

Case Studies



Historic
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Department
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Heritage
Stimulus
Fund

Yours for good.

The Heritage Stimulus Fund and the National Churches Trust

£3.6
million
of financial
support

32
churches and
meeting houses
saved for
the future





Department
for Culture
Media & Sport



A £3.6 million investment in our grants scheme from the Government's Heritage Stimulus Fund in 2021-22 means that 32 more historic churches and meeting houses are safe for the future. It is a great example of a project that helps keep churches open and in good repair.

Working closely with Historic England, our expert knowledge and excellent contacts with churches meant that we were able to fast track these really important grants to places of worship with urgent repair needs.

One of the great outcomes of the funding is that it will help remove nine churches from Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.

Two rounds of funding

We received two rounds of funding from the Heritage Stimulus Fund. The first, in November 2021, helped 15 places of worship, including Quaker Meeting Houses and buildings belonging to the Church of England and the United Reformed Church. A second round of funding, awarded in February 2022, kept 17 more historic churches safe for the future.

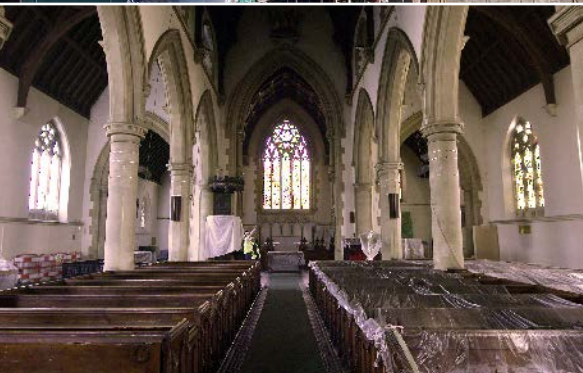
The support of Historic England and of the Department for Culture, Media & Sport has been tremendously important. Thank you.

Inside, you can find out in detail about five of the Heritage Stimulus Fund projects. There is more information about the entire project online at www.nationalchurchestrust.org/hsf-23



Claire Walker
CEO National Churches Trust
June 2023





Newport Minster, Isle of Wight

Grant amount
£612,534

Grant purpose
Roof and stonework repairs

Listing
Grade I



1 HERITAGE STIMULUS FUND CASE STUDY

Newport Minster is the civic church of the Isle of Wight; it welcomes local dignitaries attending functions, as well as worshippers for services and school pupils for visits.

Newport Minster, Isle of Wight

Designated a minster in 2008, it hosts concerts and exhibitions: locals see it as their de facto cathedral.

After the death of Queen Elizabeth II, some 2,000 people came to sign a book of condolence. Connections to royalty – two kings, a queen and a princess – have shaped the church's more than 800-year history. Yet until recently, the Grade I listed building was on Historic England's Heritage at Risk register, which noted it was suffering from "slow decay". A rainy forecast would set clergy hurrying to put buckets out down the main aisle to catch the drops. Rainwater had already damaged the organ.

Today's Victorian building stands on the site of a 12th-century church originally dedicated to St Thomas of Canterbury, the archbishop murdered by Henry II's henchmen in 1170, quickly venerated as a martyr and canonised by Pope Alexander III. The new church's foundation stone was laid by Prince Albert in 1854 and points to the church's second royal connection: Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort encouraged the construction of the new church, and the Queen commissioned for it a lifesize white marble statue, for a princess whose remains had been buried – and for a while, lost – in the old church: Princess Elizabeth, the learned and pious daughter of Charles I.



1 HERITAGE STIMULUS FUND CASE STUDY – NEWPORT MINSTER, ISLE OF WIGHT

The Queen called on the services of the Italian sculptor Carlo Marochetti to create a memorial for Elizabeth who lived as a prisoner of Parliament from the age of 6 and died at 14.

According to Rev Emma Cooksey, team vicar of Newport and Carisbrooke, Queen Victoria also “had a say” in the positioning in “the brightest part of the church” of the Princess Elizabeth Chapel, which houses the statue, on the north side of the high altar.

But no wealth of heritage guarantees immunity from decay. The statue’s white marble was fading under decades of grime, as was another memorial, to a former Isle of Wight Captain, Sir Edward Horsey. In addition, the roof and windows urgently needed attention.

Project manager Rosie Fraser explains: “Water was pouring through the ceiling in the south aisle – [to put] buckets out when it rained was fairly standard,” she says. “Some windows had holes where people had thrown stones through the glass. Other windows suffered from the marine environment: sea winds had eroded some of the stonework, and the glass in eroded stone windows was at risk of falling out,” she adds.

