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Annual Review **2016 – 2017**

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Editor – Eddie Tulasiewicz

Cover photo: St Catherine's church, Temple, Cornwall

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We are grateful to our dedicated volunteers whose generosity helps support our work.

Securing sustainability



In 2017, we mark the tenth anniversary of the National Churches Trust. Created to take forward the work of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, the Trust was established as the charity dedicated to supporting and promoting church buildings of all Christian denominations across the UK.

Funding repairs and new facilities and supporting churches to

ensure their long-term survival are at the heart of our work. Our funding makes a real difference as it means that churches remain open for public use and can be used by more people.

Our income comes from individuals and charitable bodies, not from government or church authorities. So it is entirely thanks to the help of our generous supporters that since 2007 we have been able to carry out our work. That has included providing more than 1,600 grants worth over £15 million to places of worship in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, including both listed and unlisted buildings.

Positive changes

The last ten years have seen many positive changes in how the UK's churches are supported. There have been much closer partnerships between those involved in looking after church buildings at the national, denominational and local level – which means that best practice and new ideas are shared more effectively.

But it is not just the experts and those directly concerned with church heritage who value church buildings. Our most recent ComRes opinion poll shows how well loved they are by the public. More than four in five Britons (83%) agree that the UK's churches, chapels and meeting houses are an important part of the UK's heritage and history.

A real challenge

Looking ahead, however, much remains to be done and there are some real challenges. Despite excellent work undertaken by many churches around the country, there is still a backlog of repairs. The burden of organising this work and raising the necessary funds falls on congregations which in many places are growing smaller, particularly in rural areas. This emphasises the importance of engaging the wider community in caring for and about their local church building.

In 2016, we welcomed the Government's formation of the English Churches and Cathedrals Sustainability Review. Churches represent our nation's greatest collection of heritage buildings and this means that the government

of the day needs to be involved in safeguarding these remarkable places for future generations.

Funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and from the Government-supported Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme and the Roof Repair Fund have been extremely instrumental to the progress that has been made in recent years.

In April 2017, along with church heritage sector partners, we were disturbed at proposed changes to the way that the Heritage Lottery Fund awards grants to churches and other places of worship. These would mean that for the first time since 1977, no ring-fenced funding for church repairs will be available from Government or statutory heritage organisations.

It is vital that the HLF's move to make churches compete with the wider heritage sector for funding does not result in a significant loss of grants for urgent structural repairs. We will work with churches, partners and the HLF to make sure that small churches and chapels, those serving rural communities and those belonging to denominations which find it hard to introduce community use for theological reasons, are not disadvantaged by any changes.



All Saints, Bolton Percy, Yorkshire, awarded a £20,000 National Churches Trust Grant in December 2016.

Five point plan

In the meantime, based on our work with thousands of churches throughout the UK, we offer our own five point plan for securing the sustainability of church buildings.

1. Let's make sure that church buildings are properly looked after. Experience shows that it is better to conserve historic fabric through regular maintenance rather than having to undertake major structural repairs because the condition of a building has been allowed to deteriorate.

That is why we have launched our MaintenanceBooker website, which makes it much easier for churches to get professional help to maintain their buildings. We hope that, together with other sector schemes to encourage regular maintenance, the funding paradigm can move away from repair and replacement to maintenance and conservation.

2. Let's make even more churches centres for their community. Churches remain primarily places of worship. That is why we only support churches that are open for regular worship. But they can also often play a vital role in activities for the benefit of the wider community.

With the right facilities, such as toilets, kitchens and heating, church buildings can be used as venues for music, the arts, leisure, social action and other community activities and can host facilities such as post offices and libraries.

This use of church buildings as 'community hubs' has the strong support of the public. 83% of British adults think that churches, chapels and meeting houses play an important role for society as they provide a space in which community activities can take place, according to our 2016 ComRes opinion poll on church heritage.

3. Let's put churches firmly on the visitor and the tourist map. Churches, chapels and meeting houses are treasure houses of heritage and history. The potential for churches to attract visitors and for visits to be enjoyable and worthwhile is huge.

With our ExploreChurches website, the National Churches Trust now has a high quality website for visitors and churches. As well as bringing new people through the doors, attracting visitors brings with it the potential for income through donations and gift purchases.

We are developing ExploreChurches in close co-operation with partners in the tourism, heritage and church sectors, demonstrating what can be achieved by working together with others.

4. Let's make it easier for churches to apply for funding. The UK's churches will always require funding from a variety of sources to pay for repairs and new facilities. That is partly because of the costs involved in looking after historic buildings – 45% of all England's Grade I listed buildings are cathedrals and churches.

However, it is often very difficult for the people who are charged with fundraising for churches to navigate the complex web of grant-giving trusts, foundations and heritage organisations.

Whilst it is right that effort should be required, I hear too many stories of people who have had to write hundreds of individual fundraising applications. It would be sensible for the sector to streamline the grant application process so that, without any funder having to surrender independence, a process is created allowing churches to submit one application that can reach as many potential funders as possible.

5. Let's make sure that churches are open. More churches are now open on a regular basis than when the National Churches Trust was established in 2007. That is partly because, together with other grant funders, we require that any churches we help are accessible to the public to visit. It is surely better that church buildings are open so the public can enjoy their beauty, history and sense of prayerfulness.

There is still a widespread view that churches need to be kept locked to prevent theft or vandalism. But an open church can often be safer as the local community then becomes more engaged with the building. Who knows, new people may come forward to help keep the gutters clear and support the future of the building!



St Michael & All Angels, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, awarded a £10,000 National Churches Trust Grant in December 2016. © Brian Woodruffe

Long term strategy

Over the next year, we will be developing a new long-term strategy for our work. The five points above will form part of that strategy. But I would very much like to know what you think needs to be done to ensure a future for the UK's church buildings. Please do contact me at:

chairman@nationalchurchestrust.org

Churches, chapels and meeting houses are at the heart of communities in cities, towns and villages. They are a unique combination of architecture, history and faith. As we move into our second decade, the National Churches Trust will continue to be a leading voice in helping to ensure that church buildings play a vital role in the life and well-being of people for many, many years to come.

Luke March
Chairman

MaintenanceBooker

Preventing the need for expensive repairs

By **Michael Murray**, Director of Church Support



In 2016, the National Churches Trust received £90,100 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the Yorkshire Maintenance Project, which is helping to keep churches and chapels in Yorkshire in good condition and prevent the need for expensive repairs.

Drone surveys of churches, training workshops to help volunteers maintain church buildings, and MaintenanceBooker, a new website, are the key parts of the Yorkshire Maintenance Project.



Drone surveys of churches form part of the Yorkshire Maintenance Project.

The MaintenanceBooker website was launched in February 2017 in partnership with 2buy2, a Christian procurement business. It provides an online 'one stop shop' where churches and chapels can book accredited contractors for services including gutter clearance, tree maintenance and inspecting lightning protection systems.

Starting in Yorkshire and the Humber, and with plans to make MaintenanceBooker services available in other parts of England and Wales, our new website will help overburdened church wardens,



The first job booked through MaintenanceBooker was to clear gutters at St Augustine's church in Sheffield. Despite the rain, Steeplejack and Stone Technical Services General Foreman Paul Tinkler checks guttering and surrounding stonework. © Paul David Drabble

volunteers and clergy to identify and book professional help to maintain their buildings, helping prevent the need for expensive repairs and saving them for the future.

As well as churches and chapels, organisations tasked with looking after non-ecclesiastical historic buildings can also make use of the MaintenanceBooker website.

Maintenance grants

As many churches struggle to pay maintenance bills, we have partnered with the Pilgrim Trust to offer a small number of grants to cover 50% of the cost of the first gutter clearance service.

We are also piloting a Maintenance Grants programme to help churches with any additional repair works identified through the MaintenanceBooker service. For example, if a gutter clearance report identifies loose roof tiles or flashings, there are grants of £1,000 - £2,500 available to help churches address such small issues before they become expensive repairs.

More details: www.maintenancebooker.org.uk



ExploreChurches



Making it easy for people to discover the UK's beautiful churches and chapels

By **Sarah Crossland**, Church Tourism Manager



Churches, chapels and meeting houses are treasure houses of heritage, history and community. The potential for the UK's places of worship to attract visitors is huge.

Visitors are important as they often make a donation and spread the word about churches

they have enjoyed, thereby increasing the sustainability of church buildings.

However, it is not always as easy to visit churches and chapels as it should be. Opening hours can be hard to find, directions are not always clear and sometimes the specialised language used in guidebooks, although good for the dedicated church crawler, may put some people off visiting.

That is why in 2016 the National Churches Trust launched a new church tourism website, www.explorechurches.org.

The website brings churches to life by using high quality images and providing information about the history and architecture of individual buildings. It is then easy to plan a visit as ExploreChurches provides practical information including opening hours, directions and access details.

We are adding more churches to the website on a regular basis. Please ExploreChurches to see if your local church or one you particularly like visiting is featured. If not, then you can email details to: info@nationalchurchestrust.org.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped us make ExploreChurches possible, including our partners in the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist and Baptist churches and in Historic England, CADW, Historic Scotland and the National Trust.

A special mention also goes to our funders, who include the Tanner Trust and the Goldsmiths Company.

More details: www.explorechurches.org



Visiting St Mary's church, Tarrant Rawston, Dorset.

A legacy for the future

By **Andrew Smyth**, Legacies volunteer



As a long standing volunteer at the National Churches Trust I'm extremely touched by the thoughtfulness of the many people who, in a world of competing charity requests, have recognised the pressing needs of places of worship.

In 2016 of our total income of £1,681,700, legacies comprised 36%. We are very grateful to all our legators for their generous bequests, which last year ranged from £200 to over £100,000, since our income comes from individuals and charitable bodies – not government or church authorities.

We record with gratitude the name of everyone who has left a bequest since 1954 in our Commemorative Book. A book which will be on display at St Paul's Cathedral in June 2018 when we celebrate 200 years since our predecessor, the Incorporated Church Building Society, was founded.

Remembering the National Churches Trust in your will helps to keep these precious buildings alive for generations to come.

Meeting the challenge

Many of the UK's historic churches, chapels and meeting houses are fighting a battle against the ravages of time.

Today we need to ensure that they get the repairs, maintenance and renovations they need to remain at the heart of local communities. It is no exaggeration to say that without gifts in wills some of the UK's church heritage could be lost forever.

How legacies help our work

Many people feel attachment to their local church. When those churches need to raise money for major repairs or putting in toilets or adding a community cafe they can rarely raise all the funds locally.

Through our national grants committee we can direct legacy income to where it is most needed – we are a national resource locally delivered.

Vital legacy income also underpins our projects to help to keep churches open and active. These include MaintenanceBooker, which prevents the need for expensive repairs (page 6); and ExploreChurches which makes it easier to visit churches (page 7).

Some gifts are easily forgotten.

Yours will last for generations.



St Peter, Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire

LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL to the National Churches Trust isn't just a gift, it's an investment. Many of the UK's historic churches, chapels and meeting houses are fighting a battle against the ravages of time. We need to make sure that they get the repairs and renovations they need to remain at the heart of local communities. Leaving a gift in your Will helps us keep these precious buildings alive for future generations.

Find out how you can help keep the UK's churches alive, please call Claire Walker on 020 7222 0605, email legacy@nationalchurchestrust.org or visit nationalchurchestrust.org/legacy

National Churches Trust, 7 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QB. Registered Charity Number: 1119845



Friends of the National Churches Trust



Friends of the National Churches Trust outside All Saints Church, Lydd, Kent during a tour of churches of Romney Marsh.

By **Sophie McKane**, Fundraising Manager

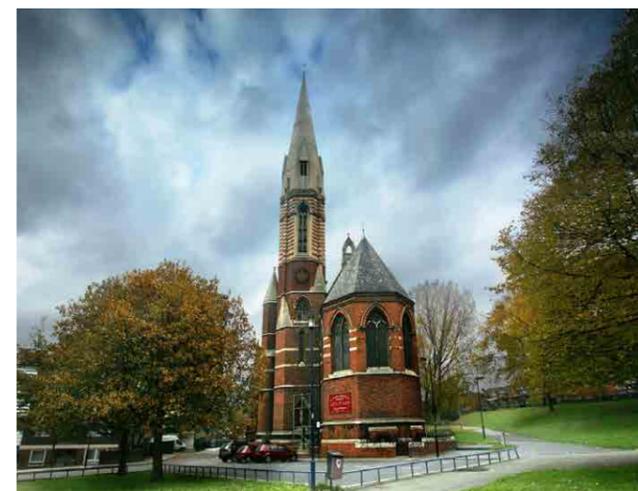


Our Friends scheme gives a direct opportunity for you to help us keep more of the UK's fantastic church buildings alive for future generations.

In 2016 we welcomed 492 new Friends, bringing the total to 2,004. Our Friends membership scheme has a very high degree of

loyalty, with 78% of Friends renewing their membership in 2016. Thank you.

Nearly 40% of our Friends took part in our 2016 membership survey. Friends really liked our events, but told us that we should hold more of them outside of London. We have acted on that request and in the first six months of 2017, have held church tours in Kent, Manchester and Lincoln.



St Mary Magdalene, Paddington.

