”

Bidding for Success attendee

Very inspiring day covering all topics – will go back and act on lots of ideas

More than Bricks and Stones attendee

Attended by 65 people, it was run jointly by St Clement’s church, Notting Dale, and the NCT. The idea was to take people on a journey to challenge and expand ideas about what heritage is and more importantly, how to successfully understand and com-
communicate the importance of your church. We expected an audience drawn from Greater London and surrounding areas, but people travelled from much further afield.

“St Clement’s: an extraordinary community

St Clement’s is an urban church in a deprived area that was founded to serve and has continued to do so actively throughout its history. It is an inspiring place, an exceptional example of community and social action. It is a Grade II listed building with an active worshipping community. It is also home to a local charity, the ClementJames Centre, and national charity, IntoUniversity, both award winning charities helping thousands of people that were founded by St Clement’s members.

It is impossible not to be inspired by the difference that St Clement’s is making to so many lives.

Every church has a story to tell and this event helped delegates to learn how to identify and share that story with a wider audience. The same is true of our trusts. The requirement to explain how our work benefits the public and the difference that our work makes, sets us new challenges.

The day was structured to:

- Share the inspiring example of St Clement’s, a listed building that is an exceptionally active community church that has been adapted to better serve.
- Look at how to consult different groups in your community, engaging any type of community.
- Expand horizons and encourage a positive active perception of heritage not confined to a listing description that will only speak to a limited audience.
- Help to identify significance beyond bricks and mortar with a rural success story in reenergising a previously underused listed building.
- Once your story is in place, suggest how to engage people, fundraise and apply for grants.
- Explore advertising and welcoming people to your church, how to make heritage accessible, how to use social media and the internet to connect with people.

The event was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, who have awarded St Clement’s a grant for their roof repair project. The event was part of the church’s commitment to heritage engagement.

The day was hosted by the Rev Alan Everett, Vicar of St Clement’s Notting Dale.

“Very clear and well-delivered with excellent content” Turning Donations into Gifts attendee

Turning Donations Into Gifts

Our first event was a useful step by step guide to asking people for money and to major donor fundraising. We trialled this event with a small group. Six churches were represented and Richard Genochio, Chairman of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust came too.

“Good fundraising is focused on building genuine relationships with people who are ‘family’, close to your organisation and committed to stand with you. That’s why fundraising is not simply a question of ‘selling’ the latest gimmick to elicit the change from people’s pockets.” (Gifted Philanthropy)

“I loved the mixture of local story which was so inspiring and national-level advice” More than Bricks and Stones attendee

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Yorkshire Maintenance Project

The National Churches Trust (NCT), with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), launched this pilot project in 2016. The project focuses on promoting good practice in preventative maintenance at Yorkshire’s historic churches, chapels and meeting houses, delivering systems to make it easier for churches to maintain their historic fabric.

Maintenance management system

The Yorkshire Maintenance Project will set up a maintenance management system to connect churches with maintenance professionals, and address skills and information gaps for churches in Yorkshire. The aims are:

- To promote awareness of the benefits of preventative maintenance through training
- To increase the number of Yorkshire churches that regularly undertake maintenance
- To improve knowledge of the conditions of churches at high level
- To result in heritage being in better condition as a result of the regular maintenance care and inspections

What is available to churches taking part

- Training on church maintenance delivered by SPAB to volunteers in four new maintenance cooperatives in Sheffield, Doncaster and York, with 2 days of training and practical elements for mini-maintenance clusters. This will involve training for churchwardens on how to inspect their churches, and common low level maintenance tasks. Churches will develop a maintenance plan, which will trigger email reminders of works to be done throughout the year. A third day of support from SPAB will review the maintenance plans created from the initial training.
- Drone surveys of nine churches were carried out by MOLA this summer, with evidence informing Management and Maintenance Plans, Quinquennial Inspections and immediate repair needs. Drones allow accurate quotes for small scale repair works, and supplement inspections done with the gutter clearance works. Disks with images were given to each church to share with their architect. In some cases, drawings of the roof or scheduled elevations may be possible from the drone inspections.
- A bookable maintenance service, initially covering gutter clearance, but also to include other common areas of maintenance such as bells, lightning conductors, organs, electrical and boiler surveys.

