

Annual Review 2011-2012

National
Churches
Trust



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Finance Manager: Miriam Campbell
National Support Officer: Sarah Crossland
Grants and Local Trusts Officer: Suzy Minett
Office Manager: Jo Moore
Grants and Local Trusts Manager: Alison Pollard
Fundraising Manager: Liz Purchase
Communications Manager: Eddie Tulasiewicz

Volunteers

The Trust is particularly grateful to our dedicated volunteers, whose generosity helps support our work.

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The opinions expressed in the Annual Review do not necessarily reflect those of the National Churches Trust but remain solely those of the author(s).

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Securing the future of our nation's rich heritage of places of worship



This is my tenth and final year as Chairman and, in introducing this review of the National Churches Trust's work, I feel pride at the record of achievement by the organisation in its task of supporting places of worship across the United Kingdom.

The Trust's primary task, inherited from the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, is of supporting places of worship through the distribution of grants for repairs and improvements. With over £14 million awarded in grants during my time as Chairman, the Trust has been able to make a significant difference to many buildings and communities up and down the country. Although we are able to support many churches with grants, we sadly are only able to fund a minority of those who come to us for money, despite the clear value of many such projects.

We have sought to enhance the service we can provide to all places of worship, through the detailed information and advice now provided by our website and through our National Support Officer, part-funded by English Heritage.

Local churches trusts

Supporting churches across the United Kingdom has led us to form a much closer relationship with the national network of local churches trusts – the County Churches Trusts in England and Scotland's Churches Trust. By working with them we have been able to cooperate on issues of common concern and to draw on their local knowledge and expertise. I have been particularly pleased during my time as Chairman to have helped create a new trust in Cumbria, offering a new model of management support and training to the places of worship in this county.

The number of voluntary bodies active in the sector is often cited as a cause of confusion. Not only does the National Churches Trust website provide information and links to these, we also financed the setting up of what is now called the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance - a body that aims to bring together all such associations and enable them to speak with a common voice.

We have enhanced both our and the wider sector's understanding of the issues facing church buildings through the successful delivery of our National Survey. The representatives of thousands of places of worship engaged with this exercise to help us understand how buildings are maintained, funded, managed and used by their communities across the United Kingdom. The survey revealed not only the challenges faced by places of worship but also the remarkable variety of activities that take place in these buildings.

Contribution of volunteers

Whilst many churches are in a better condition than ever, and cooperation and communication within the church heritage sector is greatly improved, many challenges remain. Compared with the institutional support provided in other European countries the situation at home is one characterised by modest financial support from government and an enormous contribution of volunteers both to managing the buildings and for raising the finance for their upkeep.

Looking to the future, the recent threats to the sector of changes in the VAT rules show the importance of lobbying effectively; it is also essential that as much help as possible be provided to those given the task of looking after places of worship, to ensure that these buildings are both well-managed and used – essential pre-requisites of their being handed down in good condition to future generations.

I would like to thank all the staff, friends and donors who have given the Trust such steadfast support during my time in office and enabled it to achieve so much. Securing the future of our nation's rich heritage of places of worship is a continuing task, but it is one in which I am confident that the National Churches Trust is well placed to play a key role for years to come.

Michael Hoare

**Michael Hoare
Chairman**

The importance of grants to places of worship remains paramount in our work

The National Churches Trust is the only national, independent charity dedicated to promoting and supporting church buildings of historic, architectural and community value from all Christian denominations.

Churches, chapels and meeting houses are at the heart of our nation's heritage and landscape. An unparalleled mix of history, architecture, art and spirituality, they form the centrepiece of thousands of cities, towns and villages across the United Kingdom.

Throughout 2011, the National Churches Trust continued to support churches and chapels of all denominations, sizes and locations, offering guidance, advice and practical help through our Grants Programme. Thanks to the continued support of our Trust and Foundation funders and the generosity of individual donors, in 2011 we were able to award or recommend 170 grants to deserving churches and chapels in the United Kingdom. This is an increase on the 123 individual grants we awarded in 2010.

The importance of grants to places of worship remained paramount in our work, but we also continued to assist churches and the volunteers who look after them by supporting best practice through the terms attached to our grant offers. This included providing practical advice on how to manage church buildings, ensuring that the churches remain open to visitors and guidance on running maintenance plans.

Sustainable funding

A priority in 2011 was to continue to increase the size of the average repair grant we award



to individual churches, thereby offering churches a more sustainable level of funding. Prior to 2010 our average repair grant was £5,000 and in 2011 this increased to over £11,000.

Interest in our Grants Programme continued to grow in 2011 and we received 618 applications at Stage 1, almost double the amount in 2010. We were pleased to note an increase in applications from Wales, which was previously under represented in the applications received.

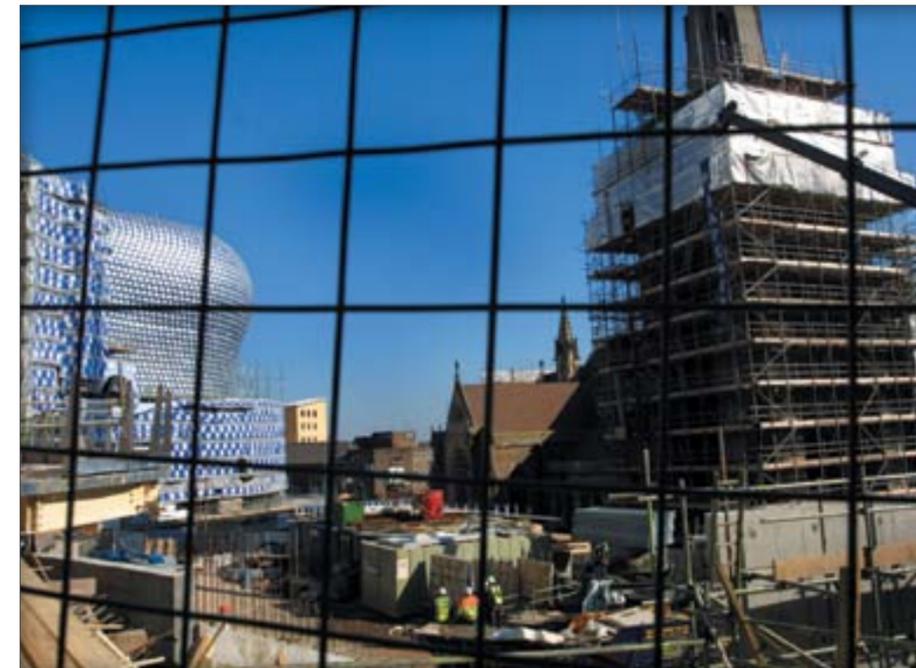
The majority of the grants we awarded in 2011 were for urgent and essential structural repair projects, and major Cornerstone Grants also continued to form the backbone of our Repair Grants Programme. Community Grants also represented an important portion of our grant giving, reflecting the priority we place on ensuring that local communities are able to benefit fully from their neighbourhood churches.

The National Churches Trust also distributed grants directly through a number of local churches trusts. In 2011 we awarded 99 such Partnership Grants for urgent repair projects. In this way we helped to increase the grant giving capacity of the national network of independent local churches trusts.

The National Churches Trust supports places of worship of all Christian denominations. In 2011, 83 per cent of our grants were awarded to Anglican congregations, with 17 per cent going to other denominations.

Other grants

As well as making grants from its own resources, the National Churches Trust is asked by other organisations to make recommendations for grants to places of worship. Among those other organisations is Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN), a distributor of monies from the Landfill Communities Fund which supports historic buildings through its Heritage Fund. In 2011



Repair work at St Martin in the Bull Ring, Birmingham

the Trust made recommendations for six grants totalling £227,000 to be awarded directly by WREN.

As 2011 drew to a close, the National Churches Trust was preparing for the announcement by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport of a one-off capital grant scheme for listed places of worship.

Funding of £1.1m for the financial year 2012/2013 was to be allocated to the Church of England and the National Churches Trust to distribute to listed places of worship of all denominations and faiths across the UK. The National Churches Trust was set to receive £319,000 to run a grant scheme open to all



listed places of worship not in the Church of England's care. This would provide funding for capital works such as improved accessibility and the installation of facilities, including toilets and kitchens.

The National Churches Trust was involved in making or recommending grant offers of £1,549,279 in 2011:

8 Cornerstone Grants at **£40,000** each, totalling **£320,000**. These larger grants made a significant difference to a number of extremely important major repair projects.

99 Partnership Grants amounting to **£385,000** using local expertise to target smaller repair projects.

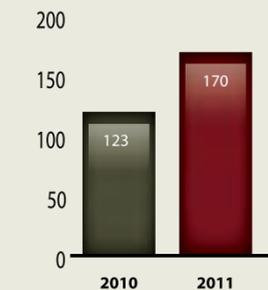
28 Repair Grants totalling **£310,000**, directly offered to urgent repair projects each with estimated costs of more than **£50,000**.

23 Community Grants totalling **£251,000** towards local projects that could demonstrate need and planning to widen use and increase public accessibility to their place of worship.