Friends Grants

In 2017, we gave Friends of the National Churches Trust an opportunity to help us in this vital work by choosing a church to award a special Friends Grant of £10,000. We invited churches to whom we had awarded a Repair or Community Grant in 2016 to let us know if they needed any additional funding prior to starting work on their project. From those who replied, we shortlisted five. Our Friends Grant was awarded to St Mary Magdalene church in Paddington, London.

Built in the 1860s and 1870s by G.E. Street, architect of the Royal Courts of Justice, the Grade I Listed building is an outstanding example of neo-Gothic architecture.

Our Friends Grant will help fund a major project to conserve the stunning interior and create a new annex to transform the church into a centre for the local community.

Cornerstone Club

Our Cornerstone Club for those wishing to make a larger contribution to our work continues to be well supported.

Cornerstone Club members help us to fund the urgent structural repairs which are needed to make church buildings wind and watertight.

In December 2016, Cornerstone Club members joined other supporters in the House of Lords for a dinner hosted by the Lord Cormack, one of our Vice-Presidents. The dinner provided an excellent way to celebrate our work and to discuss plans for the future.

More details: www.nationalchurchestrust.org/friends

Church heritage

By **Eddie Tulasiewicz**, Head of Communications



Providing up to date information on attitudes to church buildings allows the National Churches Trust to influence policy developments on the future of places of worship and provides valuable data which can be used by the church heritage sector.



In December 2016, we commissioned ComRes to carry out our third opinion poll on attitudes to church heritage. ComRes interviewed 2,048 GB adults online between 15 and 18 December 2016. Data were

weighted by gender, age, region and socio-economic grade to be representative of all adults in Great Britain aged 18+.

Key findings

More than four in five Britons (83%) agreed that the UK's churches, chapels and meeting houses are an important part of the UK's heritage and history.

57% of British adults back the Government providing financial support to churches in order to protect their heritage and history for future generations.

Churches, chapels and meeting houses are seen by British adults as providing a range of important benefits for the UK. The top three benefits are:

- As places of worship (52%)
- As examples of beautiful architecture (51%)
- As an important part of local identity (42%)

The poll also showed that the British public back churches being available for a variety of community uses, in addition to being used as places of worship.

The Quaker Meeting House, Come-to-Good, Cornwall. © John Blakeston



St Catherine, Temple, Cornwall, awarded a £10,000 National Churches Trust Partnership Grant in 2016.

The majority of British adults (80%) agree that churches, chapels and meeting houses are important for society as they provide a space in which community activities can take place, as well as worship.

Half of British adults (49%) say that churches, chapels and meeting houses should be used as community centres in addition to being used as places of worship. Other top additional uses for church buildings are as heritage or arts centres and spaces for hosting community services such as post offices or libraries.

57% of British adults said they visited a church, chapel or meeting house in the last year. That is equivalent to 33 million people.

More details: www.nationalchurchestrust.org/2017poll

Support for churches

A national partnership with JustGiving makes it easier for churches trusts and individual churches to fundraise. Our partners can join JustGiving for free, giving access



www.nationalchurchestrust.org/justgivingchurches

to the whole JustGiving platform, and saving the usual £15 a month subscription fee. Churches that already have a JustGiving subscription are also eligible to take part (although fees already charged will not be refunded).

Helping churches and volunteers

By **Alison Pollard**, Head of Regional Development

For the last three years, the National Churches Trust has been working closely with local churches trusts around the country to help them in their vital work of supporting places of worship.

One of the ways we do this is through our support for the work of the Churches Trusts Forum. Together we organise the Forum's Annual Conference and produce a newsletter containing the latest news about the work of local and regional trusts.

This year's conference, held on 18 May 2017 in Manchester, was attended by a record number of trustees, volunteers and staff from local and regional churches trusts, as well as representatives from other heritage and faith organisations.

2017 Marsh Award

During the conference, we were delighted to announce the winner of the 2017 Marsh Award for Innovative Church Projects - Playzone@Penzance, a safe indoor play space for children at St John the Baptist Church in Penzance. The church received a £1,000 prize.



Playzone@Penzance, which won the 2017 Marsh Award for Innovative Church Projects.



Sian Yates, Team Rector of St John the Baptist, Penzance, receiving the 2017 Marsh Award for Innovative Church Projects from Nick Carter of the Marsh Christian Trust. Also in the photo (l-r) are Kate Picknett, Alan Yates, Brian Davies, Methodist Superintendent Rev Stuart Wild, and Dertath Durkin.

The success of the conference was in no small part due to the contribution of the Manchester Historic Churches Trust, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

More tea vicar?



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Proud to support the great work of the National Churches Trust

2016 Grants Programme

By **Catherine Townsend**, Grants Manager



Across our various grants programmes in 2016, the National Churches Trust awarded grants totalling £1,399,470, helping to enable 166 projects at places of worship in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In addition, we worked with other trusts and charities to award grants totalling £35,000 to seven places of worship based on our recommendations.

We awarded grants to Church of England, Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland, Church of Scotland, Church in Wales, Methodist, United Reformed, Baptist and Presbyterian places of worship. We continue to be able to award grants to listed and unlisted churches.

Our grants programme is made possible thanks to the generous funding provided by Trusts, Foundations, legators, donors and Friends.

Grants consultation

Following a successful grant consultation in 2016, our grants programmes expanded to address gaps in support available to churches.

A Project Development Grant programme was launched to help churches develop better quality sustainable projects, and to develop their plans to a stage at which they can apply to major grant bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. The first round was more than twice oversubscribed.

The Trust also introduced two pilot Maintenance Grant initiatives, to help to clear gutters and to fund small repair issues as they arise, in order to prevent the need for extensive and expensive repair works in the future.

With these new programmes, we can now support churches and chapels at every stage of their projects: the design and development phase, the delivery phase, and the post-project maintenance stage.

Priority areas

In 2016 the Trust continued to encourage applications from parts of the UK which have been under-represented in its grant funding. Priority areas included the North East of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Denominations which have historically only made a small number of applications, including the Baptist and Presbyterian churches, were pro-actively encouraged to seek funding. Although funding for the North East remains an area for improvement, the Trust managed to fund several strong projects across our other priority areas and denominations. We also agreed with partners in Wales and Northern Ireland to launch new Partnership Grant programmes which will be open to applicants there for the first time in 2017.



Fixing timbers at Holy Trinity, Lenton, Nottinghamshire, which received a £40,000 National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant in 2015.

Repair Grants

The National Churches Trust's Repair Grant programme awarded 46 grants of £6,000 and above across the UK towards the cost of urgent and essential structural repair projects. Supported by the Pilgrim Trust, this included eight Cornerstone Grants of £40,000 which were awarded to projects in England, Scotland and Wales.

Community Grants

The National Churches Trust's Community Grant programme awarded 18 grants of £5,000 and above for projects which introduce facilities to enable increased community use of places of worship. All types of community projects were considered, with the majority of funding allocated to install or improve toilets or catering facilities.

Micro-Grants in Partnership with the Cinnamon Network

Having established a partnership with the Cinnamon Network in 2015, in 2016 the first grants were made to churches awarded a National Churches Trust Community or Repair Grant to allow them to obtain a £2,000 micro-grant to set up a Cinnamon Network Recognised Project. These micro-grants support churches setting up a social action project such as Christians Against Poverty Money Courses, Make Lunch and Parish Nursing.

Partnership Grants

The National Churches Trust's Partnership Grant programme awarded grants on the recommendation of local churches trusts in England and Scotland. Applying local knowledge and expertise, 83 grants of £2,000 to £10,000 were awarded for urgent repair projects with estimated costs usually of between £10,000 and £100,000 (including VAT and fees).

For the first time, several trusts were allowed to submit projects with costs exceeding £100,000 on the understanding that they could not also be awarded another National Churches Trust grant. Further consultation will be undertaken in 2017 to direct the future of the Partnership Grant programme.



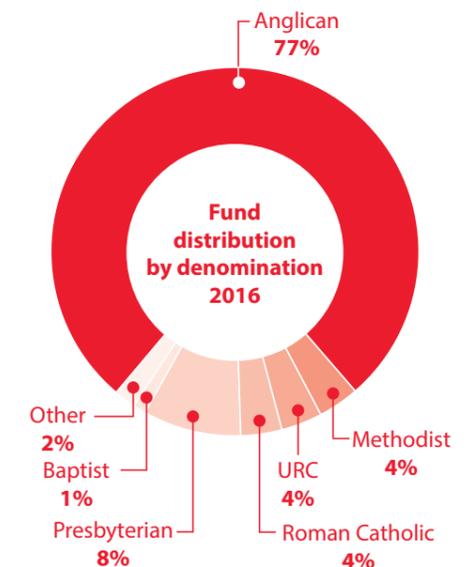
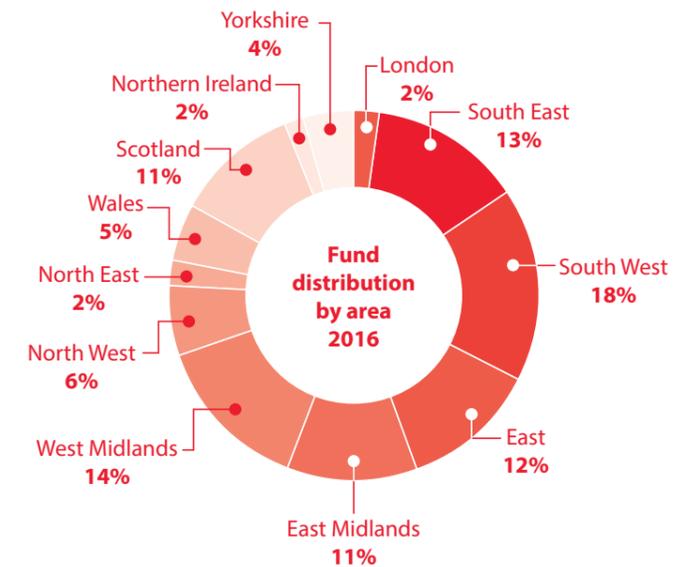
Work at All Saints, Stand, Greater Manchester, which received a £10,000 National Churches Trust Repair Grant in 2016.

Project Development Grants

The Trust opened a pilot programme for places of worship to apply for funding to explore the feasibility of new facilities and develop architectural, fundraising and business plans ahead of a major funding bid. The Trust awarded £65,970 in funding to 12 projects for the first phase of the pilot, which will be run for a second year in 2017.

WREN Grants

The Trust's partnership with WREN to recommend church projects for Landfill Community Fund grants ended in 2016 as changes in the scheme were introduced by the Government. Over the eight years of working together, the Trust recommended 103 projects for WREN funding, of which 74 were approved with total funding of £2,518,220. These grants helped six churches to be removed from the Heritage at Risk Register in 2016, including Holy Trinity, Rusholme and Church of St Faith, Hexton.



National Churches Trust fund distribution 2016

Please help us to help more churches

The National Churches Trust receives no funding from government or church authorities and relies on income from individual donations (including legacies), our Friends scheme, Trusts and Foundations and investments.

You can help us ensure a future for more churches and chapels by becoming a Friend of the National Churches Trust.

www.nationalchurchestrust.org.uk/friends

Our flagship grants for urgent structural repairs, with a priority for repairs to roofs and rainwater goods. Supported by the Pilgrim Trust.



St Mary,
Brighton Kemp Town, Sussex, BN2 1PR
Grade II* (Church of England)



£40,000 Cornerstone Grant

St Mary's church was built in 1876 to designs by Sir William Emerson, who was the architect of the Victoria Memorial in Kolkata. It is Emerson's most significant building and his only church in Britain. Broadly neo-Gothic in style, the exterior is of red brick and pink sandstone with slate roofs, the interior of red and buff brick with Bath stone piers and with an unusually broad nave.

A £40,000 National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant has funded urgent and essential repairs to the roofs, brick and stonework, windows and gutters. This will help the church to become an even better used community hub for local people.

Fr Andrew Woodward, Priest-in-charge, said:

"We were delighted and grateful in equal measure to be awarded this Cornerstone Grant, which made our first round of major repairs financially viable. We see our beautiful building as a gift from God. It works magnificently as a church but it also speaks and offers so much to people who are not practising Christians, and we want to share that appeal as widely as we can."

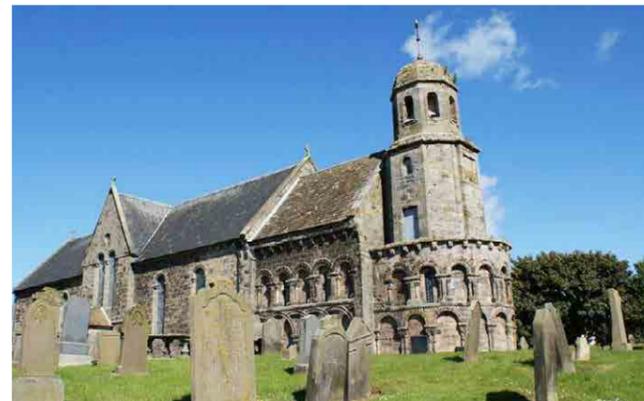


St Athernase,
Leuchars, Fife, KY16 0EL
Grade A (Church of Scotland)



£40,000 Cornerstone Grant

St Athernase church is considered to be one of the best preserved Romanesque parish churches in Scotland. The church has been a place of continuous Christian worship for 900 years and is the focal point of the conservation area of Leuchars. A notable memorial is to Robert Carnegie, ambassador for Mary of Guise and her daughter, Mary Queen of Scots. He died in 1565 in Leuchars castle.



