

DAC/DEO Virtual Conference Annual Report September 2020

Tuesday 8 — Thursday 10 September 2020



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Welcome Message from Jennie Page, CBC Chair

Thank you all for taking the time to attend this virtual meeting for DACs and DEOs. A particular welcome if you are joining us for the first time, especially if you have become a DAC Chair or officer or started to serve as a DEO in the past year.

The last six months have presented us all with new and severe challenges that have changed how we relate to each other and how we do our work. I want to thank you all for the way you have responded, risen to new challenges and continued to support the churches in your diocese and across England. This has not been easy and I am truly grateful to you all.

Although working together has been changed by the pandemic, we have continued to learn from each other and support each other. It was good to hear at the start of the pandemic that the DAC secretaries had got together online to discuss how you were responding to the unfolding crisis. The Council has changed how it has met with you - in some cases meeting more than it would have done if each meeting was in person. I look forward to being present with you in Gloucester in 2021 but also hope that over the months and years ahead the Council and its staff will use our new confidence with virtual meetings to listen to you and offer support in a timely fashion.

A crisis is a reminder that we do not know the future, and that the apparently fragile can sometimes turn out to be more resilient than the apparently strong. It is helpful to remember this when we reflect on what our churches and pattern of mission and worship may look like in the coming months and years. We can hear around us a lot of speculation about offices not being used again and cities remaining quiet. Some of us are seeing our friends moving out of cities into the country and have seen families travelling to enjoy England in ways not experienced in recent years. How might these be reflected in church life? Will some of the churches that are most vulnerable to diocesan review turn out to be those who have been most resilient to the pandemic?

A crisis can cause creativity. I would encourage you to be creative as you look at churches in your diocese. Will models we used before the pandemic still deliver in the future? Although sharing is made trickier when we are not meeting in person I invite you to use this conference as a stimulus to share what you are doing - especially where you have become more creative. We are always happy to hear from you.

With my renewed thanks

Jennie Page
Chair, Church Buildings Council

Programme

Tuesday, 8 September 2020 (DACs)

Time	Topic	Who
1345	Meeting open to login ready for start time	
1400	Welcome	Jennie Page
1405	Annual meeting and review of the year	Jennie Page
1420	Open forum, with questions submitted in advance	
1430	Contested heritage. A panel discussion	Chair: Becky Clark
1510	<i>DEO colleagues joining from this point onwards</i>	
1515	Learning from St Michael Withington: a Zero Carbon Church	Matt Fulford Director, Inspired Efficiency; Gloucester DAC Sustainability Adviser
1555	Wrapping-up	Jennie Page
1600	Close	



Programme (2)

