

The National Churches Trust



Annual Review **2015 – 2016**



84%*

of British people think that churches and chapels are an important part of the UK's heritage and history

*2015 ComRes poll



£2,164,941



484

requests for support and advice from churches to our National Support Officer

The National Churches Trust 2015

5,320

Twitter followers



77,755

website visits

483

new Friends recruited

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Contents

Chairman's Introduction	4
The Year in Review	5
Grants Programme	11
History's Tenants, by Quentin Letts	17
50 Things to do in a Church	19
The Painted Parish.....	22
The Power of Place, Bishop John Inge ...	24
St Andrew Pilgrim Journey	27
Financial Review	32
Acknowledgements	34

Editor – Eddie Tulasiewicz

Cover photo: *St Mary's and All Saints' Church, Fotheringhay, Northamptonshire*
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The opinions expressed in the Annual Review do not necessarily reflect those of the National Churches Trust but remain solely those of the authors.

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

Churches for the future



Thanks to the dedicated support and commitment of our Trustees and staff, who continue to be so ably led by Claire Walker, 2015 saw the National Churches Trust well managed, making wise use of its human and financial resources and with a new three year strategy in place.

This allowed the Trust to respond effectively to the continuing need to fund church repairs, and to support the people and networks involved in caring for and maintaining places of worship throughout the United Kingdom.

During 2015 it was my privilege to visit some of the churches that the National Churches Trust has supported through its grants programmes and support work.

Whether our funding has helped to fix a leaking roof or pay for the installation of community facilities, or our support has helped a church to carry out preventative maintenance or start a Friends group, the results are the same. Local people are delighted that their place of worship has had its future safeguarded and are looking forward to sharing their heritage with others.

This Annual Review gives us a chance to share with you some of the highlights of our work over the last year and show the many ways in which we have used our knowledge and expertise to help ensure that churches, chapels and meeting houses can play a vital role in the life and well-being of the nation for many years to come.

This year we have an excellent selection of stimulating articles about the past, present and future of church buildings. I am most grateful to Stuart Beattie, Bishop John Inge, and Quentin Letts, for finding the time to contribute to our work in this way.

Keeping churches open

Of course, keeping churches open and in good repair, and with the right facilities to allow them to be of benefit to local people, requires funding from both public and private sources as costs are beyond the reach of most local communities.

Thanks to the support of our Friends and supporters, in 2015 we were able to play our part in this work by helping 177 communities with grants to their churches. We have also given support and advice to many hundreds more.

In 2015, as every year, the number of requests we received for grants far outweighed our ability to satisfy the need; we are all too aware that we can always do more.

The National Churches Trust receives no income from either government or church authorities, and we rely on our Friends and supporters to continue our work.

So, if you know of someone who shares your passion for churches, please do encourage them to become a Friend. An annual Friends subscription of just £30 can help us safeguard more of the UK's fantastic church buildings. What a great way of helping keep churches alive for future generations.

Luke March
Chairman

July 2016



Saving our Spires

Spires are one of the most distinctive features of many fabulous churches and a key part of the UK's landscape.

If you travel on the East Coast railway line, you may well have seen the magnificent spire of St Wulfram's church as the train passes through Grantham. Since 2012, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, St Wulfram's and a further 16 churches in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have had work to repair their spires part funded by the National Churches Trust. However, there are many other church spires that still require urgent repair work.

That's why in July 2015, the National Churches Trust launched a 'Save our Spires' campaign and fundraising appeal. The campaign resulted in significant media coverage about the plight of church spires including news items on 19 BBC local radio stations, BBC Online, the church and heritage press, and in national newspapers including The Times, The Daily Telegraph and The Guardian.

We are delighted that, to date, over £20,000 has been raised for the appeal. The overwhelming majority of support has come from individual donations from our Friends and supporters, including some from overseas.

Photography competition

The 'Save our Spires' campaign included a photography competition. Over 70 entries were received and after much deliberation the judges, The Right Reverend Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury, Christopher Jonas CBE and Sarah de Rohan, Secretary of the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust, selected a stunning photograph of St Peter's church in Oundle, Northamptonshire (pictured right) taken by William Gunson, a Deputy House Master at Oundle School.

St Peter's church stands in the middle of the ancient market town of Oundle and has the highest spire in Northamptonshire, standing proud at 210 feet above the town. As well as being a church with a long and distinguished history, it is also home to a thriving local community, features traditional and modern worship, hosts Remembrance Day services, Oundle School lunchtime concerts and other community activities.

More details: www.nationalchurchestrust.org/spires



St Peter's church, Oundle, by William Gunson.

"Great spires are important historical landmarks."

John Goodall, Architecture Editor of Country Life

Welcoming our Friends



Joanna Lumley, Claire Walker, Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust and Revd Philip Chester, Parish Priest of St Matthew's church, Westminster © Mike Swift

exclusive reception in its historic Jerusalem Chamber. The evening was hosted by the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, who led the tour, revealing the Abbey's fascinating history and some of its hidden wonders.

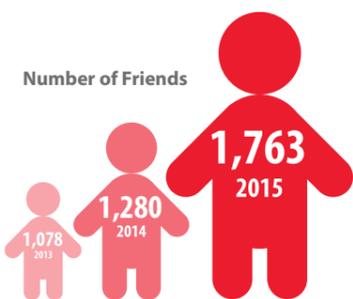
In May 2015, in the first of a series of talks for Friends, Michael Palin gave a highly entertaining account of how churches have played important roles throughout his life.

Friends events extended beyond London in September 2015 with a private tour of St Augustine's church in Ramsgate. The Trust supported the church with a £40,000 Cornerstone Grant in 2012, and was one of the first funders to support the restoration of Augustus Welby Pugin's gothic revival masterpiece.

Joanna Lumley brought the year's events for Friends to a splendid conclusion in December when she hosted the Trust's Christmas event, 'Days Like These', (supported by High Level Maintenance, a member of the Trust's Professional Trades Directory), at St Mary le Strand, London. She entertained Friends with the story of this historic church building which has stood in the centre of the Strand for over three hundred years.

Increasing the number of Friends was a key priority for the National Churches Trust in 2015. By the end of the year, 470 new individual Friends had joined, together with 13 new Life Friends, the total number of Friends increasing from 1,280 to 1,763.

We were delighted to welcome many Friends, old and new, to our events in 2015. In April, over 100 Friends gathered to enjoy evensong and a private guided tour of Westminster Abbey, followed by an



A warm welcome to all Friends who are reading our Annual Review.

Cornerstone Club

The National Churches Trust's Cornerstone Club continued to provide recognition to those able to support the work of the Trust at a higher level. In November, Cornerstone Club members were invited to an evening reception in the Douglas Room of Faith House, where the Trust's offices are located. Prior to the reception, guests took part in a private tour of St John's, Smith Square, one of the finest examples of English baroque architecture. At the end of the reception, guests returned to St John's for a concert performed by the European Union Baroque Orchestra with music by Vivaldi, Handel, Albinoni and Corelli.

More details: www.nationalchurchestrust.org/friends

Helping churches around the UK

The National Churches Trust supports church and chapel buildings open for worship throughout the United Kingdom. This national reach gives the charity a responsibility to work closely with partner organisations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and with 37 local churches trusts in England.



All Saints, Evesham, Worcestershire © Stan Brotherton

England

In England, considerable work was undertaken in 2015 to cement closer relationships with the network of local churches trusts. This included awarding 88 Partnership Grants worth £318,500 to help fund repair projects on the recommendation of local churches trusts.

The Trust also works closely with local churches trusts through the Churches Trusts Forum (CTF), a group of regional representatives drawn from the local network. In 2015 the Trust provided administrative support to the CTF, edited and distributed two issues of its Newsletter, and hosted the executive meetings of the Forum at its London offices.

The Trust also organised the 2015 Churches Trusts Forum annual conference for volunteers working to support places of worship, held in Winchester Cathedral.

Northern Ireland

In April 2015 Claire Walker, the National Churches Trust's Chief Executive, visited Northern Ireland to meet colleagues from the Ulster Historic Churches Trust and representatives from other organisations involved in caring for churches and historic buildings, including the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the Historic Buildings Council. Encouragement was given to churches and chapels in Northern Ireland to apply for grants from the National Churches Trust as applications have in the past been limited.

Scotland

Churches and chapels in Scotland are supported by Scotland's Churches Trust (SCT). This partner charity aims to advance the preservation, promotion and understanding of Scotland's rich architectural heritage of places of worship. In 2015, the National Churches Trust continued to develop a closer relationship with the SCT by awarding nine Partnership Grants to the value of £49,000 to help fund urgent repairs based upon its recommendations.

Wales

Over the last four years, discussions have taken place about the possibility of establishing an organisation dedicated to supporting places of worship in Wales. In 2014, a decision was taken to establish Sanctaidd from within the Churches Tourism Network Wales.

In 2015, the recruitment process for a Chair of the new organisation was started allowing the new Trust to work with the Church in Wales to launch Sanctaidd and so help support and promote places of worship in Wales more effectively. The intention is for Sanctaidd to work in close association with the National Churches Trust with, potentially, a mutual trustee.

More details www.nationalchurchestrust.org/localtrusts

Prize winning churches

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO, who is Vice-Patron of the National Churches Trust, was a special guest judge for the 2015 National Churches Trust and Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association (EASA) Architecture Awards. Together with Prince Nicholas von Preussen, the Duke of Gloucester announced the winners of the awards at a special ceremony held at Westminster Cathedral Hall on 5 November 2015.



St Peter's church, Pirton

King of Prussia Gold Medal

Nick Joyce Architects from Worcester won the 2015 King Of Prussia Gold Medal for repair and conservation architecture for a project to repair the timber framed tower of St Peter's church, Pirton, Worcestershire. The tower of St Peter's church is one of only five found in Worcestershire and is unique for its additional side aisles. In 2015, 18 entries were received for the King of Prussia Gold Medal, the highest number for several years.



St Nicholas' church, Radford Semele

"25 entries were received for the Presidents' Award, a record number."

The Presidents' Award

The reinstatement of St Nicholas' church, in Radford Semele, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, by architects Caroe & Partners won the 2015 Presidents' Award for new church architecture. On Palm Sunday 2008, it was severely damaged by fire, resulting in the complete loss of the roof structure, windows, interior finishes, fixtures and fittings, as well as significant damage to the masonry structure. The re-opened building has returned to use as an active parish church and has since gained a new lease of life as a focus for worship and community activities. In 2015, 25 entries were received for the Presidents' Award, a record number.

We're looking for the best new and conservation architecture for our 2016 Church Architecture awards.

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/architectureawards
info@nationalchurchestrust.org



Church buildings matter

Vote for churches

In 2015 the Trust continued its research into the uses of church buildings with an analysis of the role they play in the UK's democratic process.

