

# Friends

of the National Churches Trust



**Innovative Funding**

See page 5

## Helping build communities



by Revd Lucy Winkett

**On June 24 1818, the Incorporated Church Building Society (ICBS) passed a resolution making churches more accessible. Grant money from the ICBS would be given to churches with the most free seats. The ICBS wanted to give money not only to build churches, but to ensure their interiors were "allocated wholly to the**

**lower classes who could not afford pew rents and did not possess the local influence to be given proprietorial rights over pews".**

Open seats with backs were to be installed, because that way the greatest number of seats could be made available comfortably. All seats were to face the preacher as far as possible and the benches "whether pewed or not" should be set from east to west so that the congregation did not turn their backs on the altar. Comfort was a consideration, but if there were to be cushions or fabric of any kind it was cautioned that such "woollen linings" were liable to become dusty, damp or attract vermin.

The National Churches Trust (NCT), the body that carries on the work of the Incorporated Church Building Society, is, in this 200th

anniversary year of the society, continuing this legacy.

### Open churches

The aim is to try to make church buildings comfortable (heating), accessible (ramps and toilets), welcoming (helping parishes to tell the story of their local community through the church) and open, working with insurance companies to keep the doors unlocked and the space freely available for community use as well as for worship.

In what we often describe as a secular society, the work of the NCT is needed more than ever. Public sacred spaces such as church buildings, of every denomination, can be places where people can meet, work together and build community.

*Continued on page 2*



*Kings Lynn Minster, an open and welcoming church*

© LH Images / Alamy Stock Photo



**Helping churches and chapels**

See pages 6 & 7

Continued from page 1

To combat loneliness among some older people, good, accessible loos and a simple kitchen can make the offering of hospitality possible, enabling people to get out of their homes. Parking spaces, proper heating, sensible security lighting — these are the unglamorous aspects of church buildings, but can often make all the difference to a church being open or closed, able to host a parent and toddler group or an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

There are important debates about how comfortable to make a church nave. It is countercultural to sit on a bench or a pew, next to someone you have never met, with no barrier in between as you might find in a theatre or a cinema. What we do with our bodies when we pray has become something of a taboo subject as kneeling goes out of fashion, and fabric chairs have started to replace wooden benches in an attempt to make people feel more at home.

**Something distinctive**

However, something can be lost in this domestication of public sacred space. The otherness of God, the sense that something different is going to happen, something out of the ordinary, is weakened if a church interior looks like my living room.

If the welcome within a historic church building is warm, if the stony space is peopled with an open-hearted, open-minded community, then the church buildings can be what they need to be; providing us with a deep connection with the generations before, while at the same time welcoming afresh in this generation those who stumble across the threshold, half the time, not even sure what they are looking for.



Revd Lucy Winkett

# From our Chief Executive



Dear Friends and supporters,

**As we approach the end of 2018 I'd like to say a really big thank-you.**

To all the 636 new Friends who have joined the National Churches Trust this year.

To the churches and chapels using our new MaintenanceBooker service to keep their buildings in good repair.

To everybody who made the journey to St Paul's Cathedral to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Incorporated Church Building Society.

Most importantly I'd like to say thank-you to all the donors who generously support our work, which in 2018 is enabling us to award grants of over £1.2 million to churches and chapels throughout the UK.

Our financial support to churches is becoming increasingly important. I am all too well aware that following a fall in the Heritage Lottery Fund's income and the ending

of Government supported schemes, there is now less money available to places of worship carrying out urgent repairs.

Of course, local congregations always generously dig into their pockets when money is needed. But the cost of a major repair is usually well beyond what a parish can raise locally.

**Extra money**

In his recent budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer found £8 million pounds to help pay for repairs to local community buildings, including village halls. I earnestly hope that in the future he will find some extra money to help pay for church repairs, similar to the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Scheme which was such a success and vastly oversubscribed.

On the horizon are possible changes to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme which allows churches to reclaim the VAT on repair projects. There is talk of introducing a flat rate of 5% of VAT on repairs to all historic buildings. If this happened, churches would have to find an extra 15% to cover the cost of their repair projects. You can be sure that we are working hard with our partners to point out to Government the danger this

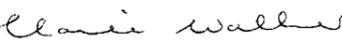
could cause to the future of our nation's priceless heritage of church buildings. You can help us by writing to your local MP about this issue.

**Carol concert**

In the run up to Christmas, there is a wonderful opportunity to lift your spirits at our Carol Concert, which takes place this year at St James's church, Piccadilly, thanks to Revd Lucy Winkett. I do hope that you can join us and be entertained by our Vice Presidents Bill Bryson, Michael Palin and Huw Edwards and by the children of the Pimlico Musical Foundation. What a tremendous line up! Tickets are only £20 and also buy you a glass of wine and a mince pie.

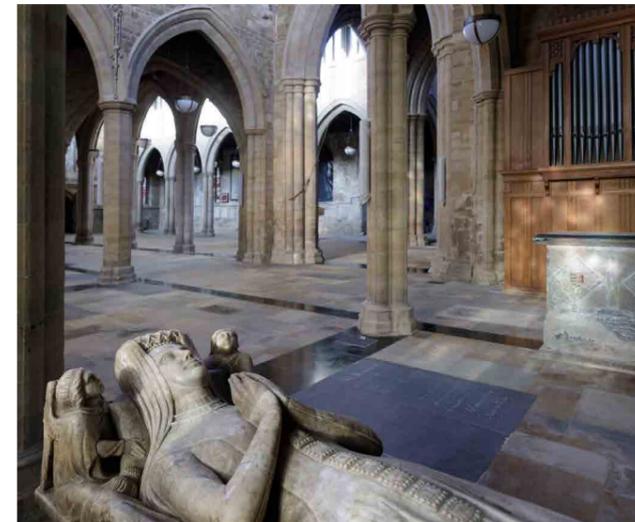
One more thank-you is in order. That goes to the over 2,000 churches and chapels who are now listed on our new ExploreChurches website. If you have time to spare over Christmas and the New Year, please do use the website's handy map feature to discover some new churches to visit. If you are staying with friends or family who have not yet discovered the joy of visiting churches, do take them with you!