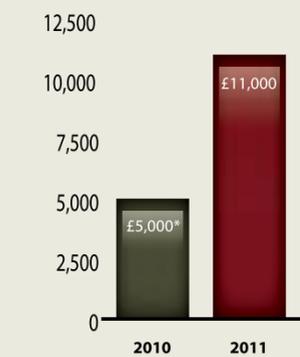
6 WREN grants totalling **£227,000**.

In 2011 the National Churches Trust also administered a further **4** grants totalling **£20,000** and **2** additional grants totalling **£36,000** as the result of a specific legacy.

Grant Offers

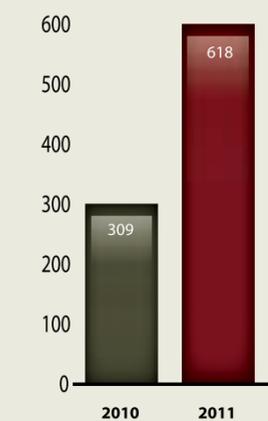


Average Repair Grant



*average repair grant prior to 2010

Grant Applications Received



"I want to thank the National Churches Trust for their confidence in this immensely important project."

Built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century to Charles Barry's design, St Peter's is very much part of the Regency development of Brighton. Known as the unofficial cathedral of the town, it is an important landmark and occupies a central position close to the Brighton Pavilion.

Neglect and a dwindling congregation meant that in 2007 St Peter's faced closure but over 6,000 residents signed a petition to keep the well loved building open and a congregation from London was planted in October 2009 at the request of the Bishop of Chichester. In addition to offering worship services, staff work with local volunteers to run a range of social and educational activities for groups including families with young children, low income families and the elderly, and vulnerable members of the community.

The Venerable Douglas McKittrick, Archdeacon of Chichester said: *"This is fantastic news and it will be hugely encouraging to the hard working and committed people at St Peter's. On behalf of the diocese I want to thank the National Churches Trust for their generous grant and for their confidence in this immensely important project."*



©St Peter's Church, Brighton

St Peter, Brighton, East Sussex

£40,000 Repair Grant

The grant to St Peter's Church was made possible through the generosity of an individual donor who approached the National Churches Trust seeking a project to support. For information on how you can contribute to the work of the National Churches Trust in revitalising and safeguarding the future of places of worship, please contact our Fundraising Team via info@nationalchurchestrust.org

Holy Angels, Hoar Cross, Staffordshire

£20,000 Repair Grant



The Church of the Holy Angels is generally considered to be one of the finest examples of the work of the Victorian architect George Frederick Bodley. Designed in the Early English Decorated style of the fourteenth century, it is a distinguished example of the Gothic Revival.

The National Churches Trust awarded a £20,000 Repair Grant to help fund assorted repairs to the fabric to eliminate water ingress.



Father Peter Green SSC, PhD said: *"I discovered Holy Angels in a rather unusual way for an Anglican Priest - I came to it first as a member of the congregation - it was a couple of years later that I applied to be parish priest. That means that I can vouch for the genuine warmth of the welcome that is extended both to casual visitors and to those who are exploring the life of faith. The grant from the National Churches*

Trust will help ensure that Holy Angels continues to provide worship to glorify the majesty of God. It is one of those places which deserves the description that the Anglo-Catholic, T.S. Eliot, applied to Little Gidding: it is a place "where prayer has been valid".



©Sarah Crossland

St Peter, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

£40,000 Cornerstone Grant

"We have enormous potential to develop as a large scale venue for cultural, faith and social events"

The present building, designed by J.P. Pritchett and built in 1836, is the third to have stood on the site. The ceiling, fully restored in 2010/11, comprises Tudoresque panels with bosses decorated in red and gold. The building is a very significant heritage venue in the town, standing adjacent to the only large green space within the town centre. The church is open each day for visitors, services and quiet contemplation. A busy and popular restaurant operates from the crypt.

In 2011 the National Churches Trust awarded a £40,000 Cornerstone Grant to St Peter's, which will help to complete a major programme of work to make the building watertight.

Arthur Nightingale, Chairman of the Building Development Group said: *"The crucial support of the National Churches Trust will allow us to make a major inroad into our work to secure the fabric of St Peter's. This is really needed as at times of heavy rainfall water has lain in areas of the crypt of the church to the depth of two inches. With a fully watertight building we can move ahead with our plans to improve access and facilities to enable us to better serve our local community and visitors. We already provide meeting spaces and have enormous potential to develop as a large scale venue for cultural, faith and social events."*

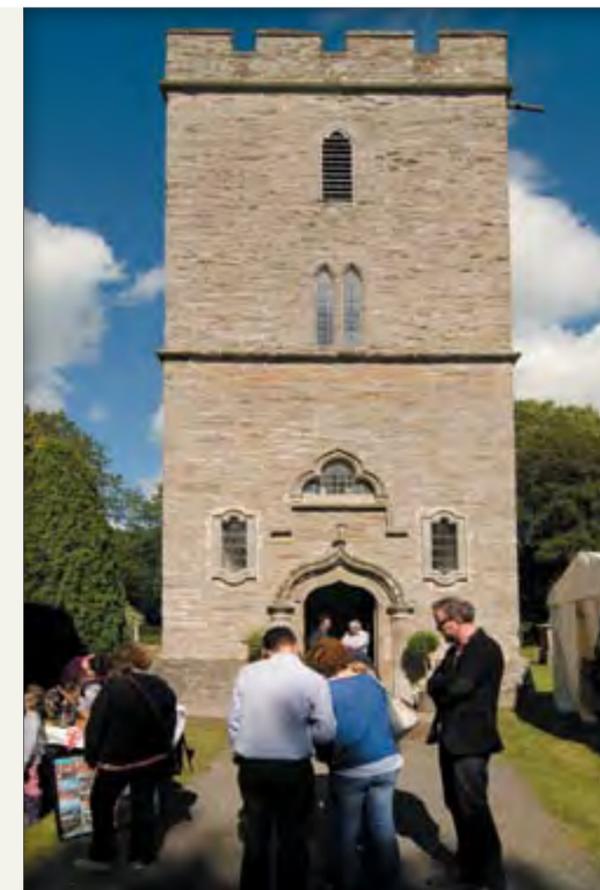
Shobdon Church is a hugely important work of architecture. It has a direct connection to Horace Walpole's Strawberry Hill villa in Twickenham and the members of the 'Committee of Taste' which strongly influenced its design. The amazingly intact interior and matching furniture are the sole examples of the Walpolean Gothic style of Georgian church architecture and furnishing. Shobdon Church today forms a vital centre to the community and is one of six churches in the Arrowvale Group.

The National Churches Trust awarded a £10,000 Repair Grant, contributing to a 10 year, £1 million campaign to help fund vital repair work.

Simon Arbutnott, past Chairman of the Shobdon Church Preservation Trust said: *"We are immensely grateful to the National Churches Trust for their repair grant which came in the nick of time, enabling repair contracts to go ahead. Over the past 12 years, some £120,000 was raised locally - mostly by the Shobdon Church Preservation Trust. Like all such buildings, the church at Shobdon demands regular maintenance, and periodically major renovations to preserve its beauty for future generations. The grant will help us ensure the future of this remarkable building."*

St John the Evangelist, Shobdon, Herefordshire

£10,000 Repair Grant



©Robert Anderson



St Augustine, Ramsgate, Kent

£40,000

Cornerstone Grant

Our Cornerstone Grants are made possible by the support we receive from Charitable Trusts and Foundations. We are particularly grateful for the support of The Pilgrim Trust, which has been active in helping us repair and maintain church buildings since the founding of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust in 1953. A full list of 2011 grants can be found on our website at www.nationalchurchestrust.org

"The National Churches Trust saw our need and made the difference"

A Grade I listed building, St Augustine's was designed by Augustus Pugin, one of the great British architects of the 19th century. Pugin lived in Ramsgate and realised in St Augustine's church the principles of design that he used throughout his career. A personal creation and his burial place, it is therefore a building of supreme importance in understanding Pugin's architectural influence. Concerts, open days and lectures are part of the life of St Augustine's over and beyond its parochial and religious works.

The National Churches Trust awarded a £40,000 Cornerstone Grant to help pay for urgent repair items including the repair of roof coverings, valley gutters and drainage pipes and to address the problems associated with water penetration and rot.

Father Marcus Holden, parish priest of Ramsgate and Minster said: *"The importance of St Augustine's for the local community, for Catholics throughout England and for all people interested in Pugin cannot be overestimated. We are thrilled that the National Churches Trust has helped to save this great church for everyone. We had fears that our first phase of urgent repairs may have faltered due to the difficult economic conditions, however, the National Churches Trust saw our need and made the difference."*



Shettleston New Church of Scotland, in the East End of Glasgow, was constituted in 2007 by the union of the two congregations of Eastbank and Carntyne Old. The foundation stone of the church was laid on 11 October 1902. One of the unique features of the building is the church ceiling. This consists of 90 square panels on which are inscribed the words of the *Te Deum* - "We praise Thee, O God: we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.". The church is situated in a deprived area of Glasgow with, in 2010, an average life expectancy of 66.