With a General Election due to be called on 7 May 2015, earlier in the year the Trust obtained lists of polling stations from local authorities responsible for administering elections in the UK to determine how many polling places – the physical locations of polling stations – are in church buildings.

The research established that, of the places in the UK where people were due to cast their vote on 7 May, 5,967 of 31,855 polling places were church buildings, 18% of the total.



The region with the largest percentage of polling places in church buildings was Greater London, with an estimated 664 out of 2,634 in church buildings, totalling 25%. The smallest percentage of polling places in church buildings was in Scotland, with an estimated 315 of 2,624 in church buildings, totalling 12%.

The findings demonstrate that church buildings play an important role in the administration of the democratic process. Church buildings are well located and widely recognisable local landmarks. If these buildings did not exist it would leave a big gap in electoral arrangements.

Church heritage opinion poll

In December 2015, the Trust commissioned ComRes, the market research company, to carry out an online opinion poll into the attitudes of British adults towards church heritage. This was a follow up to a similar poll conducted in 2014.

The poll showed that there is overwhelming public support for church buildings.

More than four in five Britons (84%) agreed that churches, chapels and meeting houses are an important part of the UK's heritage and history, an increase of five percentage points compared to a similar poll conducted in December 2014.

The majority of British adults (83%) agreed that churches, chapels and meeting houses are important for society as they provide a space for community activities, as well as worship, an increase of nine percentage points compared to a similar poll conducted in December 2014.

"Our ComRes opinion poll showed that there is overwhelming public support for church buildings."

The poll found that 57% of British adults said that they had visited a church in the past year for religious services, non-religious activities or as a visitor or tourist.

When people were asked what would most encourage them to visit churches, the top five responses were:

- A friendly welcome
- The provision of toilets
- A café or refreshment area
- Comfortable seating
- Access to useful visitor information



A warm welcome at Holy Trinity church, Lenton, Nottingham

Professional Trades Directory

The National Churches Trust's web-based Professional Trades Directory details a wide range of skilled craftsmen and trades people who can help with work being carried out at churches, chapels or meeting houses.

In 2015, 35 new members joined the Professional Trades Directory, making it an even more valuable resource for churches embarking on repairs, restoration and conservation of their building. Information on how places of worship can find members of the Professional Trades Directory is now sent to all churches, chapels and meeting houses awarded grants by the National Churches Trust.

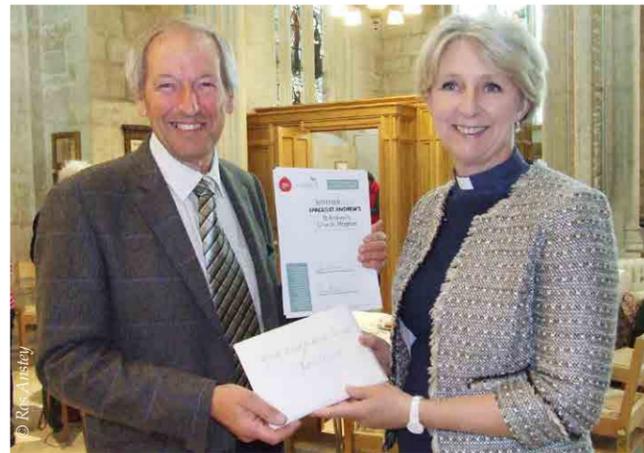
More details
www.nationalchurchestrust.org/ptd



Spire repairs at St Michael's Without, Bath

Awards for innovative churches

With increasing numbers of churches and chapels seeking to expand the use of their buildings by local people for community activities, in 2015 the National Churches Trust launched 'The Marsh Awards for Innovative Projects', supported by the Marsh Christian Foundation.



Revd Jane Chamberlain receiving the 2016 Marsh Award from Chris Hawkings of the Somerset Churches Trust on behalf of the National Churches Trust

Announced in May 2016, the first winner of 'The Marsh Awards for Innovative Projects' was the Space@St Andrew's, a project to create a community area in the beautiful Grade II* listed church of St Andrew in the village of Blagdon in Somerset. St Andrew's church was awarded a £1,000 prize.

Following the creation of a new community space with toilets and kitchen and a mezzanine floor, the church is now being used in many new ways. These include:

- 'Wi-Fi Wednesday', which helps villagers to get online
- 'Prayers and Bears', a toddler group
- 'Monday Mix', a weekly social afternoon for elderly people
- Charity lunches and funeral teas



Enter your church project for the 2017 Marsh Awards.
More details www.nationalchurchestrust.org/marshawards

Grants for 177 churches and chapels

The National Churches Trust's grants programmes fund urgent repairs to keep churches open, windproof and watertight. Equally importantly, they also support projects that bring the wider community into places of worship by installing modern facilities such as toilets and kitchens. In this way, the Trust helps to ensure that they remain open and of benefit to local people and the wider community.

Supported by our Friends and donors, in 2015 the National Churches Trust awarded or recommended grants totalling £2,164,941 to 177 places of worship in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Funding benefitted Church of England, Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland, Church of Scotland, Church in Wales, Methodist, United Reformed and Wesleyan Holiness places of worship.

The Trust continued to encourage applications from parts of the UK which have been under-represented in its grant funding, including the North East of England, Cornwall and Northern Ireland and also from denominations which have made only a small number of applications including the Roman Catholic, Baptist and Presbyterian churches.

Repair Grants

The National Churches Trust's Repair Grant programme awarded 41 grants of £10,000 and above towards the cost of urgent and essential structural repair projects, with a priority given to roof and high level maintenance. Supported by the Pilgrim Trust, eight Cornerstone Grants were awarded at £40,000 each. In 2015, the total funds awarded for Repair Grants, including Cornerstone Grants, was £752,000.

WREN Heritage Fund Grants

Any application for a Repair Grant was automatically considered for a WREN FCC Heritage Fund Grant. In 2015 14 grants were awarded from this fund by the National Churches Trust, totalling £771,641.

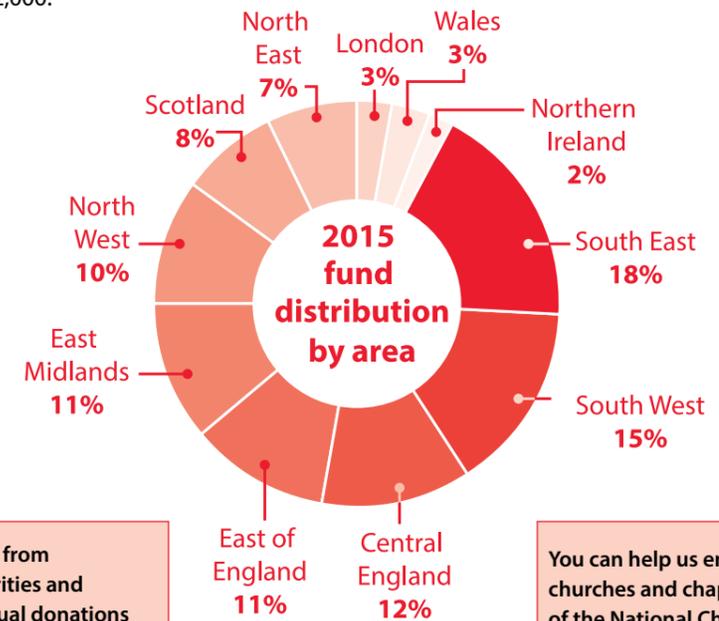
Community Grants

The National Churches Trust's Community Grant programme awarded 25 grants of £5,000 and above, totalling £265,000, for projects which introduce facilities to enable increased community use of places of worship. All types of community projects were considered, but projects needed to include toilets or catering facilities.

In 2015, a partnership was established with the Cinnamon Network allowing churches awarded a Community Grant to obtain a £2,000 micro-grant to set up a Cinnamon Network Recognised Project. The micro-grants will allow churches to set up a social action project such as CAP Money Courses, Make Lunch and Parish Nursing.

Partnership Grants

The National Churches Trust Partnership Grant programme awarded grants on the recommendation of local churches trusts in England and Scotland. Applying local knowledge and expertise, 88 grants of £2,500 to £10,000, totalling £318,500, were awarded for urgent repair projects with estimated costs of between £10,000 and £100,000.



The 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.

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

St Bride,
East Kilbride, Scotland G74 1NN
Category A listed (Roman Catholic)



© James Balston

£40,000 Cornerstone Grant

St Bride's Roman Catholic church has been hailed as an amazing piece of contemporary ecclesiastical architecture and received the RIBA bronze medal for architecture in 1964, for the area of the Glasgow Institute of Architects. The church is Category 'A' Listed and was designed by the pioneering architectural practice of Gillespie, Kidd and Coia.

A £40,000 National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant is helping to fund a major project of repairs and renewal to return the building nearer to its original condition. The essential fabric repairs and restoration works will provide a watertight envelope with restored features allowing the church to continue to function properly as a place of worship.

Fr Jim Thomson, Treasurer of the Diocese of Motherwell said:

"We were delighted that St Bride's Roman Catholic church was awarded a £40,000 National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant. The funding, along with the other grants we have received, will allow us to refurbish the roof and restore the brickwork, one of the key elements of the church. Once this work has been completed St Bride's will be able to plan for the future with confidence and build on what is already a thriving parish community."



Looking forward to the future at St Bride's church.

© Chris Carr

St John the Evangelist,
Upper Norwood, London SE19 2RX
Grade II* (Church of England)
On Historic England's 'Heritage At Risk' Register



£40,000 Cornerstone Grant

St John's church was described at its Consecration in 1887 as "the most beautiful parish church of modern days". Designed in 1881, it is one of the most famous buildings by John Loughborough Pearson, who was probably the greatest ecclesiastical architect of the 19th century gothic revival. The wonderfully vaulted roof and soaring gothic spaces provide a matchless setting both visually and acoustically for a famous Lewis pipe organ to which international recitalists are drawn to perform. The organ is the largest in London in a parish church.

A £40,000 National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant will secure the church building through the underpinning of the foundations. Over the past 25 years, the building has been subject to subsidence, which has resulted in the south aisle, tower and Lady Chapel detaching from the main structure, with falling masonry inside and out.

Fr John Pritchard, Parish Priest said:

"St John's is at the heart of the community in Upper Norwood and Crystal Palace, and the National Churches Trust award will literally stop us from falling over and allow us to continue as a place of inspiring worship and a building and people in service of the wider community. Once this work has been completed St John the Evangelist church will be stable, and then we will move on to the greater restoration of this iconic building; inside and out."

