

DAC Conference Annual Report

September 2019



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Environment Programme



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

*St Peter and St Paul,
Shoreham, Kent*

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Introduction

Since September 2018 the country has seen many dramatic, often concerning, events. Through all of this, our work supporting parishes with their church buildings remains a core motivator for the team. We sincerely believe that our church buildings and the people involved in them offer an enormous missional opportunity, in good times and bad. We hear so many positive stories of churches throwing open their doors to all types of communities, events and ideas; being places of refuge and opportunity, of bringing in and sending out. Their original purpose as places of worship, of peace, and of contemplation, remains crucial, and is unique in its national spread.

In our work, nationally and at diocesan level, we have a chance to make a difference in how the Church is perceived at the crucial local context. Will our buildings continue to work towards being open and welcoming? Can we use them to show a commitment to fighting climate change and social injustice? Do they speak of Christ in being accessible to anyone who comes forward? Do they offer safe spaces for people to meet? Do they retain that liminal quality of gateways ‘consecrated not instead of the whole, but on behalf of the whole’?

We do not yet have answers to all these questions, but as this annual report shows we are increasingly working towards them. Necessarily (and quite rightly) much of our work revolves around casework, but we are putting more resource into proactively targeting support; our Major Churches and Festival Churches initiatives are examples of this. We are setting up a strand of Renewal and Reform entitled Buildings for Mission, explained in more detail on page 8. This will form a national strategy that draws buildings issues together with issues of use, legislation, accessibility and welcome. We continue to represent to government on key issues such as metal theft and capital repairs funding. We run the National Environmental Programme (see p.29) and are looking more closely at how buildings can be part of this.

The staff of the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division have represented the work we do at conferences and meetings in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland and Scotland, all aimed at increasing collaboration with national and European partners who share many of the same challenges we face. We continue to represent our churches on the Historic England Places of Worship Forum and Historic Religious Buildings Alliance Steering Group. We sit on the steering group for the Taylor

Review pilot projects and have regular meetings with officials at DCMS on issues concerning church buildings.

An encouraging phenomenon last year was hearing our own language echoed back at us, sometimes from the unlikeliest of sources. The tone of discussion around church buildings is starting to shift, especially within the wider Church. The 'rightness' of church buildings being public spaces and community buildings, being open outside worship times, picking up the social justice functions that are shutting down elsewhere, and using their buildings for purposes everyone in their area can directly benefit from is becoming a much more normalised concept. There is still a long way to go to make the theory a reality, but it is notable that the Church of England is almost unique in Europe, in having a plan in place to keep churches open and prevent mass closures. Our collective work, at national and diocesan levels, is such a big part of this. Changing the assumptions and preconceptions around what we do, and how it contributes to the mission of the Church, is a job that couldn't start too soon.

Finally, a huge thank you for all that you do through the work of DACs and DMPCs. We know that the challenges of buildings continue to exercise many parishes. The help and encouragement you offer are crucial to growing the Church, appreciating its history and heritage, and supporting churches in caring for the people of England.

Becky Clark
Director of Churches and Cathedrals

National Initiatives

Taylor Pilots

The Taylor Review pilots have now passed their midpoint. The results are promising: a high level of engagement with the pilot, with nearly 300 churches involved. In Manchester 71% of churches involved are CofE; in Suffolk it is 86%. Unsurprisingly there has been high demand for the minor repairs fund, run by Historic England, with nearly £400,000 allocated so far. Professional evaluation is being carried out as the pilots run and will provide us with robust evidence of the successes of the scheme, as well as areas which could be improved.

The Department for Culture, Digital, Media and Sport remains very engaged, and CBC officers have regular meetings with them. The importance of churches remaining open is at the heart of the pilots, and they are demonstrating that the targeted support and funding proposed by the Taylor Review makes a substantial difference to parishes.

Funding

A one-year government spending round was announced on 8th August, with a proposed completion date of late September. On 28th August this completion was brought dramatically forward, with the round being announced on 4th September, shortly before the expected proroguing of Parliament. We had been anticipating this spending round and were in a position to suggest capital funding for churches as part of the one-year agreement. The results of this should be known before the conference. A multi-year spending review is planned for next year, and we have been invited by DCMS to discuss a longer-term submission with them.

Hate crime

In July the Home Office announced the latest round of its Places of Worship: protective security funding scheme was open for applications until 31st August. Churches have previously benefitted from this fund, which pays for the installation of specific security measures in places that have experienced, or may be at risk from, hate crime. David represents churches on the Home Office Independent Advisory Panel.

Metal theft

The issue of metal theft, especially from church roofs, has been a hot topic all year. Most recently the Telegraph reported that Historic England have calculated around 40% of churches in rural areas have been targeted by thieves. On 31st May, David Knight attended and spoke at the National Metal Theft conference in Birmingham. This event, organised by the National Police Chiefs' Council, was well attended and was a strong call to action for those involved in enforcement to recommit to tackling this crime. The metal crime task group is still in abeyance but we hope it will re-form soon. The change of scope to metal crime reflects the spread of metal crime beyond theft into modern day slavery, inter-trade theft and corruption among contractors over disposals from building and demolition sites.

Fire prevention

The fire at Notre Dame was an image of nightmares for those of us who care for churches – the saving grace being that no lives were lost. In the immediate aftermath, Becky gave a number of radio, TV and newspaper interviews, drawing particularly on why the loss of a church affects people so deeply. Much of this is drawn together in [this blog post](#). You can listen to a half-hour discussion on the role of cathedrals, with Becky, Canon Michael Smith from York Minster, and journalist John Laurenson, on Radio Four's [Beyond Belief via BBC Sounds](#).

Whilst the cause of the Notre Dame fire remains unknown, it seems to have been an accident during restoration works. The team has reviewed our existing guidance on emergency planning and believe it remains comprehensive and useful. We will be prioritising putting our disaster management and fire prevention guidance into our new online format and re-publishing so that churches can easily find it.

Legislative change

Miscellaneous Provision Measure 2018

Since we last met the [Church of England \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Measure 2018](#) has come into force. Section 7 of this measure makes provision for decisions of the Arches Court of Canterbury or the Chancery Court of York to be treated by the other Court, and by the lower ecclesiastical courts in the

province of the other Court, as if it were a decision which the other Court had itself taken.

Section 12 of the Measure, 'delegation and casual vacancies', allows a DAC to delegate any of its functions to its officers, and allows the CBC to delegate to its officers 'such functions as it thinks fit'. The Council has [published guidance](#) on the use of this power and has been pleased to see DACs considering ways to implement it according to local needs.

Faculty Rules 2020

The [Faculty Jurisdiction \(Amendment\) Rules 2019](#) were approved by the General Synod in July 2019, and have been laid before parliament. They come into force on 1 April 2020.