The National Churches Trust awarded a £20,000 Community Grant to help fund the Lighthouse Project to make the church fully accessible to all people in the church and the community.

Mrs Elizabeth Eglinton, a member of the Lighthouse Project funding group, said: *"We know that there are few buildings in our area that are available for the benefit of local people. The church stands out and is seen from all directions. A lighthouse offers safety and protection. So we thought a lighthouse was a good symbol! The National Churches Trust grant has been of great help in enabling us to make the changes required in our buildings. We want to be a useful resource for the community and now have better facilities including more hall space, improved accommodation for the toddler groups, easier access for all, a café and a new kitchen."*

Shettleston New Church of Scotland, Glasgow

£20,000

Community Grant



Photos © David Priddis

St Arvan, Monmouthshire, Wales

£10,000 Repair Grant

St Arvan's Church in Monmouthshire, near Chepstow, is a scheduled ancient monument and a Grade II listed building. The origins of the building are Celtic. It houses a late tenth century Cross Slab, has a richly decorated Chancel 'wagon roof' and some fine modern stained glass. The church is used for regular services, Sunday school, mothers' union and deanery meetings and on a regular basis for music teaching/rehearsals and concerts.

The National Churches Trust awarded a £10,000 Repair Grant to help fund a £200,000 complete re-roof of the whole church using new natural slate.

The Vicar, Father Michael Gollop, said: *"The National Churches Trust grant was a great boost to our fundraising campaign to pay for a replacement roof. The necessary fundraising has been hard work but has involved the whole community of our village. It is so important that churches continue to remain open in villages like ours and serve as a focus for the local community."*

"A beacon of light in the community"

Stockland Green Methodist Church was built in 1906; the original church building became the church hall when a newer church was built on the premises in 1932 though both are under the same roof. The church hall boasts superb Rennie Macintosh style stained glass windows which were installed when the church was built.

The National Churches Trust awarded a £10,000 Community Grant to help fund the building of a Community Café and kitchen in the old church hall.

Reverend Nichola Jones said: *"Funding from The National Churches Trust has made a huge difference and we thank them for making it possible for us to provide a safe space for the many lonely local people in our community. We serve hot, good food every weekday from 10am till 2pm and all kinds of people use the premises - from pre-school children and their parents to baby massage for fathers and carers; from folk with learning disabilities to those with mental health problems - and many people who are glad for a quiet place to sit in lovely surroundings, where they can be sure of a warm welcome. The Café on the Green has become a beacon of light in the community, serving thousands of people throughout the year and we hope it continues to serve local needs so well - to the glory of God."*



Stockland Green Methodist Church, Birmingham

£10,000 Community Grant



Memorial Community Church, Plaistow, London

£20,000

Community Grant

“Meeting the needs of local people”

Plaistow Memorial Baptist Church in east London – now known as Memorial Community Church – was designed by William Hayne and opened in 1922 to house the church and its welfare work. Byzantine in style, it also embraced new technology and had a projector room so that the auditorium could be used to show films. Today the Memorial Church hosts a wide range of projects within the local community.

The National Churches Trust £20,000 Community Grant helped fund a range of improvements including new toilets at the back of the building and improved access for people with disabilities or parents pushing buggies to take part in activities held in the building.

Project manager Philippa King said: *“While the local area boasts a leisure centre and many churches and mosques, there are no other community centres in the immediate area. We were delighted that the National Churches Trust was able to support our project to upgrade the facilities inside the building to meet the needs of local people and improve their lives. The upgrade means that Memorial Community Church can be used much more for activities and events run by ourselves and other local groups, who have until now been deterred by substandard facilities.”*

“A restored building can help us bring a much needed resurgence to this part of Liverpool”



St James, built in 1774–75, had been closed for worship since 1974 and was on the Buildings at Risk register due to its semi-derelict state. In 2009 the Diocese of Liverpool took ownership and it was re-opened as the Church of St James in the City and began holding services again, despite no heating, water or toilets,

and a leaking roof. St James is of huge interest to historians as it is one of the oldest standing churches in Liverpool and the oldest remaining building in Britain with cast iron pillars. It is a much loved treasure and an important link to local social history with a long standing association as ‘the slave church’. Of the 19 monuments inside, many are to people connected with the slave trade and registers of St James feature the names of people from all over the world, many of whom were either slaves or slave masters.

The National Churches Trust’s £40,000 Cornerstone Grant helped fund extensive renovation to the roof to make the church waterproof and to enable the church to play a major part in the regeneration of the Toxteth area.



Photos ©Diocese of Liverpool

St James in the City, Toxteth, Liverpool

£40,000 Cornerstone Grant

Reverend Neil Short, Vicar of St James in the City said: *“We were delighted to receive another boost to our campaign to restore St James in the City. This church is a historic part of the local community and a restored building can help us bring a much needed resurgence to this part of Liverpool. At the moment, our growing congregation meet and worship inside marquees erected in the church. Repairing the roof means we can start to provide a much more comfortable and pleasant experience for all.”*

Ways to help the National Churches Trust



©Tim Ashley

The Trust deserves our unstinting support

“Christian places of worship are integral to our national heritage and span the history of the British Isles. Whether located in large, bustling cities or small rural hamlets, they have also become the focus for charitable work, local enterprise and cultural and social activities. Many of these buildings remain the heart and soul of their neighbourhoods.”

“We can be grateful to the National Churches Trust, which, since its formation in 2007, has helped to fund the repair and maintenance of almost 900 places of worship. As it looks to the years ahead, the National Churches Trust will continue to provide much needed financial and practical help thus ensuring the future of church buildings as a vital focus for neighbourhoods in city and country areas. The Trust deserves our unstinting support.”

Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, National Churches Trust Joint President

Support for churches of all Christian denominations

We rely totally on the generosity of individuals, trusts and foundations, and companies to continue our work. Any gift you can make, large or small, will support places of worship across the UK.

Leave a Legacy

Church buildings are an important and integral part of our heritage. Those who built them have left a lasting legacy to the nation. By remembering the National Churches Trust in your will, you can help protect these buildings for future generations and enable their communities to enjoy them for many years to come.

Become a Friend

Join the growing number of Friends of the National Churches Trust and help to inform our work and strengthen our knowledge of the issues facing those tasked with looking after places of worship across the UK.

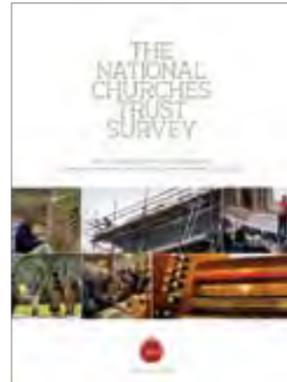
Friends enjoy our Newsletter twice a year, priority booking for our events and receive exclusive offers; all for an annual subscription of just £30. Please join us, or introduce a family member, colleague, neighbour or friend. The more Friends we have the greater our voice and the bigger the impact we can make.

Furthermore, thanks to a generous donation, new Friends will receive a copy of *The Church Triumphant* by Bob Moody (while stocks last). This wonderful book contains charming watercolour reproductions of English churches and chapels and is a must for church, art and heritage lovers alike.

For information on how you can support the National Churches Trust, please call 020 7600 6090, email friends@nationalchurchestrust.org or visit www.nationalchurchestrust.org



Working with our partners to support places of worship



National Churches Trust Survey Report

Working with local partners

Developing our relationship with local churches trusts continues to be an important priority, and was a major focus of our work in 2011. The Partnership Grants Programme has been one of the most tangible examples of this relationship, along with the contributions from churches trusts across the country of content for the guidebook *Exploring Britain's Churches and Chapels*, produced in association with the AA.

The Historic Churches Liaison Group, at which representatives of local churches trusts come together to discuss issues of common concern, plays an increasingly important role in setting a strategy for securing a sustainable future for places of worship. The National Churches Trust is pleased to facilitate regular meetings of the Group and their Annual Conference. In 2011 this was held at Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff and sought answers to challenging issues concerning fundraising, support and training, succession planning and strengthening the national network.

The national network of local churches trusts now comprises 37 organisations, and, during 2011, we were glad to formally welcome into the network the Heritage of London Trust to fill the gap in the capital. Also welcomed was the Scottish Churches Architectural Heritage Trust, (now Scotland's Churches Trust) which provides much needed local support to places of worship in Scotland. Links to the trusts are in the 'In Your Area' section of our website at www.nationalchurchestrust.org



During 2011 the National Churches Trust continued to financially support the Churches Trust for Cumbria, in whose creation in 2008 we were instrumental. They have continued to provide support, training and advice for places of worship in Cumbria, and have embarked on a pioneering Strategic Buildings Review. The Cumbria Trust has also produced a report on its first three years, clearly demonstrating the positive impact that it has had.

National Churches Trust Survey

In April 2011 we published the results of the National Churches Trust Survey. This survey, which sought to understand how the UK's church buildings are maintained, funded, managed and used by their communities was the largest ever exercise of its kind. The representatives of thousands of church buildings from all parts of the UK engaged with it, resulting in a wealth of data that has improved our understanding of both the opportunities and the problems facing places of worship.