Cornerstone Grants awarded in 2015

Burslem, St Joseph's Roman Catholic church	£40,000	London, Upper Norwood, St John the Evangelist	£40,000
East Kilbride, St Bride's Roman Catholic church	£40,000	Parr Mount, Holy Trinity	£40,000
Knapton, St Peter and St Paul	£40,000	Stevenston, Ardeer Parish church	£40,000
Lenton, Holy Trinity,	£40,000	Upper Sapey, St Michael and All Angels	£40,000

St Andrew,
Wormingford, Essex CO6 3AZ
Grade I (Church of England)



£5,000 Community Grant



Located on the Essex side of the Dedham Vale, Wormingford's tiny 12th Century church of St Andrew is built of rubble and flint, mixed with Roman bricks. It was remodelled in the 14th and 15th centuries and heavily restored in 1870. In Saxon times it probably served double-duty as a lookout point, with views across the vale. In the churchyard are memorials to the aunt and uncle of artist John Constable.

A £5,000 National Churches Trust Community Grant is funding the creation of a kitchen and an accessible toilet within the church tower. The project aims to encourage community use of the church and make it more accessible to the elderly and the very young.

Revd John Chandler said:

"Our mission to attract young children and the elderly has been severely hampered by the lack of facilities, including toilets, baby-changing or running water. Couples who qualify to marry in the church are choosing other venues because of the lack of facilities. So we are most grateful to the National Churches Trust for their grant to help us install modern facilities which will help us to show Christian hospitality to our worshippers and visitors."



Greg Power of THP Construction hands over the keys for the new hall at Whitehead Methodist church to Vera Giroan.

© Stanley Gilpin

Whitehead Methodist church,
Whitehead, Northern Ireland BT38 9QA
B1 (II) Listed (Methodist)



£20,000 Community Grant

Whitehead Methodist church, built in 1900 in the Arts and Crafts style, is actively involved in local community life. It financially supports the Genesis Outreach venture for young people in the town. The premises are also used for meetings by various community groups such as Christian Aid.

A £20,000 National Churches Trust Community Grant has helped to fund a project to extend the upper floor of the church, reposition the staircase for disabled access and convert an air raid shelter into a new church hall to increase space for community meals and coffee mornings.

Revd Gary Millar of Whitehead Methodist church said:

"A truly local enterprise, the architect for the project was Whitehead native Martin Walkington, whose elegant design almost seamlessly blends the exciting new hall complex with the Arts and Crafts style original church building. Comprising a main hall, state-of-the-art kitchen, several meeting rooms and the requisite facilities for a 21st century congregation, the hall will be an asset to our work for generations to come."

Community Grants awarded in 2015

Annan, Annan URC	£10,000	Leesfield, St Thomas	£10,000
Baylham, St Peter	£5,000	Murton, St James	£10,000
Bournemouth, St Barnabas	£10,000	Rutherglen, St Columbkille	£15,000
Clitheroe, Clitheroe URC	£10,000	Sheffield, Church of the Nazarene	£20,000
Coalbrookdale, Holy Trinity	£5,000	Sheffield, Christ Church	£10,000
Cragg Vale, St John the Baptist in the Wilderness	£10,000	Shrewsbury, Belle Vue Methodist church	£5,000
Eastbury, St James the Greater church	£10,000	Solihull, Solihull Methodist church	£10,000
Edinburgh, St Martin of Tours Episcopal church	£10,000	Studley, Studley Methodist church	£10,000
Frampton on Severn, St Mary the Virgin	£10,000	Swalcliffe, St Peter and St Paul	£10,000
Hankelow, Hankelow Methodist church	£15,000	Tattenhall, St Alban	£15,000
Jacobstowe, St James	£5,000	Whitehead, Whitehead Methodist church	£20,000
Killyleagh, Second Killyleagh Presbyterian church	£20,000	Wicken, Wicken Methodist church	£5,000
		Wormingford, St Andrew	£5,000

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

In 2015 the National Churches Trust was one of WREN's key partners in identifying candidates for the WREN FCC Heritage Fund.

St Brandon,
Brancepeth, County Durham DH7 8DF
Grade I (Church of England)
On Historic England's 'Heritage At Risk' Register



£10,000 Repair Grant

St Brandon's was once one of the most outstanding medieval churches in the Diocese of Durham. It was much enhanced in the 17th Century by Rector John Cosin's furnishings and his extraordinary north porch, pictured below.

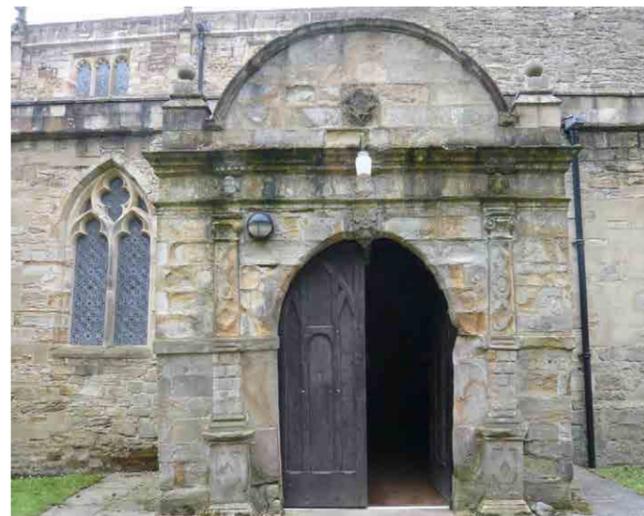
The wonderful timber furnishings were completely destroyed by a devastating fire in 1998. Since then an extensive period of repair and rebuilding has taken place including new roofs, new windows and a new interior.

A £10,000 National Churches Trust Repair Grant funded a project to stop the decay of stonework to the church's Jacobean north porch and for repairs to the clerestory. Although examples of Cosin's internal church furnishings exist elsewhere, architectural features are rarer and the north porch is one of the best.

Peter Cook said:

"St Brandon's embarked on essential stone repairs in 2015 after receiving support from a private donor and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The church, which has a strong and energetic congregation, suffered a catastrophic fire in 1998 which required the rebuilding of the interior."

"The generosity of the National Churches Trust enabled us to extend the work of repair and conservation at high level. Our church is now in a very good condition for the future. We as volunteers are extremely grateful for not only the generous financial contribution but also the accessible and prompt manner in which the Trust operates."



St Cadoc, Raglan,
Monmouthshire, Wales NP15 2EN
Grade II (Church in Wales)*



£20,000 Repair Grant

St Cadoc's church is partly 14th century with additions dating from the 15th century. It suffered much damage during the Civil War and was partly restored by 1698. In the 1860s further restoration and enlargement took place and much of the current interior dates from this time. The church has a fine barrel vaulted boarded ceiling divided into panels by moulded ribs, with gilded floral bosses at the inter-sections.

The church, which seats over 400 people, provides a place for worship, sharing, support, counselling, fellowship and learning. In the future the range of opportunities and facilities for community use of the building will be expanded.

A £20,000 National Churches Trust Repair Grant is funding urgent repairs to tiled roofs and gutters and to tower buttresses and to refurbish rainwater goods.

Neville Crump, said:

"Following the pledge of grants from various UK bodies, including the National Churches Trust, work began on the complete reroofing of St Cadoc's church during May 2016. Further works to provide disabled access to the building and the relaying of paths will follow once all the necessary ground works have been completed. Many of these improvements will make the building much more user friendly and provide some much needed facilities to enable community use of the church to be extended. The parishioners and locals are excited at the improvements and are most grateful to all who have supported the church in achieving these goals."

Repair Grants awarded in 2015

Ballykelly, Tamlaghtfinlagan parish church	£12,000
Bewdley, St Anne	£10,000
Bosbury, Holy Trinity	£10,000
Brancepeth, St Brandon	£10,000
Clydach, St Mary	£10,000
Croxy, All Saints	£20,000
Ebbesbourne Wake, St John the Baptist	£20,000
Hanmer, St Chad	£10,000
Hawes, St Margaret	£15,000
Hexton, St Faith	£20,000
Kentmere, St Cuthbert	£10,000
Knill, St Michaels and All Angels	£10,000
Litcham, All Saints	£10,000
Liverpool and Merseyside, St Columba URC	£10,000
Llanddarog, St Twrog	£10,000
London, Hackney, St John of Jerusalem	£10,000
London, Notting Dale, St Clement	£10,000
London, Stoke Newington, St Andrew	£20,000
Lynmouth, St John the Baptist	£10,000
Meeth, St Michael and All Angels	£10,000
Mirfield, St Mary the Virgin	£10,000
Modbury, St George	£20,000
New Brighton, SS Peter, Paul and Philomena	£20,000
Newport, Bethel Community church	£10,000
Newton on Ouse, All Saints	£10,000
Portsea, St George	£10,000
Raglan, St Cadoc	£20,000
Sedgeford, St Mary the Virgin	£15,000
South Kilvington, St Wilfrid	£10,000
Southport, Emmanuel church	£10,000
St Dominic, St Dominica	£30,000
St Helens, Ormskirk Street URC	£10,000
Stourbridge, St Thomas	£10,000

In 2015 two grants were awarded from the Suffolk Environmental Trust on the recommendation of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and administered by the National Churches Trust.

Bredfield, St Andrew	£14,300
Dalham, St Mary the Virgin	£9,500

How our grants make a difference

- The church building remains open for public use
- Specific areas of a church, such as a roof or stonework, are repaired with a beneficial impact on the rest of the building
- The church building becomes wind and watertight
- Local areas are better places to live as repairs and new facilities enable wider use of church buildings by local people
- Employment is provided for its skilled crafts people
- Economic benefit spread across the UK, with 82% of grants awarded outside the South East of England

In 2015 14 grants were awarded from the WREN FCC Heritage Fund by the National Churches Trust

Alby, St Ethelbert	£15,000
Briunklow, St John the Baptist	£55,000
Castle Bytham, St James	£60,000
Compton Verney, Compton Verney chapel	£47,800
Croxy, All Saints	£75,000
Diddington, St Laurence	£52,309
Fotheringhay, St Mary's and All Saints	£54,552
Hexton, St Faith	£75,000
Kineton, St Peter	£60,000
Knapton, St Peter and St Paul	£25,000
Lenton, Holy Trinity	£66,980
Narborough, All Saints	£50,000
Pontefract, St Giles	£60,000
Waterloo, Old Christ church	£75,000