The new rules follow consultation with people from each user group of the faculty system, and careful consideration of the responses by the Church Buildings Council and subsequent detailed scrutiny and discussion by the Rule Committee.

Lists A and B have both been increased in scope by the new rules. The single largest other change is in the timing of consultations for proposals that require it. Consultation is to be done in advance of the Notification of Advice. This will encourage earlier consultation and should enable parishes to resolve issues raised by consultees in advance of petitioning for a faculty. This is intended to reduce late referrals by chancellors, which is a particularly frustrating element of the present arrangements.

Other changes are relatively minor, and are intended to help simplify elements of the consistory court process and make it easier for a DAC to be represented by its Secretary or Chair as a witness.

A full text of the new rules is expected in November 2019. The online system is being reworked to be ready for the new rules coming into force on 1 April 2020.

Miscellaneous Provisions Measure 2019

[The Miscellaneous Provisions Measure, 2019](#), completed its passage in Synod in July 2019 and now awaits parliamentary scrutiny by the Ecclesiastical Committee. This can not be until after the Queen's Speech planned (At time of writing) for October. With a tight timetable this may mean coming into force

around the end of the year. If there is a General Election in autumn 2019, delay until at least Easter 2020 is anticipated.

The provisions of this measure include changes to who is able to conduct quinquennial inspections of churches (section 7) and to the length of service on a DAC (Section 11).

The changes to the inspection of church provisions mean that any suitably qualified person can undertake a QI inspection, and to make the role of the DAC that of an adviser over proposed appointments. The DAC will be required to maintain a list of inspectors working in the diocese, but not to maintain a list of explicitly approved people.

The changes to length of service as a DAC member limit membership to two terms, with exceptional provision for a third term authorised by the diocesan synod.

Departmental Initiatives

Buildings for Mission – a national strategy

Buildings for Mission is a national umbrella for several key pieces of work in four strands:

- a. Improve internal ways of working; simplify and improve the legal systems and processes around managing church buildings.
- b. Manage the national profile of churches and cathedrals, especially in relation to external/capital funding arrangements.
- c. Support innovative uses of church buildings, both for encouraging visitors to experience Christ, and for ‘secular’ uses that encourage more people to cross the threshold – extended, community, social justice, accessibility etc.
- d. Improve capacity, skills, training, and sharing of best practice at diocesan and parish level to allow the full potential of church buildings to be realised.

The Cathedral and Church Buildings Division jointly with the Church Commissioners Closed Churches and Pastoral teams, set up the Strategic Church Buildings Support Group (SCBSG) in early 2018, with members from the Church Buildings Council and Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee. The group has now re-formed into a smaller body, acting as a

governing board for a Buildings for Mission strand of Renewal and Reform. It will consider a draft programme plan at its meeting in mid-September. It is fully anticipated that projects within this programme will involve dioceses in various ways, and we will be setting up a communications plan for the programme.

In addition, the SCBSG has done a lot of work on the theological approach to church buildings, and as a result has drafted a set of eight guiding principles for all national staff and members involved in supporting church buildings:

1. The General Duty in S.1 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 is to “have regard to the furtherance of the mission of the Church of England” and all teams abide by this.
2. All committees and teams concerned with pastoral reorganisation and church buildings work to support the people of God to develop and sustain active, growing, worshipping, Anglican communities of all kinds, including Fresh Expressions, church planting, ecumenical partnerships, and other manifestations of a renewed and growing Church.
3. We recognise that the Church itself (including the Church of England) is not a building, but the people of God. As the House of Bishops emphasised in its paper ‘Church planting and the mission of the church’, the Church is a body of people in a special relationship with the grace-full triune God, which is called to live out its faith in the world.
4. That the presence of well organised and supported parish communities, including appropriate arrangements for mission, ministry and church buildings, is an essential factor in the Church of England being ‘a Christian presence in every community’.
5. Therefore, the work of all the national committees and teams concerned with mission, pastoral reorganisation and buildings starts from a perspective that the vast majority of our churches will remain in use, both as places of worship and, where appropriate and desirable, as community, cultural, civic or commercial venues, as well as enabling new congregations to develop and flourish. We understand a strategic approach and deep commitment to wider community engagement to be at the heart of this approach.
6. For missional, pastoral and other reasons, a small number of church buildings will close for worship each year. We embrace the possibilities this brings to parishes and dioceses in refocussing and renewing their mission. We work to provide a seamless and supportive service for

parishes and dioceses that are considering closure of their church building, or going through the closure process, and in turn supporting dioceses in the exercise of their use-seeking functions for closed churches.

7. We acknowledge and embrace the importance of the Church of England to the history, culture and communities of England, fully reflected in the principles of statutory heritage designation, and, as such, the inheritance of historic buildings and associated areas (such as churchyards, parish halls, church schools and vicarages) that our parishes have.
8. We believe that the heritage and continuity of these buildings and areas is an important missional tool, and accept that the laws and regulations surrounding listed buildings in particular, require that parishes are given specialist support at both diocesan and national level in their stewardship of church buildings.

Strategic Planning with Dioceses

As ever in the Church of England there is a lot going on at diocesan level which helps to inform the work that we do. Recently a number of threads have come together on our work to encourage a more strategic approach to supporting churches that struggle to maintain and use their buildings due to a combination of high costs, complex fabric, and low populations, as well as learning from and supporting those that are more successful, or have the potential to be so.

Keeping track of these issues falls into Joe's remit, and at present he is engaged in work to support the following initiatives, amongst others:

- Next steps for the Norwich Diocesan Churches Trust
- Growing the Rural Church in Exeter Diocese
- Re-imagining church buildings as community assets for the common good in Ely Diocese
- Crossing the Threshold and many other initiatives in Hereford Diocese
- Developing a new model of managing maintenance and engagement for rural churches, based partly on all the above initiatives, which may be piloted soon

The benefits of having different initiatives taking different approaches is that at a national level we can see what works best and synthesise various options and ways of doing things to share best practice with others. This can only happen thanks to the initiative and cooperation of those in dioceses, and we offer our

thanks to them all. If you are aware of other initiatives in this area please [let Joe know](#). We are considering how we might be able to support a networking event to help people responsible for different initiatives to get to know one another and be able to better share information and experiences. If you think this would be valuable, please let Joe or Becky know.

Policy and Precedent

At the 2018 conference we introduced the [casework policy and precedents](#) policy paper. This is intended to share the approach that the Council takes to areas of casework that it considers, to enable DACs and parishes preparing proposals to cover issues likely to be raised in advance of consultation. The paper has greatly helped the Council in the operation of its delegated advice policy. DACs are welcome to use this to inform their own work, or to find other ways of working that will encourage consistency and support the robust operation of a [delegated advice policy](#). Please contact David about this.