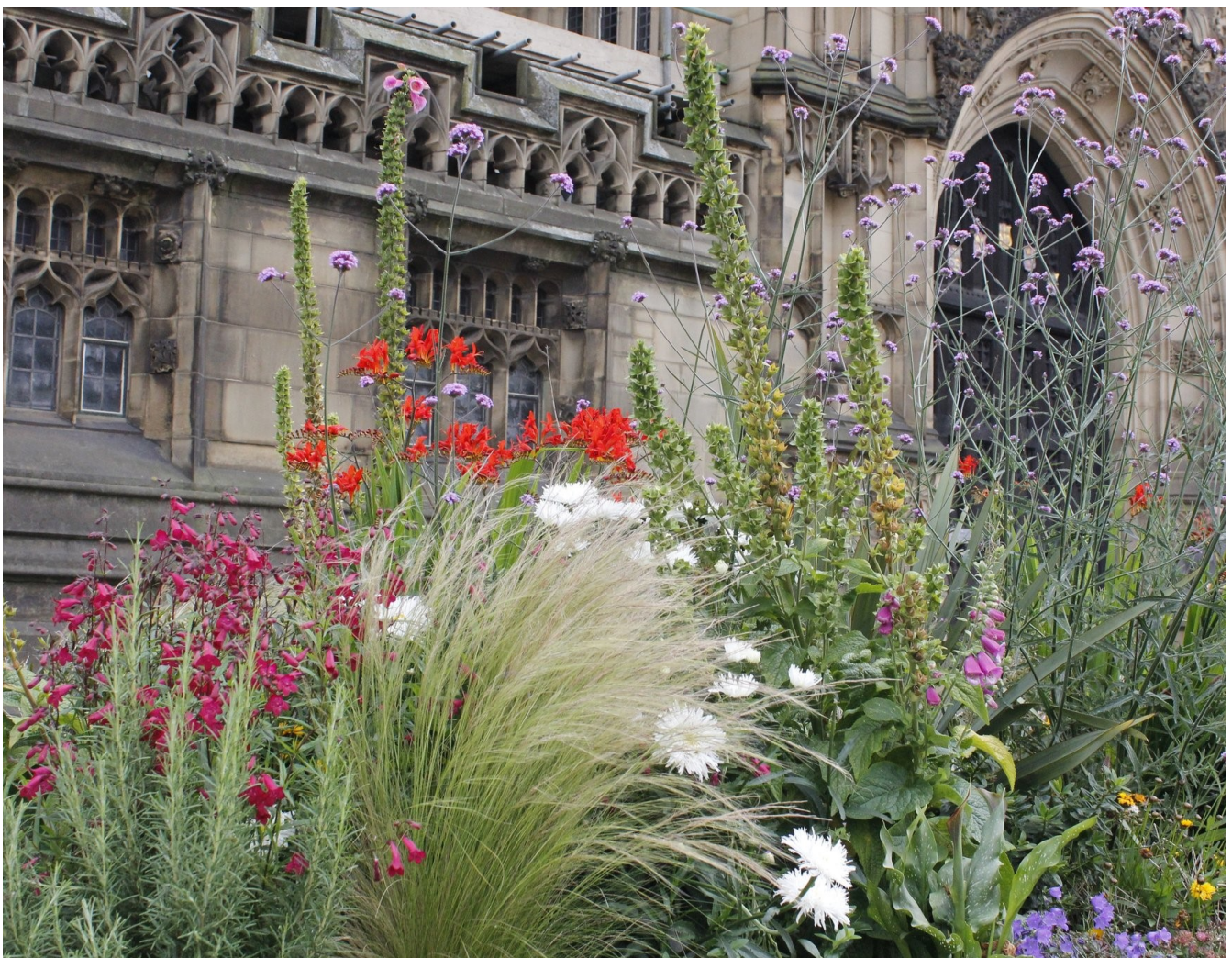
Wednesday, 9 September 2020 (DACs & DEOs)

Time	Topic	Who
1300	Welcome & Opening Prayers	Rt Revd Nicholas Holtham & Catherine Ross
1310	Getting to net zero - the view of the UK Committee on Climate Change. Key note speaker, including Q&A	Chris Stark, Chief Executive, UKCCC
1400	Reflections, reactions, in breakout rooms	
1415	The Church of England national picture; update on progress since the last conference.	+Nicholas Holtham Catherine Ross Jo Chamberlain
1445	Reflections, reactions, in breakout rooms	
1500	Comfort break	
1515	National energy audit analysis – update on findings	Catherine Ross
1530	Diocesan examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philip Fletcher, DAC Chair, and Luke Tatham, DAC Secretary, Southwark – <i>The 5th Mark of Mission in Southwark Diocese: how the DAC is getting involved.</i> Simon Pugh-Jones, DAC Chair, Bristol – <i>Integrating the environment into the work of the DAC.</i> Maranda St John Nicolle, DEO, Oxford – <i>How Oxford is using the energy audit programme to help their churches.</i> Patrick Gerrard, DEO, Birmingham – <i>Under pew heating at St Michael's Baddesley, to help it become zero carbon.</i> Brian Cuthbertson, DEO, London – <i>Solar PV against the odds at St James Clerkenwell.</i> Richard Waller, DEO, Carlisle – <i>In river hydro schemes for local energy generation.</i> 	
1630	Reflections, reactions, in breakout rooms	
1645	Reactions to the day & Wrap-up	
1700	Close	

Programme (3)

Thursday, 10 September 2020 (DEOs)

Time	Topic	Who
0900	Welcome	Jo Chamberlain
0910	Icebreakers and 'getting to know you'	
0920	Telling the story and sharing best practice: group work	
1045	Comfort break	
1100	Open Mike – max 5 mins from anyone present	All present
1145	Action planning in regional groups	
1215	Wrapping-up	
1230	Close	