With best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Claire Walker

# 2018 Church Architecture Awards



St Mary's church, Melton Mowbray

**Two major repair and restoration projects have won the 2018 Church Architecture Awards, run by the National Churches Trust and the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association (EASA).**

The renovation and improvements by architects Buttress to Grade I Listed St Mary's church, in Melton Mowbray Leicestershire, won the 2018 Presidents' Award.

A key aim for the project was to improve the church's catering facilities to support its growing role as a space for community events. The architects designed a new refreshment facility that can be entirely concealed when not in use. Underfloor heating

was also installed, and a new stone floor was laid to return the floor to its pre-19th century height.

At a ceremony held at St Mellitus College, London on Thursday, 1 November 2018, HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO ARIBA, Vice Patron of the National Churches Trust, presented the Presidents' Award, together with a £500 cheque, to the winners.

Two projects were Highly Commended: a new chapel on the Ardnamurchan Estate in the Highlands of Scotland, built in Romanesque style with Celtic key patterns by architects GLM and the renovation and extension of Ealing Green church in west London by Potter Church & Holmes Architects.

**King of Prussia**

The conservation and restoration of the interior of Grade I Listed St Mary Magdalene church, Paddington, London by Caroe Architecture won the 2018 King of Prussia Gold Medal.

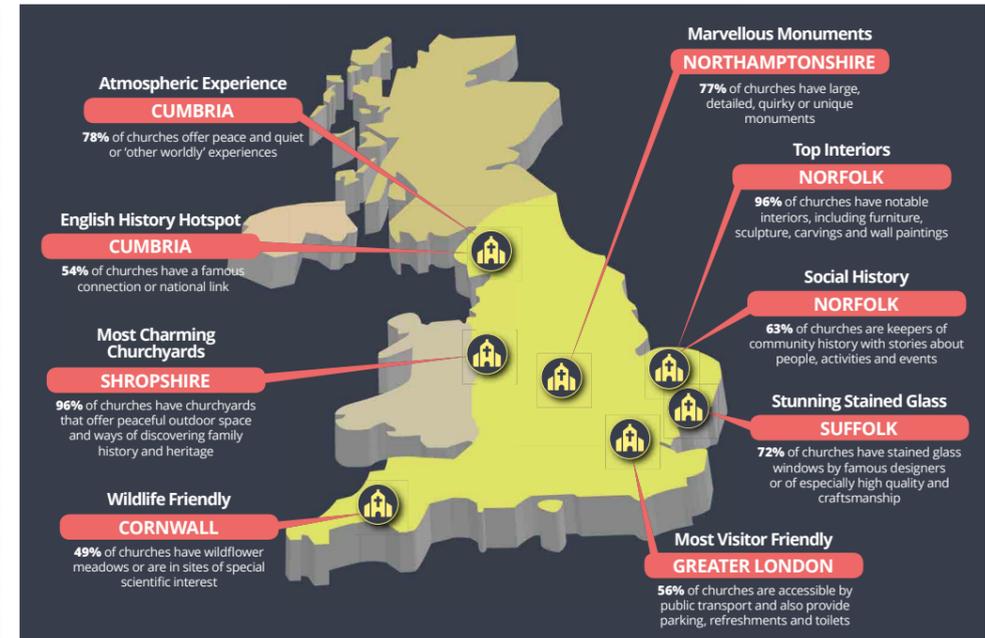
This conservation project has brought back to life the architectural and decorative quality of this Gothic Revival masterpiece.

Prince Nicholas von Preussen, Patron of EASA and Vice President of the National Churches Trust, presented the King of Prussia Gold Medal for repair and conservation architecture, together with a £500 cheque, to the winners.

Two projects were Highly Commended: the re-roofing and repair of Unitarian Dukinfield Old Chapel in Manchester by Lloyd Evans Pritchard and the restoration of St Peter and St Paul church in Upper Stoke, Rochester, Kent by architect Rena Pittsilli-Graham.

The award for Young Church Architect of the Year was won by Pippa Jacob for her work on the reordering and introduction of new facilities at Grade I Listed St Edmund King & Martyr church, Southwold, Suffolk.

Full details [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/awards](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/awards)



# Top counties for historic churches

**England's best counties to explore historic churches have been revealed, following an analysis of 2,000 churches on the National Churches Trust's new church tourism website ExploreChurches**

Churches were analysed across eight different categories; interiors, stained glass, churchyards, atmosphere, wildlife, national history, monuments and social history.

The counties that are home to the highest percentage of churches in each of these

categories were deemed to be hotspots for church tourism.

Visitor facilities were also analysed to determine, for the first time, the county that has the highest percentage of 'five-star churches', and therefore offering the best overall visitor experience.