Major Churches

Major Churches are defined as having all or most of the following characteristics:

- Physically very big (over 1000m2 footprint)
- Grade I, II* or (exceptionally) II listed
- Exceptional significance and/or issues necessitating a conservation management plan
- Usually open to visitors daily, or strive for this
- Have a role or roles beyond those of a typical parish church
- Make a considerable civic, cultural and economic contribution to their communities



Leeds Minster, ©Ollievision Photography

The Church Buildings Council's work to better resource major churches aims to provide greater support for the biggest and most significant churches in the country. There are now 308 designated Major Churches, and you can find a list or search for them on the Church Heritage Record at <https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org/churches>. Make sure you click on the "Find churches by grade, period, size etc" tab to see the options for this and other searches.

As they are likely to require a higher level of attention (from both the diocese and the Council) as a result of their special functions, significance and potential, DACs are encouraged to be aware of the major churches in their diocese. Any churches applying to the Council to become major churches will be asked to first seek the advice and approval of their DAC Secretary.

Rosie Smith joined the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division in March as Cathedral and Major Churches Officer. She forms part of the Secretariat of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England and also works on the Major Churches Project, seeking to share expertise and resources across from the cathedral world. Joe Elders also remains involved, overseeing the wider strategic review of church buildings.



Tewkesbury Abbey during the BBC Antiques Roadshow ©BBC

In May, the Greater Churches Network held its Conference and Biennial General Meeting in Lancaster Priory, with useful talks on various subjects including responding to events of national significance, basic counter-terrorism procedures, and different ways of creating interpretation materials. There were also updates from Historic England and Ecclesiastical Insurance. The Council was delighted that the Greater Churches Network voted unanimously to re-form as the Major Churches Network, meaning that this valuable resource will soon be open to all major churches for membership. It is planned that the new Network will hold residential conferences every two years, with the CCBD team arranging a London day-conference in the intervening years, and with smaller, regional group meetings held on a more regular basis.

Work in Church House is now focussed on bringing the website and online resources for major churches up to date, including providing better guidance on Conservation Management Plans, Liturgical Plans and Disaster Management Plans to help and equip those who care for these magnificent buildings.

As part of this we are looking to extend the Cathedral Projects Support Panel, which was established in 2017 by the Association of English Cathedrals (AEC) with the aim of offering expert, pro-bono 'intelligent client' advice to cathedrals considering major development projects. The panel was established for an initial two-year pilot period with the support of a grant from the Allchurches Trust and has proved successful: nearly three-quarters of cathedrals have now engaged with the panel and their feedback has been extremely positive. It has been proposed that the panel's services could also be extended to major churches. As with cathedrals, the panel's advice would be focussed on pre-project planning, and panel members' involvement would cease with the development of specific proposals. A memorandum of understanding would be drawn up to ensure that the advice offered by panel members did not trespass onto the remit of the DAC or Church Buildings Council, as has worked effectively with regards to the Cathedrals Fabric Commission. This proposal remains at an early stage but both the AEC and MCN have expressed their support for the proposal in principle: if it moves forward then a joint bid will be made to Allchurches next year by the AEC and MCN, supported by the Division.



Sherborne Abbey
@activateperformingarts.org.uk

Please contact rosanna.smith@chuchofengland.org with any major churches queries.

Festival Churches

On 25th March CCB and the Diocese of Sheffield jointly hosted our third Festival Churches Conference. Around 40 delegates and speakers attended, including Diocesan Advisory Committee chairs and secretaries, archdeacons, and specialists in rural ministry.

The conference started with the fundamental principles of Festival Churches:

1. Festival Churches are local, decided upon by parishes in consultation with their diocese, not a top-down initiative forced on them. Festival

Churches will only work if there is a clear local drive to make it work; deciding on local festivals and events to celebrate, getting more local people involved, with a PCC who are willing to let go of some of the control of the church so that other people can come in and help.

2. Festival Churches are a positive choice, not a decision made in a crisis or a stop on the road to church closure. Festival Churches remain open churches, may continue to contribute Parish Share, are part of their diocese, and actively look to open their building(s) and churchyard to more people locally.
3. Festival Churches are part of the growth agenda, providing a flexible way of 'doing church' within an area, signposting other forms of ministry and pastoral provisions nearby, and using their different patterns of worship in a way which draws in those who might not see regular Sunday worship as an offer for them.
4. Festival Churches are supported both at diocesan and national level, and there is recognition that becoming a Festival Church takes effort: people on the ground, money in the bank, and work for the diocese. The Church Buildings Council wants to support all of this and has produced guidance and templates to help.

They are NOT:

- Closing or "Mothballing" by another name
- A way to avoid Parish Share
- Locked up for 359 days of the year
- Churches which can only be used for a maximum of six services

They ARE:

- A key recommendation of the 2015 Church Buildings Review
- The subject of a change to Canon Law (Canons B11 and B14) which was passed by Synod in February 2017, and became law in February 2019
- Open Churches, a key part of the Church Buildings Council's "Open and Sustainable Churches" campaign, together with Resource Churches and Major Churches

A summary of the conference can be [found here](#).

Following the conference, Tony Baldry has gathered a group of volunteers to form the committee of the Association of Festival Churches, which will act as a convening group for all different manifestations of the festival churches model.

Vulnerable and Struggling Churches Research

In February 2019 Guy Braithwaite was released from casework duties to carry out a piece of research looking at how we can better support vulnerable and struggling churches, and how our role in the church closure process could be refined and improved. Thank you to all DAC and DMPC staff and members who responded to his consultation.

This research has highlighted many areas that need further investigation, including:

- The high number of struggling churches in parishes with a high deprivation index
- The close relationship between listing grade and the cases coming forward for consideration of closure
- The importance given to the lack of volunteers as well as regular attendance in the circumstances leading to consideration of closure
- The relatively slow take-up of strategic reviews and deanery reviews as the basis for closure or pastoral reorganisation proposals
- The tendency in some areas for the decision on closure to be settled by the time the Council's statutory report is sought

The report shows that over 50% of churches for which a formal report is requested from the Council do not close within 5 years. Further work is needed to establish what, if any, contribution the reports and the Council's related efforts in this regard make to this.

One of the themes explored in the report is the widely recognised value of early targeted advice in advance of the start of formal closure processes. Although a number of dioceses say that they make the decision to close a church building before requesting the report, the figures do not always bear this out. It is therefore clear that putting more Council resource in to provide early advice could add value to the process, speeding it up where necessary, and perhaps avoiding the need for a formal report and subsequent legal process in others. It was intended that this would, in part, be achieved through encouraging dioceses to proactively include church buildings in their strategic mission planning, using the data now available; the apparently slow uptake of this approach across the country identified in the report is therefore a concern, and the Council would like to offer more support to dioceses looking to move forward in this way.