Urgent repairs

With funding from the Heritage Stimulus Fund (HSF) awarded by the National Churches Trust, the team of multiple craftsmen (stone masons, builders, roofers and experts in restoring historic buildings) repaired the roof, repointed the south aisle, the west elevation and parts of the tower; relined gutters with lead where the original had become weakened or worn through; and repaired damaged windows. Urgent repairs to two monuments inside the building were also carried out.

Fraser adds:

“We were planning on replacing one of the pinnacles on the building, but we discovered that one of the major windows on the west end was in a much worse condition.”

The stonemason, Kevin Symonds, having ordered stone to carve a new pinnacle, instead turned his skills to remaking the top half of the ornate three-metre-high window, cutting back eroded tracery, carving new stone moulds and pinning the new pieces to the existing frame, ensuring the Victorian leaded glass is once again securely in place.

Preparing for the work to the exterior proved a colossal task, requiring every available piece of scaffolding on the island – and more. The rest of the scaffolding came “over on the ferry, same as everything else,” smiles Rev Emma Cooksey.

Cooksey says the HSF grant has made a “huge” difference, covering more than three-quarters of the costs of the project. A private benefactor had offered a large donation but reduced his pledge due to factors related to the pandemic. “At one point it looked as though [the project] wouldn’t be happening at all,” says Cooksey.

But cancelling the works would have made a subsequent phase of internal improvements impossible, because the building needed to be watertight before they could go ahead. “Then the National Churches Trust came along and said, ‘We could help you out there.’

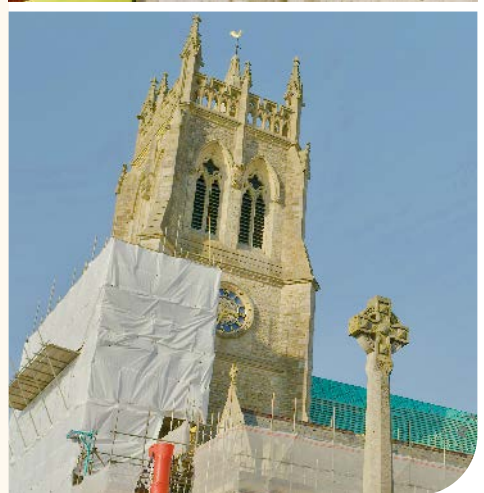
It was very good that they could. We certainly wouldn't have been able to complete it without them."

It looks absolutely beautiful

Having the repairs completed and the church watertight "means that the building is now off the Heritage At Risk register, which is a huge relief," she adds. "We are the custodians of it ... it makes such a difference to know that it's safe now." The minster's many civic and religious events can go ahead without the need for buckets or risk of slippery floors; the building and its remarkable contents are safeguarded for the future. She says the minster "used to look slightly bedraggled," but since the repairs "it looks absolutely beautiful."

Newport Minster applied for a grant for fabric repairs to make the building wind- and watertight.

Work supported by the HSF included: stone repairs to the south and west elevations and parts of the tower, which had been badly eroded by the marine environment; glazing repairs to the south elevation windows, which were leaking and badly eroded; repairs to the roof and clerestory over the south aisle and south nave; and urgent repairs to two monuments inside the building.





St Lawrence, Bigbury

Grant amount
£132,708

Grant purpose
Repair to spire and tower

Listing
Grade II



2

HERITAGE STIMULUS FUND CASE STUDY

Every historic church tells its own story and quickly becomes part of the story of those whose lives it touches.

St Lawrence, Bigbury, Devon

Watchmen in the 16th century used the church's tower as a lookout, and would have seen the invading Spanish Armada snaking east. Sailors in the 17th century looked for the church's spire to navigate across the bay. Today, for Harry Bardon, captain of the bell tower, the most treasured aspect of the church is the peal of its bells.

Harry's father is buried in the church graveyard. "At 92, the time is coming close when I shall be buried up here as well," says Harry, "I'd like to hear Bigbury bells ringing again before that happens."

The six bells have not rung for over 20 years. The odd one has tolled for a funeral, but their melodious peal exists only in memory. Bell-ringing stopped after Harry reported concerns about the tower to the PCC in 2002, and the diocese of Exeter officially closed the structure in 2007. Sea air had corroded the tower's iron frame.

Plant life in the ringing chamber

Added to that, rainwater had seeped into the spire and the tower, damaging walls, flooring and pews. Moisture in the ringing chamber clouded over an internal window that looked out into the nave. Looking through the pane from the nave, "you'd see plantlife growing in the ringing chamber ... weeds growing," recalls Rev Matt Rowland, rector of the Modbury benefice, which includes St Lawrence.



2 HERITAGE STIMULUS FUND CASE STUDY – ST LAWRENCE, BIGBURY

The damage was of huge concern. “I was quite shocked about the condition of the bell frame and the condition of the tower,” says architect Julie Boulby, who worked on the project. “Water was just pouring into the walls.”

