



# ANNUAL REVIEW

2018-2019



*For people who love church buildings*

## Chairman's message



**The National Churches Trust has continued to innovate and provide new ways of aiding the sustainability of Christian places of worship in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.**

This work has been carried out in close partnership with key heritage and religious organisations in the UK and with the assistance of many thousands of volunteers.

Churches, chapels and meeting houses are the most important collection of public buildings in the UK. Our latest research shows that there are around 40,500 church buildings in the UK open to the public and being used for worship.

This is a substantially higher number than other key public buildings. There are currently around 11,500 post office branches, 7,600 bank branches and 3,600 public libraries. There are also more churches than pubs, the number of which has fallen to around 39,000.

At a time when so many public buildings are closing and high streets are losing their shops, church buildings are places where people can meet, collaborate and build community, as well as continue to worship. That is why it is so important to keep them open and in good repair.

### Priority areas

In 2018, thanks to the support of our Friends, donors and supporters, we were able to make 228 grant awards totalling £1.2 million to churches, chapels and meeting houses throughout the UK. We increased the level of our grant giving to a number of our priority areas, including to Northern Ireland where the Trust has been involved in providing a range of practical solutions to churches from various denominations.

The Trust continued to work productively with key partners in the church heritage sector. We were delighted to be chosen as one of the stakeholders in the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Innovation Fund for places of worship, which is supporting new ideas to help keep churches open and sustainable.

We also support the Taylor Pilots, one of the outcomes of the Government's 2017 Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals Review. Centred on Manchester and Suffolk, these are bringing much needed expertise and additional funding to churches in two contrasting areas of the country. We hope to learn from these pilots and will apply any key outcomes to our future work.

### Funding concerns

The funding of urgent repairs of church buildings remains a source of great concern. Following the decision by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to end its ring-fenced Grants to Places of Worship scheme, and the ending of the Government supported Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund, the Trust has seen a very large increase in demand for its grants.

Although congregations and charitable trusts continue to provide substantial financial support to churches, there continues to be a need for funding from national heritage bodies.

Direct state support continues through the refunding of VAT on repairs, administered by the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme. But this is only guaranteed until 2020. The Trust will continue to make the case for church buildings as the Government embarks on a new three year spending review in 2019.

### New strategy

2018 saw the Trust adopt a new five year strategy, 'Building Resilience'. I encourage you to read this forward looking document in full, which can be downloaded at [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/strategy](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/strategy)

As part of our new strategy we adopted five key values which are central to how we work. One of these is to learn and evolve what we do in response to feedback from our partners, grant applicants, service users and Friends.

I would be pleased to hear from you about any aspect of our work or more generally about the issues facing church buildings in 2019. Working together we can help churches remain open and to thrive as both sacred and public spaces.

Luke March

*Most Revd Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, Joint President of The National Churches Trust and Revd Grace Sentamu Baverstock at St Paul's Cathedral for the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Incorporated Church Building Society*

The NCT group whose work is described in this report includes NCT Heritage Services Limited (a wholly-owned subsidiary) and the Luke Trust (a separate charity managed by The NCT).

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Warning sign

# The stripping of the roofs

by Catherine Pepinster



Catherine Pepinster is a writer and broadcaster. She was the editor of the Catholic weekly, *The Tablet*, for 13 years. She is a Trustee of the National Churches Trust.

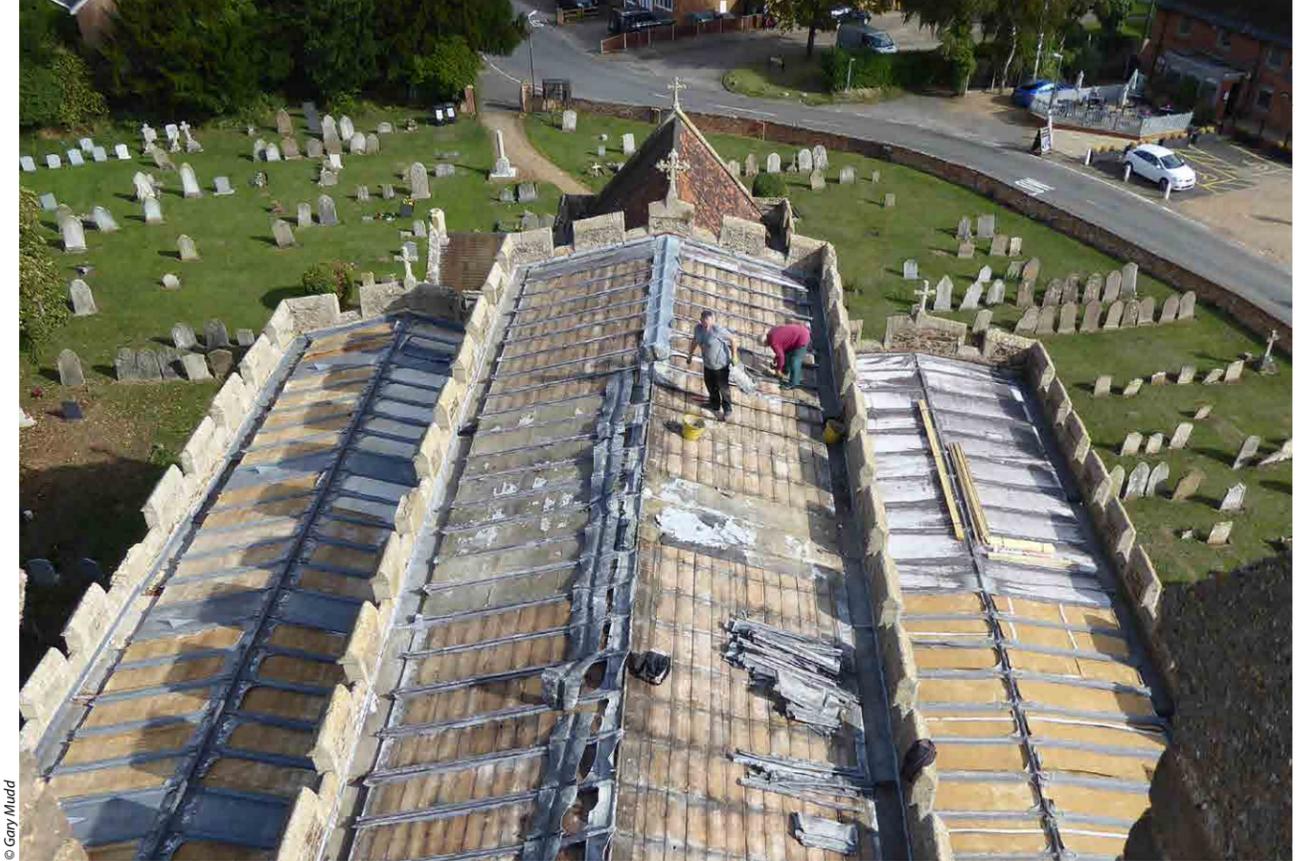
**It was the middle of the night when they arrived: keen to make money, ruthless in their determination, skilled enough to take as much of the materials as they could. To them, a lead roof meant an opportunity.**

To the vicar of St Peter's Church in Navenby and her parishioners, having thieves strip five tons of the metal from the roof of their 12th century church meant not only a threat to the church's structure but also potential financial disaster for the parish.

Navenby is a small village in Lincolnshire, the kind of sleepy English settlement where people like to live because nothing much happens. That all changed the night the thieves struck its church and stripped the roof. It is estimated that it will cost £40,000 to replace the lead – a sum the parish just cannot afford.

Although neighbours later mentioned they heard unusual noises during the night of Friday March 8, the alarm was first raised when a villager spotted lead was missing from the church roof on Saturday afternoon. The vicar, the Revd Michelle Godbold, began rallying people round to help, including her roofing contractor brother-in-law and her husband, to gather as many temporary tarpaulins together as possible to cover the roof.

The protective cover was finally put in place just minutes before a downpour – thereby saving the church's decorative ceiling and the organ. That, though, was only the beginning of their response to the theft: there have been calls to the diocese, to insurers, research about fundraising and appeals to local people to make donations. With the insurers capping their contribution to a replacement roof at £7,500, Michelle Godbold and her parish have an enormous task ahead of them – and one that puts the future of St Peter's in jeopardy.



© Gary Muir

The shocking view of the roof of All Saints church in Houghton Conquest which fell victim to lead thieves

"We are the target of what seem to be organised criminals", said Michelle. "There were thefts in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire within weeks of one another. These people know how to act very quietly and very quickly. They strip out the lead completely. And a parish like ours doesn't have money to fix it. We're already in deficit because of repairing guttering. I never dreamed when I was ordained that I would spend my time on problems like this. It restricts mission so much."

Like Godbold, many other vicars and diocesan officials report that their time is being taken up by lead theft. After a lull in thefts following the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 which regulated what had been a shady business by licensing dealers and banning payments in cash for scrap metal, there has been a rise in thefts in the last couple of years.

## The financial impact is crippling

According to the Office for National Statistics, metal theft offences increased by 25% in the year ending March 2018, compared to the previous year. The most recent figures show that churches lodge around 9,000 claims a year for metal theft with Ecclesiastical Insurance while VPS Security Services estimates from collating police and insurance statistics that there are 37 thefts every month from churches.

Criminal gangs have moved into metal theft, targeting church roofs and bringing a threat of violence to anyone who tries to tackle them, according to the National Crime Agency.

Its latest strategic assessment of serious crime suggests that, after a period of sustained decline, a recent rise in metal prices has attracted criminal gangs, making metal theft one of the fastest-growing crimes globally.

The Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust, Claire Walker, said: "The inclusion of metal theft in the National Crime Agency's 2019 Strategic Assessment is both disturbing and reassuring: disturbing, as it shows that metal theft is a crime that is increasingly being carried out by organised gangs who see churches as an easy target; reassuring, in that the UK's lead agency against organised crime realise just how serious a crime metal theft is, and have made it one of their priority areas for 2019/2020."

“There are 37 thefts every month from churches.”

According to Anne-Marie Russell, spokeswoman for Ecclesiastical, the main insurers of churches, organised thieves are using new technology to commit their crimes.

"These incidents are now very well planned," she said. "They are completely taking off the roof and use Google Earth to survey places. Lead roofs show up on it. We think they are also using drones to survey roofs."

The cost of replacement is often much higher than the maximum limit of insurance cover offered for most churches so the financial impact is crippling. But these thefts are not only creating financial hardship for small communities but they are also changing the landscape.

One church which lost its entire roof was that of All Saints in Houghton Conquest, near Bedford. The PCC now faces a bill of around £400,000 to replace the 20 tonnes of stolen material, but expects to receive only £15,000 from its insurers. They could have received more

had they installed a roof alarm but did not have the £15,000 for the equipment. Now it is considering a steel roof to cut costs.

Churches have had lead roofs for hundreds of years and because they are such large buildings they often dominate village skylines and town streetscapes. Now, many churches that not only struggle to afford a new roof but fear that another lead one will just be prey to thieves once more, are choosing not to replace them and turning to other materials instead.

At one time, Historic England, the body responsible for the country's historic environment, would have frowned at such changes, but it now recognises that a church may have no alternative but to opt for a replacement material other than lead.

St Alban's diocese which covers Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, has suffered a spate of thefts in recent years. After a fall off in thefts in 2017 they more than doubled again in 2018 and are on track this year to rise again.

It is sympathetic to the problems that churches have faced with increasing incidence of lead theft, but it still urges parishes to re-roof with lead as it is the best possible protective material.

However, some churches are so concerned about possible theft that they are now asking to get rid of their lead rather than wait to have it stolen, and benefit from its value instead.

St Alban's Diocesan Advisory Committee secretary, Emma Critchley, says: "They have come to us and said, can we change from lead, sell it on and use something else for our roof".

### Forensic marking and roof alarms

In terms of prevention, the diocese also recommends that churches use forensic marking systems such as SmartWater. This is a traceable liquid crime prevention system with the liquid applied to anything that may be at risk of theft and resale. It leaves a mark which is invisible except under ultraviolet black light.

The diocese also urges parishes to apply to the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust which is offering grants towards the cost of roof alarms – something which many other local trusts also offer.

Churches are also being encouraged to join Neighbourhood Watch schemes and to consider any other local projects that might help combat potential thefts. In Essex, Heritage Watch has been launched to encourage people connected with historic buildings to monitor them for any suspicious activity, to share information about recent thefts or vandalism in the locality, and to share crime updates.

The importance of people being watchful is highlighted by several recent incidents. At Houghton Conquest, police believe that the thieves made several visits to the church to clear the roof of all its lead. The trial of a thief who was caught heard that the man responsible – Petre Romeo Cazan, who stole lead from six churches – would return on subsequent

nights to remove remaining material. Although the thefts were conducted at night, more alert neighbours and better lighting might have caught those responsible in the act.

*“Thieves made several visits to the church to clear the roof of all its lead.”*

Delays to even spotting that the crime has been committed can also be disastrous. If a church is only used on a Sunday, and a roof's disappearance goes unnoticed after it first happens, there is a risk of rainwater getting into the building. Then the church faces a triple blow: a missing roof, structural damage and precious artefacts ruined. And of course, something else less concrete but just as important: a trauma affecting a community for whom the church represents its history, its fellowship and its heart.

In that sense, stealing a roof is not only thieving materials from a building to make some quick money, it is taking something from the very fabric of society, something that is priceless.