Bettany Hughes, Vice President of The National Churches Trust, said:

*"Our analysis will help tourists and visitors discover the amazing heritage of churches and chapels.*

*"We hope it will encourage more people to become*

*passionate about these tremendous buildings packed with memories of human life often dating back over 1,000 years.*

*"Our study shows that churches and chapels offer a tremendous range of unique experiences for visitors including tower climbing, wildlife spotting and even live music. There really is something for everyone."*

A full list of counties rated can be found at [www.explorechurches.org](http://www.explorechurches.org)



Revd Lucy Winkett, Bill Bryson, Michael Palin, Huw Edwards

and The Pimlico Musical Foundation

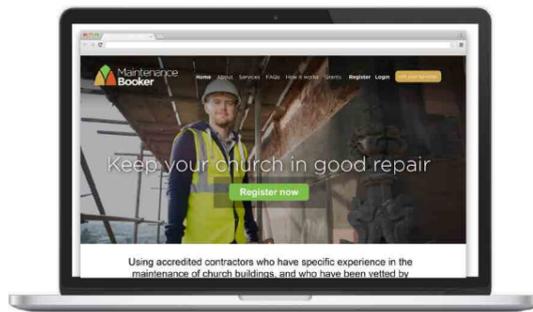
Invite you to join them for a **Carol Concert** at St James's church, Piccadilly, London on Wednesday 12th December 2018 at 6.30 pm (doors open at 6.00 pm)

To book visit [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/carolconcert](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/carolconcert) or phone 020 7222 0605 or email [info@nationalchurchestrust.org](mailto:info@nationalchurchestrust.org)

Tickets £20 each (includes a glass of wine and a mince pie) CCLA GOOD INVESTMENT

The National Churches Trust, 7 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QB 020 7222 0605 Registered charity no: 1119845 info@nationalchurchestrust.org www.nationalchurchestrust.org National Churches Trust @NatChurchTrust Editor: Eddie Tulaisewicz Design: GADS Limited Articles do not constitute an endorsement or approval by the National Churches Trust of any product or service to the exclusion of others that may be suitable. Published by the National Churches Trust © 2018

# MaintenanceBooker



**MaintenanceBooker has been rolled out across England and Wales with the support of Ecclesiastical Insurance, the UK's leading church insurer, the Pilgrim Trust and the Church in Wales.**

Any church or chapel can use MaintenanceBooker to obtain quality building work from accredited and experienced contractors for a wide variety of essential maintenance tasks. The service is also available to historic buildings.

Maintenance work available includes gutter clearance and repairs, lightning protection inspection, tree surveys and maintenance as well as asbestos surveys and removal. More will be added in the next few months, including stonework and lime mortaring.

MaintenanceBooker is a partnership between the National Churches Trust and 2buy2, a leading procurement company. Rob Kissick, 2buy2's Chief Executive Officer said: "Every company registered on MaintenanceBooker is vetted to ensure it has the appropriate qualifications. MaintenanceBooker will save money and ensure that work is carried out by qualified individuals."

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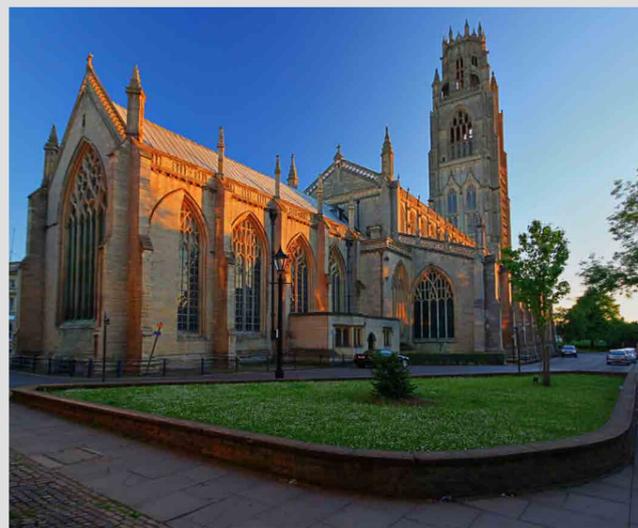
Visit [www.maintenancebooker.org.uk](http://www.maintenancebooker.org.uk)

# Friends' Grant update

**A big thank-you to all the Friends of the National Churches Trust who selected St Botolph, Boston, Lincolnshire to receive the 2018 Friends of the National Churches Trust Grant.**

The £10,000 grant will help to fund the current repair project to restore the church's tower. This will include replacement of the lead belfry roof and the wooden platform at the top of the lantern tower, which are both in extremely poor condition.

St Botolph, better known as 'Boston Stump', is Grade I listed and is one of the largest parish churches in the country. It is forever linked with the Puritan emigrants who in 1630 followed in the wake of the Pilgrim Fathers



St Botolph, Boston

and founded a new Boston in the United States of America. Four churches, which had been awarded a National Churches Trust Repair or Community Grant in 2017 and which needed additional funding prior to starting work on their projects, were shortlisted for the Friends' Grant.

The other churches shortlisted were St Elvan, Aberdare, Wales; St James, Shardlow, Derbyshire and St Andrew, Donhead, Wiltshire.

The Friends of the National Churches Trust Grant scheme started in 2017 when St Mary Magdalene, in Paddington, west London, was awarded the first ever Friends of the National Churches Trust Grant.

## New grant programmes

In line with the National Churches Trust's new strategy for 2019-2023, we are revising our grant programmes and will be opening three new grant programmes before the end of 2018.



**Cornerstone Grants**

**Grants of £10,000 - £50,000**  
Eligible work: Urgent structural repairs issues costed over £100,000; installation of kitchen and toilets over £30,000.