A colossal task lay ahead, yet among the congregation of around 20 there was a fear that it was too big an undertaking.

Jill Gubbins, who lives locally and whose parents are buried in the churchyard, got to work. She organised cream teas, harvest lunches, a reception and raffle at the nearby hotel, and “umpteenth musical events”, and raised about £10,000. Local businesses pitched in and together contributed about £14,000.

Jill’s husband Vic, a PCC member, set about applying for grants. They attracted around £25,000 but applying for National Lottery Heritage Funding (NLHF) in 2020 proved dispiriting. The process “took a lot of time and effort,” says Vic, and when Covid struck “the fund closed for new applicants. Post-Covid, the fund reopened but all requests had to be resubmitted, reflecting the revised criteria for application.”

The NLHF was now asking for more “people-orientated results”, but, explains Jill, “we haven’t got a toddlers group or a Mothers’ Union,” and adds that the young families buying properties locally tend to be second-home-owners.

Matchfunding donations

Desperate to get the project moving, Vic suggested to Jill that they offer up to £50,000 of their own savings if it could be match-funded over summer 2021. Donations trickled

in, then in the last few weeks, she recalls, “everybody decided to put their hands in their pockets, and we got £51k.”

With more than £100,000 collected, the first phase – repointing of the tower and spire – could start. (Jill stresses she and her husband are not “super-rich”) Add to that a grant of £132,000 from the National Churches Trust, funded by the Government’s Heritage Stimulus Fund, and the project was safely under way.

“The bell frame had to be removed, and all the bells and the ceilings: the vestry ceiling and the belfry floor,” explains Boulby. “Everything needed refurbishing in the tower ... a complete overhaul.”

Inside St Lawrence, the difference the repointing has made is tangible. “It feels drier [and] you can now see into the ringing chamber,” says Rowlands. Without the grant, he says ever-worsening water damage “would just be a huge distraction,” but now, “we can move on to other areas of the building but also move on with our local mission and ministry.”

Meanwhile in February 2022 the bells were taken to a specialist firm in Dorset, where they have been undergoing a major process of cleaning, retuning and rehanging on a new frame.

Already a team of trainee bellringers has assembled and is practising at a nearby

church while they wait for their own bells to return. (Although Harry is still captain and it is hoped he'll ring once they're back, he has been sitting out the rehearsals.) The team needed to be ready for the Ring for the King initiative on 6 May, the coronation of King Charles III. Not to mention weekly services, summer weddings and Christmas and New Year celebrations.

“We’re all mighty grateful for the fact that the National Churches Trust did come through with the Heritage Stimulus Fund money,” says Jill. Rural and coastal churches with smaller congregations have fewer ways of building up support, because they may not match other criteria for grants, she says, and she wishes the Church of England would provide some cash for maintaining buildings. “I’m not overly religious,” she says, but stresses, “churches like ours are still very important parts of our community.”





Kendal Friends Meeting House

Grant amount
£446,650

Grant purpose
**Removal and renewal
of slate roof and
associated work**

Listing
Grade II*

3 HERITAGE STIMULUS FUND CASE STUDY

Friends Meeting House was built in 1816, as many as 10 per cent of Kendal's inhabitants were Quakers, and among them were many of the thriving town's most prosperous merchants.

Kendal Friends Meeting House

In addition, explains Quaker historian Chris Bullard, Kendal Quakers opened and funded an early Soup Kitchen (in the first two months after its opening in 1830 records show it made nearly 7,000 gallons) and a "people's dispensary" to enable the poor to access medical care.

When Quakers in the Cumbria towns of Kendal and Sedbergh realised that the roof of their most prominent meeting house needed repairs, local worshippers and trustees of the museum that shares the premises raised around £200,000.

In addition, the National Churches Trust offered them £132,000 of Heritage Stimulus Funds (HSF). But the scale of the project grew and costs soared above £650,000, because of delays due to lockdowns, the loss of income from the temporary closure of the popular Quaker Tapestry Museum, and a serious issue that became apparent when the roof was removed.

Kendal Friends Meeting House hosts three weekly meetings for worship, as well as meetings with other local Quaker houses, and a varied social education programme for all-comers. Before the pandemic, the museum welcomed 7-8,000 visitors annually.



3 HERITAGE STIMULUS FUND CASE STUDY – KENDAL FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

More than 100 organisations, including local authorities, charities and support groups, also make use of the building's meeting rooms for workshops, community events, group meetings, training and counselling sessions and other gatherings. The Meeting House also hosts ecumenical events with the other local churches.

The 200-year-old Grade II* listed meeting house, which was designed to seat up to 850 people, is widely considered one of the finest Georgian buildings in Cumbria. But the much-loved building was in greater disrepair than its many users realised.