Whilst identifying that a small but critical number of buildings are in urgent need of help, the survey's results also highlighted the wide variety of purposes other than regular worship to which these places are put, with many used for cultural events and for activities involving children and young people. At a time when local authorities and public buildings have come under pressure from spending reductions, places of worship are often one of the few centrally-located affordable community spaces in many towns and villages, and therefore we have sought to use these survey results to highlight this important contribution to society.

English Heritage Support Officer

Since 2010, the Trust has received funding from English Heritage as part of its places of worship support officer programme. This has provided 50% funding for the employment of a National Support Officer, firstly Rhodri Evans, and now Sarah Crossland.



The post, funding for which runs until 2013, has helped to enhance the Trust's provision of support, advice and information, including supporting the development of local church Friends Groups.

Supporting the church heritage sector

The Trust has supported efforts to encourage the wider 'church heritage' sector to work more closely together, including the various denominations and the range of other organisations that own and support places of worship.

Throughout 2011 we continued to support the work of the Heritage Alliance's Places of Worship Group. The National Churches Trust provided seed funding for the first two years of the group's life, which enabled the recruitment of a part-time administrator.



Following the conclusion of this funding, the group has introduced a membership subscription, and under new chairmanship has been renamed the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance. The group acts to strengthen the collective voice of the sector on important issues affecting us all, such as the rebate on VAT for repairs and alterations to listed places of worship and planning reforms. The group also continues to provide support to the Associate Parliamentary Group on Historic Churches, enabling the sector to directly engage with parliamentarians.

Ride+Stride

One of the highlights of 2011 was the annual Ride+Stride fundraising day. The National Churches Trust provided support for the event by running the dedicated website and providing national publicity and promotion.

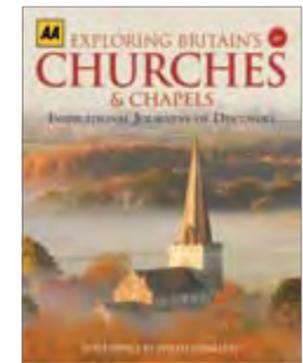


Ride+Stride started in Suffolk in 1982, the idea of Judith Foord. Since then over £29 million has been raised nationally. Close to £1.3 million was raised in 2011, with around 8,000 churches supporting the event.

The event takes place annually on the second Saturday of September, so next year please encourage your friends and family to join you on a fun day out and raise money for your local church and the local churches trust that supports it. More information at www.rideandstrideuk.org

AA Guide to Churches

In association with the AA, the National Churches Trust produced a major new guide, *Exploring Britain's Churches & Chapels*, which was published in November 2011. Aimed at non-experts, it offers a selection of the best open, accessible churches, presented by region. With suggested day tours, maps and navigational tips, plus a brief history of church architecture and related articles throughout, the book showcases some of the country's most interesting and impressive buildings.



Exploring Britain's Churches and Chapels

The Trust worked closely with the local churches trusts and organisations that care for buildings closed for regular worship in order to provide details of the best churches in their own areas. The book is a useful fundraising tool and has enabled us to improve our offer to our existing Friends and also to attract new Friends. It has also helped increase awareness about the Trust, promote our work to new audiences and highlight the cause of caring for places of worship.



Ride+Stride in Dorset

©Jennie Banks – Courtesy Western Gazette and Dorset Historic Churches Trust

How to read a church: The hidden images and symbols found within our churches

By Richard Taylor



Richard Taylor is a writer and lawyer who lives and works in South Yorkshire. He is the author of the bestselling book *How to Read a Church* and presenter of the accompanying six-part BBC Four television series. He has also presented television programmes on church bells and on Pugin, and lectures on Christian symbolism to people of many faiths and of none.

The UK is peppered with amazing buildings, secret gems filled with treasures of local and national heritage, works of art, sculpture and design to rival any gallery or museum and a workforce so unstinting in its passion that they are maintained largely by voluntary contributions.

Our churches

Fashions have changed over the centuries and churches have been built in many styles and with varying degrees of decoration. Some are very plain, while others are highly ornate. However, look beyond the beautifully obvious and you will find layers of meaning woven into the very fabric of the building, some obvious, others not so clear.

As anyone who visits churches will know, they are alive with images and symbols. But, the very building itself is also a symbol, to be understood by its congregation, local community and visitors. The original builders of our churches, be they ancient or modern, meant for them to be 'read' and understood. But today few people truly understand the wealth of meaning they find there.

Added to this, the world of symbols is deep and rich and varied. Although their context may point to one interpretation, a single symbol can have many meanings (sometimes contradictory). Their meanings also develop over time, and can have different resonances for different people. Therefore, when 'reading' the symbols and images within a church it is important to know the local story, the local context.

There are over 10,000 medieval churches in this country. All built for the same purpose, but each one unique. Churches present us with a slice of history, and they are often exquisite works of art. But they are also places of coming together, places for communal worship. And it is this spiritual power, developed over centuries, which gives them their essence and makes them the incredible places they are.

Through its work, the National Churches Trust helps to conserve many of our places of worship. But it is also important that more people are encouraged to discover and visit our churches. Today, there are increasing numbers of people who have never been in a church, or once inside do not fully understand the meaning of its architecture, ornaments and decoration. That's where a well written guide which works both for the dedicated church explorer as well as for those embarking on what will often become a life time addiction plays a vital role.

Here are a few hidden images and symbols found within the obvious function of the architecture of our churches, which I hope prove illuminating for both expert and novice.

Contained on or within each are further layers of symbols... found in stone and wood carvings, stained glass, wall paintings, tiles, embroidery and the architecture itself... take your time and explore.

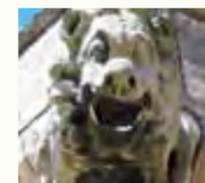
The Bands of Sacredness

Churches are arranged into spaces with increasing degrees of holiness. Starting with the churchyard wall where the medieval concept of *sanctuary* started, into the building itself, through the nave and up (usually quite literally, up steps) to the chancel and finally through an arch or rail into the sanctuary where the altar is found. At the time of Jesus, the Temple of Herod the Great in Jerusalem was arranged in just this way.



A Grotesque Menagerie

Rainwater is thrown clear of the church through a projecting spout. Often decorated, many are carved as monstrous beings – the name coming from the Latin *gurgulio* meaning throat. They are also symbolic, scaring away the Devil and making a contrast between the bedevilled world outside and the sanctuary within. But, they were also a place for local carvers to express their creativity, and are often terrifying, comic, bawdy, macabre and very rarely holy.



Strong and Silent

Like hands clasped in prayer, or arms thrown up in worship, arches also symbolically relate to marriage - Michelangelo defined them as two powerful forces meeting at their weakest point to make a stronger whole.



The shape of an arch is a way to read the age of a church (or part of it), with the knowledge to build the higher, wider pointed arch only being brought to this country from the Islamic world by returning crusaders.

A Hallowed Grove

The nave may be flanked by columns, drawing the eye forwards to the altar. Although structurally necessary they also resonate with pagan beliefs, shaped like trees and often decorated with carved leaves.



They are also akin to human figures, like ancient standing stones. Sites such as Stonehenge are often compared to cathedrals, but it may be that the analogy should be reversed; churches are our Stonehenge.

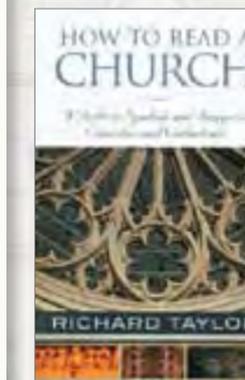


The Complex Cross

Christianity's most important symbol, but often with interwoven meaning beyond the obvious link to the Crucifixion. Its spiritual significance well predates Christianity, and depending on how they are portrayed or displayed, crosses can evoke sacrifice and death, or love and hope.



Many designs are purely decorative, but the anchor cross is a clear link with the earliest Christians, who preferred the anchor symbol for its ancient link with safety and the hope of salvation and eternal life.



How to Read a Church is published by Rider Books and a DVD set of his BBC television series based on the book is also available.

Photos ©Heritage Inspired

Cherish the Chapel

A personal view by Huw Edwards



Huw Edwards presents Britain's most popular television news programme, BBC News at Ten. He combines his news duties with coverage of major events: in the past year these have included the opening and closing ceremonies of the London 2012 Olympic Games, the Diamond Jubilee and the Royal Wedding. The Royal Wedding broadcast was awarded a BAFTA for best coverage of a live event.

For the past decade, Huw has been the BBC's voice at Trooping the Colour, the State Opening of Parliament and the Festival of Remembrance. He spent 12 years as a political journalist and has interviewed presidents, prime ministers and celebrities in all areas of public life. He has recently completed a BBC television series, 'The Story of Wales', and has presented documentaries on political and religious history, and classical music. In 2009 he published a book on the Nonconformist chapels of West Wales which provoked a new debate about the state of religious buildings, and is currently writing a book on the Welsh churches and chapels of London.