The Church Buildings Council believes that there are more and stronger links to be made between advice to individual struggling churches, strategic planning at national, Diocesan and Archdeaconry level, and the development of Deanery

plans. Although the same people are involved in work on all of these, the explicit links have not always previously been made between these elements.

The Strategic Church Buildings Support Group (see p.8 above) will receive this report as a final draft in September and will consider it from both an Archbishops' Council and Church Commissioners perspective. However, the report is not primarily about who does what, but about how parishes engage with the existing processes and which elements of those processes are seen as helpful (or otherwise), and which ones make a real difference to outcomes.

Online Faculty System

The Online Faculty System has now been running for almost five years. The system has grown, and the website has been viewed a total of 6.6 million times. The system is now an active part of the day-to-day management of churches and boasts 12,200 users across the country. 35 dioceses are now signed up to it.

Since the introduction of the system, 2114 List A items have been recorded; 7138 List B applications have been determined; and 3408 Faculty applications have been completed. There 642 ongoing applications related to List A items; 1115 ongoing cases attached to List B applications; and 7632 ongoing Faculty applications (including those where faculties have been granted but are awaiting the certificate of completion). With the recent introduction of temporary minor reordering licenses, of which there are 33 ongoing and approved, and removing all abandoned cases, the system has generated a total of 22,082 active applications. These applications have in turn generated over 1.2 million emails and with more and more users joining the system daily, these numbers will only increase. Making the system sustainable is therefore one of our largest priorities for the upcoming year, with a view to update the coding used to create a more modern and user-friendly system, as well as providing a new policy for data retention and archiving of completed cases.

With the new Faculty rules also coming into place in April 2020, a number of changes will need to be made to the way in which applications are processed. These changes, to name but a few, will include the necessary amendments to the number of List A and B items available; the ability for DACs to control which forms are needed as part of the Faculty applications; the ability for consultees to reply directly through the online system, providing a central resource for consultations; and a public access point to view all cases. Other works are currently taking place to improve functionality for DACs, including a

new casework filtering system to search cases by application status; a new function to create an archive of all List B forms when these cases are converted to Faculty applications; and some small fixes to bugs that have been picked up through day-to-day use of the system.

With the new legislation, and with the changes that are being made to the online system, training for DACs will be required. These will most likely take place in January and February once the changes have been developed and tested. James will be contacting each DAC secretary to arrange these training dates, with a view to making them regional events. If you have any preferences in terms of dates, or would like to host these regional training days, please contact James directly (james.miles@churchofengland.org). These training events should be attended by those who process applications on behalf of the DAC, and if we are able to accommodate these in January, will provide a two-month window to retrain parishes in how to use the system under the 2019 measure. All applications submitted to the system prior to 1st April will follow the 2015 measure, and the two-system approach will need to be followed due to the transitional provisions outlined in the 2019 measure.

Grants

The ChurchCare grants programmes continue to provide support to fabric repair and conservation projects in Anglican Parish Churches. In 2018, we awarded £669,225 to 173 projects, 65 of which were for fabric repairs, 77 for conservation projects, and 31 for conservation reports.

Our grants programmes have high success rates, with an average success rate in 2018 of 78% for fabric repair applications, 79% for conservation reports, and 69% for conservation grants.

Our approach to funding is to provide smaller grants to more parishes, with the intention that the rigour provided by our grants processes provides confidence for other funders to support the projects. Our funding generally constitutes around 13% of total project costs for conservation projects. An encouraging 95% of the schemes we fund are completed.



Hatchment – before & after conservation, Loppington, St Michael and All Angels (Lichfield)

In late 2018, the division joined the Heritage Craft Funders Network, a network aimed primarily at independent trusts and foundations who draw on an endowment or invested funds to provide grants to the heritage & crafts sector, but including other bodies associated with heritage & crafts funding. It aims to improve practices of grant-giving in the heritage & crafts sector and the quality of the support provided for beneficiaries.

2018 Grant Awards

Grant programme	Awards	Total amount awarded	Success rate
Bells	12	£25,000	80%
Clocks	9	£25,800	69%
Organs	23	£44,000	52%
Paintings & Wall Paintings	10	£44,500	83%
Sculpture & Furnishings	16	£62,925	73%
Stained Glass	7	£32,000	58%

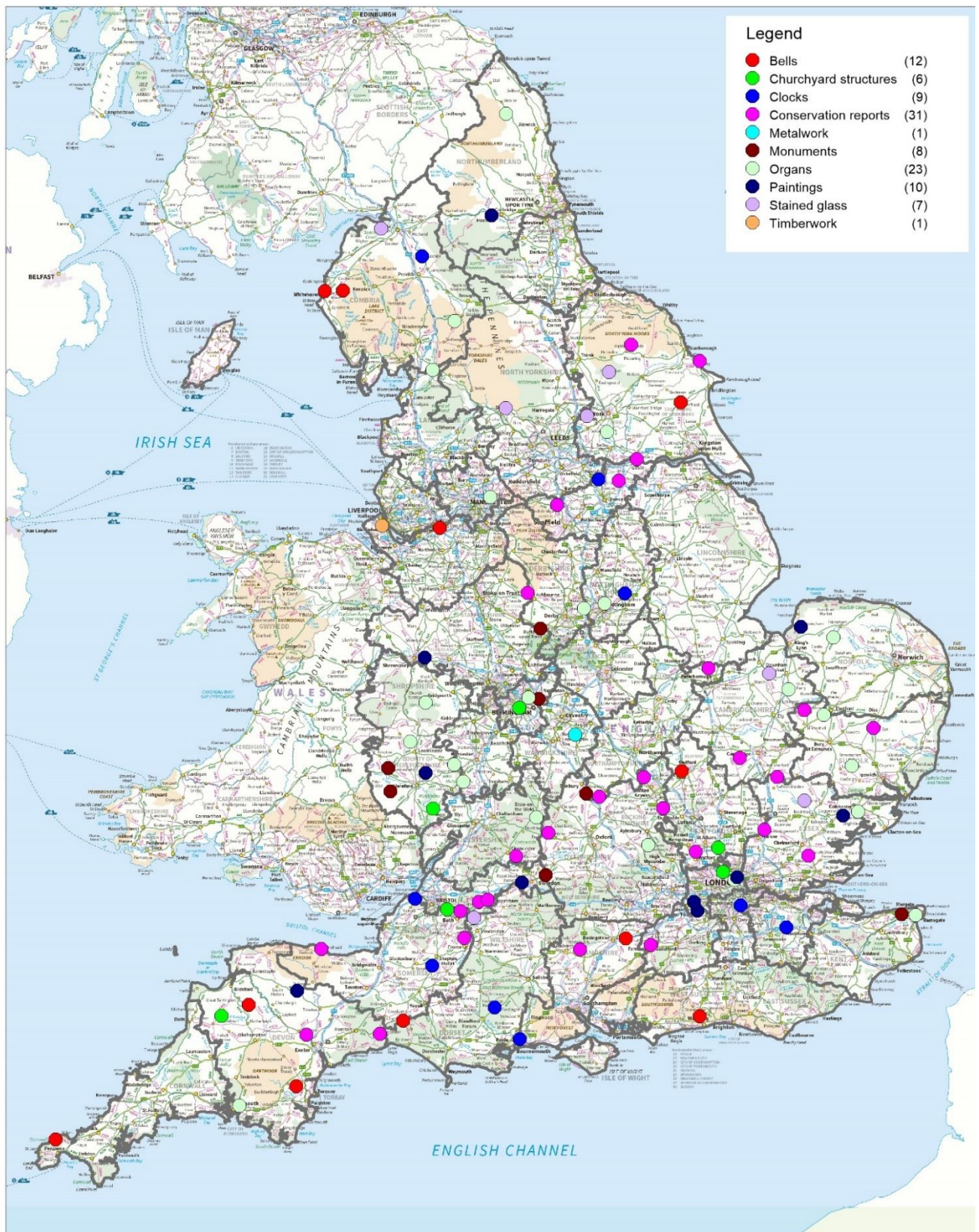
Conservation reports	31	£35,000	79%
Fabric Repairs	65	£400,000	78%
Totals	173	£669,225	