**Gateway Grants**

**Grants of £3,000 - £10,000**  
Eligible work: Project development work up to RIBA stage 1; strategic or capacity building projects at local church trusts.



**Foundation Grants**

**Grants of £500 - £3,000**  
Eligible work: Maintenance works; items identified as required within a Quinquennial Inspection Report/survey reports/other sort of report; small investigative works/surveys. Projects should cost up to £10,000.

More details at [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/our-grants](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/our-grants)

## Faith in the USA

The Discover England Fund run by Visit England is funding 'Attracting Faith Tourists to England', led by the National Churches Trust, which will develop a bookable product based on faith venues across England to appeal to the US market.

## Inspiring ideas

The National Churches Trust has welcomed the launch by the Heritage Lottery Fund of 'Places of Worship: Inspiring Ideas', a funding initiative for innovative ideas to support historic places of worship.

## Building Resilience

Our strategy for 2019 – 2023, 'Building Resilience' will help us support a wide range of church improvements, make it easier for churches to carry out regular maintenance, and encourage more people to visit churches. [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/strategy2019](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/strategy2019)

## Church visits popular

49% of British adults visited a church in the last year according to a new ComRes opinion poll for the National Churches Trust with 22% visiting for tourism and 11% for religious activity. [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/news](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/news)

# Building resilience thorough innovation



By Ros Kerslake, CEO of the Heritage Lottery Fund

**The National Lottery celebrates 25 years in 2019. After a quarter of a century investing in UK heritage, it is difficult to imagine a world without that vital source of funding for heritage.**

What would our museums and galleries look like today without the investment it has been able to provide? What would be the state of our historic parks and natural landscapes? How many of our native species might have been lost? And would people have been able to mark the Centenary of the First World War in any significant way?

After all, it is thanks to National Lottery players that the Heritage Lottery Fund has been able to invest almost

£8 billion in the UK's rich and diverse heritage since 1994.

Historic places of worship have significantly benefited from National Lottery funding, with £850 million invested so far. Modest, yet vital, projects have ensured roofs and central heating systems are fit for purpose. The fabulous history and heritage of these buildings has been shared with more people, in recent times making use of digital technology. And grand, large scale capital projects have safeguarded and enhanced these precious places, like the restoration of the Great East Window of York Minster.

## Resilience vital

We will continue to invest in these important projects but what we have recognised is that it's not enough to simply restore and conserve heritage, be that a church, a historic cinema or a historic ship. Ensuring resilience and long-term sustainability is vital and in these uncertain times, it has never been more important.

That is why we have been working strategically with partners, including the National Churches Trust, to explore ways to deliver a sustainable future for our precious places of worship. They are such important buildings, often the oldest in a local community and the centre of gatherings and civic events.

Places of Worship: Inspiring Ideas opened earlier this month. It is challenging the custodians of places of worship to think strategically, explore innovative ideas and test new approaches to managing, caring for and funding historic places of worship. It is open to all faiths and denominations.

Successful projects could focus on single places of worship or partnerships working together to explore and trial new ideas. Projects could be linked geographically, thematically or by the challenges faced.

Example activities that could be supported include:

- Investigating and trialling new approaches to fundraising, trading or other income generating activities;
- Activities that explore new models of managing the building and engaging with the wider community;
- Building capacity across a group of congregations by identifying and delivering training for staff, volunteers and trustees;
- Investigating new ways of sharing learning and resources across a number of faith sites or brokering new partnerships

## Get Inspired!

A great project already taking place is Inspired Futures. Using a £220,000 National



St Philip and St Jacob, Bristol which received a £20,000 National Churches Trust Repair Grant in 2017 to help fund urgent repairs to fix its badly leaking roof.

Lottery grant, a team is working with congregations in six North East churches, to share creative ideas and test best practice, in order to help achieve a sustainable future for church buildings. Actions range from sharing ideas designed to encourage more people to visit churches through to sharing conservation techniques.

It is helping secure living places of worship as buildings used and enjoyed by local communities, visitors and tourists. This is being achieved through developing opportunities for heritage conservation, improvements to facilities and access, and

opening up potential for wider community use.

Expressions of interest for Places of Worship: Inspiring Ideas closed on 14th October. Grants between £10,000 and £250,000 are available and we have committed £1 million in grants. If you have missed out this time talk to your local HLF team about grants available through our open programmes – more information on our new funding strategy will be available next January.

The initiative is complementing pilot projects now being rolled out with financial support from the Department of Digital, Media,

Culture and Sport (DCMS) as a result of the Taylor Review on the Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals.

Places of Worship: Inspiring Ideas is the latest in a series of strategic HLF initiatives designed to empower local people to work together to explore new ways of securing the heritage that matters to them. Places of worship have a particular set of challenges, but sharing ideas and inspiring others will give congregations the tools needed to build a sustainable future.

More details: [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)



# We are helping more of the UK's churches and chapels

Thanks to the generosity of our Friends, our donors, including trusts and foundations, and our legators, in July 2018 we were able to help 54 churches and chapels in England, Wales and Northern Ireland with funding of £310,060.

Churches receiving grants include:

**St Buryan, in the village of St Buryan, Cornwall.** This huge, Grade I listed collegiate church, 'the Cathedral of the West' dedicated to St Buriana, a 5th century Irish Saint, received a £10,000 National Churches Trust Repair Grant to help fund urgent tower and stonework repairs. The church has a rare four stage tower, possibly the most impressive medieval rood screen in Cornwall and more wayside crosses than any other parish in Cornwall.