The National Churches Trust £40,000 Cornerstone Grant is an important piece of funding to allow the church to carry out a major conservation and renovation project. Once the repair project is complete, the church will be able to hold a range of community activities including Guild meetings, choirs, Sunday School and coffee mornings which currently have to take place in another building adjacent to the church. In addition local people will have a place of heritage to explore and to bring visitors, and a place to develop new interests and skills themselves.

Rev John Duncan, Minister, said:

"It was wonderful news that the National Churches Trust was able to give our church such a generous grant and we are pleased that it also acknowledges the importance of St Athernase at a local and national level. I am grateful to the Trustees of the Trust for enabling future generations to appreciate the historical jewel we have in St Athernase Parish Church."

Please join our Cornerstone Club.

Our Cornerstone Grants scheme enables us to award sums of around £40,000 to churches that are tackling major works. We rely on our Cornerstone Club members to help us raise sufficient funds. Thank you for your support. To find out more please contact us on 020 7222 0605 or email cornerstone@nationalchurchestrust.org

Cornerstone Grants awarded in 2016

Cubert, Cubert church	£40,000	Leuchars, St Athernase	£40,000
Exeter, St Thomas	£40,000	Paddington, St Mary Magdalene	£40,000
Kemp Town (Brighton), St Mary	£40,000	Paisley, Methodist Central Hall	£40,000
Kitts Green, Our Lady Help of Christians	£40,000	Tredegar, St George	£40,000

Our grants for installing essential facilities – such as kitchens and toilets – and improving access for everyone.



© Sarah Crossland

Saltaire United Reformed church,
Saltaire, Yorkshire, BD18 2LF
Grade I (United Reformed Church)



£10,000 Community Grant

Saltaire United Reformed church, built by Sir Titus Salt in 1859, is a unique example of Italianate religious architecture. It boasts many architecturally and historically important features and has been described as a classic "Cathedral of Congregationalism". Fittingly, the Mausoleum built onto the church contains the remains of Sir Titus Salt himself. The church is a key part of Saltaire, a UNESCO World Heritage model village.

The National Churches Trust's £10,000 Community Grant will help to fund the refurbishment of the toilets to provide a disabled toilet, new male and female toilets and a revamp of the kitchen so it can serve both function rooms of the church.

David O'Loan, Treasurer, said:

"The support of the National Churches Trust will help us transform our facilities for visitors to our Grade I listed church in this World Heritage village. The existing kitchen and toilets are shabby and unsanitary, restricting what we can offer. Renewing the facilities will help us welcome our visitors, encourage them to linger and reflect on the beauty around them and the possibilities within. The sounds of wedding receptions and children's parties will, we hope, add to the music of organ and congregation."

Community Grants awarded in 2016

Bishops Castle, St John the Baptist	£10,000	Offerton, St Alban	£5,000
Castle Combe, St Andrew	£10,000	Perth, Perth Methodist church	£10,000
Cotharidge, St Leonard	£10,000	Rendlesham, St Gregory the Great	£5,000
Derby, St Thomas	£15,000	Saltaire, Saltaire URC	£10,000
Finningley, Holy Trinity and St Oswald	£10,000	Sark, Sark Methodist church	£10,000
Gloucester, St Mary de Crypt	£20,000	Sutton Valence, St Mary the Virgin	£10,000
Ingoldsby, St Bartholomew	£5,000	Tarporley, Baptist and Methodist church	£5,000
Manchester, Christ Church URC	£10,000	Topcroft, St Margaret	£10,000
Monks Kirby, St Edith	£10,000	Twycross, St James the Greater	£10,000

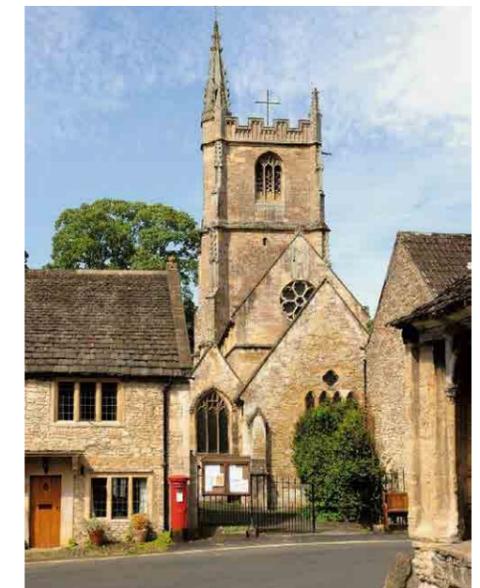
St Andrew,
Castle Combe, Wiltshire, SN14 7HT
Grade I (Church of England)



£10,000 Community Grant

St Andrew is of 13th century origin with a north east chapel from the 14th century and a 15th century nave and tower. The church was extensively restored and rebuilt in the middle of the 19th century. It sits at the very heart of Castle Combe village, and as such is held in huge affection by the local community.

The church was awarded a £10,000 National Churches Trust Community Grant to help fund a project to build an extension with a kitchen and a disabled toilet. The addition of a small kitchen and disabled toilet will significantly increase its use by the community by promoting its potential as a setting for concerts, gallery exhibitions, seminars and drama classes.



Michael Constable, Treasurer, said:

"The grant from the National Churches Trust helped us considerably. Now we can look forward to the exciting amenities project which will certainly have major benefits to the future success and growth of St Andrew's church. Thank you."

Our grants for urgent structural repair projects with estimated costs of at least £100,000, to help places of worship become windproof and watertight.

Our grants to allow churches to explore the feasibility of new facilities and develop architectural, fundraising and business plans up to RIBA stage 1.

Sacred Heart,
Tunstall, Stoke on Trent ST16 6EE
Grade II (Roman Catholic)



St Eugens,
Cappagh, Omagh, BT79 0AX
Grade B (Church of Ireland)



£10,000 Repair Grant

£15,000 Repair Grant



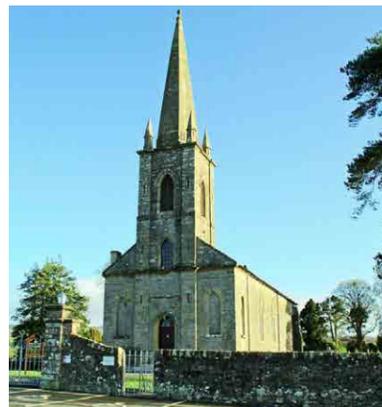
Sacred Heart is a major building in the Tunstall Park conservation area. The present church was opened by Archbishop Downey of Liverpool, who described it as 'a miracle of beauty'. The fine interior is adorned with mosaic and inlay.

Cappagh has been an important Christian site since the 8th century. The present church was built in 1780. Alastair Rowan in his 'Buildings of Northwest Ulster' described it as 'a pretty, Grecian Gothic Church, hall and tower type with a particularly elegant masonry spire'.

The church was awarded a £15,000 National Churches Trust Repair Grant to help fund a project to replace and treat roof timbers which have been attacked by woodworm and to re-slate the roof. The project includes taking down the entire timber ceiling to expose the woodworm attack, taking out all roof timbers weakened by woodworm and replacing them with sound treated timber.

Canon Derek Quinn said:

"St Eugene's was once described as one of the most significant, undiscovered historic gems in Ireland. We all feel very privileged to be the custodians of St Eugene's and we want to do all we can to preserve and maintain the church for future generations."



Much of the stained glass and woodcarving was created by young parishioners under the guidance of Gordon Forsyth, Director of the Burslem School of Art.

The church was awarded a £10,000 National Churches Trust Repair Grant to help carry out repairs to the roof and rainwater goods and to repoint stonework. The repairs will help realise plans to convert the crypt and encourage wider community use.

Fr Christopher Miller, parish priest, said:

"The money is to repair the roof which is iconic and can be seen for miles around. The many flat roofs need to be completely renewed. They are concrete roofs. If they were wooden they would have fallen in by now as they have been so neglected over the years."



St Germain,
Bobbingworth, Essex CM5 0DQ
Grade II (Church of England)



£5,700 Project Development Grant

The earliest parts of St Germain's date from the 13th century. The tower and chancel are by Decimus Burton, built in the 1840s, and the windows were added in 1902 by the architect Frederic Chancellor. The church has a strong connection with the Capel Cure family who have lived in nearby Blake Hall for over 200 years.

In a village with no community building, hall, shop, or pub, St Germain is a vital social hub. The National Churches Trust's £5,700 Project Development Grant will fund an investigation into how to solve two major problems: a leaking lead tower roof, and subsiding nave walls.

Peter Tottman, Church Warden, said:

"Prior to the offer of this grant we could not see a way ahead for us to be able to make applications to the capital works grant providers that would give us the potential to solve the problems with our church."



How our grants make a difference

- Vital repairs and maintenance can go ahead, enabling churches and chapels to remain open for public use

- Repairs and new facilities enable wider use of church buildings by local people

- Employment is provided for skilled crafts people across the UK

Repair Grants awarded in 2016

Aberystwyth, St Michael and All Angels	£10,000	Kidderminster, Baxter URC	£10,000
Barningham Winter, St Mary the Virgin	£10,000	Marsham, All Saints	£15,000
Bayton, St Bartholomew	£10,000	Meeth, St Michael and All Angels	£10,000
Belfast, May Street Presbyterian church	£10,000	Middlezoy, Holy Cross	£10,000
Bolton Percy, All Saints	£20,000	New Brighton, Ss Peter, Paul and Philomena	£10,000
Bow, St Mary and Holy Trinity	£20,000	Newport, The Minster Church of Sts Thomas	£10,000
Cappagh (Omagh), St Euegens	£15,000	North Perrott, St Martin	£10,000
Catford, St Laurence	£10,000	Southport, Holy Trinity	£10,000
Carew, St Mary	£10,000	St Mawgan-in-Meneage, Mawgan	£10,000
Combwich, St Peter	£6,000	St Neot, St Neot	£10,000
Drefach Felindre, St Barnabas	£7,000	Stand, All Saints	£10,000
Dudley, St Thomas and St Luke	£20,000	Steeple Morden, St Peter and St Paul	£15,000
Dudley Road (Birmingham), St Patrick	£20,000	Toxteth Park, St Agnes and St Pancras	£20,000
Dundry, St Michael the Archangel	£15,000	Treoes, Saron Independent Congregational chapel	£10,000
Hallow, St Philip and St James	£17,000	Tugby, St Thomas Becket	£15,000
Hanley, All Saints	£20,000	Tunstall, Sacred Heart	£10,000
Hinton Waldrist, St Margaret of Antioch	£10,000	Wick, St James	£8,000
Howden, Sacred Heart	£14,000	Willingale, St Christopher	£10,000
Kenley, St John the Baptist	£10,000	Wolverhampton, St Mary and St John	£20,000

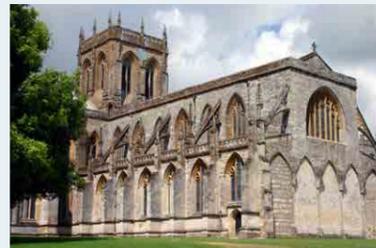
Project Development Grants awarded in 2016

Bobbingworth, St Germain,	£5,700	Shoreditch, St Leonard	£2,600
Shettleton, Trinity Methodist church	£10,000	South Elmsall, Trinity Methodist church	£2,500
Great Shefford, St Mary	£3,000	St Asaph, Ss Asaph and Cyndeyrn	£7,350
Herodsfoot, All Saints	£1,500	Stockton on Tees, Stockton parish church	£2,320
Newport, The Minster church of Sts Thomas	£5,000	Tong, St Bartholomew	£6,000
Sheffield, Cemetery Road Baptist church	£10,000	Totnes, St Mary	£10,000

We work with local churches trusts around the United Kingdom to offer further help to places of worship and use their local knowledge to target grants towards urgent repair projects.



Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust	
Blunham, St Edmund or St James	£5,000
Kelshall, St Faith	£7,500
Little Berkhamsted, St Andrew	£2,500
Roxton Congregational Church	£5,000
Therfield, St Mary	£5,000
Watton-at-Stone, St Andrew and St Mary	£5,000
Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust	
Eltisley, St Pandionia and St John the Baptist	£10,000
Cornwall Historic Churches Trust	
Laneast, St Sidwell and St Gulval	£10,000
Temple, St Catherine	£10,000
Dorset Historic Churches Trust	
Blandford Forum, St Peter and St Paul	£5,000
Little Bredy, St Michael and All Angels	£2,500
Milborne, St Andrew	£5,000
Milton Abbas, St James	£2,500
Weymouth, St John	£5,000
Friends of Kent Churches	
Bridge, St Peter	£5,000
Denton, St Mary Magdalene	£2,500
Hunton, St Mary	£2,500
Maidstone, Maidstone URC	£2,500
Murston, All Saints	£2,500
Wittersham, St John the Baptist	£2,500
Greater Manchester Churches Preservation Society	
Lydgate, Oldham, St Anne	£5,000
Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust	
Bramdean, St Simon and St Jude	£2,500
Calbourne (IoW), All Saints	£5,000
Lymington, St Thomas	£4,500
Portsmouth, All Saints	£2,500
Winchester, St Swithun-upon-Kingsgate	£3,000
Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust	
Felton, St Michael the Archangel	£2,500
Holmer, St Bartholomew	£2,500
Leominster, Priory Church of St Peter and St Paul	£5,000
Historic Cheshire Churches Preservation Trust	
Alderley Edge, St Philip and St James	£5,000
Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust	
Blaston, St Giles	£2,500
Bottesford, St Mary	£2,500
Copt Oak, St Peter	£2,500
Nether Broughton, St Mary	£2,500
Sproxtton, St Bartholomew	£2,500
Thorpe Langton, St Leonard	£2,500
Norfolk Churches Trust	
Ludham, St Catherine	£10,000



St James, Milton Abbas, Dorset. © Gary Southwell

Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust	
Draughton, St Catherine	£2,500
Flore, All Saints	£2,500
Grafton Regis, St Mary the Virgin	£2,500
Lilbourne, All Saints	£2,500
Northampton, Christ Church	£2,500
Weldon, St Mary the Virgin	£2,500
Northumbria Historic Churches Trust	
Bishopton, St Peter	£3,000
Seaham, St Andrews	£3,000
Sunderland, St Andrew	£4,000
Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust	
Mansfield, St John	£5,000
Radcliffe on Trent, St Mary	£5,000
Thoroton, St Helena	£5,000
Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust	
Oxford, St Ebbe	£7,500
Scotland's Churches Trust	
Alexandria, St Mungo's Episcopal Church	£5,000
Auchincruive, St Quivox	£5,000
Banff, Banff Parish Church	£5,000
Bridge of Allan, Lecropt Kirk	£5,000
Burghead Free Church of Scotland	£2,500
Caputh, Caputh Parish Church	£2,500
Coatbridge, Calder Parish Church	£4,000
Duror, Duror Parish Church	£4,000
Edinburgh, St James Scottish Episcopal Church	£2,000
Isle of Colonsay, Colonsay Parish Church	£3,000
Lairg, Parish Church	£3,000
Mossblown, Annbank Parish Church	£2,000
Motherwell, Dalziel St Andrews Parish Church	£5,000
Straiton, St Cuthberts	£2,000
Shropshire Historic Churches Trust	
Baschurch, All Saints	£2,500
Clun, St George	£5,000
Whitchurch, St Alkmund	£2,500
Somerset Churches Trust	
Bradford on Tone, St Giles	£4,500
East Clevedon, All Saints	£5,000
East Harptree, St Laurence	£2,500
Upper Swainswick, St Mary	£3,000
Suffolk Historic Churches Trust	
Cransford, St Peter	£10,000
Knodishall, St Lawrence	£3,000
Playford, St Mary	£3,000
Wissett, St Andrew	£4,000
Surrey Churches Preservation Trust	
Abinger Common, St James	£10,000
Chiddingfold, St Mary	£5,000
Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust	
Cherington, St John the Baptist	£5,000
Hillmorton, St John the Baptist	£2,500
Snitterfield, St James the Great	£2,500
Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust	
Castle Combe, St Andrew	£2,500
Swindon, St Mark	£5,000
Warminster, St Denys	£2,500

Bill Bryson's Favourite Churches

Bill Bryson, best-selling author of books on travel, the English language and science, revealed his 14 favourite churches for ExploreChurches, the UK's new church tourism website run by the National Churches Trust.



Bill Bryson, who became a Vice-President of the National Churches Trust in 2016 said: "It is impossible to overstate the importance of churches to this country. Nothing else in the built environment has the emotional and spiritual resonance, the architectural distinction, the ancient, reassuring solidity of a parish church. To me, they are the physical embodiment of all that is best and most enduring in Britain."

About ExploreChurches

ExploreChurches makes it easy to discover beautiful and fascinating churches. The website brings churches to life by using high quality images and providing information about the history and architecture of individual buildings. It is then easy to plan a visit as ExploreChurches provides practical information including opening hours, directions and access details.

1. My first love - Christchurch Priory, Christchurch, Dorset

"This is my first love among English churches. Christchurch, Dorset, was where my wife and I lived when we were first married. I passed through the grounds of the priory almost daily for two years, and I could never do so without stopping to gawp at its magnificence. Stone doesn't get more glorious than this. How so many locals could scurry past it without seeming to notice its presence, never mind its grandeur, was a permanent mystery to me."



2. Gorgeous inside and out - St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square, London

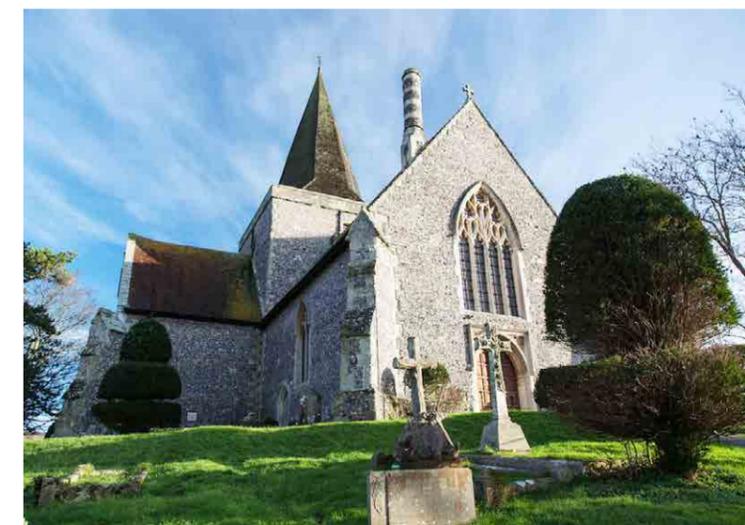
"I admire St Martin's for all kinds of reasons. It is gorgeous to look at inside and out, provides superb musical recitals at lunchtime and in the evenings, and does heroic work helping the homeless of London. It also has, in its cafeteria in the crypt, one of the best places in central London for lunch or tea."

3. Bright and sumptuous - St Michael, Cornhill, London

"In 2003, my daughter got married in London but couldn't use her local church (it was undergoing renovation), so we found this one in the City, and what a jewel it is. Built by Christopher Wren after the Great Fire, it is easily overlooked from without, but bright and sumptuous within. I think the vicar was grateful for the business, and the choir (who came from all over the Southeast, the City of London having almost no resident parishioners) sang like angels. It was a fabulous day."

4. National Trust neighbour - St Andrew, Alfriston, East Sussex

"Alfriston is a famously lovely village in the heart of the South Downs National Park in Sussex, and the very neat and pretty church of St Andrew's overlooking the village green is a good part of what makes it so. Next door is the Old Clergy House, which has the distinction of being the first property bought and saved by the National Trust, way back in 1896."



**5. Enhancing the landscape -
St Pancras, Widcombe in the Moor, Devon**

"I could hardly think of a better example of a church enhancing its landscape (and vice versa) than this treasure in the exquisite village in Dartmoor, Devon. At 120 feet its tower is one of the most striking on a country church anywhere in the country. Go inside by all means, you won't regret it, but don't fail also to view the church and village from any of the neighbouring hillsides. It is one of the great views of England."

**6. anchoress Annora -
St Mary the Virgin, Iffley, Oxfordshire**

"This is a splendid Norman church in a village within the city of Oxford, and it is worth visiting for its rich interior and the story of its anchoress (or pious hermit) named Annora, but its particular glory is that it serves as a perfect destination for a walk along the Thames from the centre of the city."

**7. An imposing library -
St Andrew, Whissendine, Rutland**



"This overlooked corner of England has an abundance of outstanding churches, but this is my favourite. It enjoys an imposing setting at the top of the village and boasts the tidiest churchyard I believe I have ever seen. Inside, the church is unusually light and capacious, and at one end of the nave is a large collection of second hand books and CDs that locals can borrow or buy, which I think is a most thoughtful touch."

**8. Wealth of Saxon carvings -
All Saints, Bakewell, Derbyshire**

"The glory of All Saints is its commanding position on a hillside overlooking the very pleasant town of Bakewell and the exquisite Derbyshire valley in which it stands, but the interior, with a wealth of Saxon carvings, is rewarding, too."



**9. Cathedral of the Dales -
St Michael the Archangel, Kirkby in Malhamdale, Yorkshire**

"This was our local church during eight happy years I spent in the Yorkshire Dales and it was treasured not only as a place of worship but also as a kind of community centre. It's often called the Cathedral of the Dales for reasons that become instantly apparent when you see it. It is massive."



**10. One of life's great experiences -
Durham Cathedral, Durham**

"If you haven't been to Durham Cathedral yet, drop whatever you are doing and go at once. You owe it to yourself. It is one of the most moving and iconic creations of western civilisation. To step through its massive wooden doors and gaze upon its interior for the first time is one of life's great experience."



**11. Much loved and memorable -
Hexham Abbey, Hexham, Northumbria**

"Hexham is as handsome a market town as you will find anywhere, and the imposing priory is a central part of what makes it memorable. I did a reading there a few years ago, and it was delightful. You can usually tell when a church is much loved by the locals and that was abundantly evident here."

**12. A diagonal tower -
Cartmel Priory, Cartmel, Cumbria**

"I came across this ancient and memorable priory church by accident years ago when I was exploring the western Lake District by car and I was simply looking for somewhere to spend the night. Cartmel is a lovely village, so it and its church were both delightful surprises and I have returned several times since. The church dominates the village and is notable for its unusual diagonal belfry tower, which gives it an appealingly jaunty air."

**13. Impossibly gorgeous -
The Italian Chapel, Lambholm, Orkney, Scotland**

"I once spent a happy month in Orkney doing an article for National Geographic magazine and came across this enchanting landmark unexpectedly while driving across the little island of Lamb Holm. It is simply a lovingly made, and almost impossibly gorgeous, chapel constructed from a Nissen hut and other surplus materials by Italian prisoners during the Second World War. It is one of the most enchanting places I have ever come across, and alone worth going to Orkney for."



**14. Ancient and comely -
Church of the Holy Rood, Empshott, Hampshire**

"This is my favourite church of all, not because it is especially ancient and comely, though it is both of those things, but because it is my local church in Hampshire, so it is where I go for quiet contemplation, a wonderful candlelit Christmas carol service and other village gatherings. You probably have a place just like this yourself. Aren't we lucky?"

More details: www.nationalchurchestrust.org/billbryson



Using our church buildings



Lucy Winkett was one of the first generation of women to be ordained in the Church of England. She was the first woman priest appointed at St Paul's Cathedral, later becoming Canon Precentor. She has been Rector of St James's Church, Piccadilly since 2010. She has been a Trustee of the National Churches Trust since 2017.

Let me take you to the church door, in the middle of the night on Christmas Eve. It is 1am and the large congregation, some slightly the worse for wear, pour out onto the street. I dutifully stand to the side, shaking hands and I try not to mind when many wave cheerily and say, without rancour or irony "see you next year!"

For many both rural and urban populations, this exchange sums up the warm, but distant, relationship people have with their local places of worship. Churches and chapels, together with mosques, synagogues, temples and gurdwaras, are part of the fabric not only of high streets but of our conversation. "Turn left by St Saviour's". "When you can see the spire you know you've gone too far".

But do our church buildings mean more than being the often beautiful historic backdrop to a busy modern life that never persuades us to venture inside?

In a society where the majority of the population live their lives without reference to organised religion, it can seem that the pace of secularisation is rampant and unstoppable.

It is true that it is no longer possible to assume any, even background knowledge of well known Biblical stories in your average twenty or thirty something; but rather than describe our society as secular, I think it is more accurately described as a credulous society, where people are ready to believe, well, almost anything. And having spent half an hour on the internet, quite often do.

The challenge that churches face in this situation is different from previous generations. And in this regard, it is especially incumbent upon worshipping congregations not to find themselves becoming unjoinable communities. Or at least unjoinable by anyone who has not been initiated into the mysterious intricacies of church linen, or who finds themselves sitting in someone else's pew.



Post Office, St James, West Hampstead © GraingePhotography

Creative communities

Church buildings are built to the glory of God and for the purpose of worship. This primary purpose remains undiluted by an outward looking congregation, ready to make partnerships with other local groups and institutions. And while the burdens of being custodians of listed historic buildings can feel almost unsustainable at times (the Church of England alone looks after 12,500 listed buildings), there are really creative communities in small rural parishes and urban high street hubs who are meeting this challenge with agility and love.

Changes in the heritage funding landscape will challenge places of worship, and there are some hard decisions that will undoubtedly have to be made in some areas about the continuing viability of some buildings. But other ways are being found to keep church buildings open and accessible by a wide range of groups, when the theology that underpins the finances is shared and agreed.

Quite often, arguments about church buildings are re-runs of Judas's comment as Jesus allowed the woman described as the "sinner from the city" in Luke's gospel to anoint his feet with expensive perfume; that this was a waste of money because the money should have been spent on the poor. This logic means that the choices made by PCCs in terms of where to allocate often limited resources can centre around a discussion between those dedicated to the historic beauty of the fabric versus those who would rather see the money diverted to practical help for those in need.

But if a theological resonance is found between the twin values of beauty and justice, then a historic building can be made more beautiful partly in order to make the world a more

just place. We will redecorate the church interior, or install toilets or a small kitchen, partly in order to make it a more beautiful and hospitable place for the local Mums and toddlers or Night Shelter project. It is the same principle as not keeping the most beautiful tea set in the glass cupboard where the cups and saucers become ornaments, but using them for the hospitable purposes for which they were made.