**If you'd like to help support the roof appeal at St Peter's church in Navenby, please contact Malcolm Green (Churchwarden) 01522 811055 and to support All Saints, Houghton Conquest please email [houghtonconquestchurchevents@gmail.com](mailto:houghtonconquestchurchevents@gmail.com).**

### Grants for roof alarms

Schemes are currently actively running through:

- Somerset Churches Trust
- Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust
- Norfolk Roof Alarm Scheme (apply via Diocese of Norwich)
- Friends of Kent Churches
- Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust
- Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust
- Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Churches in these areas seeking a grant should either approach the historic churches trust or the diocese running the scheme.

Grants may also be available from other historic churches trust. Please check their websites for more information.

Allchurches Trust also provide grants of £1,000 to churches by direct application to the Trust via their website by completing their standard application form at [www.allchurches.co.uk](http://www.allchurches.co.uk)



Sign at St Peter and St Paul's parish church at Watlington

© Stuart Aylmer / Alamy Stock Photo

# The ancient churchyard yew

by Tony Hall



Tony Hall is Manager of the Arboretum and Gardens at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where he has worked for the past 17 years. His fascination with natural history began at a young age, and he has been working in horticulture for 40 years.

He is the author of *Wild Plants of Southern Spain* (Kew Publishing, 2017) and *The Immortal Yew* (Kew Publishing 2018).

I have had a lifelong fascination with trees, especially old trees, like the wonderful ancient yews found all over Britain. I remember my first encounter with one of these special trees in my mid-teens, this tree was the great yew of Ankerwycke, which grows at the site where historians believe the Magna Carta's oath was signed in 1215 by King John and the barons of England.

It was by chance that many years later during a visit to Devon, driving through the village of Kenn, I spotted a huge old yew in the churchyard of St Andrew's church, pictured below. It turned out that this is one of the largest ancient yews in the country, and certainly the largest in Devon. It has a massive girth of nearly 35 feet (more than 10m), measured just below where the colossal male tree divides into two distinct sections.

Our oldest churches and churchyards are the stronghold for some of the country's oldest yews, with many of these ancient trees predating the oldest Christian churches they stand alongside. It is not known for sure whether yew trees were planted on sacred sites, or whether a site became sacred because there was already an old yew growing there.



The yew in the churchyard of St Andrew's church, Kenn, Devon

It is easy though to imagine how these huge ancient yews would have stood out as special in the landscape 2,000 or more years ago. The yew was a tree worshipped by pagans for its links with death, re-birth and as an emblem of resurrection. It was also a sacred tree to the Druids, the priests of Celtic tribes.

Churchyards are the stronghold for some of the country's oldest yews.

As many of these ancient yews are older than the churches, this would suggest that the trees were there before the church, and it is commonly believed that these sites were originally Pagan sites of worship, which were taken over by the Christian faith so as not to alienate the converted pagan followers.

It is said that every part of a yew tree is poisonous, even its shadow, as the dense growth of its canopy casts a shadow so dark that nothing will grow within its shade. This is not strictly true as the red, fleshy aril that surrounds the extremely poisonous seed is edible, although I am not suggesting you try them!

## Bows and arrows

Yew wood has had and still has many uses. Archers of the 14th and 15th centuries used yew long bows because of its high tensile qualities. 137 long bows and more than 3,500 arrows were found aboard the Tudor warship, the Mary Rose, when it was raised from the seabed in the Solent in 1982. The oldest yew bow found in the UK dates from around 2,690 BC and is known as the Meare Heath Bow. And one of the world's oldest wooden artefacts was a 400,000-year-old yew spearhead, found at Clacton-on-sea in Essex.

If you want to see some of the old and ancient yew trees, then you need look no further than many of the churchyards around the UK. Most counties have at least



The church choir processing at the annual Clipping Service at St Mary's church, Painswick Gloucestershire

© Cotswolds Photo Library / Alamy Stock Photo

one, some many more. Several churchyards are also managed as a haven for wildlife, some proudly listing the species living there.

## The oldest yew

St Cynog's church on the edge of the small village of Defynnog has the oldest yew tree in Wales, and maybe in the country, although the ancient yew of Fortingall church in Scotland is reputedly the oldest yew in the UK, with claims of its age ranging from 3,000 - 9,000 years. However, estimates have more recently been reduced placing it somewhere between 2,000 and 3,000 years old.

But as with all these ancient yew trees, because the central core of the trees has long rotted, without having tree rings showing yearly growth going all the way to the centre, tree dating will always be speculative.

Yews have separate male and female trees. The Fortingall yew is famed for being a male tree that has in recent years developed a female branch. This is a rare and not fully understood phenomenon. For me the jury is out as to which of these two trees are the older.

The so-called Pulpit yew in the churchyard of St James' church, in the remote village of Nantglyn, Denbighshire has had a secondary purpose that I consider very fitting, and that is that the large hollow centre has been converted into an outdoor pulpit complete with a set of Welsh slate steps and a fitted handrail to reach the lectern at the top!

This surely has been used many times to perform open-air sermons. Most notably it is thought to have been used by John Wesley, the famous 18th-century Methodist minister. Considering the amount of building material in its hollow

and the number of visitors that must climb its steps, the tree is in remarkable condition.

There are two yews which grow in the villages of Crowhurst, one in Surrey and the other in East Sussex and both are in parish churchyards of the same name, dedicated to St George. These two remarkable yews are often confused in literature. They appear to be of similar age but are visually very different.

The Crowhurst yew of East Sussex sits within a circular metal fence erected in 1907 by Col. P. R. Papillon for its protection. There is a plaque attached to these railings, which claims the tree dates from 1066 when the Battle of Hastings was fought, and King Harold was the owner of the manor of Crowhurst. The tree has almost two distinct separate parts, the dead silvered wood that divides them I find rather appealing.

## Producing young clones

This ancient tree is doing its best to escape its fenced confinement, with its limbs growing over and beyond their captive circle, to grow as they would naturally touching down on the ground to support the old timer, and if allowed they will root into the surrounding area, producing young clones from the original tree.

The Crowhurst yew of Surrey (pictured overleaf) is arguably the more famous of the two trees, mainly because more is known of this remarkable tree's history. There are claims that it may be up to 4,000 years old. As I've already mentioned these dates are speculative, but the tree surely pre-dates the church it stands alongside. The old yew's first recorded measurement was in 1630 when its huge trunk had a circumference of over 9m (30 feet).

### A tree with a door

Standing in the churchyard on the west side of the 12th century church, the Surrey Crowhurst yew is a tree with added visual impact, a door! This is more of a wooden gate really, that would have once been an entrance into a hollowed-out room. It has now become lopsided and has long ceased to function. It is thought to have been installed in the 19th century, probably in the 1820s.

The hollowed-out room also had a roof, although it is not clear whether this was added, or a natural part of the tree, and there was enough space to fit a small round table and a wooden bench, with room, apparently, to seat up to 12 people.

Now only the door remains, and the trunk has a few more openings due to continuing decay, so it is no longer the enclosed space it once was. Certainly, it is one of the most photogenic yews, looking like it could have come straight out of a fantasy story.

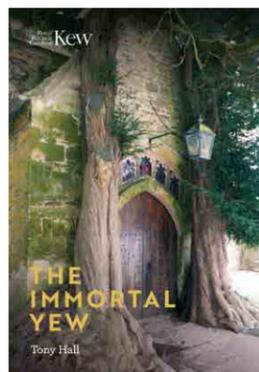
A few verses from one of Tennyson's poems 'In Memoriam' capture the churchyard yew rather wonderfully.

*Old Yew, which graspest at the stones  
That name the under-lying dead  
Thy fibres net the dreamless head,  
Thy roots are wrapped around the bones.*

*The seasons bring the flowers again,  
And bring the firstling to the flock;  
And in the dusk of thee, the clock  
Beats out the lives of men.*

*O not for thee the glow, the bloom  
Who changest not in any gale  
Nor branding summer sun avail  
To touch thy thousand years of gloom:*

*And gazing on thee sullen tree,  
Sick for thy stubborn hardihood  
I seem to fail from out my blood  
And grow incorporate into thee.*



*The Immortal Yew, by Tony Hall, is published by Kew Publishing and is on sale for £25.*

The National Churches Trust's ExploreChurches website features churches around the UK with historic yew trees.

[www.explorechurches.org/inspire-me/ancient-yew-trees](http://www.explorechurches.org/inspire-me/ancient-yew-trees)



*The door of the yew tree in St George's churchyard, Crowhurst, Surrey*

© Roger Cracknell 01/classic / Alamy Stock Photo

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW



2018-2019

The National Churches Trust is the charity supporting the UK's church buildings. Our work concentrates on:

1. Helping to maintain the UK's heritage of church buildings and enhancing their ability to serve local communities.
2. Promoting the benefit to communities of church buildings and inspiring people to value and enjoy them.

In 2018, we adopted a new five year strategy for our work. 'Building Resilience' has three goals:

Preserving heritage

Promoting sustainability

Inspiring support



*The absolute, quintessence of what makes the British countryside is the church*

Bill Bryson OBE

# Preserving heritage

Churches, chapels and meeting houses are a vital part of the UK's heritage.

The work of our Church Support team helps church leaders and volunteers to look after their church buildings.

## Keeping churches and chapels well maintained

Prevention is better than cure. That is why we make it easy for churches to tackle essential maintenance tasks sooner rather than later. This safeguards precious heritage and avoids expensive repair bills when something goes wrong.

In 2018 our MaintenanceBooker web-based church maintenance service was made available throughout England and Wales, thanks to the support of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, the Church in Wales, and the Pilgrim Trust.



The service allows churchwardens and other people who look after church buildings to find qualified maintenance contractors and obtain competitive quotes for work by visiting just one website. This saves both time and money.

*Finding the right contractor for gutter cleaning is not easy. The advantage of MaintenanceBooker is that all the contractors on the system have been through a vetting procedure so you know they can do the job in an acceptable manner.*

Richard Lowe, St Peter's Church, Macclesfield

Working closely with procurement experts 2Buy2, in 2018 more than 90 contractors were appointed to deliver gutter clearances and repairs, lightning conductor inspections, tree surveys and surgery, and asbestos management services.

New services being added to MaintenanceBooker in 2019 include masonry repairs, lime mortaring and high level maintenance.

MaintenanceBooker also offers a range of practical advice on how best to look after church buildings, including:

- A resources section with useful advice and guidance on maintenance
- Regular e-newsletters with maintenance news, features and tips

- 'How to' videos explaining essential maintenance checks for buildings
- A dedicated customer service help line and a Live Chat feature

Churches which used MaintenanceBooker in 2018 were satisfied with the quality of service provided and the expertise and reliability of the contractors being used. However, ensuring that the prices charged for services were competitive with existing market rates proved challenging. It was also harder than expected to provide 100% coverage across England and Wales for some key services including gutter clearances and inspections. We are continuing to work to address these issues in 2019.



Maintenance work at St Peter's Church, Macclesfield



- Over 750 churches registered by the end of 2018
- Over 29,000 web page views by the end of 2018
- 90 contractors appointed

## Grants for repairs, maintenance and new facilities

Our grants continue to be extremely important in safeguarding the future of some of the UK's most important religious heritage. In 2018, the Trust made 228 awards to churches and chapels totalling £1,269,738 (including recommendations on behalf of other organisations).

The total number of applications received across our grant programmes increased by 24% in 2018 compared to 2017, with 593 applications made. Over the last two years, applications have increased by 56%.

A number of factors influenced this, including less money being available from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, changes to our grant programmes and greater awareness of the Trust's work.



Gutter cleaning at St Matthew's Church, Oxhey

Enquiries about our grants increased by 44% compared to 2017, responded to by email and telephone. Pages about grants on the Trust's website received almost 30,000 page views.

A total of 23 churches were removed from Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register in 2018 with the help of our grants.

Ensuring that church buildings are watertight and windproof and that roofs, towers and spires remain structurally sound is essential for the future of the UK's ecclesiastical buildings.

### Church heritage

Through our Repair Grants (now renamed Cornerstone Grants), in 2018 we were able to provide funding for 40 projects to help make sure that church buildings throughout the UK remain open for worship and at the heart of communities. We continued to fund only projects run by qualified conservation professionals so that work on the UK's highly valued church heritage is of the highest quality.

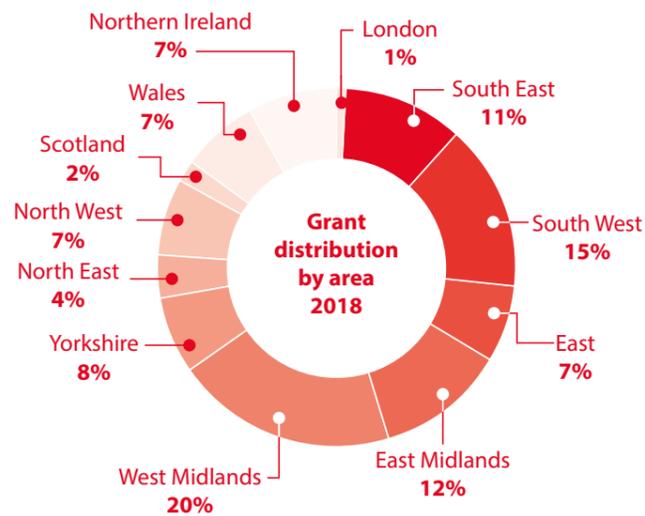
Our grants for new facilities made it possible for churches to provide community services such as lunch clubs and nurseries and to host cultural and social events.