Compton Verney chapel, Compton Verney, Warwickshire



St Laurence church, Diddington, Cambridgeshire

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		Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust	
Braughing, St Mary the Virgin	£5,000	Aston le Walls, St Leonard	£5,000
Northill, St Mary the Virgin	£2,500	Greatworth, St Peter	£5,000
Renhold, All Saints	£2,500	Paulerspury, St James the Great	£5,000
Sacombe, St Catherine	£5,000	Northumbria Historic Churches Trust	
Southill, All Saints	£2,000	Barnard Castle, Barnard Castle URC	£4,000
Wootton, St Mary	£3,000	Bensham, St Chad	£3,000
Berkshire Churches Trust		Tudhoe, St David	£3,000
Sulhamstead, Abbots St Mary	£2,500	Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust	
Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust		Barnby in the Willows, All Saints	£2,500
Diddington, St Laurence	£5,000	Bingham, St Mary and All Saints	£5,000
Cornwall Historic Churches Trust		Ordsall, All Hallows	£2,500
Perranuthnoe, St Piran and St Michael	£5,000	Shelford, St Peter and St Paul	£2,500
Quethiock, St Hugh	£7,500	Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust	
Tintagel, St Materiana	£5,000	Aston Tirrold, URC	£2,500
Zennor, St Senara	£2,500	Brightwell Baldwin, St Bartholomew	£2,500
Derbyshire Churches & Chapels Preservation Trust		North Leigh, St Mary	£2,500
Melbourne, St Michael with St Mary	£5,000	Piddington, St Nicholas	£2,500
Radbourne, St Andrew	£2,500	Stadhampton, St John the Baptist	£2,500
Swanwick, St Andrew	£5,000	Weston-on-the-Green, St Mary the Virgin	£2,500
Trusley, All Saints	£2,500	Scotland's Churches Trust	
Dorset Historic Churches Trust		Ballachulish, Glencoe, St Munda	£3,000
Powerstock, St Mary the Virgin	£2,500	Braemar, St Margaret	£9,000
Stalbridge, St Mary	£2,500	Culross, Culross and Torryburn parish church	£2,500
Steeple, St Michael and All Angels	£5,000	Duror, St Adamnan	£6,000
Stoke Abbott, St Mary	£2,500	Grangemouth, Zetland parish church	£2,500
Winterbourne Whitechurch, St Mary	£2,500	Newport on Tay, St Mary	£6,000
Wooton Fitzpaine, St Paul	£2,500	Orkney, Rousay parish church	£5,000
Friends of Kent Churches		Paisley, Oakshaw Trinity church	£10,000
Bredhurst, St Peter	£2,500	Tibbermore, Tibbermore parish church	£5,000
Higham, St John	£2,500	Shropshire Historic Churches Trust	
Kingsdown, St John the Evangelist	£2,500	Boningale, St Chad	£2,500
Nackington, St Mary	£2,500	Somerset Churches Trust	
Ringwould, St Nicholas	£2,500	Chew Stoke, St Andrew	£2,500
Saltwood, St Peter & St Paul	£2,500	Hardington Mandeville, St Mary the Virgin	£5,000
Greater Manchester Churches Preservation Society		Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Blessed Virgin Mary	£2,500
Longsight, St Agnes	Two grants of £2,500	Westonzoyland, St Mary the Virgin	£5,000
Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust		Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust	
Alton, St Lawrence	£2,500	Wednesbury, St Bartholomew	£5,000
Copnor, St Cuthbert	£2,500	Suffolk Historic Churches Trust	
East Cowes, St James	£2,500	Beccles, Beccles Quaker Meeting House	£2,000
East Wellow, St Margaret	£2,500	Huntingfield, St Mary the Virgin	£2,000
Nately Scures, St Swithun	£2,500	Lidgate, St Mary	£2,000
Niton, St John the Baptist	£2,500	Little Bealings, All Saints	£7,500
Shanklin, St Paul	£5,000	Mildenhall, St Mary	£2,500
Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust		Otley, St Mary the Virgin	£4,000
Madley, Madley Methodist Chapel	£5,000	Surrey Churches Preservation Trust	
Orcup, St John the Baptist	£5,000	Beacon Hill, Beacon Hill URC	£2,500
Historic Cheshire Churches Preservation Trust		Burgh Heath, St Mary	£2,500
Church Minshull, St Bartholomew	£5,000	Dunsfold, St Mary	£5,000
Dunham Massey, St Margaret	£2,500	East Molesey, St Mary	£5,000
Stockton Heath, St Thomas	£2,000	Warwickshire & Coventry Historic Churches Trust	
Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust		Birmingham, Cambridge Road Methodist church	£5,000
Barrow upon Soar, Methodist church	£2,500		
Hathern, Saints Peter and Paul	£2,500		
Kirkby Mallory, All Saints	£4,000		
Muston, St John the Baptist	£6,000		

We are but history's latest tenants

Quentin Letts is parliamentary sketchwriter and theatre critic for the Daily Mail. His recent book, *The Speaker's Wife*, is a parliamentary novel which looks at the future of the Church of England. Quentin Letts is also a deputy churchwarden in Herefordshire.

By *Quentin Letts*



Our Herefordshire village recently had a tremendous knees-up in the church graveyard. I hope you will not consider that a facetious comment. The occasion was the Queen's 90th birthday weekend and our small church, a rural, Prayer Book classic with a regular congregation of about 20, threw a 'Parish Pint' party. We attracted a crowd of more than 120.

In addition to free food and ale there was a bonnet parade for the ladies and a 'knobbly knees contest' for the chaps. We sang country songs, the White Cliffs of Dover, Land of Hope and Glory and the National Anthem (all three verses). Children ran round, a-buzz on Haribo sweets. My teenage son strummed his guitar and belted out rock songs. In some ways it was like something out of a Richard Curtis film – we even had a shower of fat, warm raindrops.

We did not charge for admission and there was most certainly not a tombola or cake stall or even a dreaded raffle. Our parochial church council took the view that this time we would put away our begging bowls. We wanted to show that, in a village with no shop, pub or neighbourhood hall, the church is the hub of life.

All this happened around and among the gravestones of a weather-beaten church dating back to the 12th century. I could tell you more about the history of How Caple church - its late-Norman font, Jacobean pulpit, 1920s stained glass and more - but I will desist. Details about church fittings make my eyeballs revolve. When I hear the name 'Pevsner' I feel an uncontrollable urge to yawn. Sorry about that.

The soul of a church

What interests me in churches is the sensation of history - the feel, smell, taste of age. I mean the mustiness of the stones, the melancholy of a quiet church at dusk, the way the air can almost leave a daub of death on your tongue. Minutiae about geometrical motifs and roof pitches bore me. What affects



How Caple church, Herefordshire

© Neil McAllister/Alamy Stock Photo

me – attacks me in ways I can barely explain – is the *soul* of a church building and its surrounds. Here is a paradox: though we want churches to be successful, it is never easier to find a state of prayerfulness than in an empty church.

At our graveyard booze-up the other day, the children's apple-bobbing was held next to an imposing tomb commemorating the too-brief life of a local girl who died in the 1870s. Bless her, she was just 16 years old. 'Thy will be done,' states the inscription on the cold slab. On the morning of the party, while decking the graveyard with Union-Jack bunting and setting up the kiddies' games, I contemplated that girl and her poor parents back in Victorian times. In their hearts they must have bawled in grief at their daughter's death. They must have questioned God and asked 'why us?' Yet they had the stoicism to say, 'Thy will be done.'

50

Things to do in a Church

The National Churches Trust is dedicated to the repair and support of the UK's churches, chapels and meeting houses. That's because a church building in good repair and with modern facilities can be used by local people for many, many activities.

'50 Things to do in a Church' is a selection of the activities and events that take place in and around church buildings and of the many ways that people use and experience churches, including discovering some of the architecture and history that make them such exciting places to visit.

Below, Michael Palin writes about how a central London church allowed him to find the peace and quiet he needed when he was being cross-questioned during a court case. Finding peace and quiet is just one of the '50 Things to do in a Church' listed on the following two pages of our Annual Review. We hope that this special feature will show what a tremendous asset churches, chapels and meeting houses are to communities throughout the UK.

Those words remain as a caution to those of us who currently occupy this world. You could say the same about churches as a whole. They stand sentry for the past. With their steeples and towers and marble plaques and fusty nooks they admonish our mortal swagger. They wag a finger at us and say 'don't make yourself too comfortable, for you'll soon be joining the regiment of the dead.'

Secularists argue that little-used churches should be decommissioned. There are thousands of churches in Britain and it is absurd – they say – to keep them all going. Even friendly voices argue that the Church of England must soon retreat from the rural shires, no longer being able to fund a presence in every parish. Such people say that Church land could be more profitably used, possibly for housing.

Meanwhile, thieves rip the lead from church roofs and the police show little interest. Politicians shrug about church decline. The BBC seems little interested in Anglicanism. There is such disengagement from church life by our egalitarian elite – that too-real contradiction in terms – that it is easy to become demoralised.

Crying out for churches

Well cheer up! Britain's churches have seldom been more necessary. The small-screen age has atomised our society, making us terribly lonely. Teenagers may have scores of online 'friends' but know hardly anyone. Old folk are placed in front of TV screens all day. Workers toil at computers 48 soulless weeks a year.

Please do not listen to the idea that churches are redundant. Our people are crying out for them.



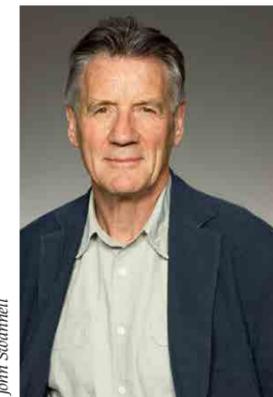
A beautifully balanced Arts and Crafts window, the work of Bromsgrove Guild artist Archibald J Davies, at How Caple church of Saints Andrew and Mary

As a deputy church warden, I know some of the difficulties. Sunday services draw smaller crowds than car boot sales. Persuading middle-class babyboomers and Generation X-ers to become involved in church activities is not easy. Many suspect that the moment they step through a church door they will be handed a tambourine and told to rattle it to the beat of a sub-Eurovision 'worship song'. The media refer to any prominent churchgoer as 'a devoted Christian'. In truth, such people may well have doubts. Of course they will. Even the Archbishop of Canterbury has doubts. Without doubt, faith becomes something unreasonable.

The Church of England may be struggling but it is in better shape than many of its counterparts. Have you visited churches in France recently? Many are in a frightful state. But weakness in church hierarchies may liberate congregations and give a greater role to bodies such as the National Churches Trust.

Widening society's responsibility for churches will spread the sense of ownership. These amazing buildings do not belong to anyone. They belong to all of us. That is why we held our Parish Pint evening. At How Caple we are proud of our church - not jealous of it. We love its centuries-old dignity. We hope others will discover and relish that and fill it with new life. Britain without churches is unimaginable.

We are but history's latest tenants. It is up to us, and no one else, to ensure that in a century or so, revellers will be able to strew bunting on our own gravestones and contemplate the lives we led. Let them read 'Thy will be done' on our tombs and say admiringly that our generation did its duty.