Who's Who

Cathedral and Church Buildings Division



Becky Clark
Director



Dr David Knight
Senior Church Buildings Officer



Dr Joseph Elders
Head of Church Buildings Strategy



Catherine Ross
Open & Sustainable Churches Officer



Janet Berry
Head of Conservation

Who's Who

Cathedral and Church Buildings Division



Guy Braithwaite
Church Buildings Officer



Keri Dearmer
Church Buildings Officer



Jacinta Fisher
Church Buildings Officer



Tracy Manning
Church Buildings Officer - Conservation



Rosanna Smith
Cathedral & Major Churches Officer

Who's Who

Mission & Public Affairs Division



Mark Betson
National Rural Officer



David Shreeve
Environmental Advisor



Jo Chamberlain
National Environment Officer

Keynote Speaker



Chris Stark
CEO at Committee on Climate Change
9th Sept, 1310hrs

Introduction



2020 will be remembered by everyone for the emergence of Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown, and for those of us involved with churches as the year when church buildings were closed. The response to this closure and the complexity of supporting churches during lockdown was a strong reminder of the strong interest in church buildings and, maybe more importantly, the huge diversity of activities that happen in church buildings. They are places of prayer and worship but also places of mission, service, refuge, tourism and commerce. A full section of this report is given over to Covid-19, our response, and its known and anticipated impacts on churches. However it is also worth remembering that seven months passed between the last DAC Conference in the Diocese of Blackburn and the closure of churches on 23rd March. This introduction summarises the significant amount of work done in that time.

During the year the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division has continued our work on simplification and modernisation of the systems that support our church buildings. This has included ongoing work to develop the Church Heritage Record and Online Faculty system. In autumn 2019 it was awarded £24,000 from the Mark Fitch Foundation for **digitisation of historic Pastoral Measure Reports and their successors, Church Buildings Reports**. The project outcome will be a digital archive with the information made available to the public through the Church Heritage Record. The project has been delayed by lockdown but we hope it will be able to re-start soon.

Introduction (2)

Dame Caroline Spelman did not stand again as an MP at the December General Election. Andrew Selous MP succeeded her as **Second Church Estates Commissioner**. Andrew has been a Member for South West Bedfordshire since 2001. Churches within his constituency include Dunstable Priory and All Saints Leighton Buzzard. He has already shown himself to be an advocate for church buildings, answering a series of questions in the Commons on issues ranging from bats in churches to funding arrangements.

The **Strategic Church Buildings Support Group** (SCBSG) has gained relevance as the church has sought to coordinate its response to Coronavirus. This group has worked to encourage a strategic approach to buildings across the work of the Church Buildings Council and the Church Commissioners Pastoral and Closed Church Team.

Peter Wagon (Pastoral and Closed Churches Team) and Joseph Elders attended a meeting of the eight Midlands dioceses, aimed at discussing approaches to **strategic planning around parochial provision** and church buildings. This showed that the dioceses were in different places as regards their strategic approaches to church buildings, but that there was huge potential in them working together to share information and ideas

In February the General Synod committed the church to reach **net zero carbon** by 2030. This target date was decided in the Synod meeting itself and is 15 years earlier than the original motion, which aimed for 2045. A huge challenge to us all. It is starting to be reflected in advice and guidance given by the Division. A full section on the Division's environmental work later in this report will share some of the work we have done.

In March 2020 the Division published a report into recent research on **struggling churches**. Guy Braithwaite writes about this in more detail later in this report. The research helpfully drew attention on how support and resources are used at diocesan and, to an extent, national level. It provides a good basis on which to consider how to use strategic frameworks to support parishes.

Also, in March the Division announced the transfer of its **Wolfson fabric repair grants** programme to the National Churches Trust (NCT). This change will simplify the application process for churches as the one NCT form will now potentially access two funding streams; the Wolfson Fund and the NCT's other fabric repair funds.

The **Taylor Review of the sustainability of churches** pilot projects were finished in April. A full evaluation report has now been completed following an interim report on its findings up until March 2019. The most striking findings, evidenced in a comprehensive way for the first time, are happily in line with what we expected: the availability of small levels of funding allowed essential repairs to be carried out in a timely way, and the advice and expertise of the Fabric Support Officers and Community Development Advisers was invaluable in directing the available funding to places where it could do the most good. We anticipate publication of the full evaluation report later this year.

Introduction (3)

The Church of England runs a **senior leadership development programme** for clergy. As part of a two-year course participants complete a group project on an issue of strategic importance to the Church. This year one group has selected to complete a project looking at what inspires and supports communities to use their buildings in missional ways. The research will be based on case study work in the seven dioceses that project team members work within and is led by Becky.

The second phase of the **National Burial Grounds Survey** was launched at Headingley St Chad, as part of a conference on churchyards organised by Leeds diocese. This innovative project involved pioneering survey methods to record the distinctive heritage and ecology of churchyards. It will add great value for the local and wider communities of all ages. CBC member Sylvia Johnson chaired the project, and fellow member Archdeacon of Halifax Ven Dr Anne Dawtry pressed the launch button.