He regularly visits schools and colleges as an ambassador for BBC News School Report. He lives in London with his wife and five children.

The past half-century, a period of base neglect, has seen hundreds of cherished buildings flattened without heed.

There is a bitter twist at work here. Wales has suffered a campaign of cultural sacking approved by elected and unelected officials; but many of those responsible have had little understanding of the scale of the loss.

In Wales today, those tokens of Plantagenet savagery, the medieval castles, are cared for with a vigilance approaching the fetishistic. We willingly revere these symbols of our oppression. And it follows that our national authorities accord them maximum listed protection.

In this same Wales, those heroic symbols of our Nonconformist freedom, the chapels, are neglected, disdained and spurned. They lie rotting and decomposed in town centres, casually vandalised. They are invisible and irrelevant. They seldom pierce the people's awareness, but when they do, they provoke repugnance and scorn.

Enriching the lives of people

The popular memory is pitifully short. Even those who vilify religion praise the chapels for enriching the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. These places of worship gave essential literacy and numeracy skills to children and adults; they provided the poor with food and clothing; and they operated an effective welfare system while state and parish dodged their duties.

In rejecting the state religion of England, the Nonconformist movement offered a new definition of Welshness. It really is no exaggeration to say that the spirit of the chapels shaped modern Wales. But modern Wales doesn't want to know.

These days, the fact of that transformative contribution is an irritant. The chapels are unsettling reminders of a very different past. To acknowledge the greatness of their contribution is to invite inescapable questions about their present lot. And that is acutely wearisome for a generation whose rejection of the chapel is absolute and final.



The official guardian of our built heritage of Wales is Cadw. Unlike Historic Scotland, Cadw does not appear to offer a website with a searchable database of listed buildings. What it does provide is an interactive map which locates countless castles, fortresses and monuments of importance.

Try locating Maesyronnen chapel, one of the earliest Nonconformist places of worship. It should be immediately visible as one of the prime religious sites of Wales. It is not. This lack of prominence is even more shocking for a building listed Grade I by Cadw.

Rather more bewildering is the knowledge that of the 30,000 buildings listed by Cadw following the national survey completed in 2005, very few chapels were accorded the integral protection afforded by Grade I status.

Cadw's own listing criteria are clear. Buildings of 'architectural interest... which illustrate important aspects of the nation's social, economic, cultural or military history' are worthy of listed status. So are buildings with 'close historical associations with people or events of importance to Wales'. The majority of special interest' are in Grade II. A much smaller number of particularly important buildings are listed Grade II*. Buildings of exceptional interest (around 2 per cent of the total) are in Grade I.

Folly and injustice

A visit to my home town of Llanelli, one of the strongholds of Nonconformist Wales, will reveal the folly and injustice of the listing process.

The only Grade I listed building is Llanelly House, a particularly fine Georgian town house now being restored in an impressive £6 million scheme. It certainly deserves its full-scale protection. Across the road lies St Elli's Church, listed Grade II* thanks to its medieval west tower and fifteenth-century chancel. A short walk away we find Tabernacl Chapel, one of the most impressive chapel buildings in Wales, also ranked Grade II*. Tabernacl was designed by John Humphrey, whose much bigger Tabernacl in Morriston is listed Grade I.



Top left picture: Moriah, Llanelli, still in superb condition. Main picture above: Capel Newydd, Llanelli, designed by Owen Morris Roberts. Bottom right picture: Glenalla, Llanelli, converted into a community centre in 1987.

So far, so good. But a longer walk around the town centre raises some unsettling questions which also apply to many other parts of Wales.

Minimal protection

Capel Als, the oldest Nonconformist cause in Llanelli, is given the minimal protection of Grade II listing, despite an opulent interior rightly regarded as one of the finest chapel designs anywhere in the United Kingdom. It was designed by Owen Morris Roberts who also rebuilt Llanelli's Capel Newydd. Here, too, he delivered an exquisite interior considered to be one of the best examples of Edwardian chapel design and craftsmanship.

For reasons which are difficult to fathom, both Capel Als and Capel Newydd are lumped together with the majority of chapel buildings in Llanelli in the basic Grade II band, a category which also includes some decidedly mediocre buildings and monuments. The historically significant Adulam Baptist Chapel in nearby Felin-foel, the oldest Nonconformist cause in this part of Carmarthenshire, is also considered worthy of a basic Grade II.

This lack of consistency is a real problem. In Carmarthen, George Morgan's Baptist Chapel in Lamma Street is Grade II*. His equally glorious Dinas Noddfa, Landore, inately accorded Grade II status, is heading for the same fate as his Calfaria, Llanelli, for the past decade a rotting mass on the steep slope of Bigyn Hill.

This is plainly unjust. But the evident inadequacies of listed protection predate Cadw, it must be said, and start with the implementation of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947. It is clear that successive generations of officials have either failed or refused to acknowledge the architectural and cultural importance of Nonconformist chapels in Wales.

Llanelli does, however, offer some hope for the future. It once boasted 22 chapels in a compact town centre, several of which have been acceptably converted. Glenalla is one of the best examples: here we have a solid Edwardian chapel reborn in 1987 as a community centre and concert hall. A decade earlier, Siloh was the first Llanelli chapel to be refurbished, as a sports and social centre. It has proved to be a popular and valuable local asset. Zion, an elegant chapel design by Henry Rogers, is now part of a major theatre complex which involved one of the best heritage protection schemes in Wales.

It can be done. The chapels of Wales, those distinctive emblems of Welshness, need many more friends. From the unadorned charm of Soar-y-mynydd, in the depths of Cardiganshire, to the flamboyant grandeur of Bethesda, Ton Pentre, in the heart of the industrial Rhondda. They all deserve protection and preservation. They are all part of the story of Wales.



"The chapels of Wales need friends"

The joy of church-crawling

By Harry Mount



Harry Mount read Classics at Oxford and was a Latin tutor before becoming a journalist. He has been a leader-writer at the Daily Telegraph and the Spectator. He is the author of two books including *My Brief Career*, a memoir of his time as a barrister's pupil, and *Amo, Amas, Amat...* And *All That*, his bestselling guide to Latin.

The memorial service for Anthony Powell, author of *A Dance to the Music of Time*, was held in May 2000 at the Grosvenor Chapel in Mayfair. This pretty little yellow-brick church with a Tuscan porch was built in 1731 for Sir Richard Grosvenor, ancestor of the current Duke of Westminster, who still owns the surrounding Grosvenor Estate.

Hugh Massingberd, the late presiding genius of the architectural history world, gave the address. 'Welcome, my brethren, to the Eisteddfod,' he began, with a nod to Frankie Howerd, who began his shows that way.

Massingberd moved on to Powell's story of a Norfolk parson who arrived early to officiate at a funeral in a church he hadn't been to before. A keen antiquarian, the vicar took down an iron helmet from the tomb of a knight killed at the Battle of Bosworth. Unable to control his curiosity, he donned the helmet to see how heavy it was, only to find he couldn't take it off. As the mourners filed into the church behind the coffin, they were, in Powell's words, 'surprised to be received by a cleric wearing a knight's bascinet'. The priest proceeded to carry out the burial service in this kit.

'I wonder what he went for – visor up or down?' Powell asked Massingberd. The story encapsulates what exceptional treasure houses British churches are. Churches are so deeply embedded into the physical and historical background of Britain that it's sometimes difficult to recognise quite how odd a combination of things they constitute.

The beauty of churches

We take our churches for granted; it's good to remind ourselves, from time to time, what a unique amalgam they are - of religion, history, sculpture, art, architecture, local biography, geology and geography. Still, you don't have to be religious to enjoy the beauty of churches, even if a monk friend once tried to persuade me otherwise, when I told him I was agnostic.

'Do you go quiet inside churches?' he asked.
'Yes.'
'And do you take your hat off, if you're wearing one?'
'Yes.'
'And do you feel somehow different when you're in there? Different to the feeling you get in a lovely country house, say?'
'Yes.'
'Well, then, you're religious.'

It's true, I've often been moved in a pretty, secular room, but in a less reverent, hushed way than in ancient, architecturally appealing churches. And outside them, too: gravestones make for an internationally exceptional, if nationally widespread, collection of regional sculpture, dating back more than half a millennium. Like the Bosworth memorial in Anthony Powell's anecdote, they are one of the thick, long-accumulated confections of stone that are British churches.

Before the fifteenth century, there were barely any tombstones in our graveyards. Although the ground was used for burials, the dead weren't memorialised, other than in priests' prayers. The earliest memorials – raised to the grand and the armigerous – were inside the church: the first memorable tombs, from the twelfth century, incorporated carved stone coffin lids into the floor.

