

Churches Trusts Forum

Issue 4 December 2015

supporting
churches
trusts
to help
places of
worship

Past, present and future ...

The very best wishes of the season to all of our colleagues from churches trusts across the country. Christmas and the New Year is so often a time to reflect on the past, present and the future. So, what might the future bring to churches trusts in 2016 and beyond?



Public perception

Many of us who follow the Charity press and information about charities in the national media will have noticed quite a lot of disquiet over the past couple of years with the charity and voluntary sector. This disquiet by Government ministers and the public has arisen in part by enquiries into well publicised financial investigations into formerly popular charities; Gift Aid issues; and distress caused allegedly by pressures from fundraisers; and delays by some charities in filing their Trustees Annual Report and Accounts.

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About the Churches Trusts Forum

The Churches Trusts Forum (CTF) represents churches trusts and provides a point of liaison with the National Churches Trust and other national bodies.

It provides a panel of regional representatives who volunteer to help raise issues at national level. The group also develops advice on issues where needed and requested.

Call for your input

Please tell your CTF representative what guidance would be useful for your trust, from help with publicity to current recommended guidance on best practice for trustees of small charities. Contact details can be found at the end of this publication.

The Churches Trusts Forum is supported by the National Churches Trust

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Driving opinion

Commentators on the charity and voluntary sector now voice concerns that further regulation and changes regarding the running of charities could be brought forward by Government to reassure the public.

Positive action

While there has been no adverse comment regarding historic churches trusts, I think that the question now needs to be asked by churches trusts, individually and collectively, about whether there is anything we should be doing to reassure the Government and public that we are well managed, responsible and operate the highest standards of governance and fundraising.

All of our trusts are separate, independent and distinct legal entities and the Forum has no wish whatsoever to impinge upon this independence. But, colleagues and I think that, in view of the disquiet about charities generally, we need to be doing something, individually or collectively, which demonstrates our competence, effectiveness and the good work that we do.

Your views

We would be delighted if you and your colleagues could give some thought to this matter and let us have your ideas on how we might achieve this (please send these to [Alison Pollard](#) at the National Churches Trust).

Working together

One possibility could be to make our ties as trusts more formal. This could mean that Forum officers could be elected by individual trusts and be there to speak and lobby on behalf of all trusts collectively. It could ensure that all trusts had more immediate access to the best information and guidance available in relation to matters such as governance, financial management and fundraising. I do hope that the Government shies away from further regulation of charities. Whatever view is taken in future, I do think that it would be of benefit to churches trusts to be prepared to demonstrate our worth.

Please give us your own opinions and help us to best direct our work by completing a survey that we will send out in the New Year.

John Mills,
Chairman, Churches Trust Forum
December 2015

Breaking news: Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) Consultation

A call to action

A number of changes are being proposed to the LCF with effect from 1 April 2016. The CTF, NCT, the HRBA and the Church Buildings Council are lobbying to challenge a recommendation that may mean the end of LCF grants for churches and other public buildings, community and environmental projects. A consultation about the proposals was launched on 9 December and is open for an eight week period. If your trust would like to write a letter to try to save this source of funding and some suggested wording would be helpful please contact [Alison Pollard](#).

The issue is around a requirement for landfill operators to pay 10% towards their LCF contribution from their own income. Formerly for every LCF grant offered the grant recipient has had to secure a 10% contribution from another organisation, group or individual as “third party funding”. The third party funding then compensates the landfill operator. Whilst this system has its complications, the current proposal means that landfill operators are considering stopping their participation in the scheme completely. This would mean the end of the LCF.

Other changes proposed

As a result of a further £20m being made available to the Environment Agency to fight waste crime over the course of this Parliament, the size of the fund for 2016/17 would reduce if it were to continue. Administrative costs would be set at a 7.5% maximum and bureaucracy would be reduced.

The gift of giving ...

The Playfair Prize—Somerset Churches Trust

Small rural church wins £5,000 Prize for 'change and renewal'

Promotion is of increasing interest to many trusts. In this edition, we feature The Playfair Prize, a very successful initiative by the Somerset Churches Trust. David Sisson, Chairman and Jane Venner-Pack, Playfair Prize Organiser, tell us all about it.



Above: Hugh Playfair, Somerset Churches Trust, and Julian Orbach, architectural historian and Chairman of the judging panel

Why did we do it?

The Trust was originally established 20 years ago by Hugh Playfair, at that time Chairman of the Bath and Wells DAC. Hugh gathered a bunch of like-minded folk and from a standing start set up Friends of Somerset Churches and Chapels Trust, mirroring other established trusts elsewhere.

Initially the Trust focused its grant giving towards historic churches; particularly towards repair and making buildings watertight.

As the Trust matured the need to help with improving community use was identified as a further aim. The Trust re-launched becoming the Somerset Churches Trust in 2013. Trustees wanted to honour Hugh as the founder and at the same time encourage the adaptation of church buildings to enable wider community use. The Playfair Prize was thus launched to reward the church or chapel which had, in the view of a panel of independent judges, best used its assets to enable a broader use by more of their local community."

How we did it

The Prize was announced in our Annual Review published in January 2014. Prize money and support were raised separately from the general funds. We eventually achieved £5,000 for the winner.

Below: Norton Malreward's winning team: Geoff Thomas (churchwarden) ; Revd Charles Roberts (Rector Chew Magna Benefice) ; Margaret Masding (Lay Reader), Michael James (designer and team member)



Continues on page 4...

Lord Carey (pictured right), John Goodall of Country Life, Alison Pollard of the National Churches Trust and Julian Orbach, historian and writer, agreed to be our judges.

Entries were sought from churches or chapels that had completed projects in their building between March 2005 and March 2015 - a ten year span.

By close of entry on 30th June we had received twenty-four entries which included a Quaker Meeting House,



three non-conformist chapels and twenty Anglican churches.