Mould and condensation

The building's damp problems were known about. For years staff had been emptying dehumidifiers in the rafters every few days to get rid of huge amounts of condensation; mould patches had appeared in an upstairs classroom, causing concern among the groups who hired the space.

So in 2019 the museum and local Quakers launched an appeal to fund repairs to the roof. Then the pandemic hit, and fundraising went towards making up the income lost through the museum's temporary closure. The emergence of the HSF scheme was welcome news, but grants came with short deadlines: the museum and local Quakers received an indication of approval of an HSF grant of £132,000 in September 2021, and the money had to be spent by the end of March 2022. Similarly, the listed buildings consent depended on the work being completed before bats that had been found there might start roosting again in the autumn.

A major setback awaited. Once contractors removed the slates, just before Christmas 2021, they found that the walls were inadequately tied to the roof timbers, a problem far beyond the Quakers' budget to put right. But the local Quakers and the museum were committed to the work, and carried on approaching trusts and individuals for support.



The main source of help was Historic England's administered Heritage Stimulus Fund.

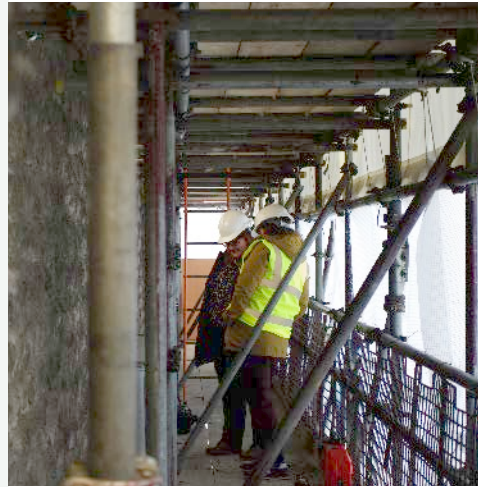
"Historic England kept finding more money and passing it to National Churches; we were really grateful for that. The increased support via the National Churches Trust has been absolutely critical to achieving the project," said Ros Batchelor, trustee of the museum.

As for the March deadline, "the builders got along amazingly well and by the end of March they had done 70 per cent of the increased contracted work," she adds.

Andrew Smith, treasurer of the Kendal and Sedbergh Area Quaker Meeting, agrees that the additional funding from the National Churches Trust was a game-changer. He stresses: "Without the [HSF] grant, we would have been in an impossible position: the contract had started; you can't stop work on our reroof because you haven't got enough money to pay the builder. If we had said, 'Well, we have to stop,' we would have been left with an unprotected building, which would have been a disaster."

Today the reroof is finished, the building is watertight and secure, and the many activities that go on under its roof can continue safely. Jenny Pearman, clerk of the Kendal Quaker meeting, reflects: "It would be really difficult to see how without our building, we could operate in quite that widespread way, offering that range of activities."

Already, those with responsibility for the building are planning for its future. The museum, with funding from the local Quaker Meeting, have, with listed building consent, discreetly installed 22 solar panels on the newly repaired roof to make the building more financially and ecologically sustainable.





St Mary's, Marshchapel

Grant amount
£36,168

Grant purpose
**Repairs to gutters
and masonry**

Listing
Grade I

4 HERITAGE STIMULUS FUND CASE STUDY

It is traditionally referred to as “the Cathedral of the Marshes” and hailed as a fine example of ornate Perpendicular architecture.

St Mary’s Church, Marshchapel, Lincolnshire

But until recently the Grade-I listed church of St Mary, Marshchapel in Lincolnshire was scarred by damp patches on two of its 15th-century walls, and a strong musty smell hung in the air.

A grant of £36,168 from the Heritage Stimulus Fund provided by the National Churches Trust has enabled the church’s congregation to finish vital repairs and restoration work, which has made the church safe and attractive for the future.

“You should have seen those walls before, with all the plaster coming off. People always mentioned it, [saying] ‘It’s getting worse and worse,’” recalls Christel Henderson, one of the church wardens. The moisture was causing the limewash and plaster to peel off and it “was absolutely soaking,” she says. But it wasn’t just the walls that were affected. “The mess on the floor! That limey stuff sticks. Every day I had to come and clean it up because it was just flaking off from the wall,” she adds.

St Mary’s was suffering from rainwater damage: decades-old asphalt gutter linings in the roof were wearing through, allowing moisture to seep into the church’s ancient walls.



4 HERITAGE STIMULUS FUND CASE STUDY – ST MARY’S CHURCH, MARSHCHAPEL,

The church is central to the life of the isolated village it serves, despite a dwindling congregation. It is open every day of the year and holds its weddings and funerals, its harvest festivals and carol services. It also acts as a concert venue, an exhibition space and a centre of heritage.