*The support of The National Churches Trust has made a significant difference to our roof fund and will enable us to commence work and make the church wind and watertight much sooner than we had expected.*

The Reverend Derek Arnold, Team Rector, St Margaret's Church, Northam, Devon.

### Priority areas

Particular priority areas for the Trust's grants in 2018 were Northern Ireland, Scotland, North-East England and Wales. We also prioritised Baptist and Presbyterian churches. This is to promote an equitable distribution of our funding across geographical areas and denominations. 22% of grants awarded, totalling £284,544 were awarded to places of worship in priority regions, and £37,600 was awarded to priority denominations.



We increased our grant giving in Northern Ireland to £56,609 – more than double the amount awarded in 2017. This was thanks in part to our work with local agencies to create a Listed Places of Worship Forum. 2018 also saw a significant increase in successful applications from Roman Catholic churches where our awards increased to £98,850 (£8,500 in 2017).

Raising funds for church projects – and understanding who gives money for what – can be difficult. To help, we took part in a range of church funding seminars and workshops, reaching approximately 950 delegates in locations including Scotland and Northern Ireland, and denominations including the Church of England, Roman Catholic and Baptist churches.

Towards the end of 2018 we made changes to our grant programmes, creating a streamlined suite of grants to make it easier for churches to apply for funding. Consequently 2018 was the final year of funding in partnership with the Cinnamon Network, and through 23 county churches trusts.

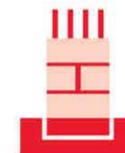
## Grants available in 2019



### Preventative Maintenance Micro-Grants

Grants of up to £500

**Eligible work:** Booked through MaintenanceBooker funding up to 50% of costs of services (excluding VAT) to a maximum of £500.



### Foundation Grants for Maintenance

Grants of £500 – £3,000

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



### Gateway Grants

Grants of £3,000 – £10,000

**Eligible work:** Project development work up to RIBA stage 1; strategic or capacity building projects at county church trusts.



### Cornerstone Grants

Grants of £10,000 – £50,000

**Eligible work:** Structural repairs/maintenance issues costed at over £100,000; installation of facilities such as kitchen and toilets costed at over £30,000.

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



Repair work at St Julietta, Lanteglos by Camelford, Cornwall

Focus on Maintenance Grants

The National Churches Trust Maintenance Grant programme was launched in 2017 in partnership with the Pilgrim Trust to help churches be proactive about the maintenance of their buildings. These grants are now delivered as Foundation Grants. Preventative Maintenance Micro-Grants are also available to support services booked on our MaintenanceBooker service.



Checking rainwater goods

In 2018 we helped 65 churches with maintenance grants totalling £151,303. The most common issue was roof repairs which made up 30% of the applications we received, followed by rainwater goods, and then repair/repointing of external walls. The grants also helped churches repair floors, install access hatches and treat rot in their timbers, as well as carry out investigative work and drainage repairs.

We expect churches that we support with grants to have an annual maintenance plan for their building. Encouragingly, 83 of the 131 churches that applied for a grant in 2018 already had a plan in place. Those churches that did not were provided with help and guidance to kick start this process.

Until the launch of the Taylor Pilot programme in Suffolk and Greater Manchester by Historic England and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport in Autumn 2018, The National Churches Trust was the only church heritage funder to have a dedicated programme to support regular maintenance work.

♥♥ Applying to The National Churches Trust for a grant proved to be very straightforward. Our application was successful and the roof valleys at St George's Church have now been re-leaded and repaired.♥♥

Deputy Churchwarden, St George's Church, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

In 2018, the Trust also offered Preventative Maintenance Micro-Grants which provide funding towards the cost of a number of maintenance services available through MaintenanceBooker.

Churches are eligible to apply for a Preventative Maintenance Micro-Grant if they book one of the following services through MaintenanceBooker:

- Rainwater Goods Maintenance
- Lightning Protection System Repairs
- Asbestos Removal
- Masonry Repairs and High Level Maintenance

Applications from churches booking their first service through MaintenanceBooker, with small congregations, or limited financial means, are being prioritised.

OBJECTIVES for 2019



- **Encourage** more churches to address maintenance by using MaintenanceBooker to help avoid the need for major repairs in the future
- **Enhance** the future sustainability and heritage of churches by offering grants to support the building life cycle: from maintenance and project development to major repairs and the installation of new facilities
- **Continue** to support volunteers with advice on funds and fundraising, maintenance and church building projects via phone, email and at events
- **Ensure** grants awarded support churches throughout the UK and from a wide range of denominations
- **Develop** new funding partnerships and opportunities that extend the reach of our funds

# Promoting Sustainability

Sustainability involves providing information and recognition for volunteers and other people who look after churches and chapels, and promoting best practice and knowledge sharing.

## Showcasing good practice

In June 2018, we held a major conference designed to help volunteers and staff involved in church heritage create a sustainable future for church buildings.

The Rt Hon Dame Caroline Spelman MP, Second Church Estates Commissioner (pictured right), gave the keynote speech. Other speakers included: Bill Bryson OBE; Bernard Donoghue, Association of Leading Visitor Attractions; John Goodall, Architecture Editor of Country Life; and Ros Kerslake OBE, Chief Executive, National Lottery Heritage Fund.

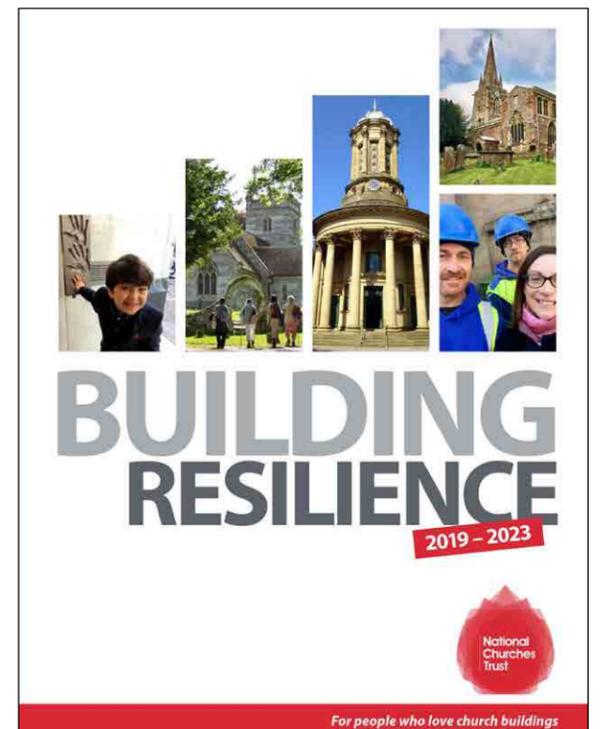


♥♥ The talk about tourism was the most valuable for me as this is something I have never heard spoken about specifically in relation to churches and it had lots of useful ideas.♥♥ (Conference attendee)

The conference was attended by over 200 people with delegates from churches, heritage bodies and academia sharing information and finding out about new ways to look after and promote church buildings, and how to work together more effectively as partners.

82% of attendees rated the conference as either 'very good' or 'excellent'. Ideas for future conferences and seminars, to incorporate, included allowing more audience participation and ensuring that speakers come from a broad spread of denominations.

At the conference we launched 'Building Resilience', our strategy for 2019 – 2023. This will guide our work in making church buildings more sustainable and supporting the people who give their time freely to keep the UK's ecclesiastical heritage in good condition.



## UK Church Architecture Awards

We continued to partner with the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association (EASA) in presenting the annual UK Church Architecture Awards. The awards allow the Trust to showcase some of the most exciting church building projects being carried out in the UK.

Over 40 nominations were received from churches around the UK. All the shortlisted projects impressed the judges in different ways and many of them were considered as real contenders for the top prizes.



The new serving area at St Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray

The awards ceremony was held at St Mellitus College in South Kensington, London. Prince Nicholas von Preussen, Patron of EASA and a Vice President of the Trust, presented the King of Prussia Gold Medal for church conservation architecture to Caroe Architecture Ltd, for the conservation and restoration of the interior of Grade I Listed St Mary Magdalene Church, Paddington.

HRH The Duke of Gloucester, Vice Patron of The National Churches Trust, presented the Presidents' Award for new church buildings to architects Buttress, for the renovation and improvements to Grade I Listed St Mary's Church, in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.

The awards ceremony was held at St Mellitus College in South Kensington, London. Prince Nicholas von Preussen, Patron of EASA and a Vice President of the Trust, presented the King of Prussia Gold Medal for church conservation architecture to Caroe Architecture Ltd, for the conservation and restoration of the interior of Grade I Listed St Mary Magdalene Church, Paddington.



HRH The Duke of Gloucester, Vice Patron of The National Churches Trust with Pippa Jacob, 2018 Young Church Architect of the Year and Luke March, Chairman of The National Churches Trust

The award for Young Church Architect of the Year went to Pippa Jacob, (pictured above) for work on the re-ordering and introduction of new facilities at St Edmund King & Martyr Church, Southwold, Suffolk.

Encouraging the architects of the future to become engaged with church architecture is an exciting challenge and the Trust will continue to work with EASA and other architecture bodies, such as RIBA, to do so.

## Supporting church volunteers

Since 2015, the Trust has partnered with the Marsh Christian Trust to run The Marsh Innovative Church Project Award, which celebrates Christian congregations running the best community activities in a church building, made possible through the installation of new facilities, or through improved access.

In 2018, a new award scheme, The Marsh Church and Community Volunteer Awards, was launched. This celebrates the work of people who have contributed significantly to the sustainability of their church building, or who have helped their local community, through or in their church building, with exceptional dedication and kindness.

💧💧 We set up this award with The National Churches Trust to recognise the excellent work being done by church volunteers in transforming their places of worship and to help expand their work in addressing local need within their communities. 💧💧

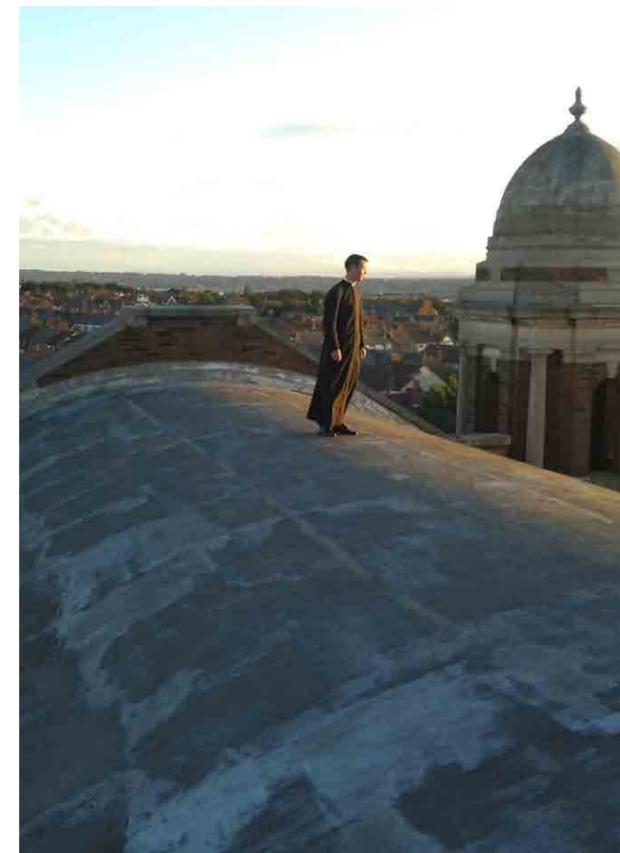
Brian Marsh OBE, Chairman of the Marsh Christian Trust

The winners of the awards were announced by the Most Revd George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff, at a ceremony held at St Paul's Cathedral in London in June 2018.



Seven volunteers won the first Marsh Church and Community Volunteer Awards, with each receiving £250. One of the winners was Judith Kauntze, who plays a key role in the Devon Historic Churches Trust (DHCT). She applies for local trust funding, as well as designing the DHCT's Annual Review and website. In recent years she has transformed the Devon Historic Churches Day, incorporating Ride+Stride for Churches, into a major fundraising day for the DHCT.

SS Peter, Paul and Philomena Roman Catholic Church in New Brighton, Merseyside, also known as the Dome of Home, won the Marsh Innovative Church Project Award, for its innovative audio tour telling the story of the Second World War for local children. The church received a £1,000 prize.



SS Peter, Paul and Philomena Roman Catholic Church, New Brighton

## Encouraging community engagement

### Capacity Building Project in Northern Ireland

Churches in Northern Ireland have in recent years become more aware of the heritage value of their buildings and of the need to keep them in good repair. To increase the input of local people and organisations in the church heritage sector, the Trust worked with the Department for Communities, faith bodies, organisations and charities concerned with helping faith heritage, on a new initiative to create a Listed Places of Worship Forum.