With around 42,000 churches, chapels and meeting houses in the UK, at a time when community spaces are in short supply,

with the right facilities church buildings can provide a space for a wide range of activities when they are not being used for worship.

Fundamental questions

A recent ecumenical study conducted by the Centre for Theology and Community ("Assets not Burdens"; The Centre for Theology and Community, January 2017) found that even in built up London boroughs, church halls often stood empty. They suggested that, for a local area, a social enterprise could be set up to help churches make the most of the buildings they have. This would also have the benefit of providing churches with an income stream.

How we use our church buildings, to whom they are made available and how their primary purpose is reinterpreted for modern times raise fundamental questions about the nature and future of the church. And sometimes a little controversy isn't always a bad thing.

Churches might be able to experiment with inviting different groups in, or holding events that are not explicitly religious or evangelistic, but which speak to the church's wider purpose of being what the Church of England's 2015 Report of the Church Buildings Review Group called "a witness to the fact that this world is not a system closed to itself". This kind of spirit of experiment, risking making some mistakes along the way, also helps the church not become "a system closed to itself".

Of course, this high purpose comes down to thoroughly practical concerns about heating, toilets, kitchens, accessibility, church sitters and fire alarms. But we wouldn't have it any other way. It's the way that we express our fundamental belief about God; that God is both beyond us and beside us, both transcendent and incarnate.



St Mary the Virgin church, Witney, © Des Dubber Photography

Joseph Hansom – A Victorian great



Catherine Pepinster is a writer and broadcaster. She was the editor of the Catholic weekly, *The Tablet*, for 13 years. She first discovered Joseph Hansom when she was an undergraduate at Manchester University and attended the Holy Name. After becoming a journalist, her interest in Hansom grew when she became the news editor of *Building magazine*, founded by Hansom as *The Builder*. This autumn, her book on the British and the papacy, *The Keys and The Kingdom*, will be published by Bloomsbury/T&T Clark.

By Catherine Pepinster

When members of the Society of Jesus were first asked to build a church in Manchester by the local Catholic bishop, the Jesuits took a rather romantic view of what they were going to create in the industrial city.

In April 1868, they opened the doors to what they called the Gesu – named after the Jesuits' baroque mother church in the heart of Rome. Down to earth Mancunians, living in what was then the working class district of Chorlton cum Medlock, took one look at the temporary structure that was their parish church and had other ideas. They called it 'the shed'.

The Holy Name Church, Manchester. Painting of interior by Herbert Gribble, circa.1870.

Just three years later, the permanent church was built. Designed by Joseph Hansom, and called the Holy Name, its interior must have pleased the Jesuits. Its basilica-size bulk dominated the neighbourhood and it most certainly was not a shed.

After Catholic emancipation in 1829, the Church mostly served a poor, migrant population in booming factory towns like Manchester. While the back to back terraces of Chorlton cum Medlock have since been swept away, the Grade I listed Holy Name survived, thanks to its role as Catholic chaplaincy church for the University of Manchester which surrounds it.

According to Fr William Pearsall, the parish priest, the chaplaincy and church are thriving, particularly due to overseas students who frequent the Holy Name. It also runs a food bank, has an active St Vincent de Paul Society offering welfare and is home to Manchester Citizens.

"We are a very active centre of faith," said Fr William, "but we could not do it without Hansom's church. Without it, we would just be a club".

The Hansom cab



THE LATE MR. J. A. HANSON,
INVENTOR OF THE HANSON CAB.

Joseph Hansom.

Born in 1803 into a Catholic family in York, Joseph Aloysius Hansom was first apprenticed as a joiner, later qualifying as an architect, and set up in business in 1828. While his work includes secular buildings such as Birmingham Town Hall, his greatest achievements were ecclesiastical. They included three cathedrals: Plymouth (1856) Arundel (1873), and Portsmouth (1872), as well as the Oxford Oratory (1875), the Holy Name (1871) and Mount St Mary's Church in Leeds (1851).

Yet Hansom is a low-profile architect. His name is better known for his design of the vehicle that bore his name – the Hansom cab. It became synonymous with safe travel in Victorian streets.

People who easily recite the names of Gilbert Scott, Butterfield and Pugin as among the Victorian greats can't identify Hansom's work. This may be due to his dedication to designing Catholic churches which tend not to be as well known as Anglican ones.

Pugin is far better known, despite a similar Catholic background, but that in part is due to the polemics he wrote on architecture. Hansom left no such tract; instead, through his journal, *The Builder*, which he founded in 1842 (and continues today as *Building magazine*), he ensured Victorian architecture was carefully recorded. The Holy Name ranks among the best of that era's designs.

As you approach the Holy Name on Manchester's Oxford Road, you see a Gothic style church in Warwick Bridge sandstone, but once inside, you discover a vast nave, with five bays including the transepts. The speed with which the church was designed and built is astonishing; a close look at the interior reveals why: some of what looks like stone is terracotta, and was prefabricated off site.

A sense of how Catholic devotion has changed is revealed by Hansom's design and church statistics. Eight confessionals (pictured below) run the entire length of the north aisle. Records show that there were 18,293 confessions at the Holy Name in 1876, five years after the church opened, but just 1,718 people received Communion at Easter.

Today confession is far less popular a Sacrament, so the Jesuits have converted six of the roomy confessionals into mini-offices. When I peaked inside, it revealed how practical Hansom was. He designed them all with a fireplace on the priest's side – vital to keep a cleric warm during hours of hearing confessions on a damp Manchester day.

A visual religious education for poor

The church also provided a visual religious education for poor, often illiterate parishioners, only starting to benefit

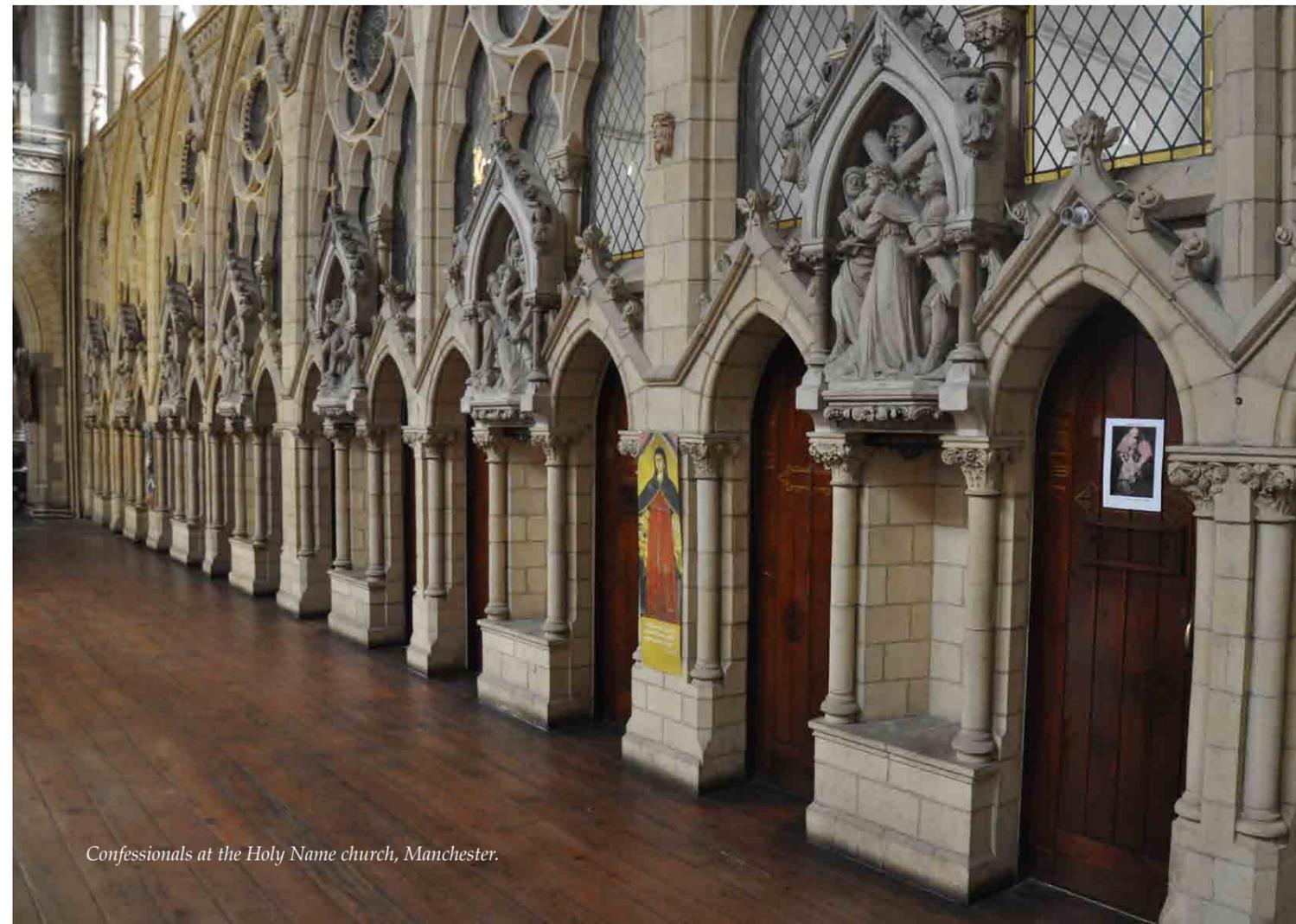


Fr William Pearsall SJ, parish priest of the Holy Name church, Manchester.

from public and church schools in the late Victorian era, through its stained glass, numerous statues, including Jesuit saints, and altar panels.

Fr William showed me some of Hansom's drawings kept at the Holy Name that include his design of a spire 240 ft high (shown overleaf). Manchester University academics digitizing Hansom's drawings have discovered the spire was never built because of concerns about subsidence. It was replaced instead by a Yorkshire granite tower by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and his brother Adrian.

This summer the Holy Name will close for nine weeks to allow asbestos to be removed. The next task will be improving the



Confessionals at the Holy Name church, Manchester.

lighting to enhance Hansom's interior. The building is now watertight but previous ingress has spoilt stonework; it needs a new roof, and £250,000 of repairs for the tower and bell chamber.

Finding the funds is always difficult for any church but with a transitory congregation of impecunious students, rather than loyal parishioners, it's particularly hard at the Holy Name. But they do provide a congregation. The church can accommodate 1,000; at recent Masses they have had around 200-600 people. And being a chaplaincy saved the church. In the 1990s the Catholic diocese of Salford thought it surplus to requirements and considered demolition.

Sophie Andreae, vice-chair of the Patrimony Committee of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said: "Demolition would have been a disaster. Hansom has been underrated for too long. He was a very versatile architect. Catholic churches have often been overlooked by architectural experts – including Pevsner. When they were built, anti-Catholic prejudice meant churches were often plain on the outside, to not draw attention to them. The interior would be completely different. This is the case with the Holy Name".

A magnificent interior does not mean the church looks inward, though. Fr William said: "We have a mission here to students. This area of Manchester also has a lot of homeless people, drug addicts, people with mental health problems. They look for help. There are also a lot more Catholics outside the Church than in and we have an apostolic mission to go out to them."

More information: www.holyname.info



View of the Holy Name church, Manchester

Catholic churches in England and Wales

There are around 750 listed Catholic churches in England and Wales. About half of all Catholic churches were built in the twentieth century.

Until the Catholic Relief Act of 1791, Catholic worship was illegal in this country. The revival of Catholicism in England and Wales after emancipation (which followed in 1829) plus Irish migration led to a church building boom especially in London, Birmingham, Liverpool and other northern cities.

Catholic churches helped by the National Churches Trust recently include:

SS Peter, Paul and Philomena, New Brighton, Merseyside, by E Bower Norris, 1930s. Known to sailors returning from Atlantic convoys during Second World War as the 'Dome of Home'.

Sacred Heart Church, Howden, East Yorkshire, by Joseph Hansom, 1850-2. Grade II listed, built with white brick, ashlar dressings, and slate roof.

St Joseph, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, by J S Brocklesby, planned in 1908 but built in 1925. Includes 32 stained glass windows made by student parishioners to designs by head of Potteries' art school Gordon Forsyth. Daughter Moira Forsyth designed ceiling panels of Christ in Glory 1935-37.



Fairfield church stands alone on Romney Marsh in Kent. © Matthew Byrne

English Parish Churches and Chapels

By Dr Matthew Byrne



English Parish Churches and Chapels: Architecture, Art and People is a beautiful and inspiring book of photographic portraits produced by Dr Matthew Byrne for the National Churches Trust. Matthew has been studying and photographing churches

for nearly 40 years and was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society in 1988 for his work in architectural photography.

I started taking photographs as a teenager in the 1950s when on family holidays. At that time people would start with a 'box' camera, with much more limited capabilities than even the most basic phone camera today. From the start I was as much interested in taking photographs of historic buildings such as churches and ruined abbeys as I was of recording family groups.