The Sunday congregation, a dedicated group of a dozen or so Anglicans and Methodists, worship alternately at St Mary’s and in the local Methodist chapel. They cover their running costs with an annual cycle of fundraising events. But these had been cancelled during the pandemic and the water damage was far more than the church could afford to put right.

They raised £28,000, helped largely by a legacy from a former vicar, which paid for new, durable stainless steel guttering. In addition, the HSF grant of just over £36,000 paid for the scaffolding, the internal re-plastering, and the re-securing of some loose stonework on the roof.

Cleaner and drier

The change is tangible. The damp smell is gone and the air inside the building is cleaner and dryer. Henderson only has to remove dust from the pews. “It’s all dry and wonderful. There’s no problem at all, no water coming in,” she smiles.

The reduced moisture level inside the church will also help to conserve the building’s “hero items” – carved wooden angels in the chancel roof, a 15th-century rood screen, and 134 poppyheads, each unique, carved into the end

of each pew by a local carpenter in the 19th century.

Without the HSF funding the local community would have been able to fund the repairs to the gutters, but not the internal restoration. The unsightly damp patches and smell would have continued, making the church an ever less attractive option for its local, regional and even international visitors.

St Mary’s takes part in the Lincolnshire Wolds and Coast Churches Festival each September, one of the 150 churches or so that opens its doors to the public. They also participate in the popular annual Ride and Stride day when hikers and cyclists are encouraged to make a day of visiting a number of historical rural churches. The building’s history stretches back eight centuries and the church’s visitors’ book is full of Americans and Australians who have come to research their family history.

The church’s temporary closure during the first Covid lockdown gave the village a taste of life without St Mary’s. Olivia Hurton, the other church warden, stated:

“People didn’t meet and we all missed each other. We are a very caring community, we look after each other, but with the church shut we didn’t get the chance to be together and do so.”

Instead, the restoration work has halted the church’s gradual decay and enabled it to continue enriching the social, cultural and

LINCOLNSHIRE

spiritual life of the village. Henderson reflects: "If the church would ever close, the village would be devastated. We haven't got a big congregation but the church is well-loved. She adds: "When you walk into the church, you're so in awe, because it's such a small village, such a big church. It's just so special."



Trevor Oliver Principal contractor

The gutters had leaked for a long time, and inside the church you'd see limewash and plaster coming off the south aisle wall and the south wall of the chancel, from the damp that had come in. It was unsightly and there was a smell. So we changed the gutters from the asphalt that had been put there in the 1970s or 80s, to stainless steel, which lasts longer.

The project went well considering the time constraints: the work was delayed twice by Covid and some strong storms, and by the time we were able to start, the costs had risen. So then the PCC were looking for a grant.

I work on a lot of Lincolnshire churches and to me it's important to keep them alive – they're a huge part of our heritage – and the skills as well. I started a new business last year, training people in heritage skills.





**St Mary's, Cogges,
Oxfordshire**

Grant amount
£118,680

Grant purpose
**Roof repairs to make
the building watertight**

Listing
Grade I

5 HERITAGE STIMULUS FUND CASE STUDY

St Mary's, Cogges, is a 900-year-old church nestled in the heart of Oxfordshire.

St Mary's Church, Cogges, Oxfordshire

It is also the spiritual home of a thriving mix of worshippers whose numbers have grown in the last ten years, says vicar Rev Simon Kirby.

As a result, the church hosts two Sunday services, one traditional and one informal (a third takes place in a school hall). The building "allows ... us to be a church with a variety of worship styles to reach a variety of people in our community".

Midweek, the church is also used for a mums' and toddlers' group and youth work, and also hosts community activities at Christmas and runs special services for the nearby Blake Primary School, including "Year 1 weddings" – a curious tradition in which local six-year-olds learn about weddings by dressing up as bride, groom or vicar.

However, the Grade I-listed limestone building was in urgent need of repair. Dry rot had crept into the roof timbers and on a rainy day, water would drip in. Only regulars knew "there were two particular chairs you wanted to avoid," says Rev Simon Kirby. The roof, he stresses, "had the potential to fall down."

The building was suffering the after-effects of the theft of some of its lead a generation ago. Zoe Stubbs, the church's conservation building surveyor, said when the lead that should have kept the building watertight was stolen



5 HERITAGE STIMULUS FUND CASE STUDY – ST MARY’S, COGGES, OXFORDSHIRE

around 30 years ago, the church could not get funding to replace it. “Aluminium was placed over the top of the roof timbers as an emergency repair,” she said, but this “was now coming to the end of its life and letting water in”.

To repair the roof, which is in two sections, the congregation raised £250,000 and won some small grants. In addition, the National Churches Trust provided the main grant of almost £120,000 from the Heritage Stimulus Fund (HSF) – almost half the cost of repairing the larger section of roof, which covers the nave.