With differing schemes and varying budgets and circumstances, all twenty four were visited in the

short listing exercise over four days. It was hard work but tremendously uplifting to receive the welcome and to see the imagination and enthusiasm that had gone in to each.

The judges, with Julian Orbach as their Chair, visited the

Do such changes make a difference? From the evidence we saw, certainly. They enable congregations to extend a welcome to many different groups in their community which is the first step towards keeping the building 'alive'.

When asked by one of the judges what had changed as a result of the work, Margaret Masding, master mind of the winning project in Norton Malreward, replied, 'The people!'

What is most rewarding is to see the great variety of activities that now go on in these buildings. We saw that space and facilities allow for play-groups, holiday clubs, drama, film shows, exercise classes, Wi-Fi workshops, concerts, tea and lunch parties, wedding receptions and even wakes, to mention just a few!

Speaking after the presentation Lord Carey, pictured above, paid tribute to the Trust and said, "Holy Trinity, the winner of the 2015 Playfair Prize, is an inspiring example of what a tiny country church can achieve! The imaginative development is a marvellous example of the work of the Somerset Churches Trust and its contribution to the mission of the Church".

The budget at Holy Trinity, Norton Malreward, (pictured above) was £25,000 with which the project



final six shortlisted over two days. They felt that each could have taken the Prize but finally agreed that, as an inspiring example and encouragement to other communities, the smallest, Holy Trinity, Norton Malreward, with the most modest budget should win for its well conceived changes, ingenuity and community team work.

The Prize Giving Evening

As for each stage of the prize, our trustees and contacts played a vital voluntary role. The event at Wells Town Hall was attended by people from the shortlisted churches and others. SCT's trustees prepared a buffet. The announcement of the winner was met with cheers and applause. SCT made sure that all of the entrants were celebrated.

- the opening up of the south aisle, the moving of the organ to allow for space to accommodate a servery and disabled loo, and the installation of an audio-visual system - has brought this little church right back to the heart of its community. It is an inspiration to so many churches and chapels wondering how to keep their buildings alive in the 21st century. 'I am totally amazed,' said Lay Reader Margaret Masding (pictured on the previous page), who master-minded at the work at the church, 'I thought we would be too small to win! It was a team effort and we are thrilled and encouraged.' **Jane Venner-Pack, SCT**



Finalist: St Andrew's, Blagdon. The popular weekly wi-fi workshop helps people to build their confidence in using the internet, emails and mobile phones.

An insightful book, 'Keeping Somerset Churches Alive' by Hugh Playfair is sold in aid of the Trust, costs £5.00 and is available from David Sisson, Providence House, Sexeyes Road, Blackford, Wedmore, Somerset.

Events

Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust Music in Quiet Places Concert Series

HHCT continues to find innovative ways to promote and attract visitors to enjoy the beauty and atmosphere of Herefordshire's rural churches. Sarah de Rohan tells us about their new concert series.

In 2015 HHCT and Hereford Cathedral School's Music Outreach organisation have joined forces to create 'Music in Quiet Places', a programme of live choral music events in large and small church venues across Herefordshire.

A full house

The first concert at St Michael and All Angels was filled to capacity, about 300 people enjoyed the performances of Cantabile, BBC Songs of Praises choir of the year, HCJS Chamber Choir, winners of choir of the year in the Barnardo's National Choral Competition, and Hereford Cathedral School Senior Chamber Choir. Tickets for this concert

were free but a retiring donation was held.

A further five popular concerts have been held.



A talented young musician taking part in the first concert



HHCT hosts the evening

Some were free, some ticketed and all had a retiring collection.

Showcasing local talent

Identifying with the needs of Herefordshire people, 'Music in Quiet Places' delivers homegrown talent direct to many of our beautiful outlying villages, with the aim of establishing a following of people who appreciate top quality music in intimate surroundings and have an interest in visiting our rural churches.

Find out more

The events are featured at www.hhct.co.uk/ Keep your eyes peeled on our Twitter feed for further details of concerts.

New Faces— Changes at the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust

Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust has a new Hon. Secretary, Brigadier Nigel Jackson MBE. Trustees are to review their grants policy during 2016. The National Churches Trust is liaising with them over joining the Partnership Grants Programme.

The Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust was founded in 1954 and in the last ten years has assisted nearly 200 churches and chapels with grants of over £400,000. The Friends of Wiltshire Churches was established in 2008 to raise awareness of Wiltshire's rich ecclesiastical heritage. for fabric repairs and structural maintenance.

<http://www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk/>

Innovation in the North

All of the trusts working to help churches and chapels have their own circumstances and challenges. There is, however, much that we can share and learn from each other. The North of England has a rich variety of landscapes with areas of great beauty, large industrial centres, a dramatic history and striking heritage buildings that reflect it. Lancashire (outside Greater Manchester) and Liverpool are not covered by any county churches trust. Trusts working across the North of England are confronting and negotiating the future in inspiring new ways.

Northumbria Historic Churches Trust

As charities, reviewing and assessing priorities and activities is good practice as we all know. Robin Brims, Chairman of the NHCT, had the inspired idea of contacting the University of Newcastle for a ground breaking consultation on promotion and fundraising. Alison Pollard found out more when she joined NHCT Trustees at their Trustees' Training and Development Day.

Working together

NCT and the NHCT sit on the Steering Group for [Inspired Futures](#), a £250,000 Heritage Lottery funded initiative, currently in its development phase, to develop and widen the use of a number of churches in Newcastle and Durham Dioceses. NHCT also joined the NCT Partnership Grants Programme this year so there have been several occasions to meet this year.

I was glad to accept their invitation to a Trustees' Training and Development Day, which featured NHCT's new promotional and fundraising strategy.