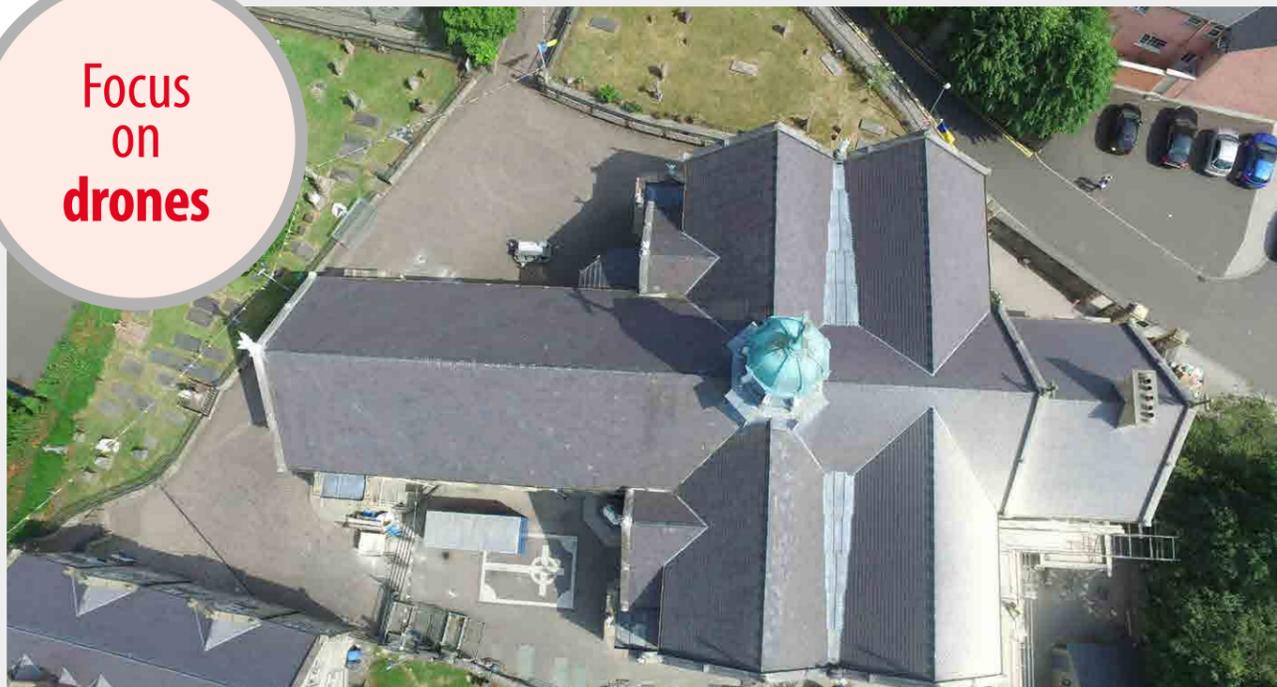
### Ride+Stride for Churches

Ride+Stride for Churches continues to be the single most important fundraising event for historic churches and county church trusts in England.

Each year, on the second Saturday in September, around £1.3 million is raised in just one day by people sponsored for visiting historic churches, chapels and meeting houses on foot, cycling, or even on horseback or by tractor.

In 2018 we co-ordinated strategic planning for Ride+Stride for Churches, provided a range of marketing materials and ran the national website for the event. In this way, the Trust is helping local churches raise funds for repairs and maintenance and involving local people in their upkeep.

Focus on drones



Drone view of St Columba Roman Catholic Church, Longtower, Derry

In 2017-2018 a National Churches Trust partnership with the Ulster Historic Churches Trust, supported by the Pilgrim Trust, and working with McCollum Conservation, saw an initiative which successfully used drones to survey churches in Northern Ireland at high level.

There was high demand for participation in 2018. 16 churches benefitted from surveys, work plans and grants. Two one-day events, including one at Gracehill Moravian Church in September 2018, were well attended.

An additional year's funding has been made possible with the support of the Pilgrim Trust and the Northern Ireland Department for Communities.

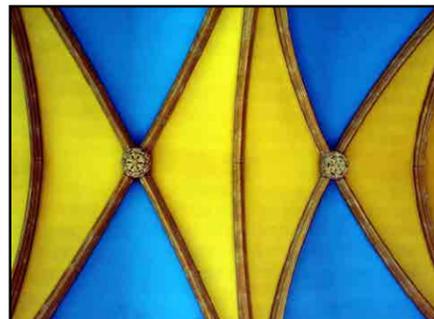
📍📍 *The drone survey and report identified areas of work required. Without a drone survey we would have been unaware of these problems as having a 'bird's eye' view of the roof is not something we ever anticipated having available to us.*📍📍

Elaine MacNeill, Cooke Centenary Church

There have been a number of useful findings that have confirmed the value of drone surveys, and some unexpected ones – such as watching out for gulls, a common sight around church towers in Northern Ireland, during the nesting season.

In 2019 an additional eight churches will be able to benefit from drone surveys.

## OBJECTIVES for 2019



- **Celebrate** and showcase the work of professionals and volunteers responsible for caring for churches through high profile award schemes
- **Support** county churches trusts in the marketing and promotion of Ride+Stride for Churches
- **Continue** to share knowledge, information and best practice with places of worship in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- **Work** in partnership with organisations across the UK to enable them to find local solutions to the key issues affecting church buildings

# Inspiring support

In 2018 we made significant progress in making it easier for people to value our shared national heritage of church buildings and to generate more support for their future.

## Growing the church tourism market

We want to make it easy for people to visit churches and to learn about the stories and treasures unique to each building.



Churches are full of fascinating things to discover

A central part of our church tourism work is being done through our ExploreChurches website, [www.explorechurches.org](http://www.explorechurches.org). Our aim is for this digital guidebook to become the entry point for everyone wanting to visit a historic church, chapel or meeting house.

ExploreChurches appeals to people interested in heritage and history who may not have thought of visiting a church as well as those who already do. It complements the websites of the main denominations and individual church websites which are often more focused on service times and the mission of places of worship.

In October 2018 we boosted the ExploreChurches website with a new visitor guide, more regional pages, and a new search facility. The website now also has an events calendar and improved map and church pages.

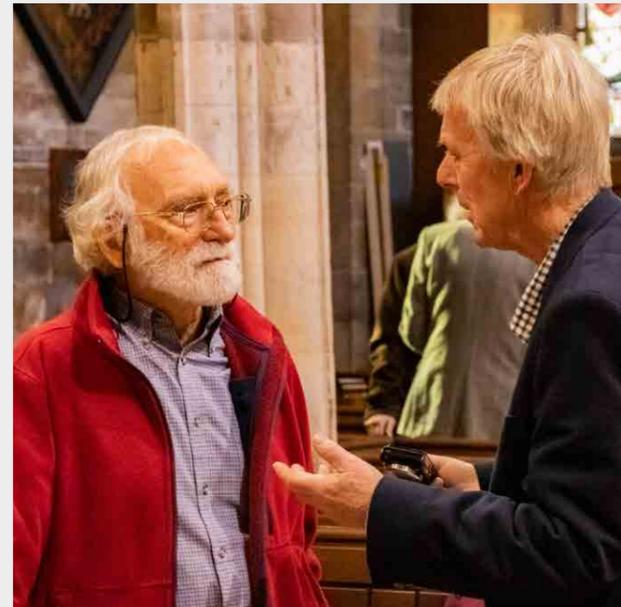
One of the most visited areas of ExploreChurches is its 'themed list' section. Themed lists select individual churches based on a shared idea and lists include the smallest churches, the oldest churches, wooden churches, and the churches of Sir Christopher Wren.

ExploreChurches also helps churches become more sustainable visitor destinations by providing advice for people who manage church buildings on how best to attract visitors, including training for volunteers.

To complement the website, in 2018 we also launched new social media channels for ExploreChurches on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Focus on tourism projects

In 2018 we developed two tourism projects which have the potential to generate income to help support the work of the Trust and of individual churches.



Telling the stories of churches

Great Interpretations

In 2018, The National Churches Trust was awarded a £48,800 National Lottery grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund to support 'Great Interpretations', a new project telling the stories of Lincolnshire's churches.

The aim of the project, which worked with 36 churches involved in the Horncastle Churches Festival, was to promote church heritage to new audiences and increase the number of people visiting churches.

Outcomes included a resource of high quality videos and photos showcasing church heritage and training sessions for volunteers on church tourism, interpretation, publicity, photography and film making.

ExploreChurches Experiences

In partnership with Visit England this project has created memorable and exclusive 'experiences' based at and around churches, cathedrals and surrounding attractions.

These include hands-on activities, behind the scenes tours and local food and drink as added extras. For example, the Tale of Two Potters Tour will be a guided tour of Gloucester Cathedral with a visit to the House of the Tailor of Gloucester from Beatrix Potter.

ExploreChurches Experiences will make it easy to book online for a fascinating range of themed visits in churches and cathedrals. The project is focussed particularly at the US group travel market, but will also appeal to families, students and independent travellers.

As a US tour operator specialising in faith-based travel, I was delighted when I heard about the ExploreChurches initiative. We look forward to being able to book these experiences and plan future itineraries around them.

Rowena Drinkhouse, Vice-President of Reformation Tours



St Lawrence Church, Revesby, Lincolnshire

Growing our Friends scheme

Our Friends scheme allows people to join with us in celebrating the architectural and human richness of churches and chapels. It also builds a group of like-minded people who are able to help us champion the cause of church buildings.



Neil MacGregor (left) with Bill Bryson OBE and Claire Walker, CEO of The National Churches Trust, at St Paul's Cathedral for the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Incorporated Church Building Society.



Friends and supporters of the National Churches Trust at St Paul's Cathedral for Evensong celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Incorporated Church Building Society.

In 2018 we arranged a number of tours for our Friends and supporters. These included a tour of four of Sir Christopher Wren's London churches and a day visiting some of Liverpool's most important parish churches. In December, we held our annual Carol Concert at St James's Church, Piccadilly, which over 400 Friends and supporters attended.

718 new Friends joined The National Churches Trust in 2018, bringing the total number to 3,062. The number of Friends supporting our work has more than trebled since 2013 when the Friends scheme was relaunched. Our Friends are remarkably loyal and we have a very high retention rate.

Friends vote

In 2017, we engaged Friends directly in our work by allowing them to select a church previously awarded a National Churches Trust grant to receive additional funding to complete a repair or community project.

The second year of our Friends Vote saw a big increase in participation by our supporters. Voting increased by 164%, with St Botolph, in Boston, Lincolnshire the winner. The church was awarded the 2018 Friends of The National Churches Trust Grant and received an additional £10,000 grant for a repair project to restore the church's tower.

Incorporated Church Building Society

One of the highlights of 2018 was the 200th anniversary of the Incorporated Church Building Society (ICBS), one of our predecessor charities, set up to help build and enlarge Anglican churches in England and Wales.

The anniversary was celebrated at a special service of Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral in June 2018 attended by over 700 of our Friends and supporters. Special guests included HRH The Duke of Gloucester and The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York.

Leave a gift in your Will



Three out of four of our grants to restore churches are made possible thanks to gifts left to the Trust in Wills

Since 1954, over 750 supporters have left a bequest to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, our predecessor charity, and to the National Churches Trust.

If you would like further information about leaving a gift in your Will or adding a Codicil, please contact our Chief Executive by email or phone 020 7222 0605. There is no obligation and we would be delighted to help you further.

[www.nationalchurchestrust.org/legacy](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/legacy)

## Spreading the word

We continued to influence public discussion about church buildings with our Communications and Public Affairs work.

The Trust was an active participant in the meetings of Historic England's Places of Worship Forum and in the work of the Heritage Alliance and the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance, and continues to liaise with statutory amenity societies on matters of common concern.

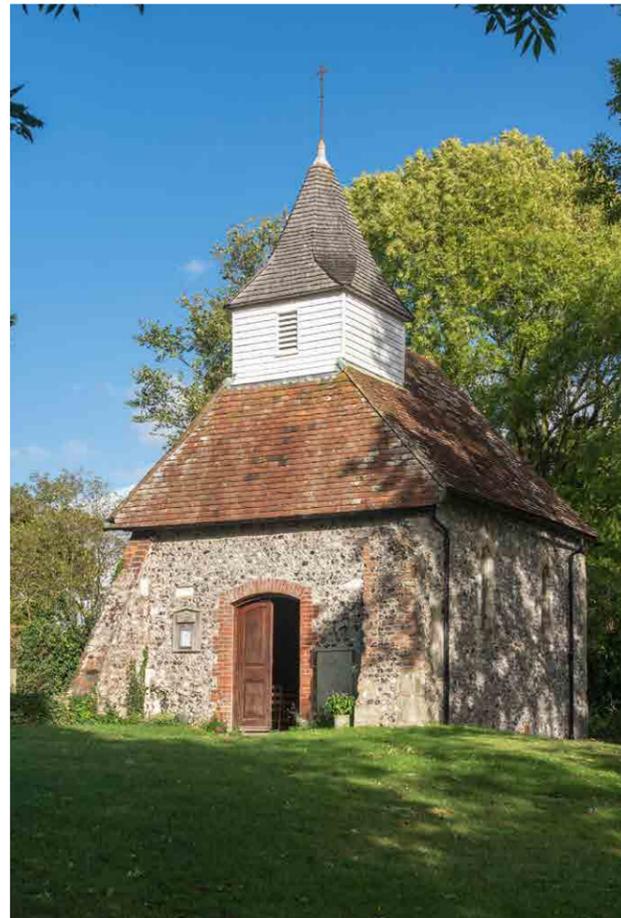
A new opinion poll carried out in September 2018 for the Trust by ComRes showed that 49% of British adults visited a church in 2017-2018. The poll showed that almost a quarter of British people said they would be more inclined to visit a church as a leisure activity or tourist attraction if there were better visitor-friendly facilities such as accessible toilets, a café or nearby parking. 19% said they would be more inclined to visit if they knew in advance that the building was open.