How and who—partners and grants

The NCT will receive consultancy support from the Diocese of London to clone the London Gutter Maintenance Scheme in Yorkshire. Experience in Gloucester and London shows that churches can be slow to engage with gutter clearance schemes. To help incentivise churches to join, the NCT and its funding partner, the Pilgrim Trust, will deliver a micro grant programme to fund 50% of the first gutter clearance contract cost for up to 200 churches. We will prioritise churches with small congregations or in disadvantaged areas, and those that do not currently operate a gutter clearance scheme.

Janet Edmond, Project Manager, janet.edmond@nationalchurchestrust.org

Picture: A bird’s eye view of All Saints, Totley, Sheffield thanks to drone technology
Grants round-up

2016 brought us many good quality applications to an expanding range of grant programmes. In total we awarded £1,401,970 to 167 places of worship and launched new Project Development and Maintenance grant programmes which have been well received.

The National Churches Trust ran a pilot programme for Project Development and Project Viability during the autumn. 32 applications were received and 12 were awarded amounting to £65,970. Catherine Townsend, Grants Manager, explains “The aim of the new programme was to encourage and support more sustainable, better planned projects with funds to produce for example, feasibility studies to research a range of options, through to commissioning relevant professionals to produce detailed structural reports in order to support applicants in their approach to major grant funders such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. The programme was warmly received and twice oversubscribed.” The programme will run again in 2017 with a budget of £60,000. Although under the simpler title of Project Development the same works will be eligible.

Under our Repair and Community programmes £596,000 was awarded to 36 projects on 1 December.

Our new micro-grants to support the Yorkshire Maintenance Project has now been joined by another new Maintenance Grant programme with a budget of £160,000 for 2017.

Partnership Grants to a value of £340,000 were awarded this year (to 83 churches) on the recommendation of county trusts and Scotland’s Churches Trust.

Decision dates for the 2017 programmes will be made in March, July and November with deadlines for Partnership Grants applicants by 1 February, 7 June, 4 October; deadlines for Repair, Community and Project Development by 27 Feb and 3 July, and Maintenance deadlines by 4 January, 10 May and 6 September.

We will start 2017 by undertaking a review, with county trusts, of the Partnership Grants Programme. We will also review our Church Support team which has been in place since June of this year.

ExploreChurches

We’re putting churches on the map
www.explorecurches.org

The UK has a wonderful collection of churches peppered across the countryside and nestling in our towns. ExploreChurches is our new church tourism website, making it easy to discover the UK’s most fascinating churches and helping you plan your visit. We will be showcasing churches, chapels and meeting houses across the country, which we all know are ‘treasure houses’ of heritage, history and community.

We hope that you enjoy discovering them with ExploreChurches. We also hope that we can involve county trusts in developing themed lists of churches for each county. We launched the site with one produced by John Mills for Devon: http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/explore-churches/devon-churches

Please register your interest in contributing to ExploreChurches get in touch with Sarah Crossland at sarah.crossland@nationalchurchestrust.org

ExploreChurches

All Saints, Siddington, Cheshire

Holy Cross, Crediton, Devon

All Saints, Siddington, Cheshire

Holy Cross, Crediton, Devon
2016 Church Architecture Awards—Winners

The winners of the 2016 Church Architecture Awards, run by the National Churches Trust and the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association, were announced by HRH The Duke of Gloucester at St Mellitus College, London SW5, on Thursday 3 November 2016.

Stanbrook Abbey Church, a spectacular new building in the North York Moors National Park built for an order of Benedictine nuns and designed by architects Feilden Clegg and Bradley Studios, won the 2016 Presidents’ Award for new church buildings.