Review and looking forward

The Executive MBA Management Consultancy team from Newcastle University Business School had written a recommendation paper to help NHCT to raise their profile, improve communications and fundraise. NHCT's Trustees had drawn up a shortlist of priorities from this report. The meeting at the beautiful [Minsteracres Retreat Centre estate](#) looked at the shortlist and action to date.

The key action points being taken forward from the report centred on the following at each stage assigning responsibilities to one or two trustee. It



St Aidan's Church, Thockrington, Northumberland

covered timing, operation and raised the question of the need for training wherever relevant. A new Trustee had been brought in to specialise in PR and communications developing their ability to tell stories and to build up media and other contacts. This was already paying dividends.

New website

The [new website](#) was a top priority. It is available now. It is visually striking, clean and, importantly, easy to update and change.

Social Media

Knowing what NHCT wants to achieve had been a key factor. They had started more active use of Facebook and were incorporating their Twitter feed into the homepage of their new website. Please

like them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter.

Brand image and logo

Creating a new bold and simple logo and ensuring that correspondence is consistent by adopting a house style in terms of font, font size, email addresses used, signatures and use of the logo.

Sponsored fundraising event

NHCT's Steeplechase (Ride+Stride) has struggled in recent years as have other Ride+Stride events in the north. NHCT intend to take their event in a

new direction, which may mean more active promotion and a new emphasis on stories.

Partners

Identifying old partnerships to work more closely with and establishing new links to open new opportunities and widen exposure.

Raising awareness with new audiences

Ideas included joining in with wider local heritage and marketing initiatives and becoming more involved with community events at churches. Everyone agreed that churches in Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle have a wealth of unexplored stories to tell.

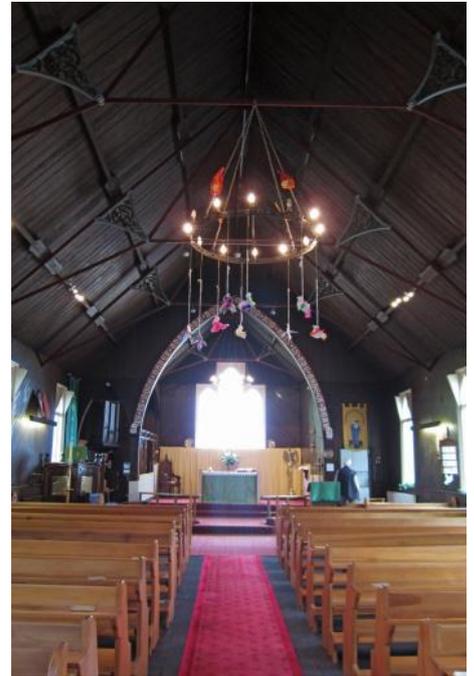
Getting help

Thinking what skills can be accessed through the Trustees own personal and professional contacts and networks. Identifying individuals and organisations to

approach for help where there are gaps in their trustees' skillsets.

New image and proactive action

The Trustees then had a useful training session recapping and updating on the duties and responsibilities of Trustees in small charities.



Inside St David's, the Tin Church, Tudhoe, Durham—the only tin tabernacle in the area covered by the NHCT

Images courtesy of the NHCT

Churches Trust for Cumbria—A new beginning

CTfC, following a hiatus in activity, has found a new and exciting way forward with the publication of a report based on their research on the current issues for places of worship in Cumbria. They have attracted new funding from three denominations to continue and develop their work. Trustees are seeking a new Director to take its work forward. Bryan Gray, Chairman, after leading the organization successfully through its first few years handed over to new Chairman, Adam Naylor, in a recent meeting at the Penrith Methodist Church. Nigel Robson, former Director and a member of the CTF, has been appointed as a Trustee.

The CTfC built up an extensive resource about and for places of worship. Conceived originally by the National Churches Trust with the Churches Conservation Trust and funded with help from the National Churches Trust, English Heritage, the North West Development Agency and others, the CTfC achieved a lot in its first three years. Trustees have been taking a break over the last two years to consider how to fund and take the organisation forward to better help churches and chapels in Cumbria into the future.

For an electronic copy of their recent report which received considerable press attention in the area, please contact alison.pollard@nationalchurchestrust.org

Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust

YHCT and the National Churches Trust is at the early stages of developing an exciting new initiative; a rural churches maintenance pilot in Yorkshire. There is strong interest from a funder at this early stage.

Developments will be reported in the CTF Newsletter and in York at the CTF Annual Conference on 19 May 2016.

Happy Birthday Greater Manchester Churches Preservation Society!

GMCPs celebrates its tenth anniversary in 2016-2017

On 18 May 2017 colleagues are invited to join in the celebrations of GMCPs's first decade by attending the CTF Annual Conference at Manchester Cathedral.

Safeguarding Suffolk's churches

Alarms for Churches—an exciting new campaign by the Suffolk Historic Churches

A bright idea

The introduction of more controls over the sale of scrap metal combined with police efforts led to a sharp decline in theft in recent years. There have in the last year been a number of roof thefts at churches, with efficient and organised gangs stripping and exporting large amounts of lead.



Following a series of devastating thefts this summer, the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust has taken action. With the support of the St Edmundsbury &

Ipswich Diocese, which has introduced a special fast track De Minimus permission process, they have embarked on a mission to help Suffolk churches to install insurer approved alarms with

a cost of up to £5,000 per church.

Counting the Cost

Suffolk churches suffering thefts this year in August/September

- Lavenham
- Combs
- Parham
- Capel
- Dennington
- Hundon
- Chevington
- Groton
- Stratford St Mary

Fundraising

SHCT Trustees agreed to use reserves to get the scheme off the ground. The Alarms for Churches Campaign was launched in late September. There was considerable local media inter-

est and this helped SHCT to raise £175,000 in the first five weeks of the Appeal.