As I have visited some 2,000 churches over the years, it is very difficult to name a favourite; I might with difficulty narrow it down to 10! In my book, the sheer magnificence

of places like Beverley Minster and Selby Abbey will never be forgotten, but the places that linger most in the memory are small rustic churches in isolated settings. One of those is the 18th century church by Robert Adam at Gunton, Norfolk, hidden inside a small wood within a vast park of a stately home – fine classical architecture surrounded by natural beauty and an almost eerie silence.

In the book, I feature Fairfield church on Romney Marsh in Kent (pictured above) with sheep as its nearest living companions. That is the photograph I'm most proud of. The way the photograph came out was partly a result of pre-planning to get the right view points and selecting a suitably sunny day, but it was also partly down to luck. The particularly dramatic sky with swathes of blue and white cannot be pre-planned. Nor can the sheep in the foreground which so epitomise the character of the Marsh!

The right position

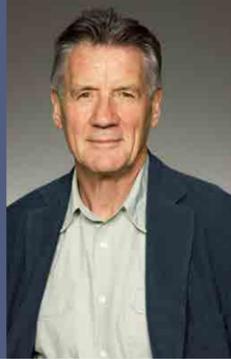
Since the 1980s I have used a large format camera specially designed for architectural photography, starting with and remaining with film. Such a camera always requires a tripod and lengthy setting up.



Monument to John Harrington (died 1524) and his wife in St Peter and St Paul church, Exton, Leicestershire. © Matthew Byrne

One difficulty is finding the right position where there is enough distance in front of the camera to include all the required view. Tilting the camera for a tall church is unsatisfactory as it always results in a distorted perspective. With interiors there is the further difficulty of working in dim light. Because of all this and also the need to have the sun in the right place at the right time, photographing a church may take several days!

"In this rich and detailed book, Matthew Byrne selects a collection of places of worship to prove what potential treasure troves of local - and national - history they represent."



Michael Palin, CBE, Vice-President of the National Churches Trust

Irreplaceable works of art

As there are so many churches in the UK, it is sometimes easy to take them for granted. So it is important to remind ourselves that they contain irreplaceable works of art in stone, wood and glass. Their survival depends primarily on continued regular use for the purpose for which they were originally built. Even in today's secular age, they are still used by several million people every week and play an important part in the lives of local communities. It is also important that people contribute to their upkeep as generously as possible. Organisations such as the National Churches Trust and its counterparts at the local and county level help enormously.

I am already thinking about my next book! I think this will be to a different plan to *English Parish Churches and Chapels*. Rather than detailed photographic portraits of selected churches, I would like to show particular features including stained glass, rood screen, monuments and pulpits and trace the changing styles over the centuries. 55



I am sometimes asked for advice as to how to take good photographs of churches. Exteriors are best taken in full sunlight – not always guaranteed! But sunlight brings out the colours of the various stones and will provide an attractive sky. For interiors it is the individual features which are often the most interesting. With something like a stained glass window or a monument, get up close and get a photo of a small detail. It may take more effort, but the good news is that the variety of photographs that can be taken of churches is almost infinite!

Above: A late 15th Century window shows the Duchess of Norfolk and the Countess of Surrey at Holy Trinity church, Long Melford, Suffolk. The former is said to be the model for John Tenniel's illustration of the duchess in *Alice in Wonderland*. © Matthew Byrne

English Parish Churches and Chapels is published by Osprey Publishing, a division of Bloomsbury.

Friends and supporters of the National Churches Trust can order a copy at a reduced price of £15.00 (RRP £20) - this includes postage and packing. Please contact us at 020 7222 0605 or visit www.nationalchurchestrust.org/englishchurches



The twin-towered west front of The Abbey church of our Lord, St Mary and St Germain, Selby, North Yorkshire. © Matthew Byrne

The future of our churches

By **Marcus Binney**

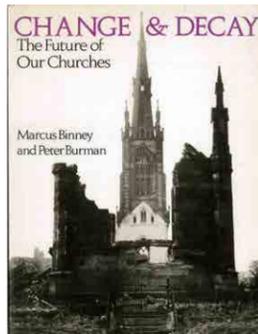


Marcus Binney, CBE, Hon FRIBA, is Executive President of SAVE Britain's Heritage.

2017 marks the 40th anniversary of the exhibition *Change and Decay: The Future of our Churches*, at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Though not as famous as its predecessor *The Destruction of the Country House*, it was extremely influential, and SAVE Britain's Heritage

organised a large travelling version which toured the country for three years, shown at museums and galleries, and cathedrals too.

Roy Strong as Director of the Victoria and Albert museum commissioned two trustees of the newly formed SAVE, Peter Burman and me, to curate the exhibition in succession to the first exhibition curated by John Harris, Peter Thornton and me.



The research for *Change and Decay*, carried out by my wife Anne, centred initially on compiling a list of notable churches lost over the preceding century on the model of the stupendous list of lost country houses compiled by John Harris. The church list became a huge affair and local authorities produced awesome lists of lost

churches – 36 listed churches which had been demolished in Glasgow, 50 historic churches demolished in Liverpool and 23 in Bristol – not all listed then though many would have qualified if they had survived.

Barry Mazur, the designer of the exhibition, changed the format. *The Destruction of the Country House* began with celebration and went on to the famous Hall of Destruction. *Change and Decay* began with a harrowing large format slide show of demolition followed by the glories of church art and positive examples of rescue and reuse.

The travelling version of *Change and Decay* consisted of 80 six foot high panels which opened like books to reveal magnificent photographs of churches, lost, decayed and revived.

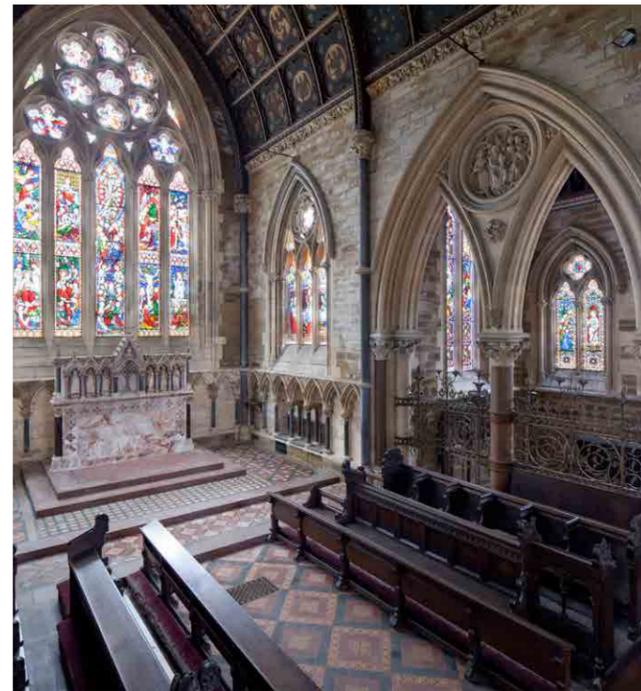
Within three weeks of the opening of *Change and Decay* in June came the surprise announcement from the government that historic buildings grants for outstanding churches, ie Grade I and II*, would begin immediately, increasing

substantially in the following full financial year. Until then there had long been a stand-off between Church (i.e. Church of England) and State on the basis of no control, no grants.

Grant denied

The Church of England had its own system of faculty jurisdiction and had fiercely argued in the debate on the first Ancient Monuments Bill in Parliament in 1913 against any additional controls over their church buildings from central government. For years this had seemed an impossible deadlock and it had the unfortunate side effect that grants were denied to all places of worship, notably Roman Catholic churches and Non-Conformist chapels, many of which were badly in need of major repair. They did not have the fundraising capacity of the Church of England, and received little from organisations such as the Historic Churches Preservation Trust which gave mainly to Anglican parish churches.

The second great focus of the exhibition was also covered in the book Peter Burman and I wrote for the British Tourist Authority – *Chapels and Churches: Who Cares?* In this we explored the architecture and history of all the many other denominations from Calvinist Methodists to Wee Frees in Scotland.



All Souls, Haley Hill, Halifax. © Andy Marshall

SAVE participated directly in the exhibition with a lightning report on Churches at Risk, which was followed by a series of reports on endangered churches including *The Fate of a Thousand Churches*, *The Fall of Sion* and *Churches: A question of Conversion*. As always SAVE's approach was not just broad brush. We took up the cause of individual churches at risk. Peter Burman organised a collection at the exhibition which raised £7,000 to repair the roof of the little medieval church at Rackheath in Norfolk. We fought successfully for the beautiful 18th century church in Worcester built for the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion (then run by the exotically named Wilfred De'ath).

A test case

A bigger loss loomed in the form of the threat of demolition to Gilbert Scott's All Souls Haley Hill in Halifax, which he had described as, "on the whole my best church". The Church Commissioners and the diocese had been told that the spire of All Souls was dangerous and decided to make its demolition a test case. SAVE held a rally in the staircase of Scott's Midland Hotel at St Pancras (then all dust and cobwebs) where we formed the Friends of Haley Hill followed by the All Souls Haley Hill Trust.

We saved All Souls thanks first to our splendid and appropriately named architect Donald Buttress (who as a result went on to be Surveyor to Westminster Abbey), and second Lord Charteris, chairman of the National Memorial Heritage Fund who used his casting vote to award us a grant of £300,000 towards the repair of the roof and spire. Some of the trustees had felt it was wrong to give money to redundant churches when so many churches still used for worship were in need. Our other main supporter was the Marquess of Anglesey, whose many pithy postcards of support are treasures of our archive.

SAVE went on to fight a series of church battles, saving the Roman Catholic Church of St Francis Xavier in Liverpool. Now fully in use for worship, its outstanding architecture is acknowledged and admired complete with SAVE's own stained glass window. Another church saved on death row was the Clifton Congregational Church in Bristol, converted to apartments but leaving the exterior substantially unchanged.

Repair grants

Government grants for church repairs have dramatically improved the outlook for historic churches. When *Change and Decay* opened in 1977 parish church Declarations of Redundancy were running at 80 to 90 a year. Soon after, the rate slowed to 20 a year where it has remained. Through repair grants English Heritage gave a secure future to hundreds of churches and when disproportionate cuts in its annual grant-in-aid from Government began to threaten the programme the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) stepped in with a Joint Places of Worship Scheme. Yet EH funds continued to be cut year on year in real terms and some five years ago the HLF took over church grants in their entirety.



All Saints, Rackheath, Norfolk. © Clive Dunn Photography.

The great bonus of the HLF Grants for Places of Worship (GPOW) programme was that grants of up to £250,000 could be given for urgent fabric repairs. The roof is the heart of any historic building. Neglect it and it is very soon in serious trouble. The test for GPOW was the need for repair with less emphasis on the usual lottery tests of outreach and public engagement. As a result congregations could get the essential repair work done and many parish churches are in better repair than they have been for centuries.

At the end of March this year the HLF announced that all this is to change, beginning this September, when the GPOW programme will close to new applications. In its place funding for repairs to places of worship will be available through HLF's existing Our Heritage programme (up to £100,000) and the main Heritage Grants programme (£100,000 up to £5m).

I urge the HLF to continue to place a strong emphasis on church repairs. Historic places of worship rank among the finest works of architecture Britain possesses, acting as landmarks in town and country, and representing a remarkable diversity across a millennium and more, as well as the character and aspirations of communities great and small. The trustees of the HLF must continue the work they have done with increased, not diminished, vigour and effectiveness.

The church repair grants introduced in 1977 have been amazingly successful in supporting historic churches of all denominations as well as notable places of worship belonging to other faiths. An impressive body of specialist architects, engineers, contractors and craft workers has been built up. It is vital that grants continue to draw on and sustain this expertise.

The full version of Marcus Binney's article appears in SAVE's new Buildings at Risk Catalogue. To order a copy, please visit www.savebritainsheritage.org/publications.



The National Churches Trust

In 2017, we mark the tenth anniversary of the National Churches Trust. The National Churches Trust continues the work of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust and the Incorporated Church Building Society. Below, we outline the history of the three organisations which have done so much for the UK's church buildings.

1818 - The Incorporated Church Building Society

The Incorporated Church Building Society was set up in 1818 and incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1828. It contributed to the cost of building and enlarging many Anglican churches. It was also a prime mover in helping abolish pew rents. It was absorbed into the National Churches Trust in 2013.



Joshua Watson

On Friday 6 Feb 1818 almost anyone who was anyone was at the Freemason's Tavern in Great Queen Street. The Gentlemen's Magazine reckoned that almost all the bishops were there. So was the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Northumberland and two other dukes, eight earls, two viscounts, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Speaker of the House of Commons, William Wilberforce, Robert Peel, Charles Hoare the banker and a dazzling collection of leading lawyers and city merchants. They were there because they believed that Britain's stability was at stake.

What they decided was to invest in building churches. In fact the Incorporated Church Building Society – the Duke of York its patron, the Archbishop of Canterbury, its President – would not build any churches itself. Instead, it would fund new galleries, extensions and church pews. Anything so long as there were more places for people to sit in church, and especially free places for those who could not afford to rent a pew.



An Incorporated Church Building Society sign, St Mary's church, Tilty, Essex.

The secret to this extraordinary moment in Britain's church history lay with a circle of men around Joshua Watson.

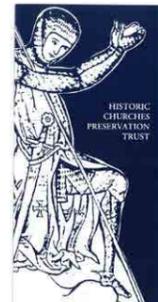
Watson was exceedingly well connected. Twice a year he went down from his house in Mincing Lane to the Freemason's Tavern for a meeting of the Club of Nobody's Friends.