The HSF grant was vital: having raised the money for repairing the first section, the church’s funds were sorely depleted. Rev Simon Kirby stresses:

“Had we not got the [HSF] grant for the roof, it would have used every single penny of reserves and potentially, we wouldn’t be able to do some of the outreach we do. It’s allowed us to continue to do the ministry as well as now have a watertight building.”

“It’s a building that’s reinvented itself several times according to local need,” observes longtime parishioner Elizabeth Knowles. “Over the centuries St Mary’s, Cogges has developed architecturally, and changed its fixtures and fittings best to reflect the liturgical tastes and understanding of the day,” she explains.

Families too have left their mark, especially the successive wealthy families that owned the nearby Cogges Manor Farm, for centuries a major local employer. (Its 18th-century

buildings became Yewtree Farm for ITV’s *Downton Abbey*.) One family was the Blake family, founders in the 17th century of the Blake School, which still has close links with St Mary’s. “When the Blakes had the manor, they installed a big memorial and put it right over the window,” she notes.

Sit and reflect

A celebration to mark the church’s reopening, postponed after the news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, offered tours of the roof and a treasure hunt for children. “We’re celebrating the fact that ministry has taken place for 900 years and can continue to take place in the building,” says Kirby. “Within our church there are some who are very fond of the building and ... are absolutely delighted and over the moon” that the repairs have been completed.

The church are making the most of the completed repairs to invite people to discover the building’s long story. Knowles has produced new leaflets that offer visitors a guided tour. Hikers pop in, as do visitors to the Manor Farm, people with historic personal connections to Cogges, and those looking for a quiet church in which to sit and reflect.

Knowles is a retired editor of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations and she says the quote that best sums up the church’s story is “Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose” (the more things change, the more they stay the same), by the French novelist and journalist Alphonse Karr. For all St Mary’s development over the centuries, “the message it carries is constant and unchanging,” she says. “It was founded as a church to minister to the community around it, and it still serves its community today.”

Knowles adds: "It's something we've received from the congregations of the past and we will hand on to the future, so we have to make decisions now for the people who will be here after us."

Zoe Stubbs Conservation building surveyor

Once you've taken the roof off, you can more clearly see what's there. We think we found an area where a bell was originally hung, from an early phase prior to 1103 and before the tower was added in 1350. And while one of the team was repairing a timber we found some graffiti that said "1870", which identifies when the roof structure was last repaired.

We found evidence in the stonework and roof structure of at least four phases of change to the church, and each phase has left its mark on the previous one. When the craftsmen adjusted the roof, they adapted what they needed and retained the earlier phases. We don't know the dates of these phases but we photographed and kept the evidence in situ, for an historian to analyse in the future.

The community for this particular church works hard, and does a good job looking after their building. But buildings like this are terribly difficult to find funding for and need an awful lot of upkeep. So organisations like the National Churches Trust who we can apply to for funding and can be supported by, are a lifeline. Stained glass is easier to raise funds for because it's pretty and visible, but roofs that keep a building watertight are essential.





The 32 churches and meeting houses we have helped

Thanks to funding from the Heritage Stimulus Fund, we were able to help 32 churches and meeting houses in England with funding for urgent repairs.

All individual grant amounts stated in this brochure are correct at the time of going to press but final figures remain subject to change.

Bedfordshire

St Mary Virgin, Northill, Bedfordshire SG18 9AA.

Dating from the 13th century and including a set of six bells, this Grade I Listed church received a grant of £98,558 to fund the relaying of lead and associated timber repairs to roofs to make the building watertight.

Buckinghamshire

St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden,

Buckinghamshire HP14 4LA. A £88,751 grant paid for urgent repairs to the tower of the Grade II* Listed church, closely associated with the nearby Hughenden Manor and the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Benjamin Disraeli who is buried in the churchyard. The work will help remove the church from the Heritage at Risk Register.

Cambridgeshire

St Mary the Virgin, Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire

SG19 3JJ. A £229,576 grant funded roof and window repairs and improvements to the Grade I Listed building. The church is mainly 13th-century with extensive rebuilding in the 14th and 15th centuries and includes a late medieval rood screen. The work will help remove the church from the Heritage at Risk Register.

St Mary the Virgin, Leighton Bromswold, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28 5AX.

Containing one of the most complete sets of Jacobean pews and woodwork in England, this Grade I Listed church received a grant of £79,128 to fund urgent repairs to the nave, north transept and porch roofs.

Cornwall

St Anietus, St Neot, Cornwall PL14 6NG.

A £39,079 grant funded urgent stonework repairs, safeguarding historic pre-reformation stained glass windows at the Grade I Listed medieval church. The church is visited by people from all over the world. The church was renovated in the Victorian era and there are some significant Victorian features, particularly the rood screen and a Father Willis organ.

