

FESTIVAL CHURCHES FOR MISSION

Flexible church buildings fit for the future



The Church, Government and community groups all agree that churches are often under-used potential community assets

- The Church Buildings Review and Taylor Report showed that over the last ten years, communities in England have lost many local assets, such as pubs, banks, shops, and social spaces
- Over 25% of churches now have as little as 20 regular worshippers, some rural churches having ten or fewer, and may be used only once a month for a few hours, otherwise locked
- This combination of under-use, high maintenance costs, diminishing state funding and lack of income generation, has led many church buildings to being seen as **burdens** instead of assets

So Festival Churches...

ARE NOT ABOUT

- Closing or “Mothballing” by another name
- A way to stop paying parish share / offer or caring about and using your church building
- Locked up for 359 days of the year
- Churches which can only be used for a maximum of six services

Festival Churches...

ARE

- A key recommendation of the 2015 **Church Buildings Review**, which was endorsed by **General synod**
- The subject of a change to Canon Law (**Canons B11, B14 and B39**) which was passed by Synod in February 2017, to become law in 2019
- **Open Churches**, a key part of the Church Buildings Council “Open and Sustainable Churches” campaign, together with Resource Churches and Major Churches

Open Churches...

ARE

- Open for prayer and for visitors during normal working or daylight hours at least, if possible; otherwise clear directions
- Open in the sense of providing a welcoming atmosphere for all, regardless of reason for visiting
- Open for partnership with community and commercial interests, and for cultural, including educational and tourism uses
- Open in the sense of providing wherever possible good access for all and modern facilities

Sustainable Churches...

ARE

- Sustainable in the true sense of conservation, which is **“the responsible management of change”**
- Environmentally and ecologically sustainable, striving to meet Carbon reduction targets, adapt to Climate Change and save money
- Socially sustainable, by providing a resource which is accessible and attractive to large sections of the community
- Economically sustainable, in terms of covering the costs of mission and maintenance, while maintaining healthy reserves

How to achieve this?

- More **community stakeholdership** is necessary; Church of England churches belong to everyone in the parish, not just the worshipping congregation (get away from “private club syndrome”)
- Also issue of **social justice**; free spaces for everybody, with embedded communal value, and bases for Community Economic Development projects
- Changes in **governance** are possible; Trusts can be formed to not only look after the fabric of the building, but use the space inside and around it

Complementary (shared) use

- Much confusion over what is possible
- New legal options available, allowing for specialisation and partnership
- Festival Churches can host Community, Commercial or Cultural (the **3Cs**) complementary use
- Should you try a licence, a lease, close part of the church, or even “close and reboot”?

Examples of new uses and partners to exploit the potential of our churches



The tools are out there



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Available for FREE download from hrballiance.org.uk and hereford.anglican.org

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO DEVELOPING YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP FOR WIDER COMMUNITY USE AND MANAGING A SUCCESSFUL BUILDING PROJECT



Beyond the church walls – the National Burial Grounds Survey


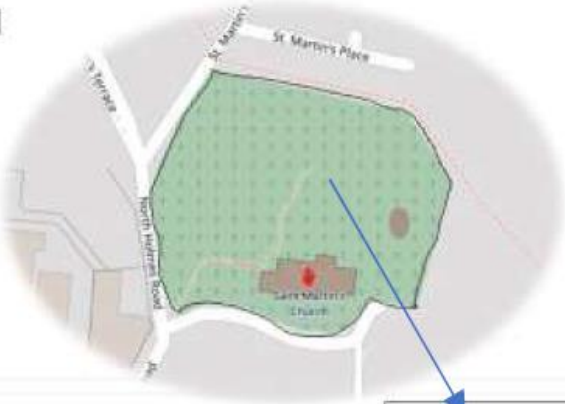
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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Church Heritage Record 606051 Search the site

Core Details Location Churchyard Archaeology Significance Nature Audit Condition

Canterbury: St Martin Churchyard

Name: Canterbury: St Martin
Record Type: Churchyard
Church code: 606051
Diocese: Canterbury
Archdeaconry: Canterbury
Parish: St. Martin and St. Paul Canterbury





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Legal options for shared use

- Option 1 – use faculty and licence.
- Option 2 – use lease for part of building (Trust?)