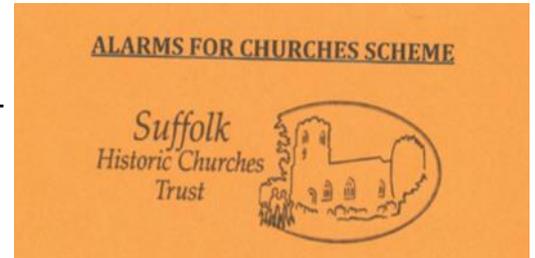
NCT has contributed £6,500 towards three alarms to date and SHCT is seeking further funding.

Partners

With the support of the Diocese and Ecclesiastical Insurance, SHCT negotiated an advantageous deal with E-Bound, one of the few contractors currently approved by Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Mobilising churches

Within a week, a number of churches had signed up to have a roof alarm installed. The scheme makes it easy for them to install an alarm. SHCT can only meet the full cost, however, with additional financial help, so some churches may lose out if funding is not found.



Within a few weeks, more than 70 churches had committed to having alarms installed. By the beginning of December over a hundred have signed up.

“A race against the thieves” (Martin Favell, Chairman, SHCT)

SHCT aims to safeguard 130 Suffolk churches by the end of 2016.



St Peter & St Paul, Lavenham, one of Suffolk's most famous and loved churches which lost the section of roof pictured.

Sharing Inspiration

The CTF has recently discovered that Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust has had a similar idea and that Norfolk Churches Trust is also considering it. WHCT Trustees reserved an amount from their reserves to be used to help with church roof alarms.

If your Trust has considered this or if you would like to express any views about any new types of grant giving or other initiatives at trusts, please get in touch with [Alison Pollard](#).

As simple as A,B,C ...

1. Churches apply for a Faculty
2. They are referred to the SHCT
3. The church commits to paying 50% of the cost (up to £5,000 per building)
4. SHCT finds the remaining 50%.
5. SHCT contact E-Bound
6. E-Bound contacts the church and carries out a survey
7. The alarm is installed and maintained by E-Bound

The benefits

- Reduced lead theft will reduce damage to historic church fabric
- The alarms are a deterrent against theft and its consequences.
- Installing an approved alarm means that churches can be better insured against theft.
- The campaign has raised awareness for churches and for SHCT throughout Suffolk

County Trusts Now

The Trustees, volunteers and few staff in the county trust network know the vital contribution by trusts to saving and helping our irreplaceable churches and know why this work is important. Do we need to get better at explaining our worth to the wider public and at raising funds? Times are changing in the faith, public and heritage sectors. Trusts are answering the call with innovation and careful consideration.

We find ourselves in a period of major and prolonged change for churches and charities. To hold their own or to grow, charities need to do more to tell the stories of their beneficiaries and to tell their own so that the wider public, Government and other agencies understand the difference that their work makes. Showing that we are well run and that our work matters are crucial through all our activities. E.g., the changing [SORP](#) accounting requirements which charities must follow.

There are always calls for more funding from the faith sector. The Government has been generous at a time when public cuts are transforming Britain's public and charity sectors. Trusts are looking to diversify and increase their funding streams.

We have seen the transition from the English Heritage (now Historic England) administered repair grants, now fully administered by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The emphasis is now on beneficial "outcomes"; improving the condition of heritage buildings and increasing public engagement with heritage.

The [Listed Places of Worship VAT Grants](#) have continued and expanded. The current scheme will last throughout the life of this Parliament.

The second round of the [Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Grants](#) (entirely a separate scheme from the VAT Grants) has just been launched (see page 16).

The future is not certain. The Heritage Lottery Fund is to build up to its next review period starting in 2017 when it will reprioritise its main funding programmes.

Effective maintenance initiatives such as the SPAB Faith in Maintenance and Maintenance Cooperatives schemes have been popular and important in recent years. If their funding ends, how can progress be tracked and sustained?

The recent much publicised [Report of the Church Buildings Review Group](#) is one example of how denominations are trying to negotiate issues for buildings. There are programmes to change and widen use of churches and chapels, to close or even build new churches.

During 2016 a number of trusts have reported falling grant application numbers. This may be due to the complex environment. Churches could be concentrating on roof repairs, but there has been no analysis. It can be difficult to build an argument for the "need" for public support and funding without evidence and we would urge trusts to look at how they keep track of demand and how they show and meet the needs of churches and chapels.

Trends in the funding and faith sectors are prompting trusts to review activities and some are piloting new programmes. Bringing in changes gives the opportunity to review and to build in more evidence or to articulate the case to help churches and to help your Trust.

Amidst the uncertainty, we do know that the counties and NCT have a vital role to play in keeping churches alive and looked after within our communities. The CTF is looking at the trends from publicly available information to better help and support trusts in their crucial work. [Alison Pollard](#)

Churches Trusts Forum Annual Conference 2016



www.yhct.org.uk
Reg Charity No. 700639

Thursday, 19 May 2016

The Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust invites us to [Merchant Taylors Hall, York](#)

The Merchant Taylors Company is one of seven Guilds in the City of York and dates back to the thirteenth century. The Hall was built six centuries ago and is an important part of York's medieval heritage.

We look forward to welcoming trustees and other volunteers from county churches trusts from across the country. There will be a mixture of talks, debate and workshops, with plenty of opportunity to network with your trust colleagues. Details will be available early in 2016.

We also look forward to announcing the first winner of the Marsh Award for Innovative Projects.

Details will be confirmed and released in the New Year.

We hope to see you there.

For information please contact Alison Pollard at alison.pollard@nationalchurchestrust.org

An Introduction to Social Media

A growing number of trusts are posting on Facebook and tweeting, but, for many trust volunteers these are unexplored territory. So, what is the fuss all about and why is social media important? Rohema Uddin helps the CTF to make the most of these opportunities..

Living in a digital age, we have found new ways to connect and engage with one another. Social media is just one of them where you can reach people across the world, build close relationships and businesses and organisations can use it to increase brand recognition.