Nobody's Friends believed that good order would only return with the pious and generous authority of people like themselves. Church and State would work together to educate and civilize Britain's suddenly bursting population. In 1811 they had won the setting up of a national scheme to educate young children. Now they campaigned to build churches to keep them holy.

We are planning a series of events in 2018 to mark the 200th anniversary of the Incorporated Church Building Society, including a special service of Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday, 26 June. Please visit www.nationalchurchestrust/icbs200 for more details.

1953 - The Historic Churches Preservation Trust

In 1951, the state of repair of parish churches in Britain was a serious problem.



This was not a new situation, but the culmination of decades of neglect. These circumstances were exacerbated to crisis point by the almost total cessation of maintenance and repair during the Second World War.

Urged on by the Pilgrim Trust and the Society of Antiquaries, the Church Assembly (now the Church of England 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.

After discussions in 1952, a trust deed for the Historic Churches Preservation Trust (HCPT) was drawn up in 1953. Drawing on the generosity of private donors, legators and charitable trusts, for over 50 years the HCPT provided vital funds for repairs to historic churches. The HCPT supported churches of all the major Christian denominations, as well as chapels and meeting houses.

We are proud that HM the Queen has been the Patron of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust and the National Churches Trust since 1953.

For people who love church buildings

2007 – The National Churches Trust



The National Churches Trust was created in 2007 to take forward the work of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust. As well as funding repairs, it had a wider remit to support and promote church buildings, provide support, 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 leading national, independent, non profit organisation dedicated to promoting and supporting church buildings of historic, architectural and community value across the UK.

Our income comes from individuals and charitable bodies, not from government or church authorities. So it is entirely thanks to the help of our generous supporters that since 2007 we have been able to carry out our work.



Michael Hoare, the National Churches Trust's first Chairman.

That has included providing over 1,600 grants worth over £15 million to help places of worship in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, including both listed and unlisted buildings.

Our key areas of work include:

- Providing grants for the repair, restoration, modernisation and maintenance of church buildings.
- Working to increase awareness among the public and decision makers of the value of places of worship and ensure continuing public funding of their heritage.
- Encouraging regular maintenance and good management of church buildings by providing practical advice, support and information, including our new MaintenanceBooker service.
- Collaborating with other heritage organisations, the church sector, local churches trusts and volunteers in their support for church buildings.
- Developing new ways of attracting people to visit churches, including our new ExploreChurches website, and bringing more people into contact with church history and architecture.

For people who love church buildings

We've using a new promotional 'strapline' on our publications and website. 'For people who love church buildings' is warm, welcoming and inclusive. We hope that you like it!

Why do you love church buildings?

There are many reasons why people love church buildings. For some it is spiritual solace, inspirational architecture or happy family memories, for others it is the work churches do in the community.

We would like to hear from you about why **you** love church buildings. Maybe you look after a church, use a church for worship or other activities, or simply like visiting them.

The most interesting statement, as judged by our Head of Communications, Chief Executive and Chairman, will win a magnum of champagne, kindly donated by a supporter of our work. We may feature the winning statement on our website and in our publications and marketing.

Please use or photocopy the form below, write to us at National Churches Trust, 7 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QB or email your statement to: info@nationalchurchestrust.org

I LOVE CHURCH BUILDINGS BECAUSE:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

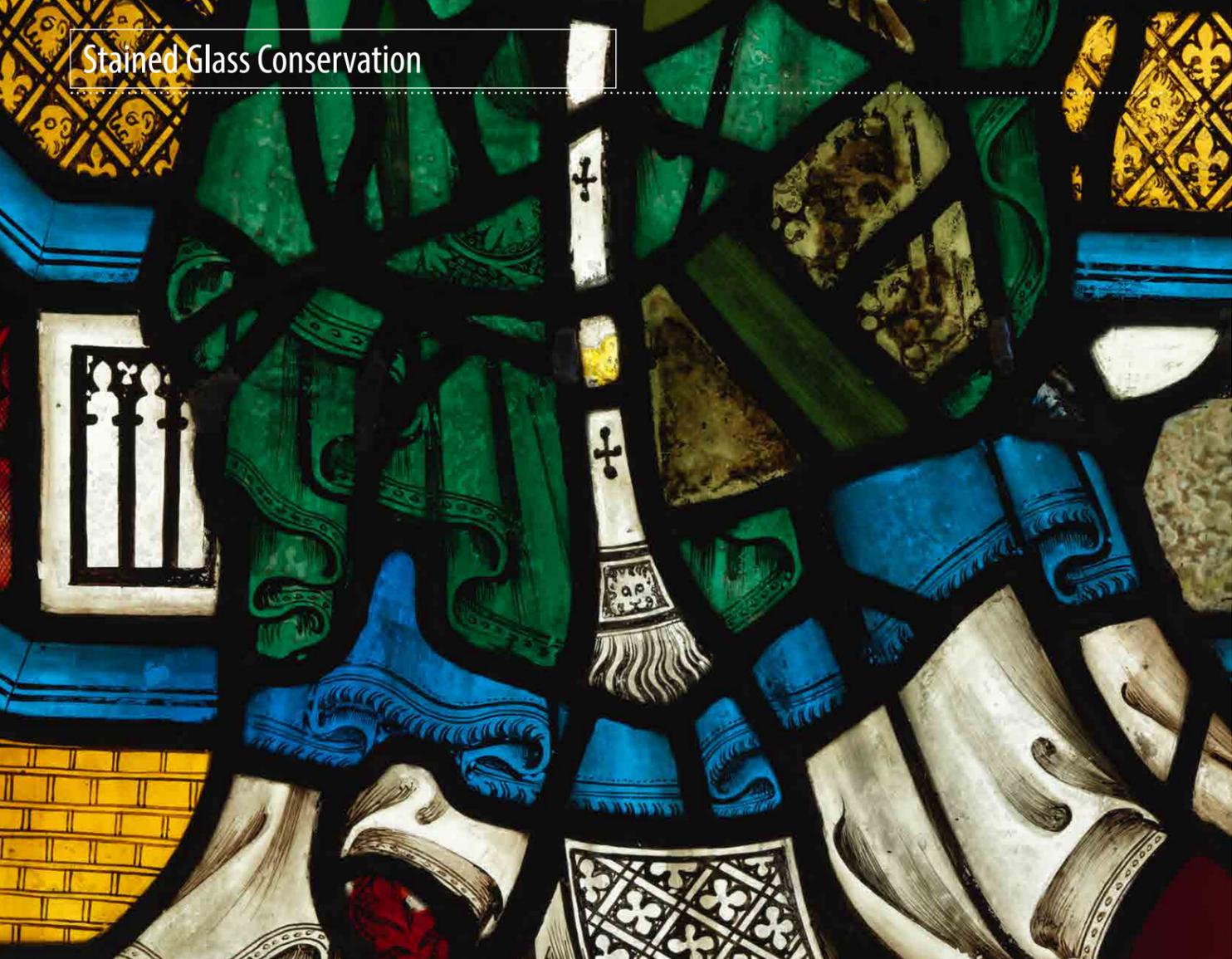
Email:

Please tick the box if you are happy for us to use your statement to help support our work in our publications and marketing materials

Please tick the box if you are happy for us to use your name. (We will never reveal any information about your address or contact details)

Please return to: National Churches Trust, 7 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QB





Corrosion of base glass and painted detail, 14th-century glass in the north nave aisle of York Minster
(Photo: York Glaziers Trust, reproduced by kind permission of the Chapter of York)

Stained Glass Conservation in the 21st Century: An introduction to Good Practice

By Sarah Brown, Director of the York Glaziers Trust



Sarah Brown has been director of the York Glaziers Trust since 2008 and has overseen the conservation of York Minster's Great East Window, the largest expanse of medieval stained glass in Great Britain. She combines her role at YGT with that of Course Director of the University of York's MA in Stained Glass Conservation and Heritage Management. She is currently president of the Corpus Vitrearum Medii Aevi (Great Britain) and General Secretary of the International Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Stained Glass.



One of the greatest pleasures in looking at old windows is spotting the evidence of the intervention of earlier generations of repairers and restorers. For the modern conservator this inheritance is inescapable and requires appropriate evaluation, documentation and sensitive treatment in order to respect its cultural significance.

Gone are the days (thankfully!) when all traces of earlier repairs are stripped away from a window that is then rendered 'as new'. The religious and cultural dislocations of the Reformation triggered a decline in the glass-painting craft that did not recover until the Gothic Revival of the Victorian period. The care of stained glass windows increasingly fell into the hands of plumber-glaziers, resulting in a very distinctive English tradition of stained glass repair.

Post-Reformation isolation from European centres of glass production and a taxation regime that levied duties on new glass encouraged the naturally thrifty habits of these craftsmen, who habitually preserved even the smallest scrap of old glass, which could then be recycled as a patch or 'stop-gap' repair.

While these are often iconographically anomalous, they are frequently unobtrusive, because in tone and character they often blend harmoniously with the surrounding panel and are only spotted during long and careful scrutiny.

In line with the generic guidance of organisations like the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in general and the guidelines of the International Corpus Vitrearum in particular, the presumption should always be in favour of retaining these historic stop-gaps as evidence of the careful and well-meaning care of an earlier age.

A long tradition

While there is a long and unbroken tradition of craft-based repair and restoration of stained glass stretching back to the medieval heyday of the medium, the emergence of stained glass conservation as a distinctive scientific discipline is of much more recent vintage. All conservators have to contend with the implications of physical change brought about by the alteration of materials and the impact

of environment, and it for this reason that the modern stained glass conservator must be a master of materials and environmental science and conservation ethics just as much as stained glass craft.

Since the middle of the 19th century it has been realized that stained glass is susceptible to damaging change as a consequence of its inherent properties. The advent of the industrial revolution exposed stone and glass to the damaging consequences of polluted air and the effects were eventually noticed by architects and custodians.

The earliest attempts at protective glazing at York Minster, for example, date from 1861 and were directed at the attack of what was described as the 'products of combustion'.

Since the introduction of clean air legislation from the 1950s onwards, air quality has improved, but international research undertaken by those concerned for the fate of Europe's medieval windows in the post-war era has demonstrated that the most serious threat is the inherent susceptibility of glass, especially potash-rich late medieval glass, to the attack of moisture.



A 14th-century grotesque fragment used to patch a 15th century saint's drapery. Holy Trinity, Goodramgate, York
© Sarah Brown

Historic material lost

Externally this is as precipitation and internally as condensing moisture from the relatively warmer air inside the building. As moisture-laden air cools down, it can no longer hold as much moisture and so will deposit it on cold surfaces, and this cycle of wetting and drying is consequently affected by seasonal variations and by fluctuations

in the operation of any heating system.

While moisture can also condense on tiled surfaces, monuments and brasses, it will always find the internal painted surfaces of an unprotected stained glass window. The glass will corrode, exemplified by corrosion pits, which will coalesce to remove the upper surface of the glass, thereby endangering the painted details which are predominantly on the interior, and will eventually progress to the point that glass is holed and original historic material is irretrievably lost.

Internally ventilated environmental protective glazing is widely acknowledged to be the most effective means

of significantly slowing and even halting this process of deterioration, by keeping both internal and external surfaces of a historic window dry and free from cycles of condensation. This is a very effective approach to preventive conservation that has been tried and tested throughout Europe for over 70 years.

The recent monitoring of windows in both York Minster and at Merton College, Oxford, has shown that even in the most extreme conditions, windows protected with this kind of ventilated protection remain completely dry, with condensation and precipitation affecting only the new 'sacrificial' outer glazing, pictured below.

This means that stained glass conservators can offer their clients the means of maintaining their treasured stained glass *in situ* in their buildings in as close to a controlled and stable environment as can be achieved outside a museum.

Accidental damage

Protective glazing can be designed, if necessary, to incorporate additional physical protection from mechanical damage, which continues to be a common problem encountered by the stained glass conservator. This can be the result of accidental damage caused by scaffolders, window cleaners, ball-throwers, birds and debris inadvertently thrown up by a lawn mower or strimmer, or be the consequence of deliberate or malicious damage caused by vandalism or break-ins.

In some instances, examples of religiously motivated damage – iconoclasm – can also be identified, much to be deplored but also very revealing of past cultural and historic circumstances.

Modern methods of stained glass repair, not to mention the ethics of conservation, mean that only when glass has actually been completely lost is it necessary for new pieces to be painted and in-filled and in the event of any unexpected damage, custodians are urged to collect even the smallest glass pieces for edge-bonding and reinsertion.

Cleaning glass

Many conservation projects will involve the cleaning of stained glass. While clean glass is aesthetically more pleasing to the eye, and extremely dirty glass can undermine both the functional and symbolic meaning of a window as a work of art and a means of illuminating an interior, cleaning can also result in damage if not undertaken by an experienced professional.

From the conservation standpoint, cleaning is justified not in terms of cosmetic improvement, but because layers of dirt can provide a moisture-retaining layer that exacerbates the deterioration of glass and paint. Additionally, it is now recognised that most forms of moulds excrete potentially damaging oxalic acid, which over time will etch the glass surface and create micro-cracks in its surface that admit moisture and encourage further deterioration. Most



Conservator installing window n2 in York Minster with the benefit of external protective glazing © The York Glazier Trust

conservators will also acknowledge, however, that recognition of the devotional, artistic and cultural value of a window is greatly undermined by dirt, mould and damage.