Michael Palin

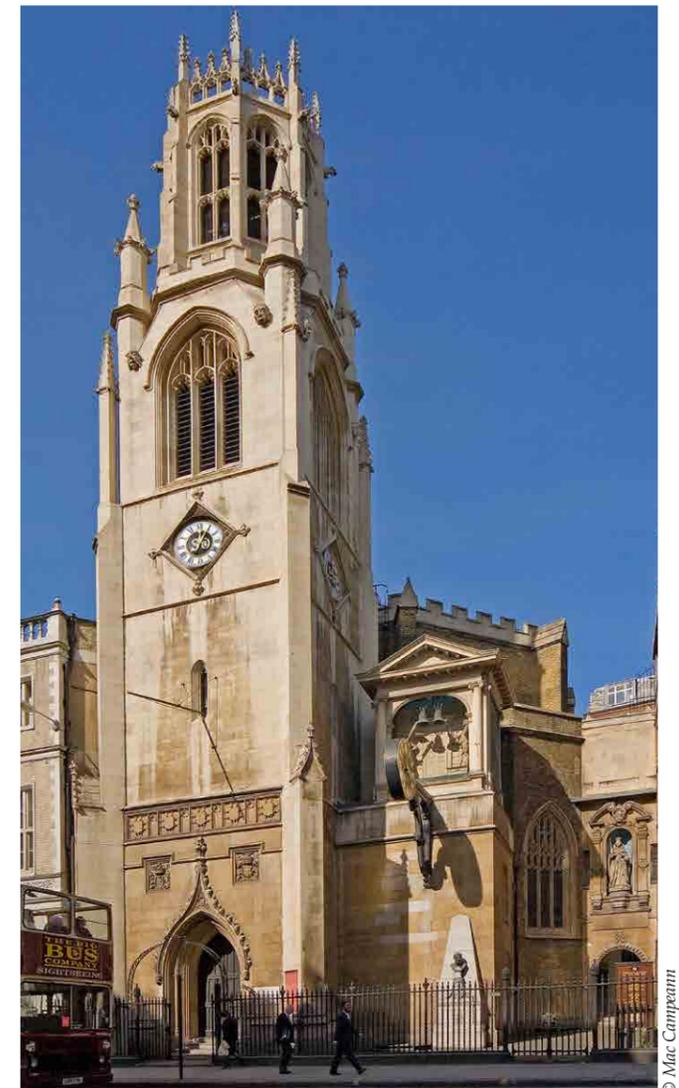
Once asked to declare my religious beliefs I described myself as "an agnostic with doubts". However my interest in and fondness for churches is undiminished. Churches and chapels are important for all sorts of reasons. Where some are notable for inspirational architecture, others are commended for their community role and the work they do in bringing local people together.

Two years ago I was being cross-questioned in a court case in London and during a lunch break in which I was not permitted to talk to anyone, I desperately wanted somewhere to sit quietly and get myself together. And yet there was nowhere where the price of a seat didn't involve eating, drinking or some commercial transaction.

Then, out of the blue, at the very heart of Fleet Street, I discovered the church of St Dunstan-in-the-West. I was never so grateful for a place of repose, an oasis of peace and quiet in the midst of the mayhem.

There are, of course, many other uses for churches and the National Churches Trust's '50 Things to do in a Church' – which includes everything from finding the Green Man to helping out at a night shelter – shows clearly why churches are such important local buildings.

Our churches speak to all of us, even just as a tower on the horizon, a spire amongst the trees. We must do all we can to pass them on to future generations. They are part of our landscape and part of our national heritage. We have to do all we can to make them part of our lives as well.



St Dunstan-in-the-West: An oasis of peace at the very heart of Fleet Street

4 Ring the bells

3 Find the church cat

2 Honour the fallen

1 Visit a Farmers' Market

5 Climb the tower

13 Sing in a choir

14 Discover a rood screen

15 Go skateboarding

16 Enjoy a nice cup of tea

17 Give blood

18 Try out the organ

19 Take part in a historical re-enactment

20 Learn English

21 Enjoy a beer festival

22 Have a cream tea

23 Go to the post office

6 Use the free Wi Fi

7 Take part in Ride+Stride

8 Research your family history

9 Stand in a triple decker pulpit

10 Buy Fairtrade chocolate

11 Light a candle

12 Go to a comedy night

In addition to their role as places of worship, church buildings play a vital role in activities for the benefit of the wider community. Nearly 90% of churches are used for community purposes as well as for regular worship. www.nationalchurchestrust.org/survey

24 Meet a vicar

25 Discover medieval graffiti

26 Watch the bats

27 See historic wall paintings

28 Go stargazing

29 Abseil down the spire

30 Go to a wedding

31 Have a night out at the opera

32 Watch a film

33 Paint a picture

34 Find peace and quiet

35 Sing a hymn

36 Discover an ancient yew tree

37 Discover a tomb of someone famous

38 Find a stag beetle

39 Go to a flower festival

40 Visit the crypt

41 Sit on a misericord

42 Have a night out at the circus

43 Go birdwatching

44 Camp out for the night

45 Marvel at stained glass

46 Volunteer at a night shelter

47 Find the green man

48 Go to a Yoga class

49 Say a prayer

50 POLLING STATION

Vote

We'd love to hear from you about some of the things people can do in your church, chapel or meeting house.

Please visit our website and add to our list of things to do in a church at www.nationalchurchestrust.org/50things or share your ideas and photos with us on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/nationalchurchestrust

You can also email us at 50things@nationalchurchestrust.org

The Painted Parish

In December 2015, the Mall Gallery in London presented a rare exhibition of new and recent paintings exploring Britain's churches, chapels and cathedrals by members of the Federation of British Artists.

The Painted Parish featured paintings exploring British churches, examining notions of place and time, life and loss, as well as faith and worship.

The poet John Betjeman wrote in his poem Churchyards, 'Our churches are our history shown / In wood and glass

and iron and stone'. In this exhibition, Britain's ecclesiastical buildings were rendered in watercolour, oil, pastel, and more, inside and out, as places of worship, sites of construction, iconic status or desolate ruin.

We are grateful to four of the artists featured in the exhibition for allowing us to reproduce their work in our Annual Review.

More details: www.mallgalleries.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/painted-parish



Lisa Graa Jensen

"Prenup Nerves"
Acrylic inks, 2015

Lisa Graa Jensen trained at Camberwell School of Art and is a member of the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour and Society of Graphic Fine Artists, and exhibits mainly at the Mall Galleries and Llewellyn Alexander Gallery in London.

She can be contacted at lisa@lisagraajensen.com



Charles Rake NEAC

"Figures by a Church"
Oil

Right from the beginning, from my early days as a fine art student, I felt drawn to becoming a painter of landscape. Sometimes I feel impelled to indicate man's presence, a sense of history in the landscape, by including his built legacy from domestic buildings to places of worship.

Charles Rake can be contacted at: charlesrake@hotmail.co.uk

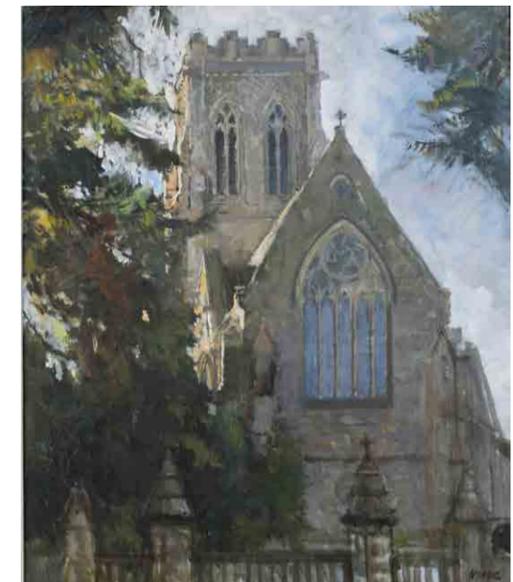


Peter Kelly

"Sunlight in Buttsbury church, Essex"
Oil on canvas, 2013

At certain times of the day Buttsbury church is illuminated by sunlight, which gives a dramatic effect to the interior of this old church.

Peter Kelly can be contacted at: kellypeterartist@aol.com



Anthony Morris

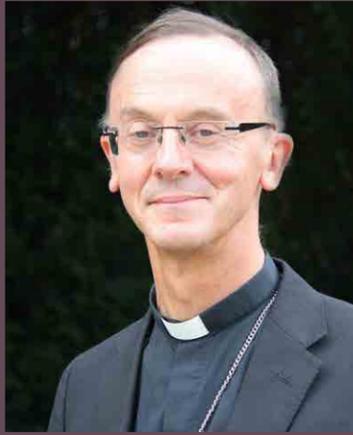
"Belmont Abbey"
Oil, 2014

Belmont Abbey, in Herefordshire, is a Catholic Benedictine monastery that forms part of the English Benedictine Congregation. It stands on a small hill overlooking the city of Hereford to the east, with views across to the Black Mountains, Wales to the west. The 19th century Abbey also serves as a parish church.

Anthony Morris studied at the Royal Academy Schools, London. He can be contacted at: clodock.artist@gmail.com

The Power of Place

by Bishop John Inge



Bishop John Inge attended Kent College in Canterbury and then studied for a BSc in Chemistry at Durham University. He later studied there for an MA and PhD in Theology. Bishop John is the chief pastor of the Diocese of Worcester, and provides leadership across the whole diocese and also has a number of specific national responsibilities and roles. He was introduced to the House of Lords as a Lord Spiritual in 2012, and has a particular interest in Culture and Heritage, International Development, and Media and Communications. Bishop John is Chair of both the College of Evangelists and the Archbishop's Examination in Theology, and is a member of the Faith and Order Commission. His book 'A Christian Theology of Place' was shortlisted for the Michael Ramsey Prize for theological writing

In September 2014, Bishop Inge was appointed lead bishop for cathedrals and church buildings. In 2015 he chaired the Church of England's Church Buildings Review Group, which produced a major report on the stewardship of its church buildings and launched a consultation on proposals to improve the support for its 16,000 church buildings.



St Mellanus, Mullion, Cornwall © Brian Woodruffe

The faithfulness of countless ordinary men and women down the ages is built into the story of our parish churches where they have offered worship.

The manner in which this occurs will be the result of a complicated relationship between God, people and place. It is striking that the notion of places retaining an identity across time often seems to be more readily embraced from a secular than a Christian perspective.

The philosopher Edward Casey tells us that 'time and history, the diachronic media of culture, are so deeply inscribed in places as to be inseparable from them; as inseparable as the bodies that sustain these same places and carry the culture located in them.'

The sociologist E.V. Walker writes that 'place has no feelings apart from human experience there. But a place is a location of experience. It evokes and organises memories, images, feelings, sentiments, meanings, and the work of imagination. The feelings of a place are indeed the mental projections of individuals, but they come from collective experience and do not happen anywhere else. They belong to the place.'