It is useful to see social media as a promotional and awareness raising opportunity like any other publication.

For beginners, the key to successfully use social media is to treat it as if you were interacting with your online users in real life – ask and answer questions, write in a friendly and not too formal tone and inform them of your work and mission.

Posts and tweets should be responsive and regular. If possible, make sure that more than one person is posting regularly and that your Trust has a coordinated approach.

Trusts' activities are usually shaped by the volunteers who are available and willing to carry out the work. Some may feel that a very active social media strategy is just not appropriate for them at the moment.

Some trusts are using these platforms already and that use is increasing. If you have not tried it yet, have a look at what others are doing and once you feel ready have a go. If you are not confident, a friend or relative may be able to help and may have some good suggestions.



You may be able to attract volunteers from Media Studies courses via local colleges and universities to help you.

The CTF intends to provide more support for this topic over the next twelve months. Facebook and Twitter have excellent guidance and help, however, to help you make a start.

If you have questions on social media or if you would like more advice, please contact [Alison Pollard](#).

Using Facebook

- Campaign launches, events and competitions
- Activity updates—e.g., how is a campaign or event progressing?
- Event reminders



Using Twitter

- Response to an announcement
- Real-time, on the spot reactions to an event
- Expressing enthusiasm to stimulate other people's interest
- Retweeting others' messages, i.e., forwarding them on to your own network
- Including one or at most two hashtags (e.g., #churches) in messages helps to categorise and enable people to find your message if they are interested in churches
- Linking to other users (e.g., @NatChurchTrust) can also help



What is Facebook?

Facebook is a social networking website that allows registered users to create profiles, upload photos and videos, send messages and keep in touch with friends, family and colleagues.



To see a Facebook page fully you need to create an account. Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust's page shows a lot of good practice.

What is Twitter?

Twitter defines itself as 'an information network made up of 140-character messages called Tweets. It's an easy way to discover the latest news related to subjects you care about'.

For a good example see the [Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust's website homepage](#) for their excellent use of a Twitter feed (stream of messages)



Celebrating the completion of Ride and Stride 2015 @wearehawkes @ChurchesEssex @chelmsdio





Annual Meeting

Representatives from 15 trusts met at NCT HQ in November and to celebrate all things Ride+Stride.

Marketing our events

We heard Steve Osborne, So Branding and Communications Ltd, encourage use and consistency in using the national brand to gain greater public awareness and recognition (see opposite page) to increase the potential for attracting new participants.

The National Ride+Stride Committee will initially look at creating a national poster template with the help of NCT so that trusts that wish to do so can have access to professionally designed materials.

New skills

We also heard an engaging talk on social media from NCT's Rohema Uddin (see page 11).

Sharing information and inspiration

New Coordinators have expressed how useful it would be to share more practice and information. As a result NCT is working with us to develop dedicated pages for Coordinators on the NCT website. Suggestions from organisers around the country would be welcomed by me at djpk34@hotmail.com

Your representatives

Delegates elected to the 2016 Committees are Keith Goodman (Nottinghamshire), Chris Hawkings (Somerset) and Jeanette Thomas (Oxfordshire). At the Committee's March meeting Clive Betteridge (Cambridgeshire) and Rosemary Dymond (Kent) will be proposed for co-option.

The Officers, elected by the Committee, are David Knowles (Chairman), the Revd Preb David Crowhurst (Hon. Secretary) and Hon. Treasurer Madeline Russell. NCT staff also participate.

Committee dates for 2016 are Thurs 3 March, Thurs 23 June and Tues 11 October in London.

David Knowles DL, Chairman, National Ride+Stride Committee,

Dispelling the Myth—the sum of our parts

It is often thought that that the events are declining, but looking at the overview it is clear that this is not true. Ride+Stride looked at as a whole is generally alive and well. Combined income has remained relatively static. Generally, where trusts have in recent years invested time, energy and sometimes money into changing their events there has been growth of income. It is true that some events are not faring as well, It would be useful to establish the reasons for this so that we might try to help. Ride+Stride remains a very important income stream for the majority of trusts and their grant giving. There is still a lot of potential!

Challenges in reaching and making it easy for a wider audience and new participants to join in are shared by all events. This and other matters are discussed by the Committee which includes NCT. We would urge you to try to gather data on participation which would very much help us to identify where help is needed and in what form.

Ride+Stride 2016 is on 10 September



In 2014 £1.4 million was raised! From left to right: The Revd Preb David Crowhurst, Hon. Secretary, Ride+Stride National Committee (Shropshire); Claire Walker, Chief Executive, National Churches Trust; David Knowles DL, Chairman, National Ride+Stride Committee (Leicestershire; Madeline Russell, Hon. Treasurer, National Ride+Stride Committee (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire)

Public perception—making the most of branding

Like it or loathe it a logo can be a powerful tool. The question is not whether you like it personally, but rather how the wider public will perceive it. How does the national Ride+Stride logo, adapted in 2015, perform from an expert's point of view?

Steve Osborne, So Branding and Communications Ltd, has worked with charities, universities and public sector clients including the Institute of Fundraising and Christian Aid.

Steve shared his top tips with us.

A cohesive message and appearance to communications with any promotion, aids the cause. People recognise branded materials and events more easily and consistently. Using a brand effectively will make it easier to raise money and increase the impact of exposure.

An eye catching and consistently applied brand image and effectively use of colour will

- help recognition
- aid recall in future years
- make it easier to garner support with volunteers, participants and helpers
- draw more attention

What is a brand?

“The sum of the perceptions of a product or organisation.”

Successful organisations develop and care for their brand because it adds real differentiation to their offer or services



- Informal, engaging graphic style
- It clearly says what the event is about
- Strong use of colour featuring orange successfully as the main focus
- The design has been well conceived to grab attention and to aid brand recognition.