Revd Canon Vanda Perrett, Rector of St Buryan said: *"To have this grant from the National Churches Trust is not just a much needed boost to our fundraising but is also a boost to our fundraisers who will be greatly heartened by receiving support for our vision for the future of this wonderful historical sacred space at the tip of Cornwall. Thank you!"*



**St Bartholomew, Tong, Shropshire.**

A magnificent Grade I listed church, often called the 'Westminster of the West Midlands', received a £10,000 National Churches Trust Repair Grant to help fund urgent tower and spire stonework and window repairs. It boasts a splendid carved stone fan-vaulted ceiling in the Golden Chapel together with a unique collection of mediaeval tombs and monuments. The church is On Historic England's Heritage At Risk Register.



**St Michael-in-the-Hamlet, Toxteth Park, Liverpool.** Grade I listed, one of only two surviving cast iron churches by John Cragg and Thomas Rickman, the church received a £20,000 National Churches Trust Repair Grant to help fund urgent roof repairs. Built in 1815, the tracery, pinnacles, mouldings and building frame are all of cast iron. The church was part of the Cast Iron Shore – an area on the Mersey full of iron works. The church is on Historic England's Heritage At Risk Register.

**Brighton Unitarian church.** This Grade II listed building, received £10,000 National Churches Trust Repair Grant to help repair the classical portico entrance. Brighton Unitarian Church was built in 1820. Architect Amon Henry Wilds designed the church in the style of the Temple of Theseus, with a classical portico, columns, and steps. It is part of Brighton's Regency streetscape in a prominent position opposite the Royal Pavilion and the Corn Exchange.



**Christ Church, Derrriaghy, Co. Antrim, N Ireland.** A £20,000 National Churches Trust Repair Grant will help fund vital repairs to a landmark spire, a prominent feature on this Grade A listed building. Significant weather damage and corrosion has resulted in the crumbling of stone work in the spire. Without the work, this iconic building would have to close.

Robert Stinson, Member of Select Vestry, said: *"The parishioners of Christ Church greatly appreciate the given by the National Churches Trust. This support has created a confidence that will see us through the project. We look forward to its completion and having a church that will remain open for worship for another hundred years or more."*

**St David's church, Blaenporth, Wales.** The National Churches Trust awarded a £10,000 Community Grant to a project to develop the interior as a community space, much needed as there is no other public building in the village. Dedicated to the Celtic saint St David, there has been a religious site at Blaenporth since before 1066. The present building is from 1865, a Victorian Grade II listed building. The church is on the pilgrimage trail to St David's Cathedral.



**Please help us to help more churches**

The National Churches Trust receives no funding from government or church authorities. Help us ensure a future for more churches, chapels and meeting houses by making a donation to support our work. [www.nationalchurchestrust.org.uk/donate](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org.uk/donate)

July 2018 Grants

18



Maintenance Grants

14



Partnership Grants

13



Repair Grants

5



Community Grants

4



Project Development Grants

**£310,060**

## Meet our Friends



Tim Blackburn became a Friend of the National Churches Trust in 2016.

### Why are you interested in churches?

As a child my family was largely agnostic, save for my father who was a militant atheist. A holiday in Italy, for example, included no visits to churches; the Renaissance was cancelled. Instead we headed for the jewels of the pagan past. No surprise then that I ended up reading Classics at university. But now, perhaps in reaction to my father's severity, I visit churches wherever I go.

### Why did you become a Friend of the National Churches Trust?

Faced with declining congregations, churches today must continue to evolve as a focus for communities' spiritual lives and civic activities. Yes, architectural and art history is fascinating and provides important context, but it is the future of our churches that should concern us most. That is why being a Friend of a national organisation that promotes and helps fund programmes of maintenance, restoration and re-purposing interests me so.

### Which is your favourite church and why?

Like its deciduous woodlands, our country's churches (and cathedrals) number among its principal glories. My partner and I have just visited Herefordshire. So many marvellous examples to choose from, but the red sandstone gem that is Kilpeck's church stood out for us. Tiny and virtually as built, it has wonderful carved Norman doorways, more first-rate sculpture inside, while around its corbel-table run dozens of cheerfully irreverent figures of fierce-looking men, monsters and animals. Almost pagan, in fact.

## Inheritance Tax and Wills

Many of the UK's historic churches, chapels and meeting houses are fighting a battle against the ravages of time. Leaving a gift in your Will helps us keep these precious buildings alive for future generations. It's not always known that a gift made to charity in a Will is tax free and can reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax paid by an individual's estate on death, as Victoria Fairley, from the law firm RadcliffesLeBrasseur explains below.



Many of our clients are great supporters of charities during their lifetimes and decide to include legacies to charities in their Wills. Such legacies range from a number of smaller monetary gifts to leaving a significant proportion of their estate to charities.

In broad terms, Inheritance Tax is charged at a rate of 40% on the value of an individual's estate which exceeds any available tax free allowances.

By leaving 10% or more of your net estate to charity, the overall rate of Inheritance Tax on the net estate will be reduced from 40% to 36%, which can result in a significant tax saving. Although the basic premise is straightforward, in practice ensuring that your estate will benefit from the 36% rate of Inheritance Tax is complex.

### Specialist advice

It is therefore important that you seek specialist advice if you are thinking about leaving 10% or more of your

estate to charity with a view to achieving the reduced 36% rate of Inheritance Tax.