Increasing numbers of people used our corporate website in 2018, with the number of unique users up by 37% to 169,000 and unique page views increasing by 19% to 518,000. People following the Trust on Twitter increased by 979 to stand at over 9,000.

### Church of the Week

Our 'Church of the Week' feature became a very popular feature on our website and on Facebook. It is often inspired by a themed list from our church tourism website, ExploreChurches. It has included several from a themed list of the UK's smallest churches, from St Govan's Chapel perched on a cliff edge on the coast of Wales to the Church of the Good Shepherd located in the Sussex South Downs (pictured right) which seats only 20 people.

The work of the NCT Group featured in newspapers including The Daily Telegraph, The Times, The Daily Mail and The Guardian, and in key church and heritage newspapers and magazines. In October, a 'Top Counties for Churches' feature, which focused on our ExploreChurches website, was covered by 12 BBC local radio stations, regional newspapers and regional television.



Church of the Good Shepherd, Lullington

© Backyard Productions / Alamy Stock Photo

## OBJECTIVES for 2019



- **Increase** ExploreChurches listings to 4,500 churches, with improved content on church pages, and a good spread across all parts of the UK
- **Boost** the numbers of visitors to churches, including finding better ways to count them
- **Recruit** 700 new Friends of The National Churches Trust
- **Grow** engagement of our Friends with the Friends Vote
- **Offer** at least four church tours and events for Friends

# Candles – the light of the world



© Shutterstock

By Anna Gatrell



Anna Gatrell grew up in Lancaster, Lancashire, before reading for a degree in history at Merton College, Oxford, where she was also a choral

scholar. Since graduating in 2018, she has been working as showroom manager for Watts & Co. Ltd, as well as running some research on the Gilbert Scott family for [www.gilbertscott.org](http://www.gilbertscott.org).

It is likely that candles have been used in churches from the very first centuries of Christianity. This is no surprise, for their predominant purposes are twofold; firstly, candles have a practical use as a light source, and secondly, they serve as a reminder that Christ is the light of the world.

Throughout the Bible, light is seen to provide hope, truth, and guidance. Even at the very beginning of the Old Testament we see the clear symbolism of light as juxtaposed with dark, and perhaps more importantly the separation of the two, with light as 'goodness'. Perhaps it is an obvious point to make, but it is nevertheless worth pointing out that in the many years Christians worshipped before the invention of electricity, candlelight would have been one of the only light sources. The use of the candle to symbolise Christ as light is thus to be expected.



*The Light of the World* by William Holman Hunt

© Pictures Now / Alamy Stock Photo

Before the medieval period most candles were made out of tallow, an animal fat often derived from sheep. By the 13th century candle making had become a guild craft in England and France, and candle makers (chandlers) would go from house to house making candles, and occasionally even sell from shops.

Candles were often made using the dipping method, using wicks from rushes. These were repeatedly dipped in the fat until a desired thickness was reached.

### Beeswax burns cleanly

However, a little later on, most likely from around the 13th century, it became possible to make candles entirely from beeswax. These were often constructed using a pouring method, where melted beeswax was poured over a suspended wick of wool or cotton. Beeswax candles proved useful for two reasons. On the practical level, beeswax burned purely and cleanly, without producing a smoky flame. It also gave off an agreeable sweet smell rather than the unpleasant odour of tallow, which must have greatly altered the church environment.

“Beeswax candles proved useful for two reasons.”

Despite their cost, the symbolic nature of beeswax candles proved ideal for their use in churches. In *The Externals of the Catholic Church*, J. F. Sullivan explained that “The wax, being spotless, represents Christ’s most spotless Body; the wick enclosed in it is an image of His Soul, while the glowing flame typifies the Divine Nature united with the human in one Divine Person”.

Since the bees that produce it do not mate, the candle wax is regarded as typifying the flesh of Jesus Christ born of a virgin mother. Whilst in the Orthodox Church beeswax candles are used, in other denominations this is not such a stringent requirement. In the Roman Catholic Church, pure beeswax is no longer deemed necessary, but the paschal candles and the candles used at Mass should ideally be pure beeswax. Of course, whilst the clean burn of the beeswax candles makes them a good option for churches of any denomination, the Marian symbolism extracted from beeswax candles has proved less popular amongst Anglican churches.

Despite this, the use of candles in churches has not always been restricted to Catholic and Orthodox churches, with Christians from many denominations using them. Indeed, the concept of the Advent wreath originated among German Lutherans in the 16th Century, and although it wasn’t until the 19th century that the modern wreath came into use, it has been widely adopted by the Western Church.

### The Light of the World

Even after the Reformation, the injunction of Edward VI in 1547 called for there to be two lights on the high altar “for the signification that Christ is the very true light of the world.” When candles were viewed as symbolic of Christ, their usage was permissible.

One of the most evangelical of the Victorian painters, William Holman Hunt, was profoundly Protestant. His painting *The Light of the World* (1853) is linked to his own conversion, and was described by Ruskin as ‘one of the noblest works of sacred art produced in this or any other age.’ Christ was not incarnate as man, but as the divine. The candle light from the lamp Christ holds becomes the focal point of the painting. It represents the spiritual enlightenment Christ can provide,

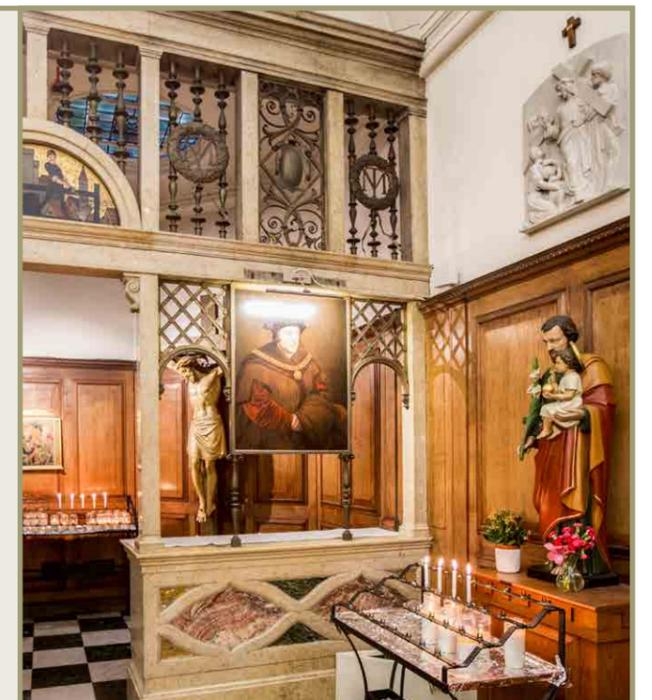
## Inner-city candles

Fr Chris Vipera, the parish priest of St Mary Moorfield’s church, a stone’s throw away from London’s Liverpool Street station, explains the importance of candles to his church.

“From the moment I open the church doors at 6.30am each weekday there are people streaming in. Some to sit or kneel to pray, many of them lighting a candle at one of our little shrines.”

“Every one of those candles burns here for someone and for something - for a sick loved one, for someone loved but seen no longer, for a young woman sitting her final exams, for the safe delivery of a child, that a young couple may be blest with a child, for a safe journey. Every candle has its own unique story to tell.”

“People put in the money box whatever they can or want to for their candle, and this revenue doesn’t just go towards buying a fresh supply for each day but towards everything it takes to open our doors each day. May these doors never have to stay shut for long!”



as well as illuminating the darkness. Most importantly, the painting appealed across sectarian divisions – the symbolism of Christ as the light of the world remained central to all Christians – so much so that the painting became a success throughout the world.

However, the use of candles in Anglican churches became greatly debated in the later Victorian period. Following the Oxford Movement and the growth of Tractarianism throughout England, there was a fear of ritualistic religion.

The Public Worship Regulation Act 1874 intended to suppress the growth of anything deemed to be too High Church, and some candles were included amongst this. Candles were to be used solely for their practical purposes of providing a light source.

### The paschal candle

Nowadays, very few churches actively discourage the use of candles. There are often many different kinds of candle to be found in churches, of which the most important (and certainly the largest) is perhaps the paschal candle. This is a large white candle, lit and blessed every year at Easter, remaining lit until Pentecost.

The candle is decorated with symbols – often a cross or chiro, and the Greek letters of Alpha and Omega. After Pentecost the candle is moved from its place next to or near the altar, and usually placed close to the baptismal font. This is used to signify the flame of the Holy Spirit bestowed upon those baptised.

Other candles to be found in churches include small votive candles, which can be lit by individuals for prayerful purposes. Although not quite so common in Low Church traditions, the lighting of votive candles can be a significant expression of personal faith.

“Bringing hope to people living in darkness.”

The church of St Mary's, Rickmansworth nicely explains the importance of their use to some people. Although the lighting of candles should not be used as a substitute for other means of practising religion, it is the case that 'people, particularly if they are unused to prayer, have found in the lighting of a candle a means of making an act of private worship that might otherwise be difficult for them'.

Candles have been further popularised in modern services, such as the Christingle. Although this had been around since the 18th century, it was not until 1968, that John Pensom of The Children's Society adapted it and introduced it to the Church of England. The service continues to grow in popularity, with more than 5,000 held across U.K. churches every year.

It is clear that regardless of denomination, the imagery of the candle representing 'Jesus' light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness', remains penetrating, and is as important now as ever.



Paschal candles in Canterbury Cathedral representing the light of Christ coming into the world

© Neil McAllister / Alamy Stock Photo

# The royal tombs of Great Britain

By Aidan Dodson



Aidan Dodson is Honorary Professor of Egyptology at the University of Bristol, with wider interests in royal funerary archaeology around the world. A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, he is the author of over twenty books, including *British Royal Tombs* (2nd edition, Pallas Athena, 2018).

**My interest in British royal tombs goes back to childhood, when my mother told me of my grandfather, who had worked at Windsor Castle. Once a year he had the task of descending to the 'George III' royal vault in St George's Chapel to place a floral tribute on the coffin of the Duke of Kent, killed in an air crash in 1942, on behalf of his widow, Princess Marina of Greece.**

His coffin was removed from the vault in 1972, when she died, and they were then buried together in the Royal Burial Ground at Frogmore in Windsor Great Park. Living near Windsor, I frequently visited the Chapel with my father. I began to seriously research the topic after a visit there with an Egyptological colleague, who asked me about the details of the various tombs there – leading to the writing of my study of the Royal Tombs of Great Britain, the first edition of which came out in 2004.

The tombs of kings and queens have always held a certain romantic interest, as well as a more concrete archaeological and historical one. Although perhaps not as spectacular as some from the great ancient civilizations, those of Great Britain are often fine examples of the work of contemporary craftsmen, as well as often being housed in some of our finest ecclesiastical structures. Some also have histories that shed an interesting light on the times in which a monarch lived and died – and the impact of later events on the preservation, or even survival, of their places of burial.

Tombs attributable to the highest status individuals in Great Britain go back to the Bronze Age or earlier, but it is not until Saxon times that we can start to put names to burials. Thus, although the great ship burial at Sutton Hoo, found in 1939, and the tomb at Prittlewell, found in 2000, contained no names as such, arguments can be put forward to attribute them respectively to Rædwald of East Anglia (c. 599–625) and Sæberht of Essex (c. 603–616).



© British Museum

The Sutton Hoo Helmet

From then onwards, contemporary chronicles or actual remains allow us to trace the burial places of most of the rulers of the early English Kingdoms, of England itself, Scotland, and then the United Kingdom.

### The principal mausoleum

Many of the kings of Wessex and the earliest kings of England, were interred at Winchester. When the Old Minster was demolished at the end of the 11th century, at least some of their remains were moved to the new Cathedral, ending up in a series of mortuary chests around the presbytery (pictured overleaf). Although disordered in their moves, and their desecration in 1642 during the Civil War, studies are now underway to reassemble and possibly re-identify, individual skeletons, which include those of Canute and William II.

Other kings were buried elsewhere, often in the churches of religious houses founded by themselves, including the interment of some of the early Norman kings in France. However, with the reconstruction of Westminster Abbey, already housing the penultimate pre-Norman king, Edward



Winchester Cathedral, Hampshire. Mortuary chests, containing bones of pre-conquest monarchs and bishops

the Confessor, by Henry III, this church became the principal (but by no means only) mausoleum of the kings and queens of England and then the United Kingdom, down to George II.

In Scotland, the early burials of its kings on the island of Iona were followed by the building of Dunfermline Abbey by Malcolm III, which became, albeit again with exceptions by kings interred in their own foundations, a preferred royal place of interment until the death of Robert I Bruce.

Between then and the union of the crowns, the kings of Scots were buried in a wide range of locations, although three were interred in the Chapel Royal at Holyrood, adjoining the royal palace. Mary Queen of Scots was first buried in Peterborough Cathedral after her execution at Fotheringhay, but moved to Westminster Abbey by her son James VI & I after ascending the English throne, where he was himself buried – in the same vault as Henry VII, through whose daughter he owed his right to be king of England.