Over the past few years the Division has liaised with several branches of different **Scandinavian churches**. In November in Oslo Becky joined James Halsall, from the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, to give a national and regional perspective of the Church of England's buildings management processes and policies, at a seminar with opposite numbers from the Norwegian, Swedish and Danish churches.

In June 2020 Miss Morag Ellis QC took up the role of **Dean of the Arches and Auditor**. She succeeded The Rt Worshipful Charles George QC. We look forward to working with Miss Ellis and wish here to record our thanks to Mr George for his commitment to the role and for his work to remove a great deal of more routine work from the requirements for a faculty. Miss Ellis was formerly Commissary General and Deputy Chancellor in the Diocese of Southwark. She is a member of the Archbishops' Panel of Clergy Discipline Chairs, a member of the Legal Advisory Commission to General Synod, a member of the Rules Committee of General Synod and has recently been appointed as a Church Commissioner.

The issues churches have accessing **National Lottery Heritage Funds** since the closure of GPOW have been raised with the new Chair of the NLHF in a meeting with Becky Clark. Whilst there is no immediate or easy solution to this, the Chair is sympathetic to the issues churches face and the conversation about criteria and application processes remains open – albeit stalled to some extent by the closure of the Heritage Fund's usual programmes due to Covid-19.

The **challenges faced by rural churches** across the UK were addressed at a seminar run jointly by Historic England and Historic Environment Scotland. Officers from across Church House attended. Discussions showed a large degree of shared issues, mainly around shifting populations and a lack of capital funding, but also shared ideas on building community and embedding a sense of collective responsibility, wider than just the worshipping congregation, to secure the future of rural church buildings. It has been suggested that a similar group may meet again in future.

Introduction (4)

Head of Conservation, Janet Berry, has had two papers published and will be presenting virtually at the International Institute of Conservation's 2020 Edinburgh Congress in November. With Adam Klups (Gloucester DAC Secretary) and Louise Hampson she co-authored 'Conservation for Mission: Conservation of Historic Church Interiors in the Church of England'. With Tobit Curteis and Lucy Wrapson 'East Anglia's Medieval Rood Screens: Conserving Sensitive Painted Artworks in Uncontrolled Church Environments'.

The Division is always happy to be **invited provide speakers for meetings** – both virtual and 'in the room' - and to take the initiative to provide training and updates to professionals and others working with church buildings. During 2019-20 these have included many presentations on faculty jurisdiction and the new rules, including to DAC and registry officers, Diocesan Surveyors, the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association, diocesan registrars and the amenity society caseworkers. Becky Clark has addressed Diocesan Communications Officers and Diocesan Giving Advisers, and spoken on stained glass commissions in church life at the Stained Glass Museum in Ely.

The Division has provided keynote speakers for county trust meetings and for Institute of Conservation (Icon) events, and for the two-day The Art of the Lost event in Canterbury in November. Council officers have been active in the European Future for Religious Heritage organisation, of which Becky is a Council member, and the Society for Church Archaeology, of which Becky and Joe are trustees. The move to online meetings inspired the first CBC 'surgery' for DACs, a format that might well be used again on a range of different topics – we would be glad to receive ideas on this.

Monuments with contested histories

The events of the past few months relating to racism and contested heritage have brought into focus the question of monuments and memorials in our churches and cathedrals to individuals who have participated in systemic and targeted discrimination or exploitation based on race.

The Division is working on guidance for churches and cathedrals to enable them to consider monuments that have links to slave trading or the exploitation of people. There is not a single answer applicable to all circumstances that would satisfy all legitimate viewpoints. However, there is a need to acknowledge the real and justified anger of those who believe monuments in churches and elsewhere must be reviewed.

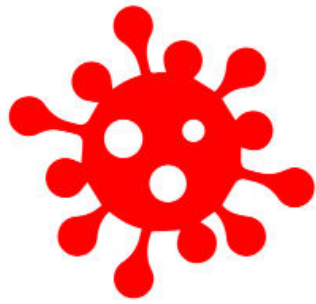
Accompanying this programme is a document that will form the basis of guidance for churches and cathedrals. This contains information on the context within which this guidance is given, consideration of the issues, and actions that can be taken by churches and cathedrals.

The Church of England's statutory processes are suited for dealing with these issues. The basis of any consideration of contested heritage would be a robust statement of significance, founded in an appropriate level of research on the object in question and its context. Insufficient understanding is likely to lead to distress and recriminations, if the interests of an interested party are ignored or not given appropriate weight. It is critical therefore to engage in open and honest dialogue within communities, to reach an enhanced understanding of the significance of the object before considering its future.