The geographer Edward Relph suggests that places are 'constructed in our memories and affections through repeated encounters and complex associations' and that 'place experiences are necessarily time deepened and memory qualified.'

Each of these comments confirms a relational view of place that makes it inseparable from the individuals and communities that are associated with it and 'tell its story'.

Sacrament and symbol

Such words from secular scholars should encourage us to remember that much of the power of a particular place, associated with its past, will not be mediated by 'conscious reflection' but by a much more integrated attention of the sort mediated by sacrament and symbol. There is, after all our attempts to clarify, a mystery associated with the power of places which is better articulated by poetry than rational argument.

We can, however, be clear, with Douglas Davies, that when sacralisation of a place occurs, 'the dimension of history becomes added to personal identity and individual experience, giving a place particular cultural significance and making it very sacred.'

This is why people 'cling with such obstinate tenacity to positions once adopted; and a sacred position remains holy even when it has been long neglected ... The consciousness of the sacred character of the locality that has once been chosen is, therefore, always retained.'

That is why churches are places 'where prayer has been valid' or, as Eliot expresses it elsewhere:

*For the blood of Thy martyrs and saints
Shall enrich the earth, shall create holy places.*

*For wherever a saint has dwelt, wherever a martyr has
given his blood for the blood of Christ,
There is holy ground, and the sanctity shall not depart
from it*

*Though armies trample over it, though sightseers come
with guide books looking over it...*

Our attitude to cathedrals and churches should be a bit like our attitude to Sundays. It's not that Sundays and churches are nearer to God or more excellent: they are fractions, set apart to represent the truth that all time and space are God's. The part is consecrated, not instead of the whole, but on behalf of the whole. This is the sense in which churches should be 'sacramental'.

Our churches, and the Church of England alone has over 16,000 of them, and our great cathedrals, assist in proclaiming the gospel just by being there. Their very existence is quite literally significant, pointing to a reality beyond themselves. If the heavens declare the glory of God, the skyline of our country is dotted with towers and spires which point heavenwards to witness to the fact that this world is not a system closed to itself.

The distinguished anthropologist David Harvey writes that 'it is correct to argue that the social preservation of religion as a major institution within secular societies has been in part won through the successful creation, protection and nurturing of symbolic places.'

If large numbers of our churches were to be closed the message sent out to our society would, presumably, be that the Christian faith has had its day in this land.

Memories of a community

As Sarah Coakley observes: 'The Church is not a building.' That is most certainly true. But buildings in which 'prayer has been valid' are more like people than stone or brick, because of their vibrant association with the folk we and others have loved. They are not so much haunted as 'thin' to another world in which past, present and future converge. And when, as in the parish system in England, each such building holds the memories of a particular geographical community, it is well to be aware of its remaining symbolic power even if it now seems neglected, underused or actively vandalised.

Thus, though the building is not the church, it speaks of the character and reality of the church in a profound and vital way. It can help to root the community in its faith, nurture its prophetic witness, and draw it to its destination.



St Andrew Pilgrim Journey

Scotland's Pilgrim Journeys is a collection of 14 routes developed by Scotland's Churches Trust exploring Scotland's sacred places. They allow you to follow in the footsteps of saints and sinners, discovering the legacy of Scotland's Celtic Saints and exploring some of the country's most beautiful sacred places and scenic areas.

Scotland's Churches Trust exists to advance the preservation, promotion and understanding of Scotland's rich ecclesiastical architectural heritage and culture represented in its churches and places of worship of all denominations. The Trust was formed in 2012, with the merger of the former Scotland's Churches Scheme (established 1994) and the Scottish Architectural Heritage Trust (formed 1978). More details at: www.scotlandchurchestrust.org.uk



Loch Tay

© Stuart Anthony

Of service to the community

Sacred places 'encapsulate a vision of ultimate value in human existence.' Only when it does this is a relationship between God, people and place properly maintained and will it speak as an effective sign.

W.H.Dillistone writes: "The sense of place can enrich and deepen human sensibilities. The symbol celebrating a particular place can bring together past and present in living relationship and strengthen hope for the future. It can stir the hearts of all kinds and conditions of people to realise that the living God has made himself known to them in judgement and in grace. At the same time, unhappily, the symbol can be made to turn in upon itself, to become defined and concentrated within its original limits. The symbol then becomes a monument. It may still provoke admiration. It in no way leads to the worship of the living God."

Dillistone's warning serves as an appropriate antidote to what has been argued above. There are some church buildings which 'no way lead to the worship of the living God'. Of those, a proportion should probably be closed. Though it should be borne in mind that closing churches will not put a stop to negative messages being sent out by them. The empty or abandoned church is 'such a powerful image that it may actively contribute to negative ideas about the church.'

In the majority of cases, however, we can avoid churches becoming redundant or museums by allowing them to live and breathe. This will often mean reordering and adapting in a manner which is sensitive to their heritage to enable the life of contemporary worshipping Christians and service of the community.

The Power of Place was first published as part of the Report of the Church Buildings Review Group.

The St Andrew Pilgrim Journey forms part of the epic 300 mile St Andrew Coast to Coast Pilgrimage from Iona to St Andrews.

It links these two centres of Celtic Christianity, and follows the development of Scotland's spiritual identity through a blending of different Celtic traditions and a continual interaction with the European mainland. You experience a dimension of Scotland that is both Highland and Lowland, with settled valleys, and wooded glens alongside the familiar mountains.

This loop, through the spectacular Glen Lyon, follows parts of the life of St Adomnan, Abbot of Iona from 679 to 704.

Adomnan was the biographer of Columba, author of a guide to the pilgrim sites of the Holy Land, and deviser of a law to protect non-combatants in war.

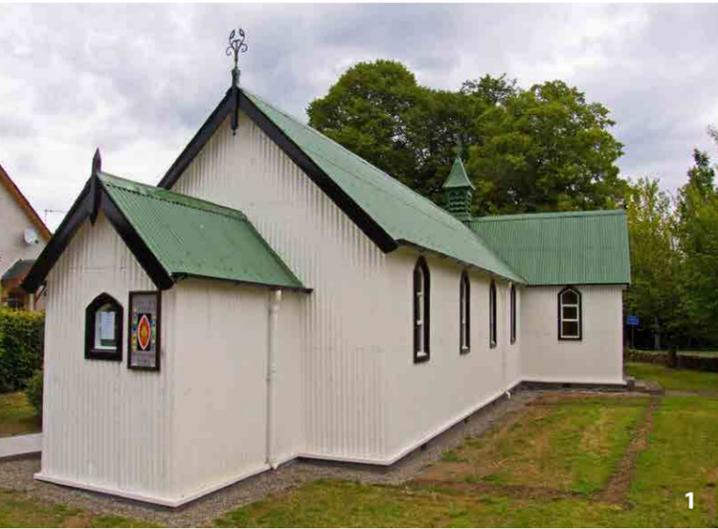
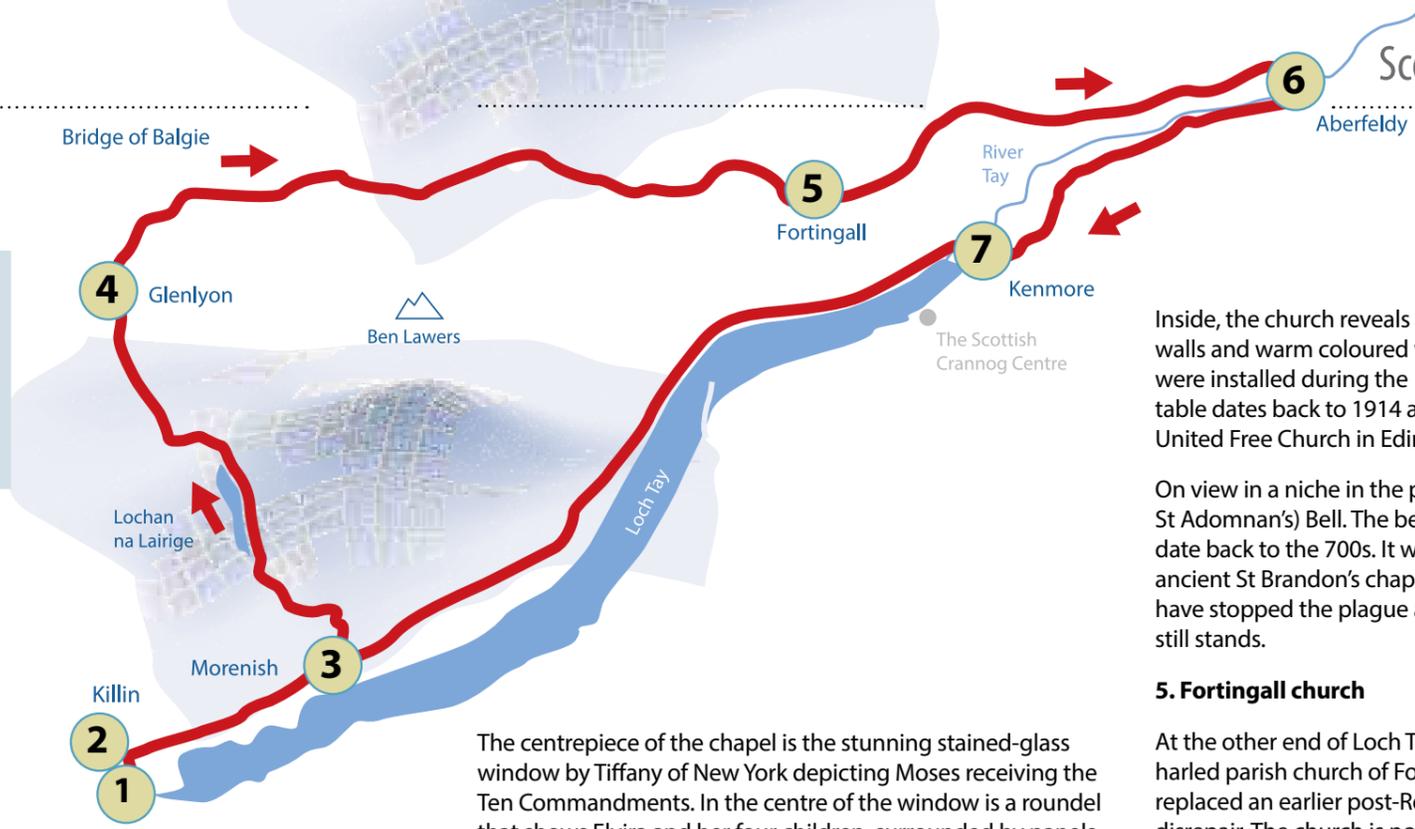
Starting in the village of Killin, a village situated at the western head of Loch Tay in Stirling, the route includes beautiful churches dating from the 16th to the 20th centuries.