If you are a beneficiary of an estate, you may also wish to consider redirecting your entitlement under the deceased's Will to one or more charities. This can be implemented by Deed of Variation, which must be completed within two years of the date of death and with the consent of all beneficiaries who would be affected by the variation. Saving on Inheritance Tax is only one aspect of good succession

planning and it is particularly important to consider the needs of your other beneficiaries when preparing a Will. We always recommend that people review their Wills every five years.

*If you would like further information about leaving a gift in your Will, you can contact Claire Walker our Chief Executive at [claire.walker@nationalchurchestrust.org](mailto:claire.walker@nationalchurchestrust.org) or by phone on 020 7222 0605. You can also find information on our website at [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/legacies](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/legacies)*



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.

Leaving a gift in your Will helps us keep these precious buildings alive for future generations.



For people who love church buildings

To find out how you can help keep the UK's churches alive, please call Claire Walker on 020 7222 0605, email [legacy@nationalchurchestrust.org](mailto:legacy@nationalchurchestrust.org) or visit [nationalchurchestrust.org/legacy](http://nationalchurchestrust.org/legacy).

National Churches Trust, 7 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QB.



Registered charity number 1119845

## RadcliffesLeBrasseur

## The Professional Trades Directory

### Fullers Finer Furniture



Fullers Finer Furniture is a member of the National Churches Trust's Professional Trades Directory and has been creating quality church furniture for over 30 years.

One of their recent projects has been at St Bartholomew's church in Long Benton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where the vestry was given a new lease of life.

Having fitted out his previous church's vestry in Somerset, the vicar of St Bartholomew's church was keen to use the expertise of Fullers Finer Furniture once again for a similar project.

The old vestry was in need of repair and extensive decorating. It hosted a very large altar frontal chest which took up a good proportion of the space along with other items of furniture in different states of dilapidation. Paul Fuller, who runs the business, planned how this could be changed into something that could be used not only for storing robes, but also as a meeting room with a kitchen area.

Plans were duly submitted and Fullers Finer Furniture was awarded the contract. The work was extensive. Much

of the cabinet making and manufacturing was done at the company's Weston-Super-Mare workshop, but there was also a substantial amount of work undertaken at the church site itself.



Office before



### A new feel

To start with, the old vestry was 'ripped out' and redecorated. The next stage of the project was to create a half-glazed entrance lobby to the room. This provided a much needed new feel to the room, more welcoming to those using the space.

As the new room would be used for meetings, a hot water supply was fitted for that much needed cup of tea.



Office after

The National Churches Trust's Professional Trades Directory connects churches with skilled contractors. We believe in the importance of protecting the many traditional craft skills which are essential for the building and conservation of church buildings. Below we report on the work of one of the directory's members. To find out more or to join for just £100 a year, please visit [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/ptd](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/ptd)

A sink unit and under sink water heater were added along with kitchen worktops that complemented the new kitchen cupboards.

Every vestry needs room to house vestments. So Fullers Finer Furniture built new storage cupboards with solid oak frames which blend in with the contours of the room and provide ample space for vestments, cassocks and the like. The room was carpeted ready to host its centrepiece, a solid oak table designed and crafted with an elliptical top, enhanced by five matching solid oak chairs that adorn both the table and the rooms itself.

The final part of the project was to provide a storage solution for the altar frontals. To this end Fullers Finer Furniture designed a new high altar for the chancel, complete with a sliding top with hanging bars inside for the frontals to be stored out of view and conveniently kept both flat and clean.

*Fullers Finer Furniture continues to work in churches and establishments all over the country and welcomes all new enquiries. Their website can be found at [www.fullersfinerfurniture.co.uk](http://www.fullersfinerfurniture.co.uk).*

In our Annual Review 2017 – 2018, two members were omitted from the list of members of the Professional Trades Directory.



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Distributed Sound & Video offers design and installation of professional audio visual solutions for churches and charities in the UK. From portable systems, cabling, digital signage to presentation software, DSAV provides bespoke projects with quality follow up services. [www.dsavltd.co.uk](http://www.dsavltd.co.uk)



SunSwitch Ltd

SunSwitch Ltd has been supplying quartz halogen electric infrared heaters and controls to ecclesiastical and historic buildings since 2003. SunSwitch short wavelength infrared heaters work instantly, so there is no lengthy warm up period. [www.sunswitch.net](http://www.sunswitch.net)

## Meet the National Churches Trust team Stephen Sklaroff, Trustee



### How did you become interested in church heritage?

My wife and I make a point of seeing interesting local churches whenever we're on holiday. But my experience in recent years as a churchwarden in central London has brought home to me the challenges facing the UK's extraordinary legacy of church buildings, and the importance of the National Churches Trust in helping meet those challenges.

### What is your favourite church and why?

I would have to say St Gabriel's, Pimlico, where I am churchwarden! My list of "next favourites" would be too long to recite, but I might perhaps mention Old St Paul's in Edinburgh as an example of the wonderful Gothic architecture of my home town, perched unexpectedly on one of the steep closes running down from the Royal Mile.

### What does being a Trustee involve?

The Trustees support the Trust by setting strategy and ensuring that the Trust's excellent staff team get the support they need to do their work effectively. I am also a Trustee of St Gabriel's Parish House in Pimlico, which provides community services, and of the Pimlico Musical Foundation, which educates local children in choral music. This experience helps me in my work at the Trust.

### What is the biggest challenge facing the UK's church buildings and how can the Trust help?

Finding the money to keep our churches active and open, particularly since the closure of the Heritage Lottery Fund's Grants for Places of Worship programme. But the money is only a means to an end – encouraging good quality and ensuring they remain open to parishioners and visitors is just as important.

