



Appointment of new Trustees

The National Churches Trust is looking to appoint new trustees to complement the skills and experience of current board members. If you share our passion for church buildings, their role in local communities and their important place in the UK's heritage, then you may be able to contribute to keeping them at the heart of our communities.

Introduction

The National Churches Trust supports and promotes church buildings of historic, architectural and community value. We are the independent, UK-wide charity supporting churches, chapels and meeting houses of all Christian denominations.

Places of worship are an integral part of our nation's architectural heritage and play a vital part in building and sustaining local communities. Church buildings are valued for many reasons. Where one finds solace, another finds inspirational architecture. Some churches provide poignant family memories, while others are commended for their presence in the community and the work they do in bringing local people together.

Incredible work is done by volunteers up and down the country to preserve these buildings for future generations and ensure that they remain at the heart of their local community. The National Churches Trust is here to help them address the challenges and opportunities they face.

The Trust, founded in 2007, is the successor to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust (HCPT), created in 1953.

The aims 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.

Recognising the power of digital resources to reach and engage many more people, the Trust has recently launched 'ExploreChurches' (www.explorechurches.org), the new church tourism website for people who love churches. We are also actively promoting good practice in maintenance which will help keep churches and chapels in good condition and prevent the need for expensive repairs. As part of this, the 'MaintenanceBooker' website (www.maintenancebooker.org) has been developed to assist those looking after church buildings in booking professional contractors and services.

The Trust's website www.nationalchurchestrust.org provides more information about the organisation and its work.



Board of Trustees

The work of the Trust is overseen by the Board of Trustees, which has a maximum membership of 12. Subject to reappointment, trustees can serve up to ten years. Currently there are 9 trustees. The board has been chaired since 2012 by Luke March DL and the treasurer is Alastair Hunter FCA.

Expertise

To complement the skills of existing board members, we would welcome approaches from people with interest in finance, marketing, technology, heritage, church building and fundraising; and those with other relevant experience and a strong empathy for our work and mission.

Diversity

We are keen to improve the diversity of the board and would particularly welcome applications from women, people from younger age groups, members of ethnic minority groups and from disabled people.

Time commitment

The trustees meet as a board four times a year, with meetings lasting around 3 hours, normally during the working day. Meetings usually take place in our office in Westminster.

In addition, some trustee representation is required on board committees. There are currently three committees: the Nominations Committee, the Audit and Risk Committee, and the Grants Committee. The Nominations Committee comprises four trustees and currently meets before regular trustee meetings, as necessary. The Audit and Risk Committee comprises four trustees and currently meets two or three times a year for around 2 hours, during the working day. The Grants Committee (which includes two trustees) currently meets three times a year for around 4 hours, during the working day. Between formal meetings advice and decisions may be sought from trustees via email. In addition, trustees are asked to attend some Trust events and ad hoc meetings on particular initiatives.

This is a voluntary role and is unpaid, but reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.



Duties of trustees

The trustees have ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of the Trust, ensuring that it is well run, and delivers on its charitable objectives.

Trustees must be willing to:

- Contribute their expertise and knowledge in furtherance of the Trust's strategy and objects.
- Play a role in committees and ad hoc groups set up by the Trust to take forward particular initiatives.
- Represent the organisation externally, play a role in the development of effective partnerships with stakeholders and organisations pursuing similar activities, and participate in fundraising activities.
- Contribute effectively to meetings and requests for advice.

In addition, applicants should be able to demonstrate the following qualities:

- Extensive networks, and a willingness to draw on contacts as appropriate.
- An understanding of, commitment to, and enthusiasm for the National Churches Trust and its work.
- Sufficient time to make an effective contribution.
- No significant potential conflicts of interest.

The Charity Commission identifies that, collectively, the trustees of a charity have duties of compliance, prudence and care:

Duty of compliance

- To ensure that the charity complies with charity law, and with the requirements of the Charity Commission as regulator; in particular to ensure that the charity prepares accounts and reports on what it has achieved as required by law.
- To ensure that the charity does not breach any of the requirements or rules set out in its governing document and that it remains true to the charitable purpose and objects set out there.
- To act with integrity, and avoid any personal conflicts of interest or misuse of charity funds or assets.

Duty of prudence

- To ensure that the Trust is and will remain solvent.
- To use the Trust's funds and assets reasonably, and only in furtherance of its objects.
- To avoid undertaking activities that might place the Trust's funds, assets or reputation at undue risk.
- To take special care when investing the funds of the Trusts, or borrowing funds for its use.

Duty of care

- To use reasonable care and skill in their work as trustees, using their personal skills and experience as needed to ensure that the charity is well run and efficient.
- To consider getting external professional advice on all matters where there may be material risk to the Trust.



How to apply

If you are interested in becoming a trustee, please send a CV and covering letter (including the names of two referees), outlining why you are interested and what you would bring to the board, to our Chief Executive Claire Walker via claire.walker@nationalchurchestrust.org

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview at a mutually convenient date.

Applications are preferred by email, but our postal address is below.

If you wish to have an informal discussion about the role prior to application, please feel free to contact Claire Walker via the email above or on 020 7222 0605.

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For people who love church buildings