Friends Meeting House, Marazion, Cornwall TR17 0HF. A £68,652 grant funded urgent repairs to the roof, floor and heating of the Grade II* Listed building, the oldest purpose built Meeting House in Cornwall. It retains some original and historic furnishings and fittings and has exceptional historical value.

St Stephen the Martyr, Launceston, Cornwall PL15 8HL. A £298,023 grant funded urgent repairs to the roof of the Grade I Listed church, which dates from the 13th century, and which lies between Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor on the border with Devon. The work will help remove the church from the Heritage at Risk Register.

County Durham

St Chad, Bensham, County Durham NE8 4QL. A £255,028 grant funded major repairs to the roof of the Grade II* Listed building. Consecrated in 1903, the church was designed by William Searle Hicks in the 'Arts and Crafts' style. The church stands like a cathedral amid the surrounding streets of terraced Tyneside Flats, which were built to house Gateshead's working population in a period of significant industrial expansion on Tyneside.

Cumbria

Friends Meeting House, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4BH. A £446,650 grant funded urgent repairs to the roof of the Grade II* Listed building. The present Meeting House was completed in 1816 in the style of a Georgian town meeting house. It is used today both by Kendal Quaker Meeting and the Quaker Tapestry Museum.

St John, Workington, Cumbria CA14 3AW. A £174,576 grant funded urgent repairs to historic windows to the Grade II* Listed church. The church dates from 1821 and was designed by King George III's architect Thomas Hardwick, and is based on the Inigo Jones' design for St Paul's, Covent Garden. The church is an important landmark in the town of Workington. The work will help remove the church from the Heritage at Risk Register.

Devon

St Lawrence, Bigbury, Exeter, Devon TQ7 4AP. A £132,708 grant funded urgent repairs to the tower and spire to deal with rainwater damaging the Grade II* listed building. The church is said to have been originally built in the 14th century and is a building full of character in the heart of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the stunning South Hams. The work will help remove the church from the Heritage at Risk Register.

Dorset

St Martin, Cheselbourne, Dorset DT2 7NU. A £16,771 grant funded re-roofing in terne coated stainless steel of the Grade I Listed church following lead theft. It is a beautiful 13th-/14th-century parish church with a pinnacled tower with battlements, numerous gargoyles and a canonical sundial. The work will help remove the church from the Heritage at Risk register.

Hampshire

St Andrew, Rockbourne, Hampshire SP6 3NN. Founded in the 11th century, this Grade I Listed church is set on a hill with fine views across a valley. High above the village at a prominent junction of footpaths, it is often visited by ramblers as well as local people. It received a grant of £73,737 to fund urgent tower repairs.

Newport Minster, Newport, Isle of Wight, Hampshire PO30 1SL. A £612,534 grant funded urgent roof and stonework repairs at this the Grade I Listed church. One of the Isle of Wight's major churches, it was built on the footprint of the medieval church in 1857. As much material as possible was retained from the medieval church including medieval Caen and Quarr stone and several fine 17th-century furnishings. The work will help remove the church from the Heritage at Risk Register.

Herefordshire

St Deinst, Llangarron, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 6NJ. The church is dedicated to St Deinst, a Celtic saint who died in 584. Rebuilt in the 15th century, this Grade I Listed church received a grant of £32,680 to fund urgent repairs to masonry to make the building watertight. It is the only church in England dedicated to the first Bishop of Bangor in Wales.

St Michael and All Angels Church, Croft, Herefordshire, HR6 9PW. A £40,388 grant funded roof, masonry and gutter repairs to Grade II Listed St Michael and All Angels' church. It is situated immediately adjacent to Croft Castle, managed by the National Trust. The small building consisting of chancel and nave, dates from the 14th century and includes an 18th-century bell turret incorporating a rare single-hand clock. The work will help remove the church from the Heritage at Risk Register.

Kent

St Andrew, Wickhambreaux, Kent CT3 1RQ. Dating from the 14th century, this Grade I Listed church includes much fine stained glass including a sumptuous Art Nouveau window by Arild Rosenkrantz, which may be the first work by an American glass painter in Europe. It received a grant of £125,122 to fund urgent roof repairs to make the church watertight.

St Botolph, Chevening, Kent TN14 6HG. Elements of a late 11th-century nave survive, but the majority of the present church dates from a series of re-buildings right up until the end of the medieval period. Of international importance is the Stanhope Chapel which contains a series of exceptional monuments spanning many centuries. The Grade I Listed church received a grant of £42,306 to fund urgent roof repairs to prevent rainwater damage.