**If you share our passion for church buildings, then you too may be able to contribute to keeping them at the heart of our communities by becoming a Trustee. Please contact us at [info@nationalchurchestrust.org](mailto:info@nationalchurchestrust.org)**

# Offers for Friends of the National Churches Trust

For full details about all our latest offers please visit our website at [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/offers](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/offers)

Do you know that there are a number of offers available to Friends of the National Churches Trust provided by some of our partners and supporters? If you would like any more information, please email us at [info@nationalchurchestrust.org](mailto:info@nationalchurchestrust.org) or phone 020 7 222 0605.



**The Oldie magazine**  
Founded in 1992, The Oldie is a monthly magazine that publishes a wide range of articles on a variety of topics, with a quirky mix of cartoons, reviews, and interviews. The Oldie has developed an extraordinary talent to amuse, with some of Britain's greatest writers gracing its pages including Craig Brown, Gyles Brandreth and Virginia Ironside. The Oldie has no political agenda. Rather, you will get buckets of laughs. Friends of the National Churches Trust can

benefit from a special offer of 12 issues for £12, a saving of £39 on the cover price. Not only do you save money, The National Churches Trust will also receive £10 for each subscription. Full details at [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/theoldie](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/theoldie)



**Candles from Watts & Co**  
Watts & Co is Britain's most prestigious ecclesiastical furnishing company. They have an exceptional selection of the finest quality candles, perfect for use at home or in your church or as a beautiful gift. As a Friend, you can obtain a 10% discount off candles at Watts & Co. To see their full range, visit [www.wattsandco.com/church-supplies/church-candles](http://www.wattsandco.com/church-supplies/church-candles). To receive your discount code for use on the Watts & Co website, please email us at [info@nationalchurchestrust.org](mailto:info@nationalchurchestrust.org).



**Books from Church House Bookshop**  
Church House Bookshop is renowned as one of London's best independent bookshops, with a wide range of fascinating books and beautiful greetings cards. With Christmas fast approaching, drop in to the Bookshop or visit [www.chbookshop.co.uk](http://www.chbookshop.co.uk) to find the ideal gift for loved ones, friends or for your own bookshelf. Friends of the National Churches Trust receive a 10% discount on books and greetings cards. If you're shopping online, simply add the voucher code NCTRUST10 to your basket before proceeding to checkout.



**Insurance from Ecclesiastical**  
Ecclesiastical is a specialist insurance company with over 125 years of experience and understanding of insuring churches, combined with home insurance expertise. Friends of the National

Churches Trust can get 10% off Home Insurance; additionally, if you purchase Buildings and Contents Insurance together online, you will receive a further 20% discount. Please email us at [info@nationalchurchestrust.org](mailto:info@nationalchurchestrust.org) or phone 020 7222 0605 for full details of how to claim your discount.

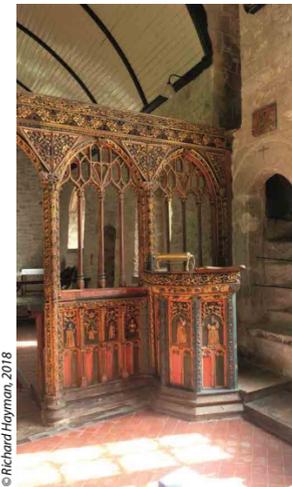


**Church study tours with Villiers Park Educational Trust**  
Villiers Park Educational Trust runs programmes that provide wonderful opportunities for those with an interest in churches, art, and medieval history. Friends of the National Churches can get a 5% discount on church study tours in 2019, which enable you to visit amazing medieval buildings in the East of England, led by Jon Cannon (pictured left), a renowned architectural historian and broadcaster.



For more information, and to book your place, please visit [www.villierspark.org.uk/our-courses-and-programmes/adult-education/](http://www.villierspark.org.uk/our-courses-and-programmes/adult-education/)

# Book Reviews



© Richard Hayman, 2018

In medieval times, the rood screen was perhaps the most important visual focus inside a church. Usually made of wood, it was dedicated in bright colours and replete with images of saints.

The 16th century Reformers had no time for these magnificent structures and defaced, dismantled and destroyed many. Some Victorian church architects removed those that survived. However, others restored those that remained and in the 20th century a few new ones were built.

In this pocket sized book, the author explains the symbolic and practical significance of rood screens and how they were made and decorated. Published by Shire Books, Rood Screens includes a list of churches in England and Wales where screens can be found. That has to clinch the deal and make this book, priced at only £7.99, a must.

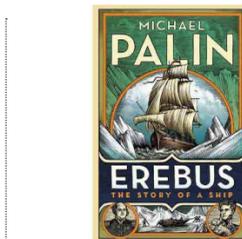
### Rood Screens

By Richard Hayman  
Shire Books £7.99

**Richard Hayman, a medieval, industrial and architectural historian has written a really handy 64 page book which serves as a great introduction to understanding rood screens.**



© Richard Hayman, 2018



**Erebus – The Story of a Ship**  
By Michael Palin  
Hutchinson £20

**In September 2014 the wreck of a sailing vessel was discovered at the bottom of the sea in the frozen wastes of the Canadian arctic. It was broken at the stern and covered in a woolly coat of underwater vegetation. Its whereabouts had been a mystery for over a century and a half. Its name was HMS Erebus.**

Michael Palin – Monty Python star and television globetrotter and Vice President of the National Churches Trust – brings the remarkable Erebus back to life, following it from its launch in 1826 to the epic voyages of discovery that led to glory in the Antarctic and to ultimate catastrophe in the Arctic.