My heart leapt on a recent church crawl, when I saw the first effigy of an earl sculpted in his robes of estate, and not in armour: the alabaster one of the 5th Earl of Arundel, who died in 1415 and was buried in the Fitzalan Chapel, Arundel, West Sussex. In 'An Arundel Tomb' (1956), Philip Larkin wrote about the effigy of this earl's father – the 4th Earl of Arundel, Richard Fitzalan, buried in Chichester Cathedral next to his wife, their hands touchingly joined together:

*"Side by side, their faces blurred,
The earl and countess lie in stone,
Their proper habits vaguely shown
As jointed armour, stiffened pleat,*

*And that faint hint of the absurd
The little dogs under their feet."*

Personal meaning

I have talked about gravestones and tombs, and still haven't got on to an actual church building. If I had to choose a single one that best gathered the disparate strands which combine to produce the unmatched thrill of church-crawling, it would be St Bartholomew-the-Great, next to Smithfield Market in central London.

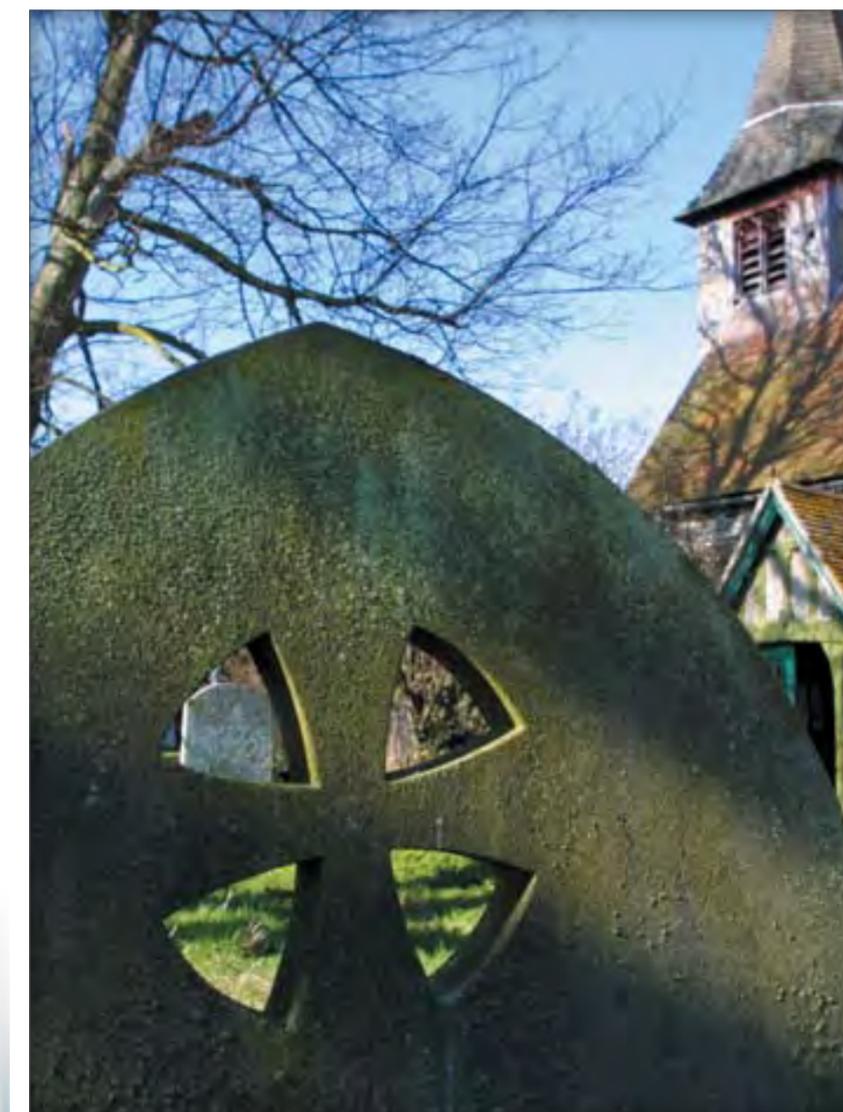
St Bartholomew's has its own personal meaning - as most churches do to their immediate neighbours. I was brought up in nearby Islington, and it was the casualty ward in neighbouring Barts Hospital that first grabbed my childhood attention. A Barts doctor sorted out a fingertip squashed in a collapsed ironing board when I was eight; another took care of a frenulum linguae - the plate of skin under the tongue - burst by a ruler I was holding in my mouth when I was 11.

By the time my brother got married in the church in 1997, I'd grown a little more interested in buildings - although on the day, I was more concerned about getting my brother and the ushers to the church on time. Just like Hugh Grant in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* - the Duckface jilting scene was filmed at St Bart's - we were late; well, not quite late, but not as early as the angry guest in the choir I had to kick out in order to seat the first division of family members.

These days, I take a group of students from the City and Guilds of London Art School to St Bartholomew's. Each autumn I go back, and each autumn I am moved by the mammoth, simple, early 12th century columns of the choir, the oriel window in the nave and the gaudy alabaster tomb of Sir Walter Mildmay, a Tudor Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is this combination - of ancient stone and remembered, serious events, of fraternal matrimony, of squashed fingers - that mingle aesthetic and spiritual feelings like nowhere



How England Made the English
by Harry Mount is published by Viking



Introducing the next generation to the treasures of churches

By Frances Moule



Frances Moule was educated at St Mary's Convent, Shaftesbury. She served in the WRNS for eight years, starting as a morse-reading telegraphist and retiring as a Second Officer specialising in cryptography. She then worked for John Lewis plc as a computer programmer/systems analyst. She is the NADFAS Church Recording Area Representative for Wessex (South) and a pioneer in setting up children's church trails nationally for NADFAS.

Some years ago a churchwarden in one of our prettiest villages with a flourishing school and lots of visitors approached me as a fellow member of the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS). She asked if we could design something which was both attractive and informative for children and accompanying parents, teachers and tourists.

After looking at hundreds of church quizzes and talking to lots of teachers and church people we eventually produced a simple illustrated question and answer sheet.

Once we had tried out the trail with a small group of friendly children and adults we made a CD which we gave to the church, so that the supply could always be replenished at minimum cost. This initial success was followed by a period of development under the aegis of NADFAS with three trial trails made in Wiltshire and Dorset, slowly drawing in other knowledgeable helpers and learning the best way to do the job. Subsequent requirements included design of templates for a house-style, and also learning and listing the basic requirements of a successful trail, not all of them immediately obvious.

Early on it was clear that although some answers and explanations are purely local very many are of widespread application. It was crucial to establish an accessible "Answerbank" to which scholars and experts in all fields contributed. This enables answers to be consistent nationally and is constantly updated.

Gradually we built up a team of National Advisers. Their work includes checking the trail and answers for accuracy and appropriateness for the age group and helping with its launch.

Several presentations have been held in various parts of the United Kingdom to spread the word among NADFAS members, usually leading to the establishment of small groups, supported by a local NADFAS Society, who will

work on the preparation of one or more trails under the eye of their appointed adviser. The cost is minimal and the goodwill gained for the Society is great!

The National Churches Trust has been aware of Church Trails from the very beginning and a recent partnership has seen the preparation of trails in London, supported by NADFAS Greater London Area, which also provided an excellent artist. The churches chosen welcomed the idea of a trail.

A successful trail is built round the plan of the church with some of the salient features marked or numbered. Simple questions aimed at children aged 8-12 are based on observation, drawing, or photographs. We try to introduce a variety of subjects: symbols, Royal Arms, heraldry, architecture, history, and iconography. Above all we try to make the trail fun – anything with skulls or gore is always a success! The answer sheet for the grown-ups who are helping often serves to enlighten them as much as the child. It's a learning process for both and one of the joys of the trail-maker is listening to the exciting dialogue as the treasure-hunt unfolds.

We have learned much from working with St Martin-in-the-Fields in London including the importance of a "meditative" question. We don't aim to teach Christianity. Our trails must be acceptable to visitors of all faiths or none.

Our aim is to explain what visitors can see – we set out to open their eyes. Is all the hard work worth it? Yes: It's all summed up by the vicar who told us "I have learned so much about my church from your Trail" and the child who said: "Miss, Miss, this is such fun! Can I bring my Mum and Dad?"



Churches are packed with memories of human experience

By Bettany Hughes

A big part of my childhood was spent in the parish church of St Leonard's in Hythe, Kent, not, I must confess, because I was drawn by the spirituality of the place but because they had a crypt which contained around 8,000 human thigh bones and 2,000 human skulls. When you are a roaming free eight year old that seemed like just the most exciting thing to have in your local village.

I spent a lot of time looking at churches as a child with my parents, not in a forced, regimented way, but we would visit, for example, all the lovely churches in the Romney Marshes, or if we were travelling we would normally stop off at an interesting-looking church to investigate. My father was orphaned when he was 15 and had to earn his living as a draftsman in Coventry during the war so he was always interested in how they were constructed. Although he never went to church he was there in Coventry during the blitz and watched the cathedral being burnt down, so churches that survived meant a lot to him. Those childhood visits to churches definitely spawned a sensitivity and a delight and loyalty to churches in me as they always seemed to be these calm, cool, places that, even though we were not a religious family, we would go to share a moment of peace and contemplation

I was so inspired by those early visits, my mother and I then started to go to St Matthew's, a beautiful big barn of a place on Ealing Common. The vicar there is now the second longest serving in the country. He, and the building around him, have provided such continuity for so many souls.