Highlights include Morenish Chapel's stunning stained glass window by Tiffany of New York, the 1300 year-old St Adomnan's hand bell at Glenlyon Parish church, and the fine Pictish crosses of Fortingall Parish church and its courtyard containing possibly the oldest living thing in Europe, the ancient Fortingall Yew.

The Route

The route can be followed in either direction and could be completed by car in a day or include an overnight stay in Aberfeldy or Killin. Large sections of the route are also perfect for walking or cycling to take in the dramatic scenery at a more leisurely pace. It takes approximately one and a half hours by car and five hours by bike.

Approximate drive-times times to Killin from near-by cities are: Edinburgh two hours, Glasgow one and a half hours, Stirling one hour, Perth one hour and twenty minutes.



© nz_willowherb

1. St Fillan's Scottish Episcopal church, Killin

The route begins at the corrugated iron church of St Fillan, an innovative example of Industrial Revolution ingenuity. It is one of a dozen listed in Scotland, of which only four remain in ecclesiastical use. St Fillan is an early example of these 'tin tabernacles', bought in kit form from specialist manufacturers.

St Fillan was constructed in 1876 by the Earl of Breadalbane as a private chapel for use by shooting parties, giving it the local nickname of the "Grouse Church." It has been in almost continual use since then.

2. Killin and Ardeonaig church

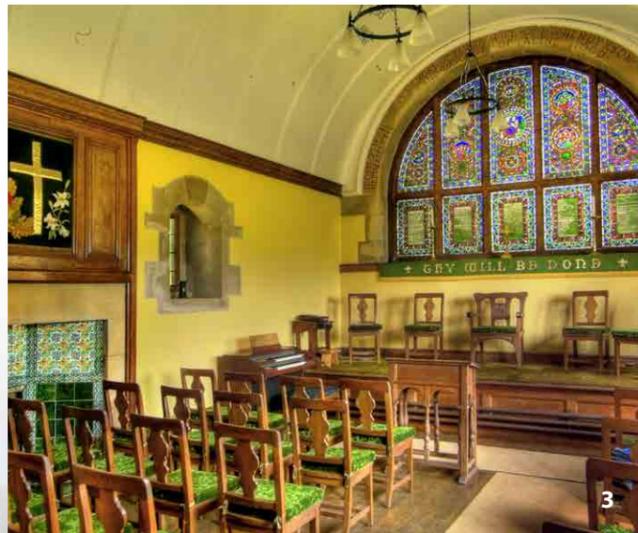


2

Just up the hill is Killin's very distinctive white-harled octagonal classical church built in 1744 by the mason Thomas Clark to a design by John Douglas of Edinburgh. Inside, extensions to the right and left wings have altered it from a 'wide' church to a 'long' church. In front of the church is a monument to a former minister of Killin, Rev James Stewart (1701-89), who was the first to translate the New Testament into Scots Gaelic in 1767.

3. Morenish chapel

Three miles to the east of Killin is Morenish chapel. Morenish comes from the Gaelic "mor innis", or "big meadow". The chapel is an 'Arts and Crafts' gem, constructed in 1902 as a memorial chapel to Elvira, daughter of Aline White Todd, who died in childbirth.



© Raymond Parks

The centrepiece of the chapel is the stunning stained-glass window by Tiffany of New York depicting Moses receiving the Ten Commandments. In the centre of the window is a roundel that shows Elvira and her four children, surrounded by panels with the faces of local children. The lower panels contain the Ten Commandments in full.



4

4. Glenlyon church

About half the way along the 25 mile length of Glen Lyon, Glenlyon church stands in the tiny hamlet of Innerwick.

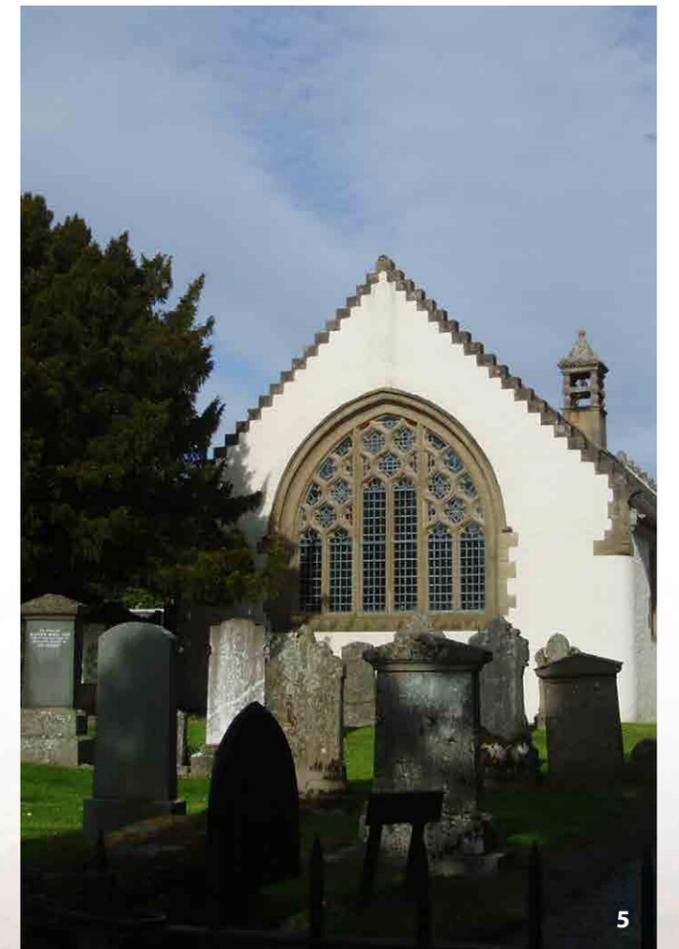
The smallest of the 'Parliamentary Churches', it is one of several throughout the Highlands built to a design by Thomas Telford with government funds provided under an 1823 Act of Parliament "for building additional places of worship in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland". Glenlyon church almost retains its original shape, though a porch was added to the south west corner and a small vestry to the north end of the east gable during a major renovation of the church undertaken in 1898.

Inside, the church reveals an attractive blend of light painted walls and warm coloured woodwork. The pews and the pulpit were installed during the 1898 renovation. The communion table dates back to 1914 and initially stood in the Rosehall United Free Church in Edinburgh.

On view in a niche in the porch is St Adamnan's (or St Adomnan's) Bell. The bell is a hand-bell and is thought to date back to the 700s. It was found in the graveyard of the ancient St Brandon's chapel in Glen Lyon. Adomnan is said to have stopped the plague at nearby Craigianie, where his cross still stands.

5. Fortingall church

At the other end of Loch Tay can be found the attractive white-harled parish church of Fortingall. Built between 1901-02, it replaced an earlier post-Reformation building in a state of disrepair. The church is notable for fine woodwork, made in an 'Arts and Crafts' style designed to harmonise with the rest of the village.



5

Fortingall church and Yew tree

In its own walled enclosure within the village churchyard stands the ancient Fortingall Yew. It is estimated to be between 2,000 and 5,000 years old, and may be the oldest living tree - perhaps even the oldest living thing - in Europe. Place name and archaeological evidence hint at an Iron Age cult centre at Fortingall, which may have had this tree as its focus. The site was Christianised during the Dark Ages, retaining the significance of the sacred Druidic place. The church is on this early Christian site, dedicated to Coeddi, bishop of Iona (d. 712), which was probably founded about 700 AD as a daughter monastery from Iona itself.



6

6. Aberfeldy church

Aberfeldy, a pretty, lively town, is situated north east of Loch Tay on Scotland's longest river, the Tay. Footpaths weave up the hill for two miles to the Falls of Moness and spectacular views. The town is also home to Dewar's Aberfeldy Distillery.

What is now the parish church building was originally constructed in 1843-44 as Aberfeldy Free Church, and was designed by Peter Skene. It joined the United Free Church in 1900 and the Church of Scotland in 1929. In the 1960s, following a union with the other Church of Scotland church in Aberfeldy, it was converted into halls. In 2005, however, the other church was closed, and the 1843-44 building reconverted into a church, with modern hall extensions.



7

7. Kenmore church

© Douglas Carr/Alamy Stock Photo

The St Andrew Pilgrim Journey ends at Kenmore, a beautiful village at the northern end of the 14-mile long Loch Tay.

Kenmore church stands at the western end of The Square, the main open area in the heart of the village. Its site drops away to Loch Tay on its southern and western sides. The road along the south side of the loch provides striking views of the church, nestled in woodland.



The church was built in 1760 to serve the new planned village, which was developed on the site of an earlier village in 1755. Records suggest that in 1759 the architect William Baker of Cheshire was paid 6 guineas to produce plans for a church by the Earl of Breadalbane.

The new church incorporated parts of its predecessor on the same site, built in 1669, but little or no evidence of the earlier building can be seen today.

Inside, the church immediately produces an impression of huge size from the breadth of the structure and the dimension of north and south arms which form the cruciform shape. The white walls of the interior are offset by the dark wood of the pews, roof beams and gallery, and the more honey tones of the wood used at the west end of the church, especially in the screen below the organ.

Many of the windows carry beautifully designed stained glass. The modern etched window on the north wall at the west end, celebrating the forty year ministry of Rev Kenneth MacVicar, is especially striking.

The information about the churches highlighted on this route has been provided by congregations or taken from the Historic Scotland list and published sources. It is not authoritative and if you know of any errors or omissions, please contact Scotland's Churches Trust. Please do check in advance that the churches you want to visit will be open by contacting the local tourist office.

For further information on the churches highlighted, and on Scotland's Pilgrim Journeys, visit www.scotlandspilgrimjourneys.com or read Donald Smith's book, Pilgrim Guide to Scotland, published by St Andrew Press. It is available at a discount from Scotland's Churches Trust.

Our thanks to Stuart Beattie for his assistance in producing this article.

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Others last for generations.



St John, Devizes, 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.

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

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Investing wisely for the future



In 2015 we increased and strengthened the holistic support we are able to offer those looking after the UK's churches, chapels and meeting houses.

In addition to being able to benefit from our grants programmes, those responsible for looking after the UK's ecclesiastical built heritage can rely on the National Churches Trust for advice and guidance; whether this is around fundraising, ensuring their building is sustainable, increasing the number of visitors to their church or finding out how best to set up a buildings maintenance programme.

Increasing and improving this support has been made possible through the restructuring last year of our Church Support team. With simplified procedures and more focussed targets, the team, made up of skilled and dedicated staff, is able to make full use of its professionalism to support as many church buildings as possible, listed or unlisted, from all Christian denominations and from all geographical areas across the UK.