The Committee will with NCT work on developing use of the logo so that trusts can apply it more consistently to their event if they so wish. The logo is provided for free by the NCT and is available from alison.pollard@nationalchurchestrust.org

Ride+Stride needs you!

If you are able to and would like to play a more active part on the national scene, tap into the secrets of successful events and help others, please consider joining the Ride+Stride National Committee. There are currently three vacancies. Please contact David Knowles at djpk34@hotmail.com for more information or with any nominations.

Save the date

The next **Ride+Stride Coordinators Annual Meeting** will be held on **Thursday 17 November 2016**. A venue, probably in Birmingham, will be decided in the New Year. The day is an opportunity to meet colleagues and share ideas. There are talks, discussions and workshops on helpful topics to support the running of your event. It is also a chance to meet your Committee members and National Churches Trust staff to discuss the national Ride+Stride brand and its direction.

Help the national brand to help you.

National promotional opportunities are rare as Ride+Stride is made up of a number of local events which make great local news. Sponsored events have grown in popularity and are commonplace. Unusual events, or trusts working together to create an extraordinary situation, however, could potentially make the news. The media and people new to the events who are thinking about taking part use the national website so please tell us about novel events. NCT refers all enquiries to the local events. To create a greater number of opportunities for promotion and for the [national Ride+Stride website](#), please contact [Eddie Tulasiewicz](#) with your stories and photographs. If you are planning some-



This section of the newsletter includes national news and some of the ways the National Churches Trust is working with the CTF to support local trusts.

Bringing capital works and social action funding together

In 2016 NCT and the Cinnamon Network are working together to help congregations to transform the lives of people in need through their church buildings.

Cinnamon Network provides the materials, training and support to enable faith communities to start and run successful social action projects supporting people in vulnerable or deprived circumstances with essential skills and practical help.

Their projects to date have rapidly taken root in urban areas amongst evangelical traditions in particular. Their amazing work is now reaching a growing number of rural communities and parish churches. Earlier in 2015 the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Justin Welby, spoke to a packed audience, close to NCT's Westminster office at the Emmanuel Centre, to launch the [Faith Action Audit](#) which measured the extraordinary contribution made by faith volunteers in today's society.

Acknowledgement of the importance of sacred space, history and beauty, the importance of church buildings as venues and public places churches appears to be growing for many faith groups that have previously felt otherwise. Cinnamon Network founder, Matt Bird, con-

"The faith communities in this country have risen to the challenge in the last seven or eight years in the most extraordinary way, as they had done before, and will continue to do ... because there will always be people in need, there will always be people who need not just provision but need provision wrapped up in love. And it's when they get that that human dignity is preserved and humanity is lifted.

That is why faith is a force for good in our society." The Most Rev Justin Welby, Faith Action Audit launch, May 2015

fesses that he only recently realised the crucial role that buildings can have in helping faith communities to deliver mission and help for the community. NCT supports well planned, well designed and executed changes that enable wider community use. We believe it will be an effective complementary partnership that benefits communities and their church buildings.

In 2016 we aim to provide micro grants alongside our Community Grants to help ten churches to install facilities and start a Cinnamon Network project. Details will be published on the [NCT website](#) early next year.

Join the "Cinnamon Swirl" –Cinnamon Network Rural Micro-Grants with British Gas Energy Trust 2016

Danni Malone, Cinnamon Network, tells us about an exciting new opportunity for rural churches and their communities



Cinnamon Network supports community transformation through the delivery of church-based social action projects. Cinnamon began in 2010 in response to growing social need, public sector reform, increasing recognition of the role of voluntary organisations and the economic cuts. Since then, our 'Cinnamon swirl' model has been providing direct support to people most at need in their communities using people and resources from local churches, resulting in local transformation at national scale.

We are delighted to announce that in January 2016 we will be launching a Cinnamon Micro-Grant funding round for local churches in rural communities, which has been funded by British Gas Energy Trust's 'Health Homes' fund. These micro-grants of £2,000 will be available to churches in rural areas across England, Scotland and Wales (subject to eligibility) wanting to start a Cinnamon Recognised Project that meets the needs in their local community. Cinnamon Recognised Projects are tried and tested social action projects that have been replicated across the country, and include great projects like CAP Money Courses, Make Lunch, Parish Nursing and Who Let The Dad's Out. Our team of Regional Cinnamon Advisers are able to offer local churches in rural communities one-to-one support with mapping needs in local communities and choosing & adapting an appropriate Cinnamon Recognised Project to fit the locality needs. To find out more about accessing a Cinnamon Micro-Grant or the support of a Cinnamon Adviser, as well as dates for our 2016 Cinnamon Volunteer Training for leaders of social action projects, please visit our website: www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk or email: katywright@cinnamonnetwork.co.uk.

The Marsh Awards for Innovative Projects

Deadline for nominations extended to 30 January 2016

The National Churches Trust and the Marsh Christian Trust present the Marsh Awards for Innovative Projects, a new competition to find the Christian congregations running the most innovative community projects in a church building made possible through new facilities such as meeting spaces, kitchens, toilets or improved access.

Run with the support of the Marsh Christian Trust, The awards are designed to show the positive impact installing well planned facilities can have on churches

and local communities and directing the energy and enthusiasm of volunteers. Nominations can be made by any charity that helps churches.

Please make your trust's nominations for the awards online at www.nationalchurchestrust.org/marshawards . We have received some entries, but we have now extended the deadline to give trusts more time to participate.

A judging panel will meet in March to shortlist nominees. The first winners will be announced at the CTF Annual Conference in York in 2016 and a £1,000 award will be presented to the church judged to be the overall winner. There will also be a runners up award of £500.

Contact [Alison Pollard](mailto:Alison.Pollard@nationalchurchestrust.org) for information.