We are still developing a methodology of how churches and cathedrals can approach what is a sensitive subject with openness and have meaningful dialogue to uncover contested histories, and indeed how to understand what contested history is.

At the annual meeting there will be a panel discussion to examine these questions. If you have questions for the panel beforehand, please send them to [Janet Berry](#).

Covid-19 Response

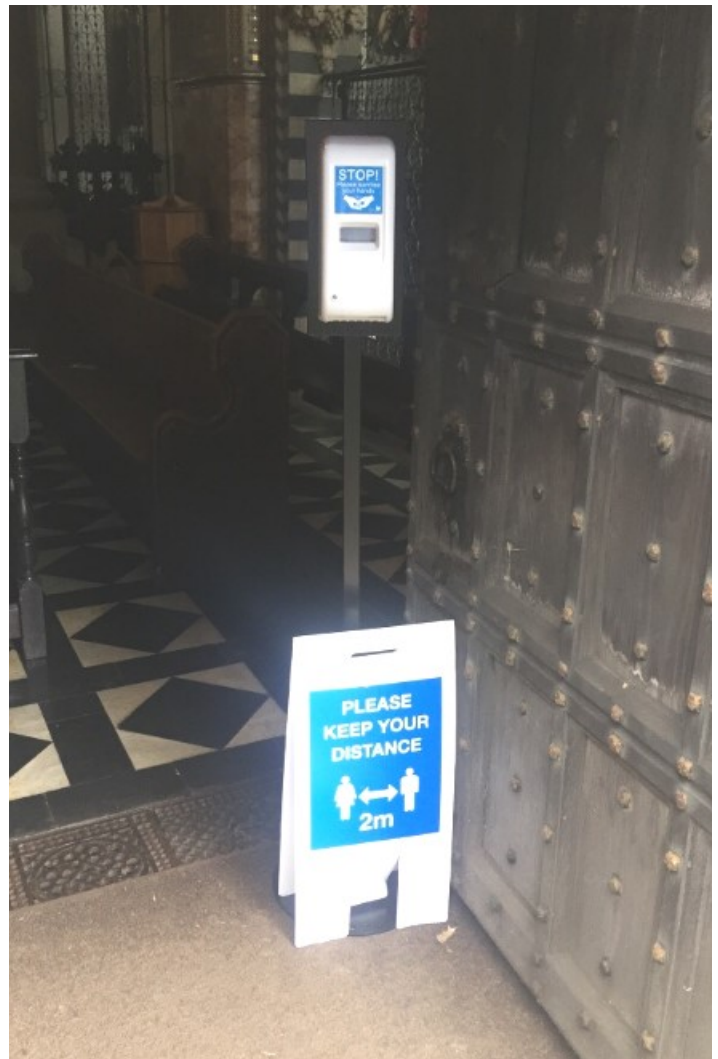


COVID-19 Coronavirus

Since late March much of the Division's work has been focused on responding to the challenges of Covid-19 and lockdown. This has primarily revolved around three strands: providing guidance to dioceses and parishes, liaising with government, and continuing our statutory and core work as best we have been able.

The past six months have been difficult for everyone and we have been aware throughout that the situation faced by dioceses and parishes was hugely varied. As best as we could our aim has been to keep DACs and other church and cathedral buildings colleagues informed and, where possible, ahead of the news. Becky and David are both part of the drafting team supporting the House of Bishops Recovery Group, with responsibility for writing practical, easy to understand guidance for parishes and cathedrals on topics from closing church buildings safely through to re-opening for a range of services, and then for visitors. The feedback we have had from DACs on this has been enormously helpful. We know that there has at times been a lot of information sent out. This has always been intended to be supportive and to aid understanding of often quick-changing government policy and legislation. As of now we are in a less frenetic period where guidance is changing less often and we start to think about how we embed this 'new normal'.

We can all agree that none of us would ever have wanted to see our church buildings closed, and none of us underestimates the challenges of supporting them all to re-open. Liaising with government through weekly calls with the Heritage Minister as part of the Heritage and Tourism Taskforce, and



2m distancing rules introduced in church buildings

Covid-19 Response (2)

involvement in the Ministry for Communities, Housing and Local Government Places of Worship Taskforce has allowed us to represent the particular challenges of churches and cathedrals – as places with profound involvement in people’s lives, as multi-use venues, as places providing spiritual and physical comfort through their wide range of activities, and in many places as essential part of local economies and visitor offers. We have worked very closely with the other major players in the heritage sector to represent the needs of charities in recovery, to lobby for inclusion in all of the financial support options available,



Bladon, St Martin (Diocese of Oxford) - red tape on pews to manage visitors for tourism and private prayer.

and to demonstrate the enormous value of churches and cathedrals across the country.