Closure scheme currently needed below this line

- Option 3 – close most of building, worship no longer primary use
- Option 4 – close building, licence for occasional worship
- Option 5 – “close and reboot” as plant or peculiar

How to become a Festival Church

- Step 1: Consult within your community, parish, benefice and Deanery, involve your Archdeacon and Area Dean
- Step 2: Seek and pass a PCC Resolution to ask the Bishop to vary the service pattern, with a minimum of 6 services a year, ensuring a service is offered in one church in the benefice
- Step 3: Submit a letter to the Bishop, appending the resolution and proof of the consultation outlined in Step 1 and the conditions given in Step 2, for their consent

The PCC Resolution

Form of resolution under Canon B 14A seeking dispensation from holding services on a regular basis

That this parochial church council, acting jointly with the minister, request the Bishop under paragraph 1 of Canon B 14A to authorise us to dispense, on a regular basis, with the reading of Morning and Evening Prayer and the celebration of the Holy Communion in the parish church of _____.

Signed: *Insert signatures of the chair who presided at the meeting and of two other members of the PCC who were present at the meeting.*

Date of meeting of parochial church council:

The letter to the Bishop

Dear Bishop,

Having considered the matter, the parochial church council of [*name of parish*] has decided that it would like the parish church of [*name of church*] to become a festival church. In summary, the PCC's reasons are as follows. *Insert reasons why the PCC wishes the church to become a festival church.*

Accordingly, at its meeting on [*date*] the parochial church council of [*name of parish*], passed a resolution to request your authorisation under paragraph 1 of Canon B 14A to dispense, on a regular basis, with the reading of Morning and Evening Prayer and the celebration of the Holy Communion in the parish church of [*name of church*]. A copy of the PCC's resolution is enclosed with this letter. This request is being made jointly by me as the minister and the PCC, as required by the Canon.

Services are held in other parish churches and places of worship in the benefice as follows: *Insert details of other parish churches and places of worship in the benefice where Church of England services are held, and the frequency with which those services take place.*

I confirm that the parish church of [*name of parish church in respect of which the dispensation is being requested*] will not cease altogether to be used for public worship. It is intended to hold services in the parish church on [*insert details of the services it is intended to hold in the parish church each year*].

Yours sincerely,

Rector/Vicar/Priest-in-Charge/Team Vicar with special cure of souls

Trusts – how to harness support

- Type 1: Passive – traditional “Friends” who raise money - informal arrangement
- Type 2: Active – “Friends” who raise money and help with repairs, maintenance, development – formal arrangement such as MOU
- Type 3: Managing Trust – takes over work of maintenance and/or management of building, sometimes leasing part of it from PCC under contract

A possible model for sustainable management



Insurance Options

- Need to think about cost and level of insurance
- Less than 100%? Which level? What are you insuring against?
- Reinstatement, repair, clearance of site?
- Need to consult insurer, Archdeacon and DAC

Funding Options for Open Churches

Full guidance on fund-raising including the main donors is given on ChurchCare.

The National Lottery is the biggest donor:

- the National Lottery Heritage Fund (previously HLF)
- the National Lottery Community Fund (previously Big Lottery)

Don't forget the VAT rebate (listed places of worship)

Where do I find all of this?

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

A CHURCH NEAR YOU

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

A CHRISTIAN PRESENCE IN EVERY COMMUNITY

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Association of festival churches

04/03/2019

▼ Diocesan resources

▼ Strategic
planning for church
buildings

Association of
festival churches

A conference on Festival Churches focussing on Mission and Community will be held at Sheffield Cathedral on Mon, 25th March 2019

This event will be especially relevant to Diocesan Officers and senior clergy as well as incumbents, churchwardens and PCC members who are considering alternative patterns of worship, and how their church might widen its appeal to the local community.

To find out more and to book your attendance click on the link below

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/churchcare/churchcare-events#festival-churches-mission-and-community>

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www.ChurchCare.co.uk