#### Victoria's own mausoleum

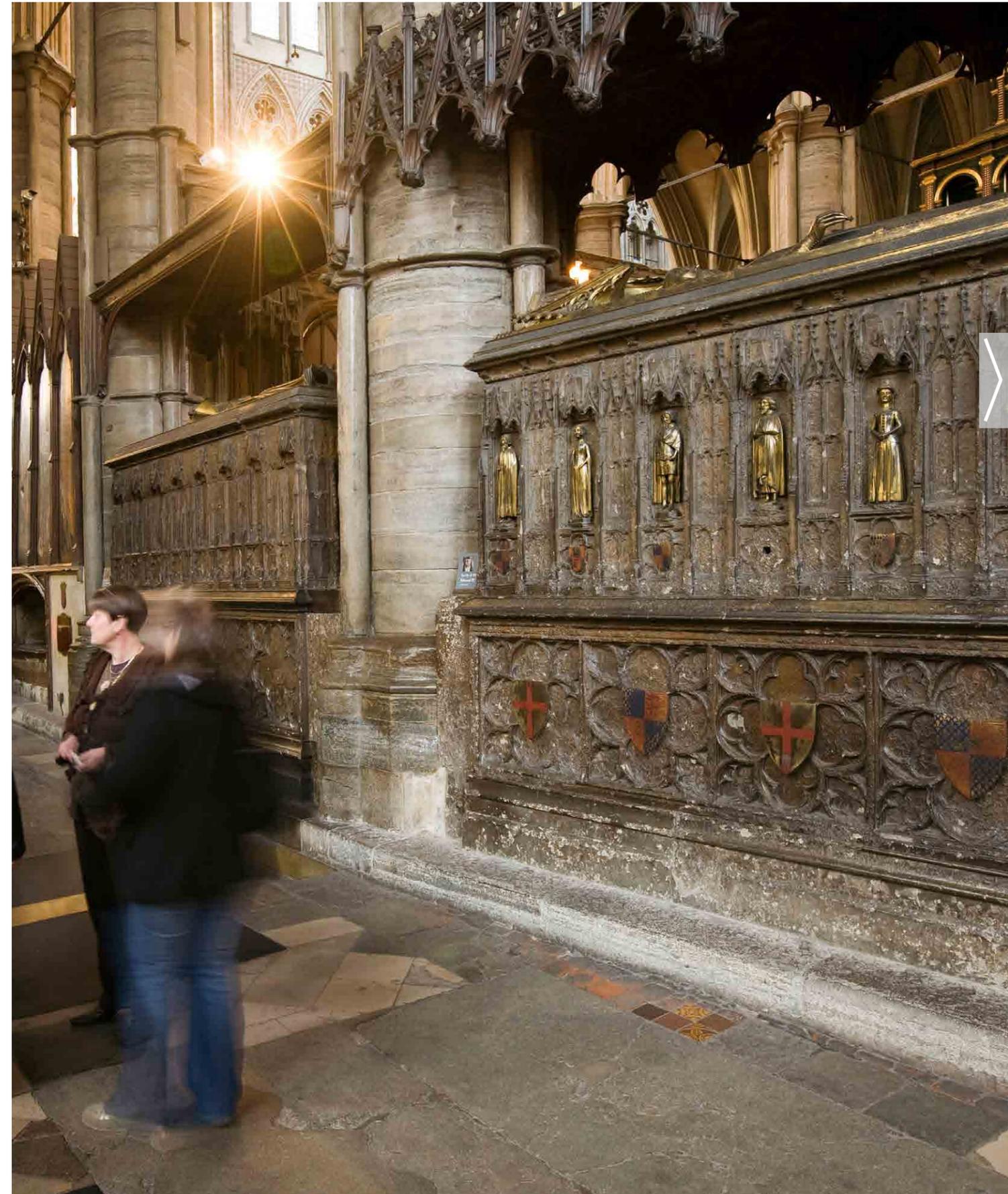
St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle included the tomb of Edward IV, responsible for the construction of the current building, with Henry VI later reburied there. Although Henry VIII was laid to rest in the Chapel, to be joined there by Charles I after his execution, it was not until the time of George III that it took over from Westminster as the royal mausoleum: all subsequent kings and queens have been buried there, or nearby at Frogmore in Windsor Great Park, where Victoria built her own mausoleum, and close to which the former Edward VIII (Duke of Windsor) was buried.

The actual form of the royal tomb varied over time, with some bodies placed within free-standing tombs, usually topped with recumbent effigies of the deceased (although, for example, that of Edward I is an unadorned simple stone sarcophagus); in other cases, the body lay in a shallow vault below the monument. Vaults became much larger from the late 17th century onwards, capable of holding multiple burials, and intended for use over several generations; at the same time the practice of erecting a visible monument to the monarch was discontinued until the late 19th century.

“Vaults became much larger from the late 17th century onwards.”

The last of these was constructed for George III at Windsor, but still has many empty spaces, as Victoria built her own mausoleum at Frogmore, with a double table-tomb for the queen and the Prince Consort, while her successors all opted for individual tombs in St George's Chapel. The most recent of these, completed for George VI in 1969, took the form of small chapel built onto the side of St George's, with a vault underneath, just large enough for the king's coffin (temporarily placed in the George III vault after his death in 1952) and that of his wife, buried there in 2002.

© Angelo Hornak / Alamy Stock Photo



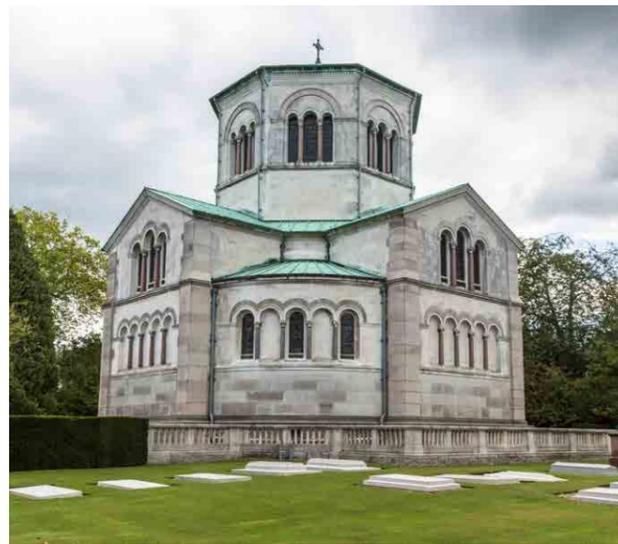
Westminster Abbey, tombs of Edward III and Richard II © Neil McAllister / Alamy Stock Photo

### Embalming and sealing

By the 16th and 17th centuries, treatments of royal bodies had become quite elaborate, with embalming through the use of herbs and spices, and the sealing of the corpse within a closely-fitting lead shell, looking not unlike an Egyptian mummy-case. Internal organs were removed (the brain by sawing the top off the skull) and similarly preserved in spices, often placed in chests at the foot of the coffin – again, curiously akin to ancient Egyptian practice.

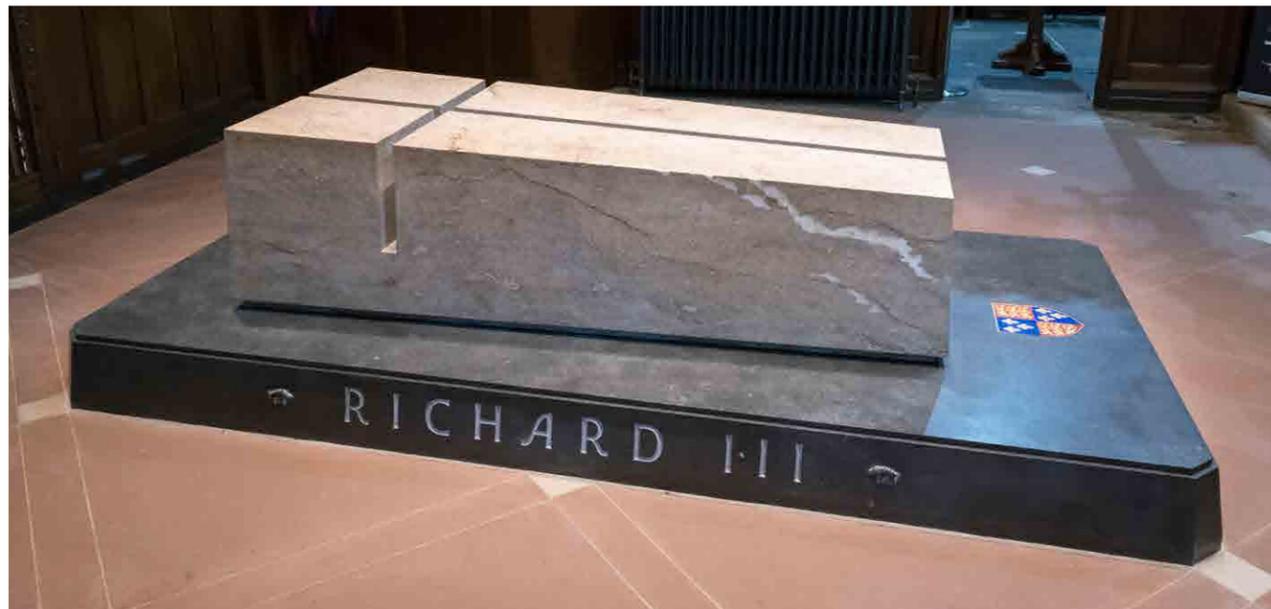
Some organs might be placed apart from the body, particularly the heart in a ruler's favoured church, while in Norman times a king might wish to distribute them around his far-flung possessions (e.g. Richard I, with his body at Fontevraud, his heart at Rouen, and his intestines at Chalus, where he had died, all in his Norman French territories). The last king to be subject to evisceration was George II: his successor George III forbade the practice, and it has not been practised in British royal burials since.

British royal tombs are widely distributed, although many of the outlying ones are lost, especially though the destruction of monasteries and their churches during the reformation, both in England and Scotland. Nevertheless, some of the ruins of the churches that had once sheltered our former rulers are well worth a visit, especially in Scotland.

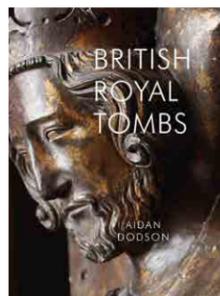


Frogmore Mausoleum, burial place of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert

On the other hand, a most interesting example of a royal tomb is the most recent: that of Richard III, spectacularly rediscovered in the scant remains of his original burial place at Leicester, and now reinterred in the city's Cathedral. Yet Westminster, Windsor and Winchester remain the royal mausolea *par excellence*, where can be found the mortal remains of our rulers going back well over a millennium.



The tomb of King Richard III in Leicester Cathedral. Richard III's remains were reinterred here in March 2015



In *Royal British Tombs*, Aidan Dodson provides a concise digest of all that is known about the various royal sepulchres of the rulers of Great Britain down to the present day. Entries include a biographical note on the tomb's owner, the circumstances of death, the architecture and decoration of the tomb, post-interment history, and bibliography. The book also includes summary details of the burials of royal consorts, of the Stuarts in exile, and of foreign monarchs buried in Great Britain. A final appendix lists and describes the principal chapels, churches, and mausolea that contain royal tombs.

*British Royal Tombs* published by Pallas Athene, price £14.99

# Financial summary, grants and acknowledgements



Caroe Architecture Ltd won the King of Prussia Gold Medal in the 2018 UK Church Architecture Awards for their conservation and restoration work of the interior of St Mary Magdalene Church, Paddington

# Meeting challenges with energy



**One of the many highlights of 2018 for the National Churches Trust was our 'Building Resilience' conference. This brought together over 200 people to address the pressing question of how best to ensure the future of the UK's church buildings.**

I was delighted that Dame Caroline Spelman MP, the Second Church Estates Commissioner, gave the keynote speech. This made clear the challenge we face. She said that, in an age when public funds are in short supply, individuals and charities such as the National Churches Trust "will need to do much, much more if churches cared for by our forefathers are still to be there for subsequent generations".

This Annual Review details how our work in 2018 responded to this challenge through our three new strategic goals – Preserving Heritage, Promoting Sustainability and Inspiring Support.

In 2018 our Church Support Team dealt with 593 applications for grants to help with urgent repairs, the installation of community facilities, and maintenance and project planning work – a 24% increase when compared to 2017.

We made it possible for every church and chapel in England and Wales to take advantage of our new MaintenanceBooker service. Working in partnership with 2buy2, over 90 fully-accredited contractors were selected.

By the end of 2018, over 750 churches had registered with MaintenanceBooker and can use the service to look after their buildings. We could not have done this without the generous support of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

Our Church Tourism team has rolled out an exciting new-look ExploreChurches website. This is growing the market for church tourism, bringing new people into church buildings, and helping churches access a larger portion of the tourism pound.

## Important work

We could not do our work without the continuing support of major trust funders. Particular thanks go to Beatrice Laing Trust, the Dulverton Trust, the Goldsmiths' Company, LJC Fund, the Mercers' Charitable Foundation, the PF Charitable Trust and the Pilgrim Trust.

Many of our Friends joined us at our tours and visits in 2018 and I was pleased to meet many of you at our Carol Concert, held at St James's Church, Piccadilly. This lovely event was generously supported by CCLA Investment Management.

In 2018, we received £989,149 in legacies to support our work. This form of support is so important to us. If you would like to know more about leaving a gift in your Will to the Trust, please contact me directly and I will be pleased to discuss this with you.

In a period of economic uncertainty, and with less money available for church buildings from public funds, it is more important than ever that the Trust increases and also diversifies its income.