Celebrating Capability Brown



2016 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, a designer who changed the national landscape and created a style which has shaped people's picture of the quintessential English countryside. As the first ever celebration of Brown's extensive works, the Capability Brown Festival 2016 brings together a

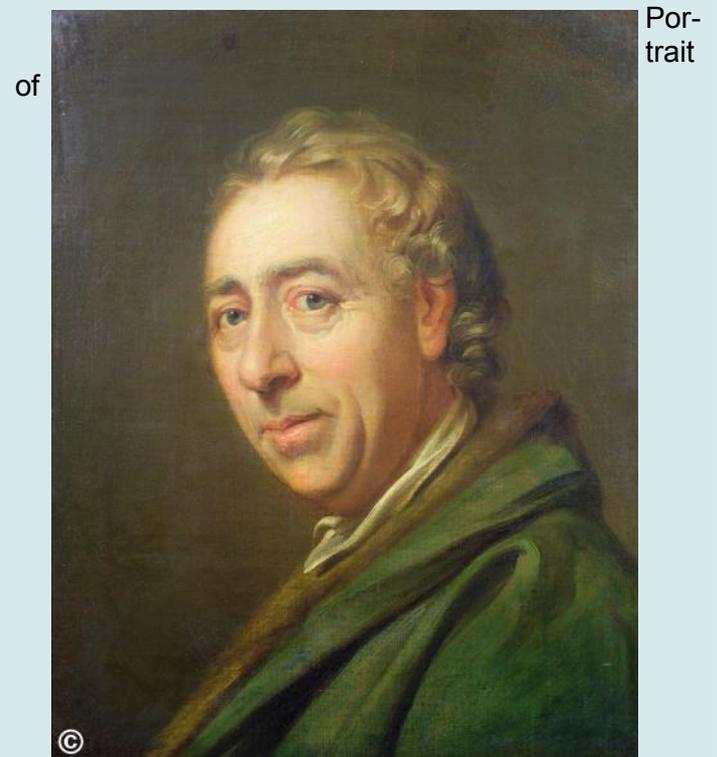
huge range of events, openings and exhibitions. New research and a full listing of his sites will help build knowledge about Brown and fix him at the forefront of modern thinking on design and management of the natural environment.

Brown's sites, which include private gardens and grand estates with chapels such as Blenheim Palace, Compton Verney and Milton Abbey, will be made accessible for families, adults and urban audiences, and volunteers supported to increase their skills in site interpretation, guiding and writing. Artist, inventor, genius; Brown's work has already influenced many at home and abroad. The Festival will inspire new generations of visitors, participants and experts to leave a legacy of new information, skills and enthusiasm for landscape.

The Capability Brown Festival is managed by the Landscape Institute on behalf of the Festival Partnership. It

has been funded by a £911,100 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund with the wider project worth in the region of £1.7million. Much of this represents match funding, and funding in kind, from the Festival's partners and supporters.

More information - www.capabilitybrown.org/



Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, c.1770-75, Cosway, Richard (1742-1821)/Private

Collection/Bridgeman Images

Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund

The programme run by the National Heritage Memorial Fund is now open for a second round of funding, with a budget of £25million to be awarded in 2016. The closing dates for applications will be Friday 26 February 2016 at 12 noon.

There are some changes to the scheme. Applicants who were unsuccessful during the first round and wish to be considered again will need to make a new application using the online application portal.

Key Changes

- The repair work should be identified in a recent condition survey as being needed within the next **two** years.
- The scheme has expanded to consider the repair of spire coverings such as shingles or tiles, in addition to roofs, tower roofs, cupolas, rainwater disposal and any associated repointing where it forms part of the roof repairs.
- There is more room in the application form to explain the reasons for any restrictions in the accounts of the place of worship and to tell

The most common reasons for not succeeding in the first round of LPOW were:

The case for urgency was not strongly made

Projects appeared high risk in the following ways

- High levels of unsecured partnership funding
- The budget was not well costed (e.g. did not include any contingency)
- Project timetable not well planned

them about opening arrangements.

- NHMF has reduced the number of supporting documents that applicants need to supply. Refer churches that ask you for advice to or find out more at <http://www.lpowroof.org.uk/>



How has the Roof Repair Fund affected churches in your area and your Trust?

Last year's scheme was overwhelmed with applications.

Key facts for 2015:

- Number of applicants: 1,900
- Number of recipients: 502
- Total of grants awarded: £26,403,600
- Average award: £48,000
- Minimum award: £10,000
- Maximum award: £100,000

Statistics compiled by Jinaka Ugochukwu, National Churches Trust

Coming soon to www.nationalchurchestrust.org

The National Churches Trust is working with the CTF and the National Ride+Stride Committee to develop dedicated support pages for churches trusts on its website.

We hope that this will become a useful resource to inform and inspire you in your work to help our shared heritage of churches and chapels.

Please make sure that you keep your contact details with us up to date. Please also send us your views of what would be helpful for you and what you think of the pages as they develop.

Please contact Alison Pollard with any ideas and suggestions.

JustGiving™

If your trust has not taken up the offer of a monthly fee free account with Just Giving and you would like to make more of online fundraising please contact [Alison Pollard](mailto:alison@justgiving.com).

Save Our Spires

In the last edition, we featured this campaign, which has included a photography competition. NCT was thrilled when much loved actress, Joanna Lumley, supported us for a special evening

At a NCT Friends' event at St Mary-le-Strand in London, Joanna Lumley talked passionately about her love of churches. She announced the winner of the National Churches Trust 'Save our Spires' photography competition, a photograph of St Peter's church in Oundle, Northamptonshire, taken by William Gunson, a Deputy House Master at Oundle School.

The photography competition is part of NCT's campaign to highlight the plight of the UK's church spires. Soaring high above their surroundings, church spires were built as an attempt to get as close to Heaven as possible. Sadly, these days many are in danger of going in the other direction.