Cleaning methods can vary widely from dry, mechanical methods (soft bristle brushes, smoke sponges, gum powders, scalpels, to wet and chemical methods (deionised water, a variety of solvents and chelating agents).

Releading a historic window

The urge automatically to re-lead a historic window should be resisted. While releading was once upon a time a restorer's default position it should always be remembered that window lead is an integral part of a historic window and should be preserved if at all possible, especially in a 19th century window, which will almost always be in its original lead. Much can be done to repair and strengthen historic window leads, especially if other factors encourage the introduction of protective glazing, which removes stained glass from its role as weather guard, and protects fragile glass and historic lead from the effects of wind pressure. Evidence of a failing lead net should always be reviewed in tandem with the condition of the window's support system, as it is often a failure of the lead or copper ties that connect the panels to the saddle bars, or even inadequate provision of support bars, that accounts for the deterioration of the lead matrix. Releading an inadequately supported window will be an expensive and short term measure rather than a conservation solution.

Ask questions

Each project must be assessed on its own merits and the underlying principle must always be to begin with the mildest method possible – usually the softest of brushes. Custodians are urged to ask questions of their conservators as to what cleaning methods are to be used and to see these explained and justified in any technical report.

Studio-based conservation projects can allow an additional range of beneficial treatment, and even *in situ* much can be done to stabilise breaks and cracks. Many older windows are marred by the introduction of necessary but disfiguring mending leads, or surface-mounted strap leads designed to stabilise cracks. These can often be replaced with modern adhesives or slender string leads or copper-foil repairs, although the former should only be adopted if a window is to enjoy post-conservation protection.

Just as we document and respect the evidence of the interventions of earlier generations, so should we also ensure that our own interventions are recorded appropriately, including a mapping of any new lead, the application of any adhesives, consolidants and infills and the recording of cleaning methods employed.

Custodians should expect this as part of a professional conservation service and should accept that it incurs a cost. In the longer term, however, it will also ensure that the conservator of the future will have a reliable snapshot of a window's past and a clearer vision for its future.

More details: www.yorkglaziertrust.org



A conservator at work cleaning glass with the benefit of binocular microscope © The York Glaziers Trust

Investing wisely for the future



By Claire Walker, Chief Executive

The past year has been one of substantial and positive change for the National Churches Trust.

Our reorganised Church Support Team has worked to strengthen the advice, funding and help we provide for churches of all Christian denominations throughout the UK.

A refocused grants programme means that as well as being able to fund urgent repairs and the installation of community facilities, we can also help with grants for maintenance work and to allow churches to develop plans for high quality repair and community projects.

Much of the work of supporting the UK's ecclesiastical built heritage depends on getting to know at first hand the buildings and the people responsible for their future.

So, even though we are a small team, when we are invited to join celebrations or to attend services of thanksgiving when projects are completed, our staff and trustees accept as many invitations as possible, as there is nothing better than to be able to see at first-hand the difference our grants and support make.

I have been privileged to get to know more of our donors and supporters, including some of the almost 500 people who joined the National Churches Trust as Friends or Cornerstone Club members in 2016.

Very sadly one of our Cornerstone Club members died in March 2016. He had been a loyal champion of our work for many years and so we were touched that he remembered the Trust in his Will. Legacies are an important part of our income without which much of our work would not be possible.

My thanks go to all our supporters, whether they choose to donate to a specific appeal, pledge a gift in their Will, or become a Friend, Life Friend or Cornerstone Club member. We simply could not do our work without you.

Championing church buildings

Whether church buildings are listed or unlisted, on Historic England's At Risk Register, or need new facilities to be of value to more people, the National Churches Trust can help.

As we move into our second decade, we will continue to strengthen our partnerships, award as many grants as our funding will allow and continue to champion the cause of church buildings so that communities across the UK can use and enjoy these buildings for many years to come.

Thank you for your interest in the National Churches Trust.

About the National Churches Trust

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the National Churches Trust are:

- To help maintain the UK's heritage of church buildings and to enhance their ability to serve local communities
- To promote the benefit to communities of church buildings and to inspire everyone to value and enjoy them

Structure of the National Churches Trust

The National Churches Trust is a registered charity and is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. It is the successor to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust and the Incorporated Church Building Society. The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees who are appointed by the Trust's joint presidents, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. Trustees are appointed for an initial term of five years which can be renewed once for a further five years.

Financial resources

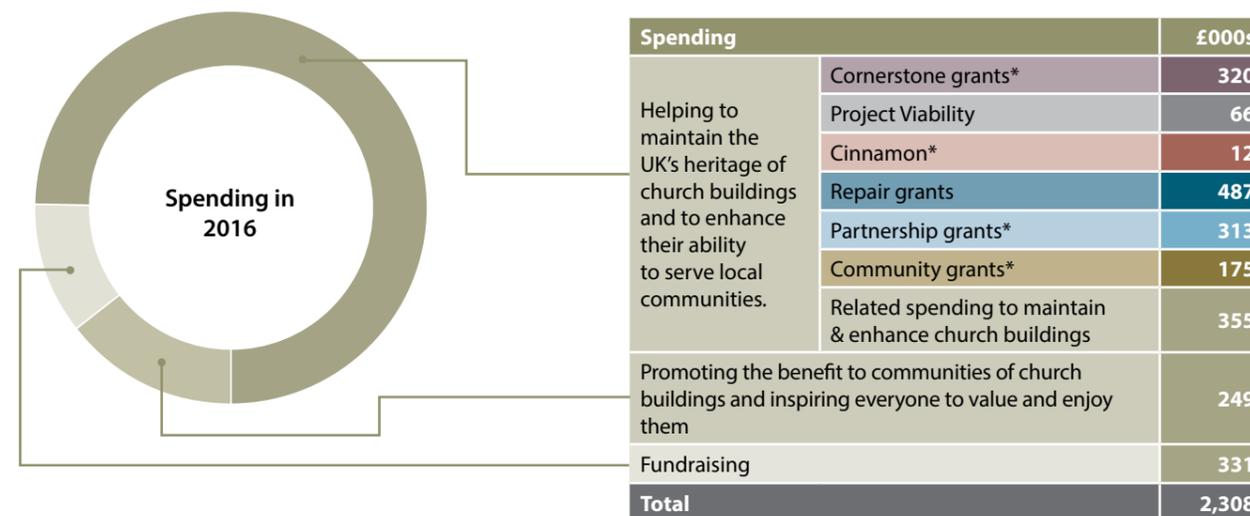
Excluding endowment funds, which generate income but may not be spent, the funds controlled by the National Churches Trust amounted to £3.6m at the end of 2016. Only some £1,548,814 of this can be used without restriction on any of the Trust's activities and objectives. Unrestricted reserves are important as they provide flexibility to maintain activities in the event of fluctuations in income.

The remaining funds of the Trust 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.

Financial Summary

Spending in 2016

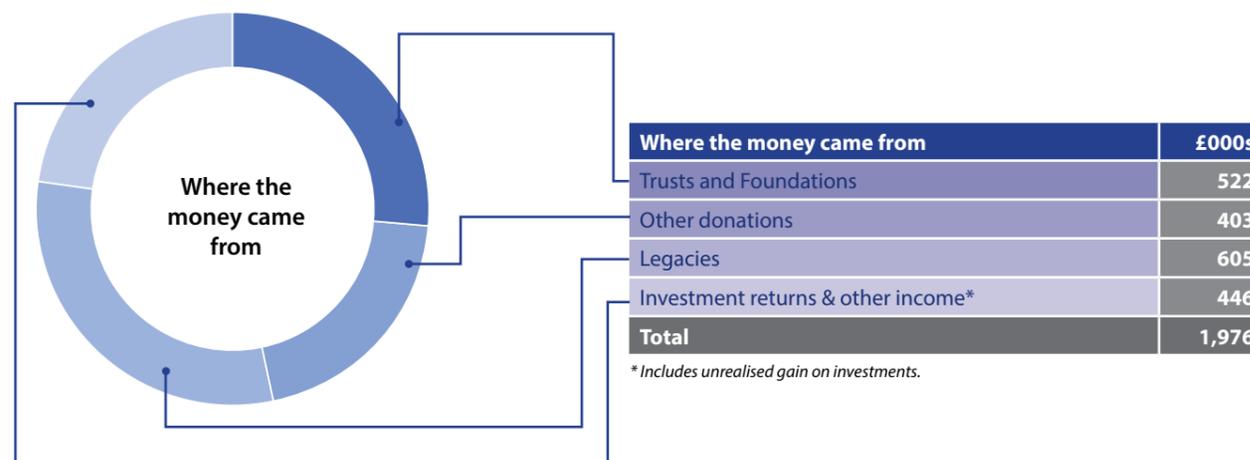
The Trust awarded just under £1.4m in grants to churches from its own funds in 2016. Expenditure on promoting and maintaining church buildings has increased in 2016 as we now have a full complement of staff in this area, and new projects have been launched. We continued our planned expenditure on publicity and marketing in the pursuit of recruitment of new Friends and donors which proved to be successful throughout the year. An emphasis on prudent budgeting and tight control of costs is maintained by all the team.



* Grants awarded to churches in 2016 from the resources of the National Churches Trust less previous awards not claimed of £26,500.

Where the money came from

Non-legacy income and unrealised gains on investments were higher than in 2015, with our investments performing well overall. Total income (£1.976m) was lower than in 2015, when we were fortunate in receiving a very generous legacy, but broadly consistent with performance in recent years. Outgoing resources exceeded incoming resources by £332,506 which is in line with the Trust's reserves policy.



* Includes unrealised gain on investments.

The Financial Summary above does not comprise the full statutory accounts of the National Churches Trust and is a summary of selected financial information. Our full Financial Statements for 2016 are available on request. Please email: info@nationalchurchestrust.org

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the many donors who generously support the Trust, including those listed below and others who prefer to remain anonymous.

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Jean Bovington
Mary Burgess
Anita Chapman
Margaret Claxton
Peter Hacker
Lionel Hemming
Marjorie Musgrove
Maureen Ramsey
Colin Rose
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Members of our Professional Trades Directory can offer expert and specialist help with any part of your church, chapel or meeting house. Full details at www.nationalchurchestrust.org/ptd

The aim of the Professional Trades Directory is to support the diverse network of organisations and companies which specialise in historic church buildings.

We firmly believe in the importance of protecting the traditional craft skills vital to the building and conservation of church buildings.

To join the Professional Trades Directory please visit:

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/ptd
or email professionaltrades@nationalchurchestrust.org



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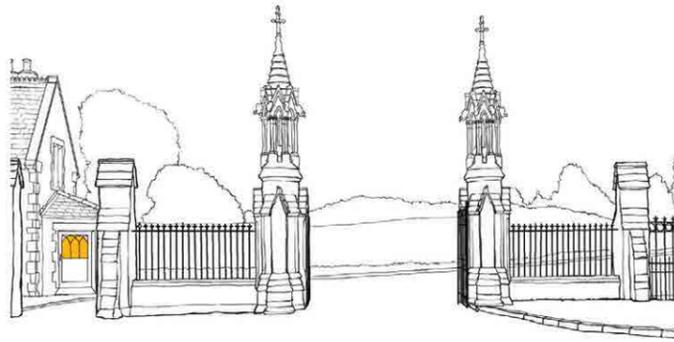
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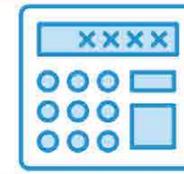
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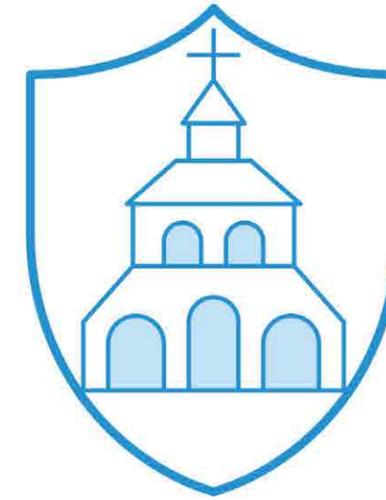
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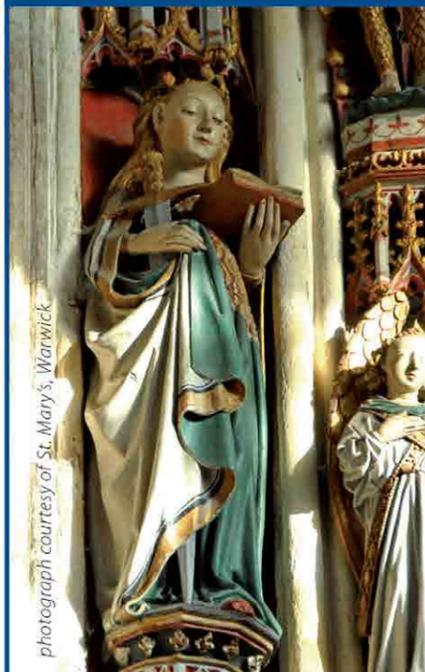
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Web: www.nationalchurchestrust.org

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Company registered in England Registration number 06265201
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