In grant applications, we are looking for the significance of the item being conserved or building being repaired, and the need and urgency for the work. We are interested in supporting projects that address the underlying causes of deterioration, not just the effects. More information on what we fund can be [found on our website](#).

Grant Schedule 2019/20

Grant programme	Next deadline	Decision date
Bells	17 February 2020	May 2020
Clocks	4 March 2020	May 2020
Organs	21 October 2019	December 2019
Paintings & Wall Paintings	27 January 2020	March 2020
Sculpture & Furnishings	30 September 2019	December 2019
Stained Glass	17 August 2020	October 2020
Conservation reports	All year round	Within 6 weeks
Fabric Repairs	27 January 2020	June 2020

2018 Grant Distribution Map



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019

Connectivity

In 2017 the Church of England, through its National Church Institutions, signed an Accord with Government that signalled intent to support national targets on mobile and broadband connectivity, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas. Since then we have, through our Parish Buying centralised procurement programme, negotiated specific schemes for churches wanting to use their buildings for digital connectivity, including outline templates for deals, and legal agreements. Through Parish Buying, we have also provided a 'managed' option whereby churches can have a centrally-approved company negotiate deals and manage the process for them, to reduce the burden on parishes.

Churches have hosted mobile infrastructure for over 25 years and many consider it part of providing for people's everyday needs. Each parish makes its own decisions about whether or not it wants to host such equipment, although under the new Electronic Communications Code it may be that mobile network operators will want to establish clearer protocols around using churches for masts and other equipment, as they have new rights and responsibilities to help meet connectivity and coverage targets. We are currently working towards a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with some of the major mobile network operators, which sets out a consensual agreement on the terms and processes that will apply for church sites to host telecommunications infrastructure under the Code.

The importance of the heritage of our church buildings is however, always protected, as most installations still require permission under the Church's Faculty system or Care of Cathedrals Measure.

Following requests from parishes, cathedrals and dioceses, we have produced comprehensive guidance on the permissions needed, the concerns which might be raised by local people, and given advice on how the process of working with national infrastructure companies and mobile network providers might work. This can all be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/connectivity>.

We have also been negotiating to help churches get the best deal for mobile infrastructure under the new Code. Churches interested in hosting a mobile phone mast can now register an interest with NET Coverage Solutions. A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed between Cornerstone, a Mobile Network Operator representing Vodafone and Telefonica, Parish Buying and NET. The MOU sets out revised 'compensation and consideration' rates for church sites, and the contractual terms and standard process for new

telecoms agreements under the Electronic Communications Code 2017. NET will support the site acquisition, design and installation process, and facilitate site access for maintenance and upgrades. A link to the full MOU will be circulated as soon as it is finalised, along with more information for dioceses and parishes.



These web resources provide some guidance, including case studies in video and downloadable PDF documents, on areas such as:

- Mission and Engagement
- Welcome and Hospitality
- Community Uses
- Security and Safeguarding

The sections related to buildings include the ability to install CCTV and other security measures, and for flexible building control. Helpful further case-studies are always welcome. Please contact churchcare@churchofengland.org if you would like to offer one.

The other three sections are:

- a) Legal Considerations
- b) Grants & Funding
- c) What solutions are available?

This last section provides guidance to churches on how to approach finding a solution, given the particular location and circumstances of the church. It leads to a range of suppliers on the [Parish Buying website](#).

Parish Buying has also worked to develop a church-based network for rural areas

Traditional mobile phone antenna, which can also be sited in church towers, are very expensive and consequently mobile network operators are not incentivised to serve low-population areas. A separate briefing is provided on the situation for the siting by Code Operators of Mobile Phone Network Infrastructure in churches.

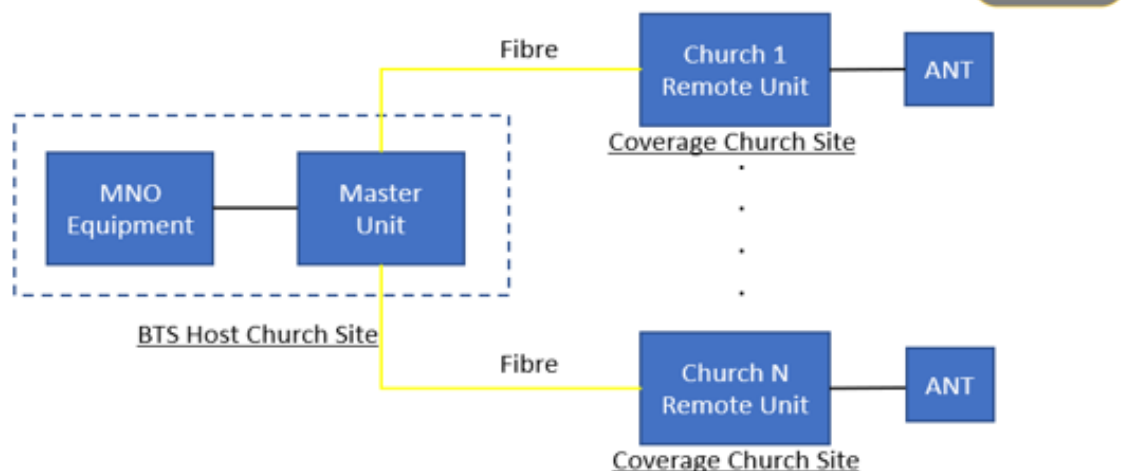
This initiative is much less costly for operators – making mobile provision financially viable in areas of low population, and a number of churches (generally between 2 and 8) form a network to provide the mobile phone service for the whole community around them.