That was all before I started off on my pursuit of ancient Mediterranean history and adventure. But there is no doubt that my fascination with the past started from spending time in those churches as I got this sense that when going into a church you are entering somewhere packed with memories of human experience, which in England ranges over 1,000 or even 1,500 years. I felt a sense of the past very keenly and was always interested to dig deeper and churches invited me to do that.

It would be wonderful to encourage more people to visit churches. One way would be to have a strategy that all churches are open full time. Of course I completely understand the issues in terms of theft or vandalism, but it is a terrible thing if a church you want to visit is closed. I remember visiting churches as a child and sometimes they would be locked; you turned the handle and couldn't get in and it felt like 'love locked out'. The idea that there is somewhere which is always open for people to go into and where you can have a spiritual or artistic experience, or get a sense of the history of the community in an area, that is so important.

In making my television programmes I spend a lot of time in churches abroad so I think that we are much better than many European countries about remembering the medieval function of a church. That's the idea that a church is a place where many things can happen and it can also be a community centre, sometimes a market or even an arts venue.

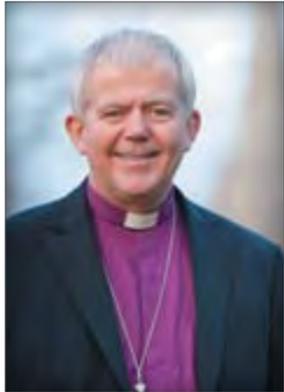
We are very good at that and I am always pleased when you go to a church and there is usually a corner that has something that has nothing to do with the business of it as a religious place. You don't get that so much abroad, perhaps because there are more services going on so it's harder to manage. The way things happen here means that many churches can be utilised as spaces for so many different things and I think that is very positive for the future.



Bettany Hughes is an award-winning author, historian and broadcaster. For the last 25 years Bettany has passionately pursued her goal to share the study of history and human society with as wide an audience as possible. Her recent BBC series on the history of the relationship between women and religion *Divine Women* is now available on iTunes.

Churches are for life, not just for Sundays

By The Rt Rev Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury



Nicholas Holtam grew up in North London and was educated at The Latymer Grammar School Edmonton. He served his first curacy from 1979 to 1983 at St Dunstan and All Saints Stepney. From 1983 to 1988 he was a Tutor at Lincoln Theological College where he taught Christian Ethics and Mission. From 1988 to 1995 he was Vicar of Christ Church and St John with St Luke's Isle of Dogs. From 1995 to 2011 he was Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, in the Diocese of London.

In early June 2012, I carried out the annual visitation of my diocese, which covers Dorset and most of Wiltshire. I met 950 Churchwardens from 475 parishes. They are an impressive and committed group who volunteer their time for the benefit of others.

Much of their time is taken up with caring for church buildings, 87 per cent of which in my diocese are listed Grade I or II*. One has had lead from the roof stolen eight times but all have to find the money for regular repairs and maintenance. Many are fundraising to put in modern facilities to enable them to better serve the wider community.

This is a picture mirrored around the country by the people who care for the UK's 47,000 churches, chapels and meeting houses. That's almost double the combined total of buildings used as post offices, high street banks and big four supermarket branches. Just as post offices are closing and banks amalgamating, churches too are under financial pressure with the threat of closure if they can no longer afford to maintain their buildings.

So what's the problem? In today's secular and multi-faith society, isn't this just natural selection at work? Haven't we got better charitable causes to support than crumbling church buildings?

This argument ignores the fact that as well as sustaining faith, churches, chapels and meeting houses bring a wide range of other benefits to our society. As public expenditure cuts bite, the axing of local facilities such as libraries and community centres means that places of worship are often the last place where charities can hire a room to meet either for free or at an affordable price. It is estimated that nearly 80 per cent of church buildings are also used for purposes other than regular worship, such as providing nursery and playgroup education.

This too often off-balance sheet social benefit is at risk as congregations struggle to afford to repair and modernise their buildings. That's why, since it was established in June 2007

as the successor to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, the National Churches Trust has given over £8 million to help almost 900 places of worship of all Christian denominations to survive.

One of the many churches whose grant applications the Trust recently considered was St John of Jerusalem in Hackney. This typical Victorian inner-city church serves one of the poorest boroughs in London. It runs a Winter Night Shelter for the homeless, hosts play groups and many other activities. But a leaking roof makes it hard for the church to continue as a community hub.

Or there's the Catholic church of St Philip Neri in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire which needs a modern parish hall where it can provide outreach to the marginalized in an area hit by unemployment.

With much of the history of Britain told through the churches, chapels and meeting houses scattered throughout the country, it's perhaps no surprise that around 40 per cent of places of worship are listed. A small but critical proportion of churches are in a poor or very poor state of repair. That's why the Government's recent decision to soften the blow of the imposition of 20 per cent VAT on alterations to listed churches was so welcome. And why, with the stripping of lead roofs from churches having cost hundreds of thousands of pounds, it's vital to strengthen the penalties against metal theft.

The UK's 47,000 churches, chapels and meeting houses are places where for more than 1,000 years history has been made and faith proclaimed. Just as importantly, they are today places where communities are being built, the vulnerable supported and our society sustained and strengthened.

(This article was first published in The Times on 20 June 2012)

Royal Celebrations



Giving thanks for the work of support for places of worship in 2003

In 2013 the National Churches Trust will mark the Diamond Jubilee of the founding of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust (HCPT), the work of which was taken forward by the National Churches Trust when it was established in 2007. Her Majesty the Queen was Patron of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust and is Patron of the National Churches Trust. It is appropriate, therefore, to look back at how the Royal Family has supported our work for nearly 60 years.

On 17 July 2003, the Historic Churches Preservation Trust celebrated its 50th anniversary with a thanksgiving service held at St Bartholomew the Great, London, in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen. The Very Reverend Henry Stapleton, MBE, Vice President of the National Churches Trust, Chairman of the Incorporated Building Society and former Chairman of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust paid tribute on the day:

"What better setting could there be than St Bartholomew the Great, the parish church representative of all the places of worship the Trust has aided. Appropriately enough, St Bartholomew's received grants both in 1953 and 2003."

"What greater privilege to have than the presence of our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Here we give thanks in worship, word and song to Almighty God for the first 50 years' work of HCPT. We prayed for every church, complete in the beauty of holiness, to be the Gate of Heaven through which all may see the Lord in Glory."

"After the Service, the Queen and Prince Philip greeted everybody in Haberdashers' Hall one-by-one, with a word which each one of us will remember and treasure. There could be no better example of that "graciousness" we sing of in the National Anthem."

The Historic Churches Preservation Trust

Thirty years earlier in 1972, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, opened an exhibition about the work of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust in the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey. The display, which was on view for five months, was a source of interest and pleasure to visitors to England's premier ecclesiastical shrine. 33,600 people passed through the Chapter House and saw the exhibition during this period. The opening of the display received widespread publicity in the national and provincial press, including favourable leaders praising the work of the Trust and calling for renewed public support.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, seen with the Duke of Grafton, at the opening of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust exhibition in the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey.

The Duke of Grafton sadly died in April 2011. The Duke, who was Vice-Patron of the National Churches Trust, was an active supporter of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, serving as its Chairman from 1968- 1997.

Providing value for money



A growing interest in the nation's heritage and actively bringing diverse communities together are at the heart of modern day Britain and underpin the values held by individuals, politicians, charities and community groups alike.

These values resonate with the aims and the ethos of the National Churches Trust and in these uncertain economic times, I am encouraged that we can still depend on voluntary contributions to our work, whether monetary or in terms of expertise.

Running a charity, of whatever size, is a challenge in the current financial climate. With a small team and limited resources, we strive to give the maximum support possible to places of worship as efficiently as possible. Working in partnership with other organisations in the sector is central to our work so that resources are utilised to best effect. Keeping costs to a minimum and providing value for money are paramount and

we remain very grateful to the volunteers who so very generously give of their time in helping us carry out our daily work.

Over the coming years the National Churches Trust will carry on helping places of worship continue to play a significant part in modern day life. Whether urban or rural, listed or unlisted, large or small, with our help churches can provide a meaningful experience in many more people's lives; young or old, and regardless of denomination, culture or background.

The support that the National Churches Trust is able to provide for places of worship is totally dependent on the generosity of our donors.

