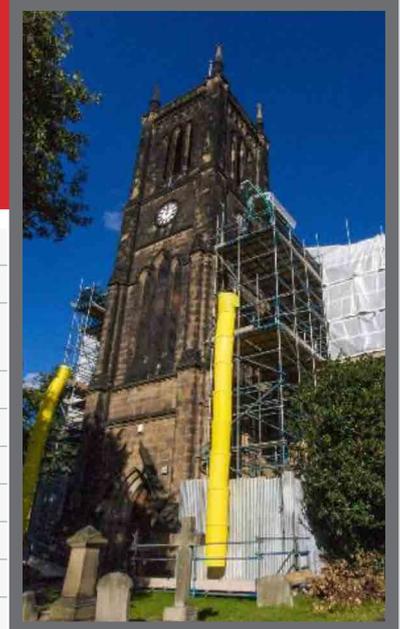




Case STUDY

CORNERSTONE GRANT Holy Trinity, Lenton, Nottingham



Address:	Church Street, Lenton, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire NG7 2FF
Denomination:	Church of England
NCT grants awarded:	NCT £40,000 Cornerstone Grant, June 2015; WREN Heritage Fund £66,980, July 2015
Setting:	Urban
Architect:	Carl Andrews RIBA, AABC, IHBC, EASA, Soul Architects
Contractors:	CEL Roofing
Project cost:	Approximately £535,326
Opening hours:	Open for worship and activities five days per week
Visitors in 2016:	The church was closed between Aug 2014 and June 2016
Website:	www.lentonparish.org.uk

Holy Trinity is the parish church for Nottingham's largest parish, an inner city area which includes the main campus for the University of Nottingham. Grade II* listed with a distinctive tall square pinnacled tower, the church was built in 1841-2 in the early English style to a design by Henry Isaac Stevens.

The 2013 quinquennial inspection revealed extensive dry rot in the roof timbers caused by water ingress. By August 2014, the structural instability of the roof was such that the church was placed on the Heritage at Risk Register and forced to close. A Heritage Lottery Fund grant was awarded in 2015 for the replacement of the nave and south aisle roofs but further funding was needed to complete the urgent work to the north aisle roof and clerestory windows.

The church approached the National Churches Trust who recommend the project for a WREN FCC Heritage Grant (Landfill Communities Fund) and also awarded a £40,000 Cornerstone grant. These grants enabled all of the essential repairs to be completed in a single project, saving scaffolding costs and minimising the time that the building was closed.

Works to the clerestory and north aisle began in summer 2015 and were complete by the reopening of the church in June 2016. Phase two, which will complete the roofing works, is currently underway.

“Our small and low-earning inner-city congregation could not have borne the cost of this project. The NCT and WREN grants have enabled us to complete our essential repairs more quickly, and more economically, enabling us to reopen the building to the benefit of all.”

Project challenges: With a congregation largely made up of students and young people, the main challenge for the church was finding the necessary expertise to plan, manage and complete the fundraising and project management. A small team of volunteers, together with the vicar, Megan Smith, took on responsibility for the project. With no prior experience of building projects, it has been a steep learning curve but they have been helped by support from the local community.

Impact:

- The condition of the building has been enhanced - fabric has been secured and the building will be removed from the Heritage at Risk Register.
- A full internal redecoration has been completed by volunteers (making use of the internal scaffold while it was still *in situ*).
- Grant funding has allowed work to the north aisle, south aisle and nave to be undertaken in the most seamless and cost-effective way.
- The project has benefited the congregation and community – the church has reopened for worship and regular community activities have resumed.
- There is increased public engagement with the heritage.

Key lessons learnt: Project management skills; shrewd decision-making when choosing professionals to oversee the work; the value of a church cannot be judged by the size of its congregation – they were overwhelmed by the level of interest and support from the local community.

New uses: Since the building's reopening in June, they have already hosted a community fun-day, a 'Pokestop' (for the latest Pokemon craze) and a three day kids holiday club. Additional plans include musical concerts, use by university societies to create exam-time revision space for students, craft fairs and local history events.

New users: The reopening weekend welcomed at least 300 people who had not previously visited the church.