As things open up the Heritage Minister has included a number of churches and cathedrals in his trips round the country and has given really positive feedback of his experiences. But we know that many churches are still struggling to think when, or even if, they will re-open. It is because of this that Becky and Joe have worked with the House of Bishops Recovery Group to discuss the best ways to support dioceses as they manage the social and economic uncertainty of the coming couple of years. As a result of Covid-19 we will be increasing our focus on supporting strategic planning for church buildings, especially the data-driven work made possibly through the Church Heritage Record and our partnership with the national Research

and Statistics Team. We will also, as detailed later in this booklet, be renewing our focus on Festival Churches as an option that allows some much-needed breathing space for a parish to re-group and decide what its focus post-Covid might be.

We will continue to provide updates on Covid-related matters when appropriate. As we have been throughout this period, these communications will go to all DACs and church buildings officers, and also to cathedral Administrators and FACs, Archdeacons, Major Churches, and all CBC and CFCE members. Please continue to provide feedback to Becky or David on any of this.

Taylor Pilots

The Taylor Review Pilot was launched in September 2018 with a planned duration of 19 months, ending in March 2020. The pilot was intended to explore the extent to which certain key elements of the recommendations delivered the anticipated impacts and whether they would be likely to be effective if rolled out nationally.

When setting up the pilot, DCMS commissioned an independent evaluation to monitor and evaluate its effectiveness. The aim of the evaluation was to generate evidence about what works, what does not and why, such that the effectiveness of the pilot as implemented could be assessed. This evidence could then be used to understand where there were 'green shoots' to suggest that there was a case for elements to be taken forward or scaled up.

The pilot, which was run by Historic England and steered by a project board which included Becky and David, offered four types of support to listed places of worship in Greater Manchester and Suffolk:

- A Minor Repairs Fund which provided grants for maintenance and urgent minor repairs at eligible listed places of worship in the pilot areas. Grants of up to £10,000 were available to cover a maximum of 90% of the total cost of a project, with a capped total project value of £12,000.
- Fabric Support Officers (FSOs) worked with listed places of worship to support the planning of maintenance and repair, and to advise on applications to the Minor Repairs Fund. There was one FSO in each pilot area.
- Community Development Advisers (CDAs) worked with listed places of worship to help them develop new relationships in the wider community, identify opportunities for use of the building and other activities, and seek income streams for the future to underpin repair and maintenance. There was one CDA in each pilot area.
- Workshops were offered free of charge to representatives from listed places of worship to learn about maintenance and repairs, community engagement, and change management. These were delivered by the Churches Conservation Trust with support from the pilot team.

136 churches received grants through the Minor Repairs Fund, and all of them completed – with the help of the FSO – a maintenance plan, whereas before the pilot fewer than 25% had such a plan in place. Most participants reported that the grant funding brought forward necessary maintenance and minor repair work, by perhaps two to five years on average, for which funding would otherwise have taken much longer to raise, if at all. In some cases, the grant funding unlocked work to be carried out where it could otherwise only have been partially afforded or was long overdue. This impact on the earlier timing of maintenance and minor repairs is likely to have prevented irretrievable loss of historic fabric and to have saved notable costs.

Taylor Pilots (2)

The FSO role was reported as particularly valuable for listed places of worship due to the bespoke, one-to-one, nature of the advice provided and the ability of the FSO to offer technical and specialist advice in a way that the listed places of worship could relate to.

The CDA role was more complex, as community engagement requires a longer lead-time than fabric advice. Whilst over 200 places of worship had some engagement with the CDAs, only a handful were able to get intensive help with particular projects. This in no way invalidates the importance of community support, but shows the need to invest in it over a longer period.

The evaluation will highlight a number of additional findings, including the benefits of providing funding that in turn leverages local fundraising efforts, and the importance of different approaches in different contexts, such as rural and urban. This evidence is an important part of how the recommendations of the original Taylor Review will be taken forward.



Heritage crime and metal theft



Lead roof stolen from
St Thomas' Church, Stanhope

The lockdown and significant restriction on national and international travel saw a shift in the pattern of crime in England. Attention turned away from church buildings. Metal theft was reduced as the organised criminal gangs that would have done this crime were disrupted. Across all the heritage sector there was a shift toward crimes such as graffiti and antisocial behaviour. The indents of theft of metals and stone paving were fewer than in previous years, but no less harmful for those who suffered. Crimes with the fastest access to cash replaced those that were more sophisticated and required either travel or planning. From the start of lockdown David has been part of a monthly conference call with

heritage and enforcement agencies across the UK and learnt about risks from the sector and shared experiences from the church.