Leicestershire

Holy Trinity, Norton Juxta Twycross, Leicestershire CV9 3PU. A £71,626 grant funded urgent repairs to the roof and to rainwater goods of the Grade II* Listed church. The church seen today was built in the early 14th century, although it was heavily restored around 1841. The church is unusual in having two pulpits. The work will help remove the church from the Heritage at Risk Register.

St Mary Magdalene, Peckleton, Leicestershire LE9 7RE. Dating from the 14th century, this Grade I Listed church was probably built by the Moton family who were Lords of the Manor for at least three centuries and still have monuments here. It has excellent acoustics and plays host to many concerts. It received a grant of £25,000 to fund urgent stone and roof repairs.

St Philip and St James, Ratby, Leicestershire LE6 0JF. This Grade II* Listed church was built between the 13th and 15th centuries. The tower houses eight bells, the oldest of which was installed in 1367. It received a grant of £26,108 to fund urgent repairs to the stonework of the tower.

Lincolnshire

St James, Skillington, Lincolnshire NG33 5HQ. A £42,992 grant funded urgent repairs to the roof following lead theft in order to prevent further rainwater ingress and to halt the rapid deterioration of fabric and internal materials of the Grade I Listed building. The church has a wonderful tower, and its bells are popular with bell ringers from around the country.

St Mary, Marshchapel, Lincolnshire DN36 5QL. A spectacularly beautiful building, completed in around 1420, Grade I Listed St Mary's Church is known as 'The Cathedral of the Marshes'. It received a grant of £36,168 to fund urgent repairs to gutters and masonry and plaster repairs.

Norfolk

Holy Trinity, Caister, Norfolk NR30 5JN. Standing just a few hundred yards from Caister's Roman fort, this Grade II* Listed church received a grant of £95,867 to fund urgent repairs to the vestry to make the historic building watertight. The church reflects the history of a seaside community that is more than 2,000 years old, dating back to a Roman settlement, that in later years became a fishing village, and in the 20th century came increasingly to rely on the tourist industry.

Northamptonshire

All Saints, Northampton, Northamptonshire NN1 1DF. A £70,778 grant funded urgent repairs to the roof and stonework to prevent water ingress. The current church was largely built after a fire and was consecrated in 1680. Built in the style of Christopher Wren's London churches rebuilt after the Great Fire of London, it has in the past been mistakenly attributed to him.

St Mary the Virgin, Badby, Northamptonshire NN11 3AR. This Grade II* Listed church received a grant of £70,000 to fund urgent roof and tower repairs to make the building sound from water damage. The nave, chancel, north and south aisles date from the early 14th century. The tower was reported to be cracked and crazy in 1631 and fell down in 1705. It was rebuilt in 1709 to a square style as wide as the nave with a height of 72ft to the top of the four pinnacles.

Oxfordshire

St Mary, Cogges, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 3LA. Originating as an Anglo Saxon structure, this Grade I Listed church received a grant of £118,680 to fund urgent roof repairs to make the historic building watertight. The north chapel has a fine and unusual frieze of grotesques, animals and corbels of men and animals playing musical instruments.

Suffolk

St Andrew, Rushmere, Suffolk IP5 1DH. The original building was a medieval church built in the 12th century. During the 20th century the building was extended to cater for much larger congregations arising from the building of Rushmere housing estate and the extension of the outer perimeter of Ipswich. The Grade II* Listed church received a grant of £41,746 to retille the roof.

St Mary, Homersfield, Suffolk IP20 0ET. Retaining original Norman elements, this Grade II* Listed church received a grant of £68,389 to fund urgent roof repairs and work on the tower and interior walls. The oldest part of the churchyard is being 'wilded' with guidance from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

Wiltshire

St Mary the Virgin, Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire BA14 6EW. Filling the visitor with awe and wonder, this Grade II* Listed church includes magnificent vaulting and was built in the late Middle Ages to replace an earlier church, the tower of which remains. It received a grant of £40,362 to fund urgent repairs to the tower to safeguard its historic fabric.

Worcestershire

St Mary, Kyre Wyard, Worcestershire WR15 8NR. This Grade II* Listed church received a grant of £18,662 to fund urgent repairs to its historic windows. The church dates back to Norman times and the south chapel, which contains traces of medieval wall painting, was added in the 14th century.

Yorkshire

Saltaire United Reformed Church, Saltaire, Yorkshire BD18 3LF. A £61,389 grant funded urgent repairs to the tower to prevent water getting into the Grade I Listed church. Saltaire United Reformed Church is one of the nation's most precious Victorian architectural gems and sits within the Saltaire World Heritage Site. The church, built by Sir Titus Salt in 1859 near Bradford, West Yorkshire, is a unique example of Italianate religious architecture.



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Case studies written by
Abigail Frymann Rouch

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The National Churches Trust

7 Tufton Street London SW1P 3QB

+44 (0)207 222 0605

nationalchurchestrust.org

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