The photography competition shows why spires are such an important part of the UK's visual landscape. The winning entries were judged to be the most visually appealing and for their originality. 82 photographs were submitted. Judges for the competition were: The Right Reverend Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury, Christopher Jonas CBE and Sara de Rohan, Secretary, Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust. The winning entries can be seen in the slide show at the bottom of this page.

Winner: William Gunson for his photograph of St Peter's church, Oundle, Northamptonshire



Joanna Lumley displays William Gunson's winning entry



First runner-up: Annie Martirosyan for her photograph of Holy Trinity church, Stratford upon Avon (pictured below left)

Second runner-up: Lyn Doe, for her photograph of St Patrick's



church, Patrington, East Yorkshire (pictured above)

Third runner-up: Tamsin Wooldridge, for her photograph of St Malachy's church, Hillsborough, County Down, Northern Ireland (pictured right)

Fourth runner-up: Tony Sellen, for his photograph of St Paul's church Chigwell, Essex

Highly Commended: Neil Hedge, for his photograph of St James church, Louth, Lincolnshire



Since 2013, the National Churches Trust has helped 17 spires in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, investing over £370,000 in their future. However, last year Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register showed that over 40 churches required urgent attention to their spires. And many church spires in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are also in need of major repair. The National Churches Trust is seeking to raise another £250,000 to help safeguard the future of more church spires. If you would like to help, please [make a donation](#)

2015 Church Architecture Awards

The Presidents' Award

The winners of the award for new church buildings and new designs in church re-ordering, alterations or extensions were announced by HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO at an Awards Ceremony held at Westminster Cathedral Hall on Thursday 5th November 2015.

The reinstatement of St Nicholas' church, in Radford Semele, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire by architects Caroe & Partners has won the 2015 Presidents' Award for new church architecture.



Here and below St Nicholas, Radford Semele, Warwickshire

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO presented the Presidents' Award to Rev'd Martin Green from St Nicholas' church. The award comprises

a chalice and paten, commissioned by the Incorporated Church Building Society, and made after World War II, to be loaned to a new or seriously war damaged church. Today, the chalice and paten are lent to the winning parish to be held by them for the next twelve months. The winning church also received a £500 prize.

The Presidents' Award is awarded on behalf of the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association President and the National Churches Trust's Joint Presidents, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. New church buildings and new designs in church re-ordering, alterations or extensions are eligible for The Presidents' Award. The award is open to church buildings of all Christian denominations in the UK. This year, 25 entries were received for the Presidents' Award, a record number, with eleven being shortlisted by the judging panel.



Two schemes were awarded runner-up places; Our Lady of Lourdes, a new Roman Catholic church in Hungerford, Berkshire designed by Jeremy Bell Architects and a new extension to the 700 year old church building of Clare Priory in Suffolk, designed by architects Inkpen Downie.

The King of Prussia Gold Medal

The winners of the award for innovative, high quality church conservation or repair work projects were announced by Prince Nicholas von Preussen at an Awards Ceremony held at Westminster Cathedral Hall on Thursday 5th November 2015.



Nick Joyce Architects from Worcester has won the 2015 King Of Prussia Gold Medal for repair and conservation architecture for a project to repair the timber framed tower of St Peter's church, Pirton, Worcestershire, pictured here.

tured here.

Two schemes were awarded runner-up places; St Peter's church, East Drayton, Nottinghamshire, by Soul Architects for major structural repairs and re-roofing following an infestation of death watch beetle and St Martin's church, Gospel Oak, London, by Rees Bolter Architects for urgent repairs to the tower and the reinstatement of a colossal 9 metre high corner tower that had been removed in about 1950.

At the ceremony, Prince Nicholas von Preussen presented Nick Joyce with the King of Prussia Gold Medal, the gift of King Frederick William IV of Prussia (1795 - 1861) to the Incorporated Church Building Society in 1857. The award has been made annually since the early 1980s, when the medal was re-discovered during an office move. The medal is held by the winning architect for one year and afterwards a silver replica is provided.

St Peter's church received a £500 prize.

Share your news

If you have a story, update or best practice to share in the next CTF Newsletter, we would love to hear from you.

Please email your contributions to: alison.pollard@nationalchurchestrust.org

Churches Trusts Forum Members

Who to contact if you want to share questions, concerns and ideas. Members are meeting on

John Mills CTF Chairman	Devon	Devon, Somerset, Dorset and Cornwall	johnmills49@btinternet.com
Kevin Bond	Warwickshire & Coventry	Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire & Coventry	drkevinbond@btinternet.com
Tim Bridges	Worcestershire & Dudley	Worcestershire & Dudley, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire	tbridges0506@aol.com
Sarah de Rohan	Herefordshire	Herefordshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire	derohans@btinternet.com
Peter Durrant	Berkshire	Berkshire, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire	peter.durrant@reading.gov.uk
Lady Caroline Egerton	Norfolk	Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex	caroline.egerton@btinternet.com
Peter Johnston	Yorkshire	Manchester, Cheshire and Yorkshire	peterjohnston230@btinternet.com
Richard Genochio	Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	Lincolnshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire	richard.genochio@googlemail.com
Anthea Moat	Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Rutland	nhct@hotmail.co.uk
Nigel Robson	Cumbria	Cumbria and Northumbria	robson.nigel@btinternet.com
<i>To be confirmed</i>	Kent	Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire	
David Knowles - R+S Chairman	Leicestershire	Ride+Stride National Standing Committee	djpk34@hotmail.com
Luke March - NCT Chairman	National Churches Trust	National	chairman@nationalchurchestrust.org
Alison Pollard	National Churches Trust	National	alison.pollard@nationalchurchestrust.org
Claire Walker	National Churches Trust	National	claire.walker@nationalchurchestrust.org

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If you have any questions or comments please contact [Alison Pollard](mailto:alison.pollard@nationalchurchestrust.org)