In December David Knight attended a National Metal Crime Workshop in Birmingham, called 'Metal Crime - Working together to tackle Metal Theft.' David continues to ensure that the interests and issues of the Church are represented at national level. He gave the opening paper at Historic England's Traditional Roofing conference showing the impact of metal crime, especially lead theft, on churches.



Graffiti sprayed on
St Mary's Church, Balderstone

Funding

As ever issues of funding for building repairs and development are a key priority for the Division. The closure of the National Lottery Heritage Fund to new applications in April impacted a lot of churches and cathedrals and, combined with loss of revenue from closure and impacts on other philanthropic funders because of the crisis, became a real double-whammy for some.

We have worked hard to ensure that churches and cathedrals were eligible for all available recovery grant funds, including:

- National Lottery Heritage Fund 'Heritage Emergency Fund' (£10m, revenue funding, now closed and fully allocated)
- Historic England's 'Heritage At Risk Emergency Fund' (£14m, capital funding, now closed and currently allocating funding)
- Joint NLHF-HE 'Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage' (£88m, revenue funding, now closed and currently allocating funding)
- Arts Council 'Culture Recovery Fund' (£500m, revenue funding, second round closes 4 September, first round being allocated now)
- Historic England 'Major Works Fund' (£34m, capital funding allocated to national organisations, now closed with decisions in late September)

All of the funding above is intended to be responsive to the crisis and must be spent before April 2021, which we know places limits on what can be applied for. However it has been encouraging to hear stories of churches and cathedrals who have already benefitted from it. Thank you to all who encouraged churches to apply and supported them in getting applications together. We are working with the funding partners to gather data on the overall amounts awarded to our churches.

It is anticipated that in autumn 2020 there will be a three-year Comprehensive Spending Review, which allows the government to assess its spending and taxation priorities for the remainder of this parliament. The Division is working closely with officers at DCMS to put in a robust bid for capital funding for churches and cathedrals and to ensure the continuation of the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme. DAC input into this has been gratefully received and any further ideas should be sent to Becky ASAP.



Hate crime

David is a member of the Home Office panel that deals with hate crime against places of worship, which include the assessment of grant applications for security against faith-based hate crime. The number of churches applying to this fund is generally low, which is a good thing provided that those who really do need to access this funding are applying.

David has become the Division's point of contact for counter terrorism. This is an area where the Division has had only a small presence, partly because those places of worship who know that they are at high risk will have a planned response in place. A particular challenge with this work is knowing when it is appropriate to raise an issue at diocesan or parish level. However, if there is ever a need to do so there are now established links for the information to be circulated.

Legislative Change



The Miscellaneous Provisions Measure passed by Synod in July 2019 was enacted on 1 September 2020. The Measure includes limiting DAC members terms of office and changing the way dioceses are involved in appointing QI professionals. New guidance to support the changes in the faculty rules was issued in July 2020, and an online surgery on the new guidance held that month.

The Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2019 came into force on 1 April 2020. In tandem with this the online faculty system was reworked to support the new rules and to more fully reflect DAC working patterns that provide support to PCCs during the faculty application process.

By making explicit the extent of interaction between the parish and DAC this has shown the extent of work involved to work with a parish on a complex faculty application. The new system has also introduced greater access for consultees during the consultation stages and to the public during the public notice period.

The strong shift by Synod in February 2020 over the pace of a move to net zero has given rise to some reflection that the rules could do more to assist with net zero initiatives. The new Dean of Arches is aware of this and is considering appropriate responses to support the carbon target.

Outside ecclesiastical law the government has been pressing ahead with planning reform as one of its elements of economic stimulus. At the time of writing (July 2020) the attention of the reform has been on planning, permitted development rights and building use classes. It has not reached matters related to the Ecclesiastical Exemption thereby producing consequential need for changes with faculty. One area that is considered a concern is a fear of the erosion of archaeology as a funded discipline as part of many developments. This could have consequential and unhelpful impacts on churches by either lowering expectations of archaeology being necessary or reducing the number of firms able to do it.

Departmental Initiatives

The CBC continues to support dioceses in developing a strategic approach to their church buildings, with further work on differentiating function, supporting struggling churches through case by case advice, and refreshing and expanding and updating the Online Faculty system, which almost all dioceses are now using. Better data management through the Church Heritage Record and related national databases underpins all these initiatives.