This year, the Presidents’ Award was jointly awarded to a project to provide new facilities for the parish church of St Mary and St Thomas of Canterbury, Wymondham, Norfolk, designed by architects Freeland Rees Roberts.

The King of Prussia Gold Medal for church repair and conservation architecture was won by architects Lloyd Evans Prichard for their work to restore the spire of Sir George Gilbert Scott’s St James church, New Brighton, Merseyside.

Young Church Architect of the Year

The first Young Church Architect Award went to Tania Gomez-Duran, Associate at Freeland Rees Roberts, for her work on St Mary and St Thomas of Canterbury, Wymondham, Norfolk.

HOD Bellringing Challenge Update

This year Heritage Open Days worked in partnership with the Central Council of Church Bellringers to open up the heritage hidden inside England’s bell towers and bring to life the 400-year old tradition of English-style bell ringing. On 8th September, a chorus of bells rang out across England to mark the opening of the national festival, which included 400 churches running special bell ringing activities, from demonstrations to talks to have-a-go sessions.

As well as raising awareness many ringing bands also recruited new members and gathered valuable feedback for community project grant applications. To see what people did look back at the summer news item and search the directory for more examples: https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/news-desk/news/ring-out-the-bells. The partnership also attracted the attention of the BBC’s faith producer which resulted in mass coverage across a wide range of radio and television programmes and BBC online.

Next year Heritage Open Days runs from 7-10 September and bell ringing events will continue to be highlighted on the directory – to find out more about participating please see: https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/organising.

“We had over 500 visitors at the weekend which beat our previous high of 300. Considering that we were only open for 9.5 hours in total, that was great. We were able to gather some excellent feedback as well which will help us with our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.” St Peter Mancroft,
Offers for trusts

NCT has been working to support the CTF and all our trusts by exploring group deals and offers. To take advantage of or express an interest in any of the items below please contact Alison Pollard.

**KPMG offer**
Corporate organisations are increasingly looking to help charities. NCT has set up an arrangement with international accounting firm KPMG to advertise Trustee positions through its extensive staff networks. In conjunction with this offer, NCT has developed some resources on recruiting trustees.

**Websites**
If your trust needs a new website and would like to benefit from professional design at a below market cost, contact Alison Pollard. NCT is negotiating an arrangement with its own website designers who have also recently completed a new website for the Friends of Kent Churches. Websites would be high quality, affordable, easily editable and adaptable. A few trusts have registered their interest, but please come forward as the more the better.

**JustGiving**
The current JustGiving agreement expires in 2018. It is not yet known whether the arrangement will continue. We will advise trusts with plenty of notice as to the continuation or end of the arrangement which allows for the trusts and churches to have a monthly fee free JustGiving account. In the meantime, please take advantage of the offer of a monthly fee free account by contacting Alison Pollard. The arrangement allows for the trusts and churches to have a monthly fee free JustGiving account. In the meantime, please take advantage of the offer of a monthly fee free account by contacting Alison Pollard.

**Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs)**
Oxfordshire, Devon and Nottinghamshire are applying for changed status as CIOs. An information pack is available here along with a special officer from solicitors, Stone King LLP to handle individual trust’s cases at a reduced fee. Charitable Trusts are being strongly advised to at least investigate this alternative structure which brings greater security for trustees.

**Fundraising tools for today’s charities**
The Directory of Social Change (DSC) is offering trusts a reduced subscription rate to its well established funding directories. The Trusts and Foundations Directory helps you to narrow down and save information on trusts and foundations that you can apply to for donations or grants. An initial group of five trusts is sought.
A third of events are increasing income and participation. Hampshire and the Islands’ event is one. They tell us about this year’s blustery day.