All the phases including consultation, faculty, planning and draft resolutions for the PCC are managed by NET CS. Reasonable costs and fees for faculty, planning, valuation, legal and other necessary professional advice for the PCC will also be covered by NET.



System Overview

- For each group of churches, the Mobile Network Operator (MNO) Equipment will be located in one of the centrally located churches, called the 'Hub' Site.
- The MNO signals will be combined in the 'Master Unit' located within the Hub Site
- Fibre connection will be required between the BTS Host Church Hub Site and the rest of the churches.



Sample area



Churches receive an annual rent from NET, who will also provide WiFi for the church at the PCC's request. A full information pack, detailing the background, the processes, design methodology, health and safety, licence terms and payments, and FAQs, is [available here](#).

Bats in Churches Project

The Bats in Churches project, a pioneering endeavour to empower church communities to live alongside their resident bats, was awarded £3.8 million from the Heritage Fund in 2018. It is a cross-sectoral partnership of organisations with distinctive priorities, comprising Natural England, the Church of England, the Bat Conservation Trust, the Churches Conservation Trust and Historic England. The project was initiated this year and will conclude in 2023.

The Cathedrals and Church Buildings team employs four of the eight project staff: three engagement officers and the communications officer.

The issue of bats in churches is complex; reflecting this, the project is multi-stranded. The most severely affected churches are having in-depth ecological surveys by the most highly trained bat ecologists this year and in 2020, using the new Bats in Churches class licence developed specially for the project by Natural England. The data from these surveys enables the ecologist to work with the church architects to mitigate the impact of bats on church fabric and

use. This year, for example, the project commissioned a condition report into the impact of bats on medieval wall paintings at Hardwick, and worked with multiple stakeholders at St Pega's, Peakirk, to re-roof after a lead theft, taking into account a bat roost. Another key outcome of the project is raising awareness of the natural and built heritage of project churches, and events this year have included participation in village fetes at Chignal Smealy, Guestwick and Swanton Morley and a Beer and Bats night at Braunston in Rutland. A citizen science survey, with a bespoke database, engaged volunteers at 1000 churches. Although in its first year, the project team is very mindful of sustainability post-project, and to this end, we have devoted effort to brokering relationships between county bat groups and DACs; churches and county bat groups, and schools and churches. This first year has been successful, with the project exceeding its targets and building good relationships.

Archaeology

Joe Elders has continued to liaise on behalf of the Archbishops Council with HS2 and other departments in Church House regarding the impact of the works and the eventual railway line on our church buildings, communities and burial sites. Negotiations regarding the latter are moving towards a solution that ensures the burials are appropriately reinterred.

We are aware of a change in Historic England's approach to mitigation of harm when building over areas of buried archaeology, especially those containing human remains, and we are liaising with them about this. There is also an issue with licences for TrenchArch systems being required in some circumstances by the Environment Agency, and concerns around archaeology with some local authorities. If you have noticed these developments, please contact Joe; guidance on all these issues is being developed.

New Lighting Guidance for Cathedrals and Major Churches

The Division has convened a review group to develop new guidance on lighting for cathedrals and major churches. The group comprises members of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England (CFCE) and Church Buildings Council and external experts. It is chaired by the Vice-Chair of the CFCE, Sir Paul Britton. The group has reviewed existing guidance covering cathedrals, churches, and heritage buildings to inform what should be included in the

updated note. It has been agreed that the guidance will cover both internal and external lighting schemes, and safety lighting, but not audio-visual equipment, which will be covered separately at a later date. Similarly, revised guidance on the lighting of smaller churches will be considered separately: this is in line with the wider divisional policy of encouraging major churches and cathedrals to follow similar best-practice guidelines whilst being careful not to make excessive and daunting demands on smaller churches. The review group will meet again in October to consider a first draft, after which it will be circulated for approval first to the CFCE and CBC, and then to other stakeholders. It is hoped that a finalised guidance document would be issued by the end of this year or in early 2020.

Conferences and Events

The Phoenix Renewed: Sustainability of Post-War Churches and Cathedrals

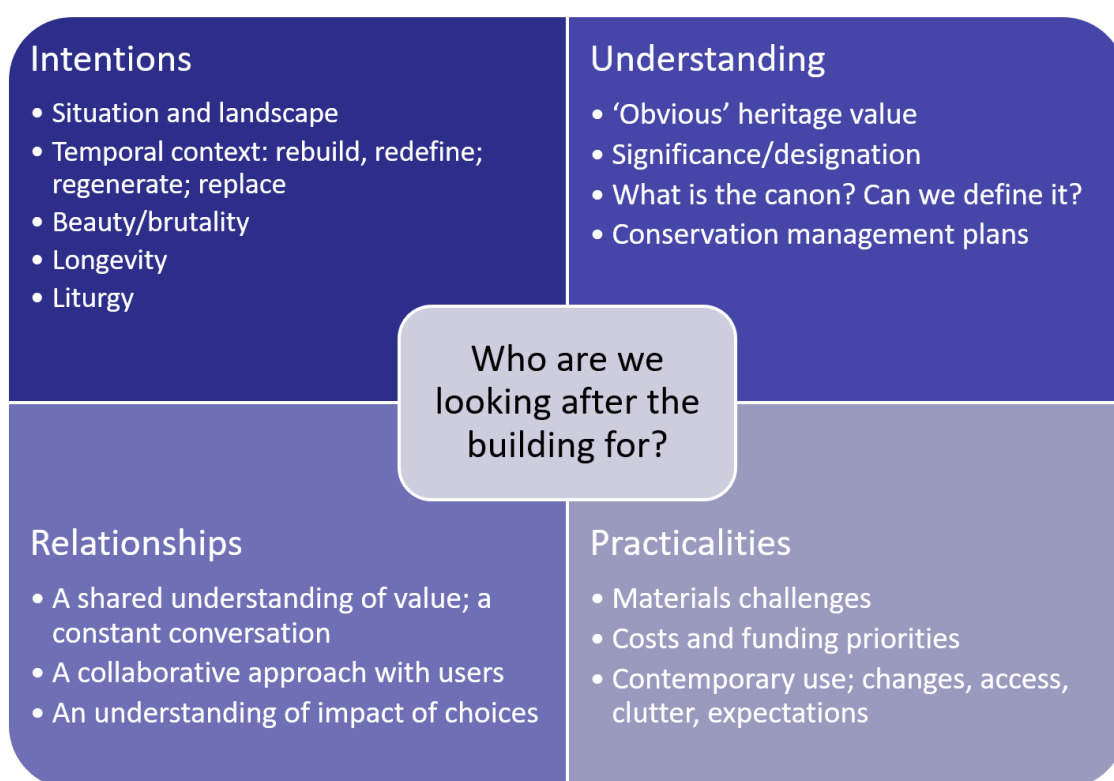
This multidisciplinary conference ran from 18-19th March and was organised by the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division. The programme was designed collaboratively with Coventry Cathedral, the C20 Society and Historic England. Around 100 delegates and speakers attended, including architects, historians, conservators and conservation specialists, amenity societies, materials scientists, funding bodies, Diocesan Advisory Committee and Fabric Advisory Committee members and officers, and churchwardens.