The ship was filled with fascinating people: the dashing and popular James Clark Ross, who charted much of the 'Great Southern Barrier'; the troubled John Franklin, whose chequered career culminated in the Erebus's final, disastrous expedition; and the eager Joseph Dalton Hooker, a brilliant naturalist – when he wasn't shooting the local wildlife dead.

**How to look at stained glass**  
By Jane Brocket  
1 B Tauris £12.99

**"Stained glass", writes Cambridge based author Jane Brocket in her new book 'How to Look at Stained Glass' "is a unique mix of art, craft and design... which lasts hundreds of years, (yet) it has acquired a rather fusty, dusty, churchy, old fashioned image."**

That's a real pity as for centuries stained glass has attracted superb artists, designs and craftsmen who have produced some amazing works of art which are available for anyone to see, free of charge, in parish churches and cathedrals throughout the UK.

Much more than a guide book, 'How to look at stained glass' provides a short introduction to how stained glass is made and then provides an A to Z of stained

glass, covering the meaning and significance of key design elements and motifs.

As such it is a perfect book to read over the dark winter months and so be ready to greet the spring sunshine and start visiting some of the 50 churches and cathedrals to see stained glass that the author unreservedly recommends.



# Free Seats for All

Special Offer

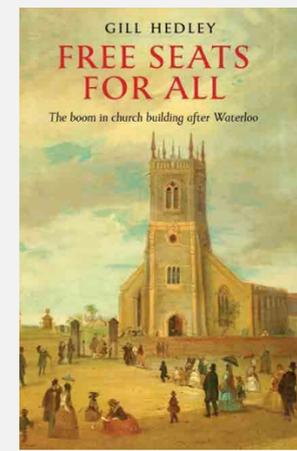
**'Free Seats for All' is the first book to examine the history of the Incorporated Church Building Society.**

Written by Gill Hedley, the story of church building after Waterloo is full of fascinating detail about the people who helped set up the ICBS and about the thousands of churches supported by its grants.

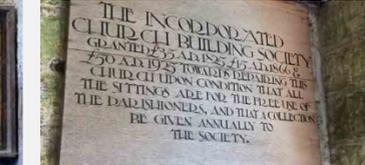
It is a highly readable account of an extraordinary moment in 19th century architecture which still resonates in the 21st century when some argue that there are too many, rather than too few churches.



With a message of support from our Vice Patron, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, and a foreword by our Vice President Bettina Hughes, this book is a must-read for anyone with an interest in the history of churches. Why not buy one as a Christmas present for someone you know who shares your love of churches?



The book is available for only £15.00 (RRP £20). This includes postage and packing. To order a copy please call us on 020 7222 0605, email [info@nationalchurchestrust.org](mailto:info@nationalchurchestrust.org) or order online at [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/freesats](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/freesats)



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We take your privacy seriously and treat all the personal data you give us with great care. We will not sell or swap your details with any other organisation, ever, and will keep your details private and secure. You can read our Privacy Policy on our website. It tells you how we collect, store and use your data: [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/privacy-policy](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/privacy-policy)

**A very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year.  
From the National Churches Trust**



St Mary's church, Dedham, Essex

© Chris Herring / Alamy Stock Photo

# Celebrating 200 years of helping churches

**Were you at St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday 26 June 2018 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Incorporated Church Building Society (ICBS), one of our predecessor charities?**

If you were, you were certainly in very good company.

Pride of place went to HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO ARIBA, Vice Patron of the National Churches Trust.

Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, presided at the special service of Evensong and was joined by a number of church leaders. They included: Reverend John Davies, Archbishop of Wales; Bishop Ken Good, Diocese of Derry and Raphoe; Most Revd George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff and Vice President of the National Churches Trust; Major David Evans, representing the Salvation Army; Dr Ingrid Greenhow representing The Religious Society of Friends; and Alan Yates representing the United Reformed Church.

We were pleased to welcome as special guests Bill Bryson OBE, Vice President of the National Churches Trust; author Reverend Professor

Diarmaid MacCulloch; former Director of the British Museum Neil MacGregor; Charles Wellesley, Duke of Wellington; Carol Vorderman MBE; and Huw Edwards, Vice President of the National Churches Trust.

But most importantly, we were delighted to welcome over 1,000 of our Friends and supporters, many of whom had travelled from churches that had been helped by the ICBS.

The Right Reverend Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury, eloquently summed up the importance of the ICBS in his sermon. He said: "The 200th anniversary of the ICBS is not an exercise in nostalgia



HRH The Duke of Gloucester



Neil MacGregor, Bill Bryson, Claire Walker (CEO National Churches Trust) and Huw Edwards

or just a thanksgiving for what has been achieved in the past, good and important though that is. This is an opportunity for us to say why churches matter in the present and for the future. We value them highly, give thanks for all who care for them, today especially the Incorporated Church Building Society and

the continuing work of the National Churches Trust." We remain eternally grateful to the founders of the ICBS and all those who generously supported its work for almost 200 years. We are also so pleased that many of you have supported our appeal to mark the anniversary, which has already raised over £30,000.

Our thanks also go to CCLA Investment Management Ltd. who supported the service and reception at St Paul's Cathedral. Our next event, also supported by CCLA, is our Carol Concert at St James's church, Piccadilly - details on page 2.



Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York