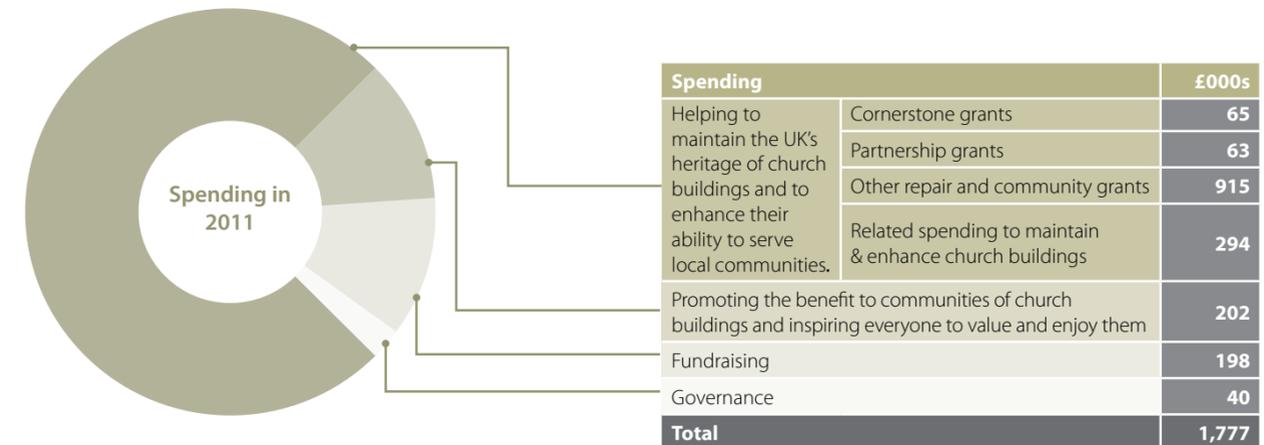
Thank you for supporting the National Churches Trust.

Claire Walker
Chief Executive

Financial Summary

Spending in 2011

More than £1.5m was spent in 2011 on maintaining and enhancing church buildings and promoting their benefit to communities. This was a reduction from 2010 largely as a result of a fall in amounts claimed and paid out as grants. Grantees have up to two years to claim payment from the point of offer. The amount offered in grants in 2011 remained at a comparable level to the £1.3m offered in 2010. Spending in 2011 was also lower as a result of a successful strategy of introducing efficiencies and reducing running costs.



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

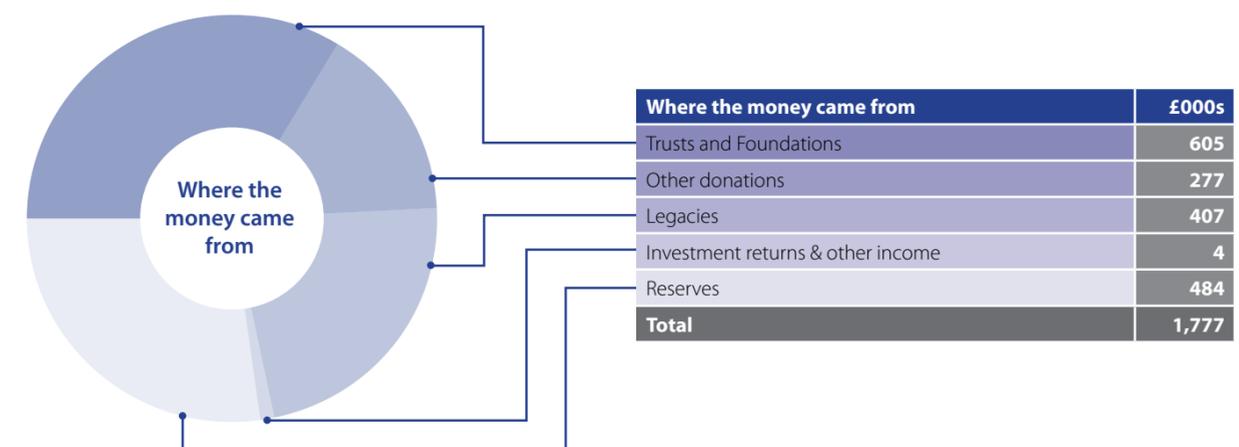
The National Churches Trust is a registered charity, incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. As a result of a uniting direction granted by the Charity Commission, the National Churches Trust and its predecessor the Historic Churches Preservation Trust are treated as a single charity for administrative, accounting and regulatory purposes. A similar process is envisaged for the Incorporated Church Building

Society (ICBS), which has been managed by the HCPT, and subsequently the National Churches Trust, since 1983. The results of the Luke Trust are consolidated with those of the National Churches Trust, although it remains a distinct charity and its results are also separately reported.

The Financial Summary opposite does not comprise the full statutory accounts but is a summary of financial information. The full Annual Report and Accounts of the National Churches Trust, the Incorporated Church Building Society and the Luke Trust are available on request from our office, or to download from the Charity Commission website.

Where the money came from

Income from charitable trusts and donations increased by 9% in 2011 to £882,000. In the challenging economic climate this bears witness to the importance of churches to our supporters. There was, however, a significant reduction in investment returns. In order to maintain grant levels, approximately £0.5m of reserves was used to supplement current income.



The National Churches Trust is very grateful for the contributions from legacies and the support it received from Trusts and Foundations during 2011.

Legacies

Oswald Allen
Ian Arscott
M C G Bennett
William Blackburn
Megan Chandler
S M Glenn
Stephen Head
Margaret Howard
John Hunsworth
M K McMullon
Gilbert Payne
Alfred Proctor
K A Scott
Gary Southwell
P M Ward
Cynthia Wiernik

Trusts and Foundations

The Pilgrim Trust
The Dulverton Trust
The Goldsmiths' Company
The Leathersellers' Company
The PF Charitable Trust
The LJC Fund Ltd
The Douglas Turner Trust
The Wates Foundation
The A G Charitable Trust
The Mercers' Charitable Foundation
The Antelope Trust
The Atlas Fund
The B C R Nicholl Trust
The Brooke of Sutton Mandeville Church Trust
The Cedars Trust
The Coutts Charitable Trust

The David Webster Charitable Trust
The Donald Forrester Charitable Trust
The E L Rathbone Charitable Trust
The Earl Mawby Trust
The Edinburgh Trust No2
The Esme Mitchell Trust
The Eversley Trust
The Fitzler Lacy Trust
The G M Morrison Charitable Trust
The Gatcliff Trust
The Golden Bottle Trust
The Gretna Charitable Trust
The Helen Isabella McMorrin Charitable Foundation
The Ian Askew Charitable Trust
The JHF Green Trust
The Kettle Memorial Fund
Major General Sir A G V Paley's

Second Charitable Trust
The Nancy Bateman Charitable Trust
The Oakley Charitable Trust
The Oldcastle Charity
The O J Colman Charitable Trust
The Pilkington Jones Charitable Trust
The Pitt-Rivers Charitable Trust
The Poling Charitable Trust
The Privy Purse Charitable Trust
The Providence Cranbrook Charity
The Rhododendron Trust
The Scholes Trust
The Scouloudi Foundation
The Sir Jemeriah Colman Gift Trust
Sir John Sumner's Trust
The Swan Trust
William Haddon Charitable Trust

The Professional Alliance

The National Churches Trust receives annual support from members of the Professional Alliance. The Professional Alliance is aimed specifically at companies who have a particular involvement in the work of restoring the fabric of many of the UK's churches, chapels and meeting houses.

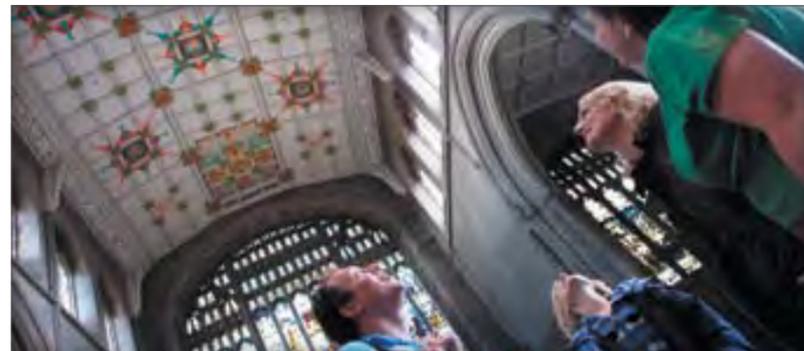
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Anglia Lead Ltd
Antony Short & Partners
Barley Studios Ltd
BJN Roofing (Contractors) Ltd
Brian Foxley Architect
Building Projects (UK) Ltd
C E L Ltd
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Chapel Studio Stained Glass Lt
Checkwood Environmental Solutions
Chedburn Dudley Ltd
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Chris Pike Associates
Church Conservation Ltd
Clague
Coe Stone Ltd
Cornish Lime Co Ltd
Coyle Timber Products
Craigmyle and Company Ltd
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Downing Francis W
E Bowman and Sons

Fabco
farcroft
Goode & Davies Ltd
Graham Holland Associates
Great British Lighting
Hall & Enson
Hare & Humphreys
Hayes & Finch Ltd
Hayles & Howe Ltd
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Heritage Tile Conservation Ltd
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Royal School of Needlework
RPS

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The listing of Professional Alliance members does not constitute an endorsement or approval by the National Churches Trust of any product or service to the exclusion of others that may be suitable.



Professional Alliance members are listed on the National Churches Trust website and in our Annual Review. They also have the opportunity to advertise in National Churches Trust publications.

To join the Professional Alliance, please visit:

www.nationalchurchestrust.org
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Our website has the latest news about the work of the National Churches Trust, details about how to support our work and become a Friend of the National Churches Trust and information on how to apply for a grant. You can visit our website at:
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