During 2015, the National Churches Trust was able to help more than 170 places of worship with funding for urgent repairs and for the installation of the right mix of modern facilities to help them be at the service of local communities.

Many generations to come

To help us in this work, we were fortunate to receive some very generous legacies from supporters of the Trust. It is our responsibility to invest these gifts wisely to help secure the future for the UK's church buildings. In this way, our legators' support will be of benefit for many generations to come.

I was delighted that last year almost 500 new people joined the Trust as Friends or Cornerstone Club members. Many Friends, both old and new, enjoyed participating in our exclusive tours and talks or took up the special offers we provide for members.

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

In 2016 we will continue to strengthen our partnerships, award as many grants as our funding will allow and champion the cause of church buildings so that communities across the UK can use and enjoy these buildings for many years to come.

Claire Walker
Claire Walker
 Chief Executive

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

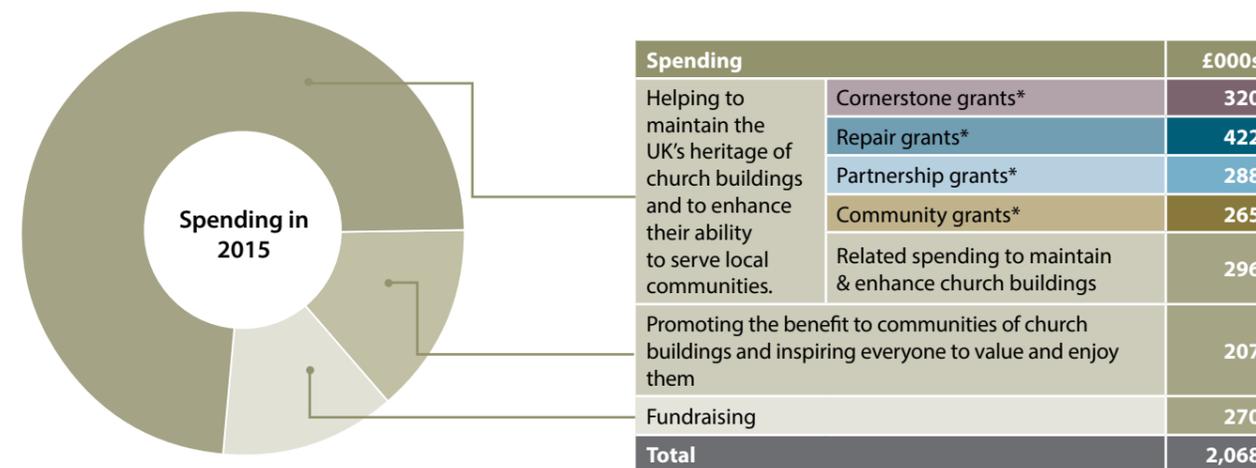
Excluding endowment funds, which generate income but may not be spent, the funds controlled by the National Churches Trust amounted to £5.4m at the end of 2015. Only some £1,260,000 of this can be used without restriction on any of the Trust's activities and objectives. Unrestricted reserves are important 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 2015

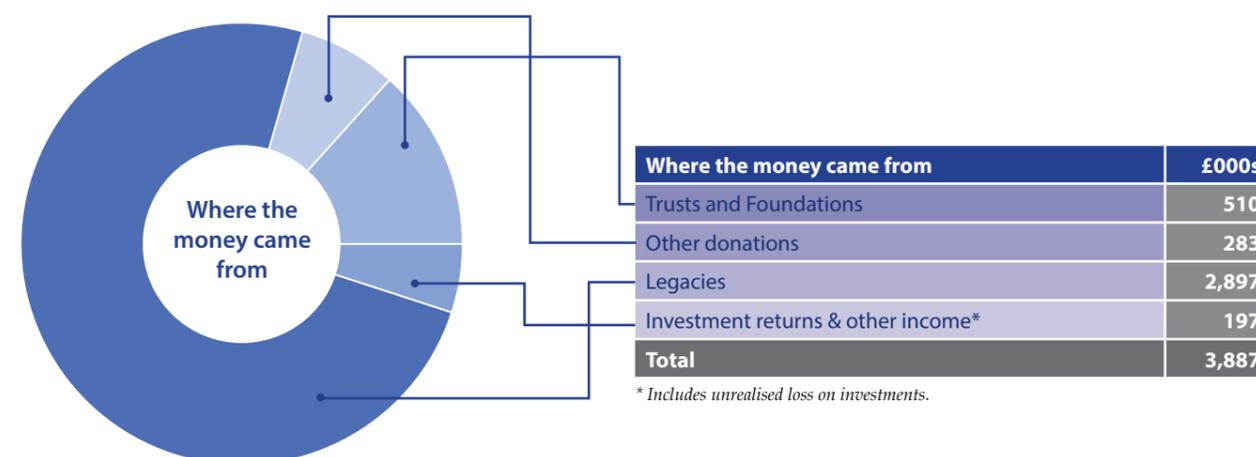
The Trust was able to award more than £1.3 million in grants to churches from its own funds in 2015, as well as handling another £0.8 million in grants for other organisations. A continued emphasis on prudent budgeting and tight control of costs meant that non-grant operating costs were comparable to those in 2014, with a planned increase in expenditure on publicity and marketing in order to successfully recruit new Friends and donors.



* Grants awarded to churches in 2015 from the resources of the National Churches Trust less previous awards not claimed of £40,000.

Where the money came from

Non-legacy income and unrealised losses on investments (£990,190) were at a level broadly consistent with recent years, but total income (£3.9m) was much higher as the Trust was most fortunate to receive some very generous legacies. This meant that incoming resources exceeded outgoing resources by £1,819,586 and so, in line with the Trustees' decision to progressively reduce the level of the Trust's restricted reserves, an increased grants expenditure budget is in place for 2016.



* Includes unrealised loss 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 2015 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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Irene Adgie
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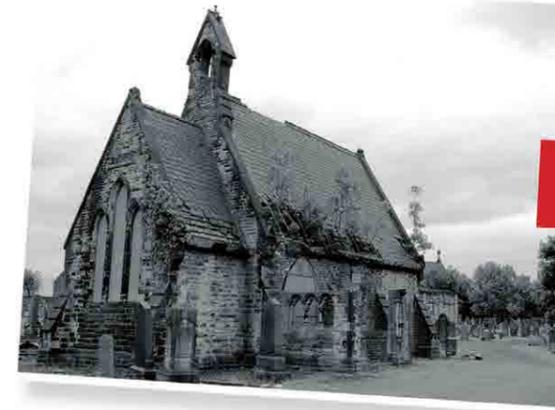
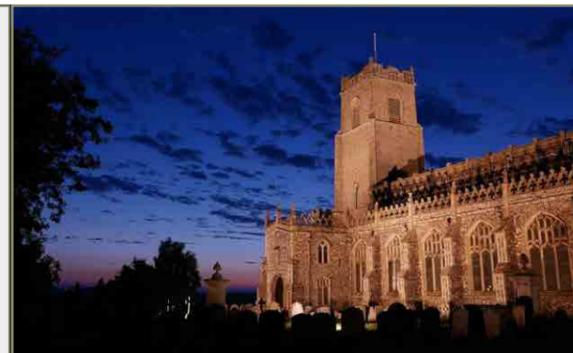
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We firmly believe in the importance of protecting the traditional craft skills vital to the building and conservation of church buildings.

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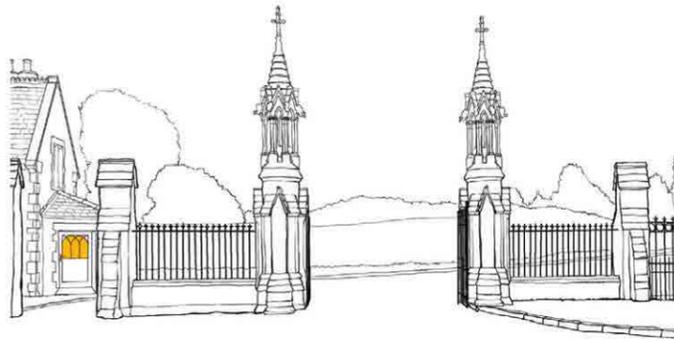
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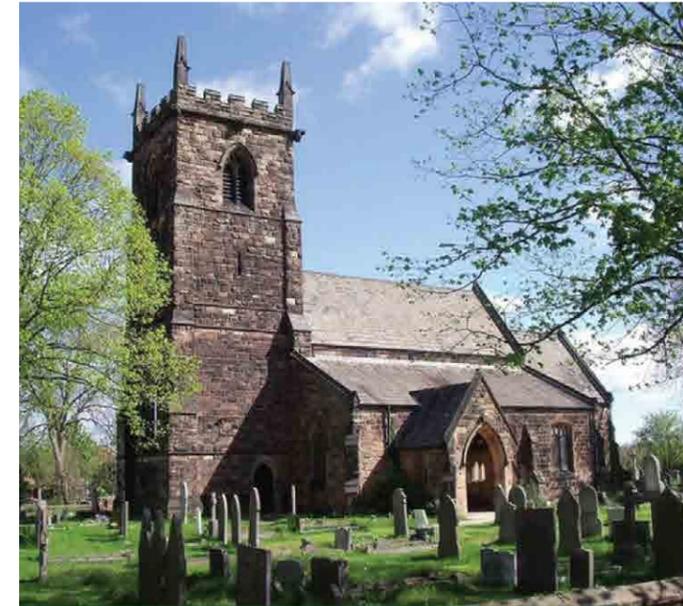
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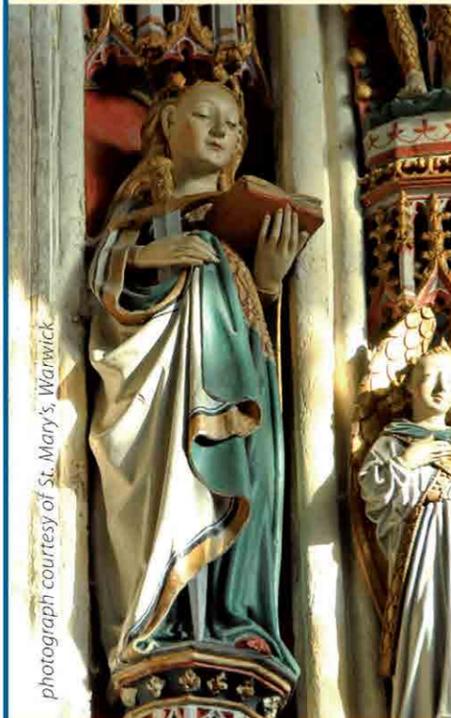
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Awarded a £54,552 WREN Heritage Fund Grant in 2015 on the recommendation of the National Churches Trust.



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