Ride & Stride took place on one of the wettest days of the year in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight! This did not deter some of our cyclists - David Sloan cycled 100 miles and raised around £1,700 for our Chairman, Lady Appleyard! A group of 20 cyclists pedalled 27 miles in the rain in the Cheriton area trying to keep up with the one who had an electric bike - a very smart move as there were so many hills! Vernon Tottle, church warden of Itchen Abbas church, made The Great British Bake Off Salted Caramel Mirror Glaze Showstopper cake for riders & striders - delicious! Barton Stacey Chamber Choir did a Sing & Stride around 5 Winchester churches, including the Cathedral and the Hospital of St Cross - a brilliant idea; walkers from Winchester Cathedral toured the city while others did a 2-day 32 mile walk along the Itchen Way to Winchester. Gareth Higgs from West Meon visited 30 churches by bus! One person had undertaken all Ride & Stride days from the beginning and had stickers to prove it! On the Isle of Wight, Jan White used her mobility scooter to visit churches in the south, then took to a bus to visit more; while Canon David Isaac set out on his motorbike from his Swanmore Vicarage near Ryde. Cyclists from St John’s Newport were also braving the elements, covering 25 miles of very hilly countryside. Many riders and striders took to their cars this year and still enjoyed our County’s wonderful church & chapel buildings - we even have a rare Roman Catholic chapel inside a pre-Reformation church at Tichborne - one of only 3 surviving in England. We hope to raise £65,000 this year.

Meryl Balchin, Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust

If you are an organiser or take part in a Ride+Stride for Churches event Have your say by completing one of our surveys by 31 January 2017. The importance of these events in raising essential funding for churches and chapels is well known, but we need opinions and ideas. Organisers please visit https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RSOrg. People who are not involved in organising but who take part on the day as riders and striders, please visit https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RideStride. Pdf versions are available from Alison.pollard@nationalchurchestrust.org.
It rained! But people still came ...

**Riding, striding, driving and sitting—our annual fundraiser has something for everyone**

Your Committee welcomed the co-operation and excellent work of the NCT team and creative design by SO Agency’s Stephen Osborne in the production of the publicity guidelines and range of materials now available to all our events. Apart from the national logo, this is the first time that such designs for posters, notices, banners (sections of which can carry County wording) have been produced. Attendees at the CTF’s York Conference supported the initiative and we liaise with our CTF colleagues.

The Committee urges everyone to view the designs, read the guidance and adopt items for 2017 and beyond. To have a minimum of ten Counties displaying the attractive National Identity would enhance our public image and perception for the event.

The importance of providing to our public a communal image can only bode well for the future promotion of Ride+Stride.

Your Committee continues to recommend:

- increasing use of social media
- Encouraging use of JustGiving. The evidence is that people give more generously.
- Supplying information including numbers of walkers, cyclists, runners, joggers, horse-riders, disability scooter drivers taking part - a simple recording form is available. Contact me in the first instance.
- Sending NCT your stories and photographs and updating your event’s page on the national website.
- notification to the NCT of personalities supporting your event
- closer liaison with churches, chapels and meeting houses which promote Heritage Open Days as well as Ride+Stride. Churches that do both are marked as such on the Heritage Open Days website.

David Knowless, Chairman, Ride+Stride National Committee
djp34@hotmail.com

**Important notice:** Bear Grylls has decided to concentrate his charitable support on three causes. We are not permitted to use his image or wording in 2017. We are grateful for his support over the last three years.

Branding expert, Steve Osborne, spoke at the Ride+Stride Annual Meeting in 2015 and in 2016 to discuss next steps for the national brand with attendees.

Find the Ride+Stride for Churches brand guide and downloads on the new [support pages](#) for Ride+Stride organisers. This new resource has been developed with the Ride+Stride National Committee. There are templates for posters (below left), signs, envelopes, banners and postcards. There is even a poster for churches to use to show that they are open for visitors (see below). If you do not already have a designer helping you, NCT offers to carry out the design work and to provide you with print ready materials.

The materials are flexible and allow you to insert any wording, contact information or images that you wish to. Contact [Eleanor Grigson](#) for information.
Churches Trusts Forum Members

Who to contact to share questions, concerns and ideas. The Forum’s next meeting is on 9 March at the National Churches Trust’s offices

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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Please email your contributions for the next CTF Newsletter to alison.pollard@nationalchurchestrust.org