This is a challenge we must meet in the 21st century with the same level of energy and enthusiasm as did the Incorporated Church Building Society, whose 200th anniversary we celebrated in 2018.

Claire Walker

# 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.

The group also includes a trading subsidiary, NCT Heritage Services Ltd (NCTHS), which was incorporated in February 2018 and is a company limited by shares. With effect from 1 June 2018 NCTHS took on MaintenanceBooker and ExploreChurches from NCT, its parent charity.

# Financial summary

## Financial resources

Excluding endowments, the funds of the National Churches Trust amounted to £3.5m at the end of 2018. Of this, £3.1m 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 other restricted funds of the Trust, totalling £0.4m, 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. The Trust had endowment funds of £2.2m at the end of 2018. These funds are held to generate investment returns.

## Spending in 2018

The Trust awarded over £1.2m in grants from its own funds in 2018. Total expenditure decreased in 2018. This was expected as in 2017 there was an exceptional one-off payment made to specific churches in line with a legacy restriction.

	Spending £000s
National Churches Trust Grants to maintain and enhance church buildings*	1,137
Other spending to maintain and enhance church buildings	343
Promoting the benefit of church buildings and inspiring everyone to value and enjoy them	283
Fundraising	403
Services to churches and other heritage buildings	217

\* Grants awarded during 2018 less previous awards not claimed of £61k and recommended grants of £70,500 awarded by other charities.

**Total 2,383**

## Where the money came from

Total income (not including unrealised gains/losses on investments) increased in 2018 compared to 2017 resulting from specific project funding received during the year and a rise in fundraised income from trusts and foundations, corporate supporters and Friends.

	Where the money came from £000s
Trusts and Foundations	658
Support from Friends and other donations	568
Legacies	989
Investment returns** & other income	112

\*\* Includes unrealised gains on investments.

**Total 2,327**

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 2018 are available on request. Please email: [info@nationalchurchestrust.org](mailto:info@nationalchurchestrust.org)



# In 2018 our grants funded 228 projects totalling £1,269,738



<b>Cinnamon Grants</b>							
ALKHAM, St Anthony of Pamiers	2,000						
BEVERLEY, St Mary	2,000						
BIRMINGHAM, STECHFORD, All Saints	2,000						
LITTLE ELLINGHAM, St Peter	2,000						
LLANDULAS, St Cynbryd	2,000						
	<b>£10,000</b>						
<b>Community Grants</b>							
ALKHAM, St Anthony of Pamiers	5,000						
BEVERLEY, St Mary	10,000						
BIRMINGHAM, STECHFORD, All Saints	10,000						
BLAENPORTH, St David	10,000						
COVENTRY, Holy Trinity	8,000						
DOWN HATHERLEY, St Mary and Corpus Christi	10,000						
GREAT TEY, St Barnabas	7,000						
HENGOED, New Hengoed Baptist Church	8,000						
HOLBECK, St Luke	8,000						
KINGS LYNN, King's Lynn Minster (St Margaret)	15,000						
KIRKBY THORE, St Michael	8,000						
LITTLE ELLINGHAM, St Peter	5,651						
LLANDULAS, St Cynbryd	10,000						
MARSHAM, All Saints	10,000						
PICKERING, Pickering Methodist Church	8,000						
SIBTHORPE, St Peter	10,000						
TITLEY, St Peter	7,000						
TUNSTALL, Sacred Heart	10,000						
UPWEY, St Laurence	10,000						
WEST CHINNOCK, St Mary the Virgin	8,000						
	<b>£177,651</b>						
<b>Maintenance Grants</b>							
ADDINGHAM, St Michael and All Angels	2,500						
ASKRIGG, St Oswald	1,900						
BALLYGAWLEY, St Paul	600						
BEXLEYHEATH, Christ Church	2,050						
BINGLEY, All Saints	1,500						
BIRMINGHAM, The Cotteridge Church	3,000						
BOOTLE, St Michael and All Angels	3,000						
BURY ST EDMUNDS, St George	1,518						
CARDROSS, Cardross Parish Church	2,950						
CHELTENHAM, St Paul	1,250						
CLEADON, All Saints	3,000						
CLIFFORD, St Edward King and Confessor	3,000						
CLONFEACLE, St Patrick	1,949						
COLWYN BAY, St Paul	1,430						
COVENTRY, St Mary Magdalen	1,790						
CROYDON CUM CLOPTON, All Saints	1,700						
CUMBRIA, St Thomas a Beckett Farlam	512						
DESFORD, St Martin	3,000						
DURHAM, St Helen	3,000						
EAST AYTON, St John the Baptist	3,000						
FECKENHAM, St John the Baptist	3,000						
GLOSSOP, St Mary Crowned Catholic Church	3,000						
HALLOW, St Philip and St James	2,500						
HEDNESFORD, Our Lady of Lourdes	3,000						
HEXTON, St Faith	1,912						
HILLMORTON, St John the Baptist	3,000						
HOLMBURY ST MARY, St Mary the Virgin	1,708						
HOLME PIERREPONT, St Edmund	1,250						
HUYTON QUARRY, St Gabriel	588						
LAWRENCE WESTON, St Peter	3,000						
LEADEN RODING, St Michael and All Angels	3,000						
LEEDSTOWN, United Methodist Church	3,000						
LEEK, St Mary	3,000						
LEICESTER, St Patrick	3,000						
LITTLE WITLEY, St Michael & All Angels	1,885						
LLANGROVE, Christ Church	1,100						
LONDON, Catford, St Laurence	3,000						
LUTON, St John the Evangelist	3,000						
MARTON, St Esprit	3,000						
MELLOR, St Mary	2,260						
MONKS RISBOROUGH, St Dunstan	3,000						
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, BENWELL, St James	1,740						
NORHAM, St Cuthbert	2,000						
NORTH PETHERWIN, St Paternus	3,000						
NORTHFIELD, St Laurence	900						
POTTERNEWTON, St Martin	3,000						
PRESTON, Shrine Church of Saint Walburge	3,000						
SANDHURST, St Nicholas	2,100						
SCOTHERN, St Germain	3,000						
SHEFFIELD, Carver Street, St Matthew	2,700						
SHEFFIELD, St Polycarp	2,711						
SOHAM, St Andrew	1,214						
SOUTHPORT, St Philip & St Paul with Wesley	3,000						
STONEY STANTON, St Michael	2,595						
TEDSTONE DELAMERE, St James	3,000						
THAXTED, St John the Baptist with Our Lady and St Laurence	3,000						
UPPER BODDINGTON, St John the Baptist	3,000						
WABERTHWAITE, St John	2,500						
WALL, St John	1,850						
WEARE GIFFARD, Holy Trinity	3,000						
WHITCHURCH, St Alkmund	1,541						
WHIXLEY, Church of the Ascension	3,000						
WINCHCOMBE, St Peter	1,500						
WOMERSLEY, St Martin	600						
WOOTTON, St Andrew	2,500						
	<b>£151,303</b>						
<b>Northern Ireland Maintenance Micro Grants</b>							
BALLYMONEY, Ballymoney Methodist Church	1,000						
BELFAST, Bloomfield Presbyterian Church	1,000						
BELFAST, Cooke Centenary Church	1,000						
BELFAST, St Paul and St Barnabas	1,000						
DERRY, LONG TOWER, St Columba	1,000						
DUNGANNON, St Anne	1,000						
GLASSDRUMMOND, St Brigids	1,000						
Keady, St Matthew	1,000						
NORTHERN IRELAND, Drone Survey 2nd round	6,060						
	<b>£14,060</b>						
<b>Partnership Grants</b>							
<b>Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust</b>							
CAMBRIDGE, St Michael	5,000						
<b>Cornwall Historic Churches Trust</b>							
PENZANCE, Church Of The Immaculate Conception	5,000						
ST EWE, All Saints	10,000						
WARLEGGAN, St Bartholomew	5,000						
<b>Dorset Historic Churches Trust</b>							
FIFEHEAD MAGDALEN, St Mary Magdalene	10,000						
<b>Friends of Kent Churches</b>							
CANTERBURY, St Dunstan with Holy Cross	2,500						
STANSTEAD, St Mary the Virgin	2,500						
STOCKBURY, St Mary Magdelene	5,000						
<b>Greater Manchester Churches Preservation Society</b>							
AUDENSHAW, St Stephen	5,000						
<b>Hampshire &amp; the Islands Historic Churches Trust</b>							
BREAMORE, St Mary	5,000						
NATELY SCURES, St Swithun	5,000						
WHITCHURCH, All Hallows	2,500						
WICKHAM, St Nicholas	2,500						
WINCHESTER, St Bartholomew	5,000						
<b>Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust</b>							
FROMES HILL, St Matthew	2,500						
MARDEN, St Mary the Virgin	5,000						
PUDLESTON, St Peter	2,500						
<b>Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust</b>							
BURROUGH ON THE HILL, St Mary	2,500						
LOUGHBOROUGH, All Saints	2,500						
NARBOROUGH, All Saints	2,500						
ORTON ON THE HILL, St Edith of Polesworth	2,500						
TILTON ON THE HILL, St Peter	5,000						
<b>Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust</b>							
NORTHAMPTON, Church Brampton, St Botolph	2,500						
BARBY, St Mary	5,000						
BUGBROOKE, St Michael and all Angels	2,500						
GREAT BRINGTON, St Mary with St John	2,500						
WILBARSTON, All Saints	2,500						
<b>Northern Ireland</b>							
BELFAST, Dundela, St Mark	5,000						
MONTIAGH, St Patrick	5,000						
PORTADOWN, St Mark	10,000						
<b>Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust</b>							
BILSTHORPE, St Margaret	2,500						
GRANBY, All Saints	2,500						
NOTTINGHAM, St Christopher with St Phillip	2,500						
STAUNTON, St Mary	2,500						
<b>Somerset Churches Trust</b>							
BATH, South Stoke, St James the Great	8,000						
CHARLTON MACKRELL, St Mary the Virgin	3,000						
LEIGH ON MENDIP, St Giles	1,000						
<b>Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust</b>							
CALTON, St Mary the Virgin	5,000						
<b>Suffolk Historic Churches Trust</b>							
FLOWTON, St Mary	6,000						
KERSEY, St Mary	5,000						
OUSDEN, St Peter	9,000						
<b>Surrey Churches Preservation Trust</b>							
EWHURST, St Peter and St Paul	7,500						
<b>Wales</b>							
ABERDARE, St Fagan	3,000						
CARDIFF, GLAN ELY, Church of the Resurrection	3,000						
CARDIFF, ST LYTHANS, St Bleddian	5,000						
CAREW, St Mary	5,000						
LLANELLI, Hall Street Methodist Church	4,000						
<b>Warwickshire &amp; Coventry Historic Churches Trust</b>							
GREAT ALNE, St Mary Magdalen	5,000						
WILLOUGHBY, St Nicholas	5,000						
WOLSTON, St Margaret	5,000						
<b>Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust</b>							
TIDCOMBE, St Michael	10,000						
	<b>£229,500</b>						
<b>Preventative Maintenance Micro Grants</b>							
BIRMINGHAM, Our Lady of the Rosary and St Therese of Lisieux	500						
BIRMINGHAM, St Joseph	500						
BIRMINGHAM, St Patrick	500						
COVENTRY, St Osburg	500						
EVESHAM, St Mary and St Egwin	500						
HALIFAX, St Hilda	1,200						
HOLMFIRTH, Holy Trinity	846						
MACCLESFIELD, St Peter	250						
MALVERN, St Joseph	500						
RIPON, St Wilfrid	1,000						
STANNINGTON, Christ Church	428						
WEST BROMWICH, St Michael and the Holy Angels	500						
WORCESTER, St George	500						
	<b>£7,724</b>						
<b>Project Development Grants</b>							
BOLTON, Bolton Methodist Mission, Victoria Hall	2,500						
BRISTOL, St Mary Redcliffe	9,640						
CARDIFF, ROATH, St Edward the Confessor	1,500						

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

## Legacies

Charles K Warwick  
David W Lloyd  
Verona C Naylor  
John V Schofield  
Mary F Berkin  
Eric J Lloyd  
Janet M Gulland  
Anthony V Peacock  
Alan D Gillitt  
Bryda Searle  
Margaret Howard  
Peter Lankester  
Frederick W Lambert

## Major Gifts

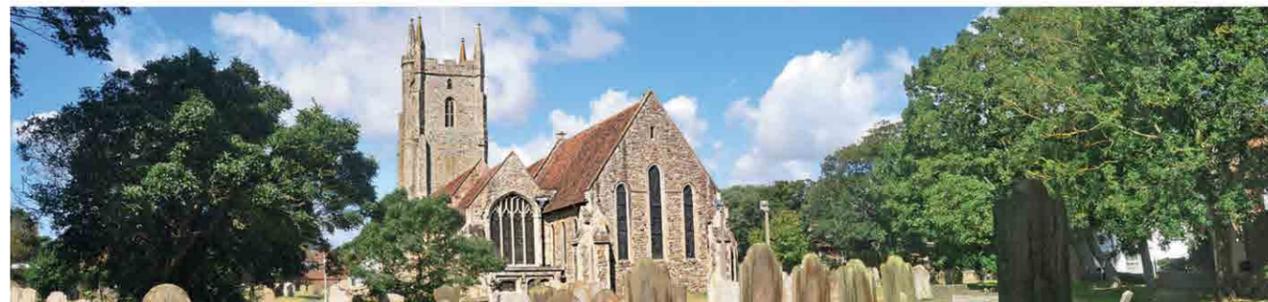
Richard Carr-Archer  
Catharine Kroon  
Luke March DL

## Trusts and Foundations Funds Received

Aslackby Trust  
Atlas Fund  
Beatrice Laing Trust  
Bunbury Charitable Trust  
Church In Wales  
Court of Dyers Company  
Department for Communities  
Northern Ireland  
Dulverton Trust  
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The Oakley Charitable Trust  
The Oldcastle Charity  
The Pennycross Trust  
The Peter Stormonth Darling Charitable Trust  
The Roger & Douglas Turner Charitable Trust  
The Roland Callingham Foundation  
The Sir Jeremia Colman Gift Trust  
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Visit England  
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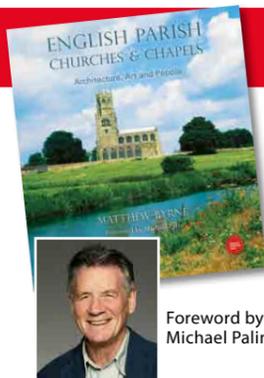


## It survived the Middle Ages, Henry VIII and two world wars. How would it cope with death watch beetle?

**AFTER HUNDREDS OF YEARS IN EXISTENCE**, many of the UK's most cherished historic churches and chapels find themselves threatened by their most dangerous enemies yet; leaking roofs, crumbling stonework and timbers under siege from death watch beetle. As a Friend of the National Churches Trust you can help us restore churches in every sense of the word. **YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION** goes towards urgent repairs and vital improvements which enable these precious buildings to remain at the heart of local communities. **PLEASE JOIN TODAY** for just **£30** per year via Direct Debit at [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/friends](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/friends), or send a cheque for **£35** by completing the coupon and returning it to the **National Churches Trust, 7 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QB** (please affix a stamp). You will enjoy invitations to unique events and join a growing community helping the nation's rich heritage of churches and chapels survive for future generations.