Speakers included Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive of Historic England, Dame Fiona Reynolds, Chair of CFCE, Professor Louise Campbell of Warwick University, Johanna Gibbons of J&L Gibbons LLP, and Dr Louise Hampson from the Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture at the University of York, as well as Joe Elders for the CCB.

One of the main conclusions was that 20th-century churches and cathedrals, especially those built after WWII, cannot be satisfactorily explained, described, understood or managed exclusively through established methods of heritage analysis and evaluation. They are a separate class: we have far greater level of survivals than from any other period, we do not have the prism of history to judge them through, we have materials that are poorly or incompletely understood, and we have a different set of user expectations. We have no

framework for this, just as we currently do not have a really effective way of sharing information and research on materials.

We do have an historically unique opportunity to understand the field of buildings and evaluate what ‘normal’ and ‘typical’ is, before making informed choices about what is worth saving. This conference is clear that there is enormous value in the diversity, innovation, liturgical significance and social statements made by 20th-century churches, of all denominations. The conference organisers will take responsibility for scoping out follow-up work to see how we can ensure that this category of church continues to make up a valuable part of the landscape of England.



National Bell Advisers Conference

The Division organised the annual bell advisers conference, held in Oxford on 27-28 June. Attendees had an opportunity to visit Whites of Appleton, bell hangers, and see some significant historic bells in the city of Oxford. Advisers received an update on the new faculty rules and other topical matters. The major discussions were over bell tuning, with a presentation from the former bell tuner at Whitechapel, and on casting. This latter introduced modern casting being applied to bell founding – a development since the closure of the Whitechapel foundry.

National Organ Advisers Conference

The organ advisers met in Leicester Diocese from 27 to 29 August, in a programme jointly devised between the diocese and the Division. It included presentations on resourcing churches and an update on the faculty rules and support available to advisers from the British Institute of Organ studies (BIOS). Visits to churches allowed delegates to see two reorderings (one in progress) and organs that presented conservation challenges or that were good examples of good work. The advisers were also updated on electrical components for organ building and reflected on the attitudes that had informed recent organ projects and how these may evolve in the future.

National Environmental Programme

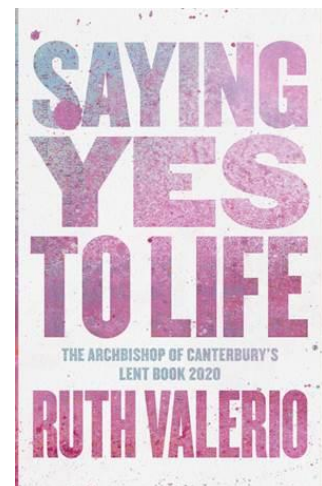
Our National Environmental Programme works at enabling the whole Church to address climate change and biodiversity loss – in faith, practice and mission. We give advice and support on how to make church buildings and churchyards more sustainable. Key areas include energy efficiency, renewable energy, heating, lighting, biodiversity, and climate change adaptation.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/environment>

2020: Lent, Lambeth and COP

1. The **Archbishop's Lent Book** "*Saying Yes to Life*" will focus on climate change, its impact, and what **actions** we can take
2. **Lambeth 2020** will take the environment as a key theme
3. **COP26** – the international climate talks – will be hosted in the UK

Around these three key events, the Church of England will encourage action at all levels; national, diocesan, church and individual.



A vision of a zero-carbon church



In the last year, the importance of radically reducing carbon emissions has become clearer and clearer. So, what would a zero-carbon church actually look like? Perhaps what comes to mind first is clean energy from solar panels or heat pumps, and low energy lighting and appliances. Efficient heating is also key, aimed at making the people

comfortable rather than heating the space. The building fabric is vital too; draughts need to be reduced, and insulation - where feasible and appropriate – installed inside roof voids. There need to be well-maintained gutters, to ensure the church isn't damp and hard to heat. Church grounds are important too; from EV charging and bike parks, to carbon-capturing trees, and biodiversity boosting plants. The work of DACs is vital in helping churches move towards this vision, in the best way, and balanced with their heritage. Having good advice in these areas is key.

Diocesan Environment Officers (DEOs)

As we saw at last year's conference, the DEO is the lead contact for environmental issues within a Diocese. A Synod motion requires every Diocese to have one, however there are currently several vacancies. A map of those in post is [available here](#).

Season of Creationtide

It is currently the [season of Creationtide](#) (1st Sep - 4th Oct), and this year's theme is "The Web of Life: Biodiversity as God's blessing". Could your diocese's communications this month feature photos of plants, animals and pollinators in church grounds? Use #SeasonofCreation on Twitter to join in.



We proactively support and promote [A Rocha UK's award scheme for churches](#) which provides an excellent practical framework for taking action on buildings, land, worship, community/global and lifestyle. There are now 17 Eco Dioceses and over 1100 Eco Churches. Share good practice in your diocese, using #EcoChurch on Twitter.

Contributing to best practice guidance

February Synod raised some important issues relating to our environmental work. A debate on the motion raised by the Dioceses of Truro and London agreed changes to the way that Church House works to support churches to reduce their carbon footprint. A lively debate included contributions from members of the Church of England Youth Council, emphasising how the environment was one of the most significant issues for young people. The motion was passed and as a result those responsible for environmental matters are now developing a plan to implement it:

- a. An exploration of options to provide greater co-ordination of environmental work in Church House.
- b. A National Carbon Footprint tool to help parishes improve efficiency, save money and measure themselves against others without adding to volunteer workload. Work has been undertaken with the Research & Statistics team to identify and streamline existing data sources and establish a mechanism for developing a church carbon footprint.
- c. An Historic England Intelligent Client Service Agreement to provide expert building performance and M & E advice to:
 - Unlock efficiency savings for parishes providing funds for mission

- Make our church buildings welcoming, innovative and fit for the future
- Improve the take up of renewable technology
- Combat the issue of poor and outdated advice on sustainable heating and lighting in dioceses

During the next few months, we will start work on best practice guidance on

1. How environmental factors are considered in the QI and faculty processes
2. Choosing heating systems
3. Climate change adaptation

If someone in your diocese is interested in contributing, please contact Catherine Ross, on the email below.

catherine.ross@churchofengland.org

To sign up for our quarterly newsletter:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/environment/environment-programme-news>

Cathedrals and Church Buildings Team Updates

We have seen quite a few staff changes in the past year. We were sad to say farewell to Christina Emerson, who moved to become Head of Casework at the SPAB, Ruth Knight, who ran the Environmental Programme, who moved to a new role at the Greater London Authority, and Anne Locke from the Cathedrals Team, who retired.