For people who love church buildings



**FREE BOOK!** New Friends receive 'English Parish Churches and Chapels', a delightful book of photographs by Dr Matthew Byrne, with a special Foreword by Michael Palin.

I enclose a cheque for £35, payable to the National Churches Trust.  AR 7/19

Title  Forename  Surname

Address

Postcode

Your information will be treated as private and kept securely, we will never make public, swap or sell your details: [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/privacy-policy](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/privacy-policy). As a Friend we will write to you around four times a year with newsletters, our Annual Review and invitations to events. If you would rather NOT hear from us by post please tick this box.



## We are grateful for the support of members of our Professional Trades Directory who can offer expert and specialist help with any part of your church, chapel or meeting house.

1a Instalec Ltd  
3A Roofing Ltd  
Aldridge Glass  
Anthony J Smith (Gloucester) Ltd  
Anthony Short & Partners LLP  
Apex Access Group  
APi Communications Ltd  
Approach Works  
Ark Stained Glass & Leaded Lights Ltd  
Arlingford Building Services LLP  
Arte Conservation Ltd  
Asbestos Consultants Europe Ltd (ACE)  
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JSL Plumbing Services Ltd  
Jupiter Heating Systems Ltd  
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L A Hurrell Ltd  
L V Stevens & Co  
Le Lay Architects Ltd  
Le Page Architects  
Light Perceptions Ltd  
Lighting Dynamics UK  
Lightning Protection Services  
Lilly Lewarne Practice  
Lily Rose Construction Ltd  
Limelight Studios Ltd  
Lloyd Evans Prichard Ltd  
M P Hare Ltd  
Make Wood Good Ltd  
Martin Donlin Limited  
Martin Goetze and Dominic Gwynn Ltd  
Masters Brickwork & Stonemasonry Ltd  
M Camilleri & Sons Roofing Ltd  
MDS Consulting Ltd  
Medieval Masonry Ltd  
Midland Conservation Limited  
Mike Wye & Associates Ltd  
Minerva Building Restoration Limited  
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Nick Miles Building Contractors Ltd  
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Decorating  
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PAYE Stonework and Restoration Ltd  
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## Fire Safety for Churches

Fire is one of the most significant risks that can affect any organisation. Not only does fire pose a risk to life but can destroy buildings and property and can damage our cultural heritage.

### Fire Risk Assessment

The Fire Safety Order requires that a Fire Risk Assessment is carried out. The purpose of this assessment is to identify fire hazards in the building and help determine what precautions might be needed. Additionally, the Fire Risk Assessment should also identify any deficiencies in the testing and maintenance of fire safety equipment, along with training needs and situations when co-ordination is required between different users of the premises.

### Fire Prevention

One of the purposes of Fire Risk Assessment is to reduce the likelihood of fire. Fire Prevention is an important part of the Fire Safety Order, and this might affect some activities in some Places of Worship. Some measures to consider include:

- Ensuring that the electrical wiring is tested and inspected frequently by a UK Accredited Electrical Contractor
- Having portable electrical equipment checked periodically (PAT testing)
- Reducing the amount of flammable and combustible material that is stored on the premises, especially in those easily forgotten spaces and store areas.

### Fire Precautions

There are a number of general fire precautions required by the regulations. The exact details of what you would need depends on your Fire Risk Assessment so the below is a guide as to what could be done.

It is important to remember that every Church or Place of Worship is different. Every congregation has different needs. What works in one building might not work elsewhere. That is why the precautions that you put in place need to be determined from the Fire Risk Assessment.

The most significant fire precautions for Places of Worship include:

- An appropriate fire warning
- Emergency lighting
- Suitable numbers of fire extinguishers.

Exits must be clearly marked with exit signs and they must be kept clear and readily available.

Fire exit routes might need to be protected so that people evacuating the building won't be affected by the smoke and flames. Typically, self-closing fire doors would be used in some premises where this is identified on the Risk Assessment.

Fire precautions must be tested, checked and maintained, so that the precautions will be in working order when needed most. This includes periodic servicing of fire detection and alarm equipment, extinguishers and checks on fire exit doors. A record of tests, maintenance and servicing needs to be kept to show that this has been done, and a log book is the normal way to keep this information.

There must be a fire procedure for the building, outlining people's responsibilities for the safe evacuation in case of fire. It would also be normal to display a 'fire action' poster but larger Churches and Places of Worship need a more comprehensive procedure.

Ensure that training is given to those who carry out specific tasks in an emergency. This might include stewards, fire wardens/marshals, supervisors and personnel in key rolls. Back up training with practice fire drills.

If people need assistance to evacuate the premises, provide suitable equipment and train people how to use it as required. This can include evacuation chairs and devices to aid people with mobility impairment. Likewise, alarm systems might be adapted with 'Visual Alarm Devices' to allow people to see the alarm activation who might not be able to hear a bell or siren easily.

The above list might not outline everything that you might need to do in your Place of Worship. Exactly what you do would follow from your Risk Assessment and depends on your situation, the size of the building and the people in the congregation.

### Lightning Protection

There are two types of lightning damage, namely direct effects to the structure and indirect effects to the electrical wiring and equipment.

Direct effects are usually minor, damaging copings and pinnacles mostly on the tower or spire, however, there is also a risk of fire. There is also the possibility of secondary damage from falling masonry. Even minor damage, however, can be costly to repair as high level access is required.

Most indirect effects from lightning damage result from footage surges causing a shutdown, malfunction or the complete burn out of electronic systems such as alarms, boiler controls, sound reproduction systems, computers, telephones and electronic organs.

All such equipment is at risk of damage from the unwanted voltages known as surges, spikes or transience. These surges can be very damaging to electronic components, such as printed circuit boards, and may result in a loss of a facility such as a fire alarm system, computer or telephone system.

The most common and the most damaging surges are those caused by lightning which produces voltage surges on overhead and underground cables, both power and communications. Consideration should be given to the installation of surge protection equipment.

There is a range of devices tailored for the protection of different types of equipment and it is essential that specialist advice is obtained before installation. Only electrical contractors with membership to work on commercial installations with the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting (NICEIC), the Electrical Contractors Association (ECA) or the National Association of Professional Inspectors and Testers (NAPIT) should be employed.

Mains surge protection devices should always be installed in accordance with BS 7671, The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) requirements for electrical installations, current edition.

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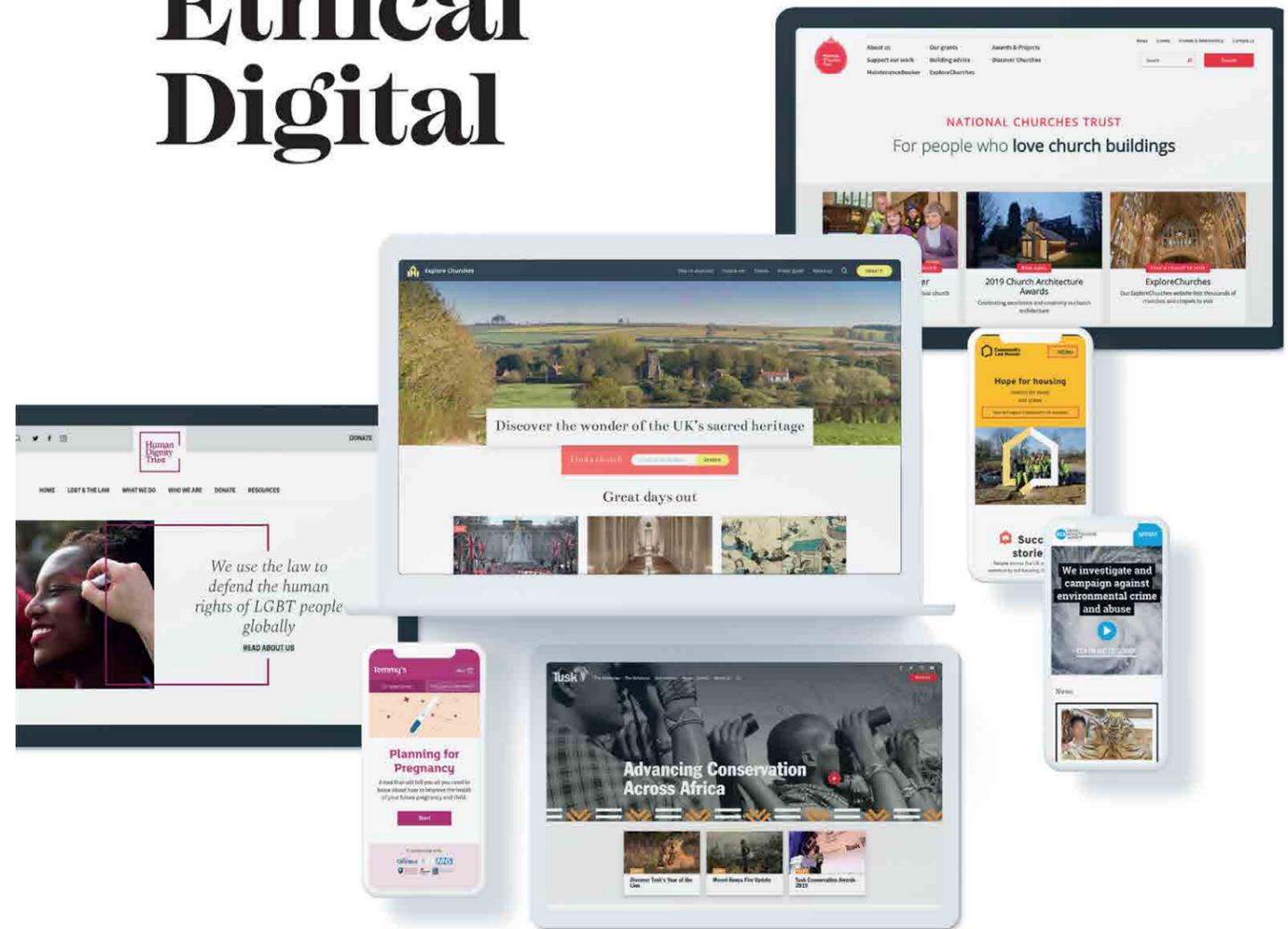
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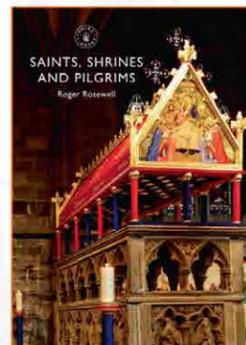
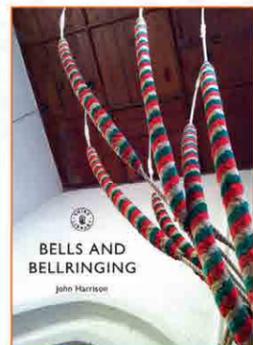
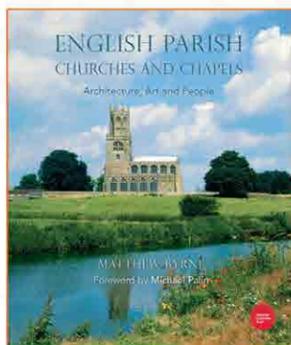
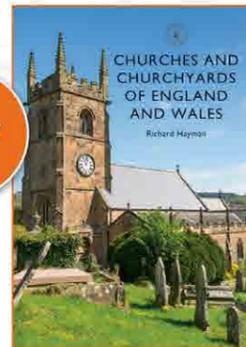
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