Happily, the team is now back up to full strength with some great new recruits joining familiar faces:

Director of Churches and Cathedrals: Becky Clark

Head of Church Buildings Strategy: Joe Elders

- Digital Projects and Outreach Manager: James Miles
- Open & Sustainable Churches Officer: Catherine Ross
- Bats in Churches Engagement and Communications Officers:
 - o Ione Bingley (Comms)
 - o Honor Gay
 - o Rosemary Riddell
 - o Diana Spencer

Senior Church Buildings Officer: David Knight

- Church Buildings Officers:
 - o Guy Braithwaite
 - o Keri Dearmer
 - o Jacinta Fisher
 - o Tracy Manning (Conservation)

Head of Conservation: Janet Berry

- Conservation Grants Administrator: John Webster

Senior Cathedrals Officer: Tom Ashley

- Cathedrals and Major Churches Officer: Rosie Smith

Office Manager: Abu Pasha

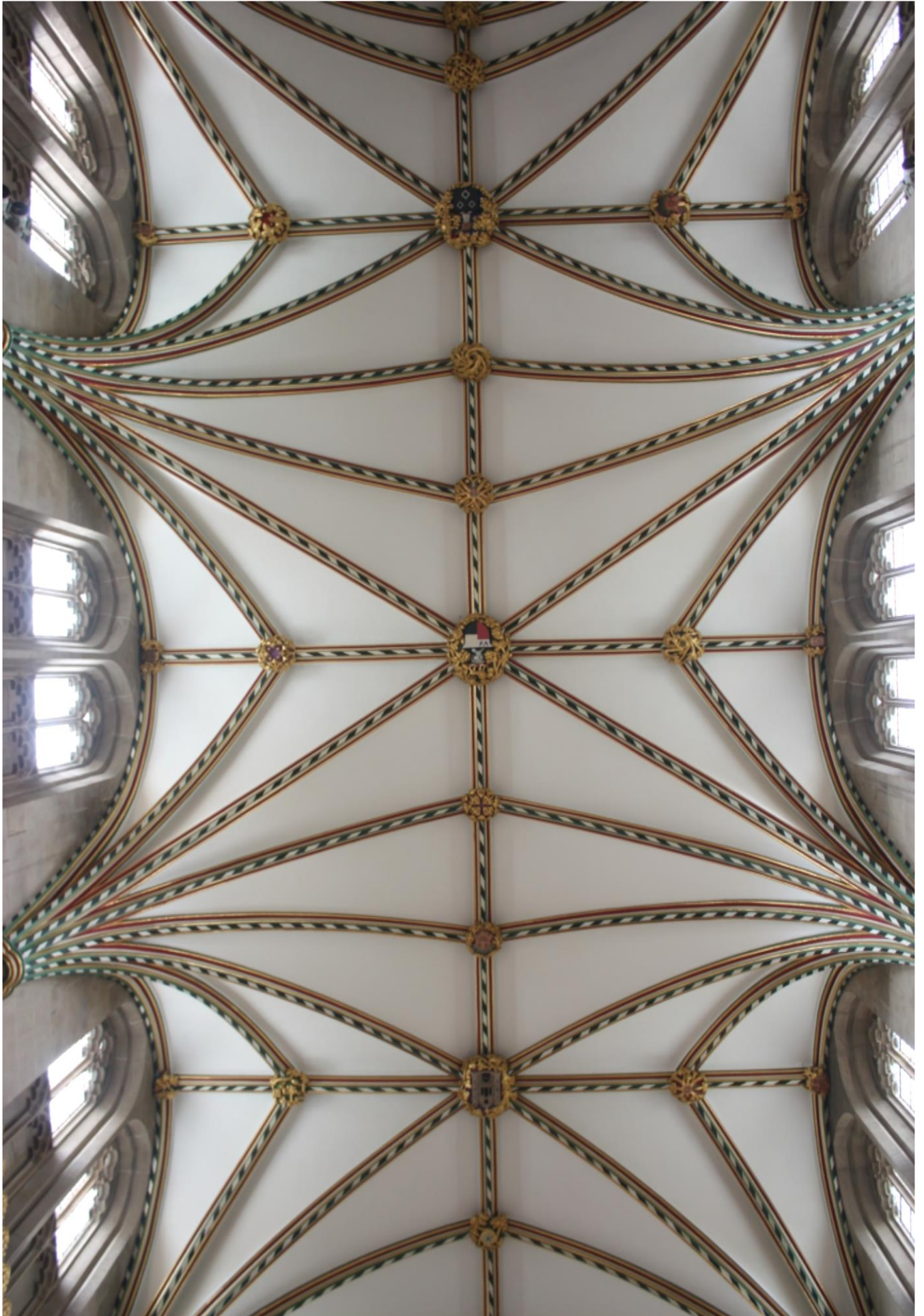
Volunteer Librarian: Sue Drury

Earlier this year we moved from our online content from our dedicated ChurchCare website to become part of the main Church of England site. As part of this move most content was re-written and re-categorised to make it easier to use. Among other changes, our guidance pages were updated so top pages contained a summary of advice, with a link to the full document, and we created a searchable guidance database. We also created new areas to hold papers from past conferences, to ensure knowledge is shared as widely as possible. As with any change there were some teething problems, but in general we have had positive feedback. We would welcome further thoughts – please [email James Miles](#).

As of April 2019, Bishop John Inge stepped down as the Church of England's lead bishop for churches and cathedrals. Bishop John was lead bishop from September 2014 and brought his wisdom and expertise to bear on important issues such as the Cathedrals Working Group report, as well as providing robust theological and practical insight into the priorities of the national church buildings team. Bishop John took the decision to continue his support for our work through other channels, including his roles in the House of Bishops and House of Lords. We deeply regret losing his support, but value his continued commitment to our work. Becky is working with Lambeth Palace on the appointment of a new lead bishop for cathedrals and church buildings and will update you as soon as possible.

Finally, we have been delighted to welcome Jennie Page as the new Chair of CBC, taking over from Tony Baldry. Jennie was previously Vice-Chair of the CBC, and Vice-Chair of the CFCE before that. Her vast experience with both casework and policy is already benefitting the entire department.

NOTES



Blackburn Cathedral