Strategic Planning with Dioceses

The CBC is working with a number of dioceses on their Strategic Plans for Church Buildings as part of their mission planning, supplying bespoke datasets, advising, and helping set up a number of pilot projects testing out the Diocesan Church Buildings Management Partnership (CBMP) concept. This involves the diocese (or group of dioceses) setting up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in order to lease a small part of each church in the Partnership for the purposes of organising insurance, maintenance and possibly other services on the behalf of the PCC.

This allows for savings in cost and administration and removes the burden of care in this respect from hard-pressed PCCs, many of whom are under even greater financial pressure than ever with the Covid-19 crisis.

Any dioceses interested in exploring the CBMP idea or requiring support or advice on the Strategic Review process generally should contact Joe Elders. A template for Strategic Reviews can be found [here](#) and advice on setting up a CBMP will shortly follow.

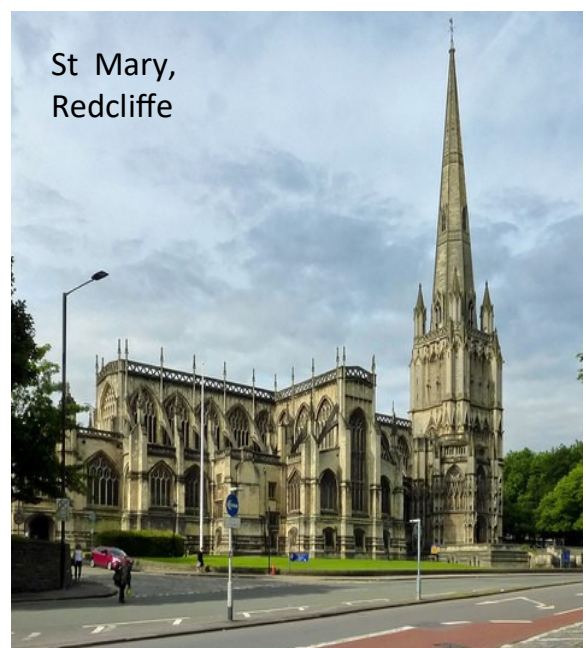
Major Churches

A major church has 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
- Have a role or roles beyond those of a typical parish church, and make a considerable civic, cultural and economic contribution to their communities



By establishing this strategic category we are seeking to provide better support for our largest and most significant churches. In the Cathedral and Church Buildings team this work is led by Rosie Smith, Cathedral and Major Churches Officer.



Major Churches (2)

Cathedral and Major Church Projects Support Panel

Our biggest development so far this year has been the launch of the Cathedral and Major Church Projects Support Panel. This resource allows those who work and volunteer at major churches access to free advice from a group of experts in a variety of fields, aimed at making them more intelligent clients. The Panel, which is managed by the Association of English Cathedrals, was already running in pilot form for cathedrals and has been extended to major churches through the generous support of the AllChurches Trust. This has enabled the appointment of a dedicated Major Churches Co-ordinator (Nick Chapple) to work alongside the Cathedrals Co-ordinator (Anne Locke). Many of you may already know [Nick](#) and we are delighted he has taken on this role.

At the time of writing, the Panel is already working directly with 12 major churches and reaching many others through online workshops. Areas of support it has helped with so far have included charity administration, grant applications and administration, visitor engagement, catering facilities and strategic planning, but a whole range of different expertise is available. At the moment, the Panel is available to Major Churches Network members only as the scaling up of the project is negotiated but will be rolled out to all 309 major churches in the near future (date TBD). We will communicate with you about when that will be.

In its previous phase the Panel worked well alongside the Cathedral Fabric Commission and Fabric Advisory Committees. Panel involvement is expected to be at a very early stage of project planning and to finish before the CFCE and FAC, or DACs and Church Buildings Council, are consulted. If you hear of a possible project coming up at any of the major churches in your diocese then please do encourage them to get in touch with [Rosie](#). A full list of all major churches can be found on the Church Heritage Record [here](#).

Major Churches Network

The Major Churches Network, which formed last year, is now well established and has already been representing major churches and lobbying nationally on their behalf. Regional sub-networks have been set up to bring local representatives together. The Network's Committee has been actively involved with the setting up of the Cathedral and Major Churches Projects Support Panel and two of its members were appointed to the Panel's Project Board, to be involved in its ongoing administration. The Network currently has around 85 members and we encourage all major churches to join.

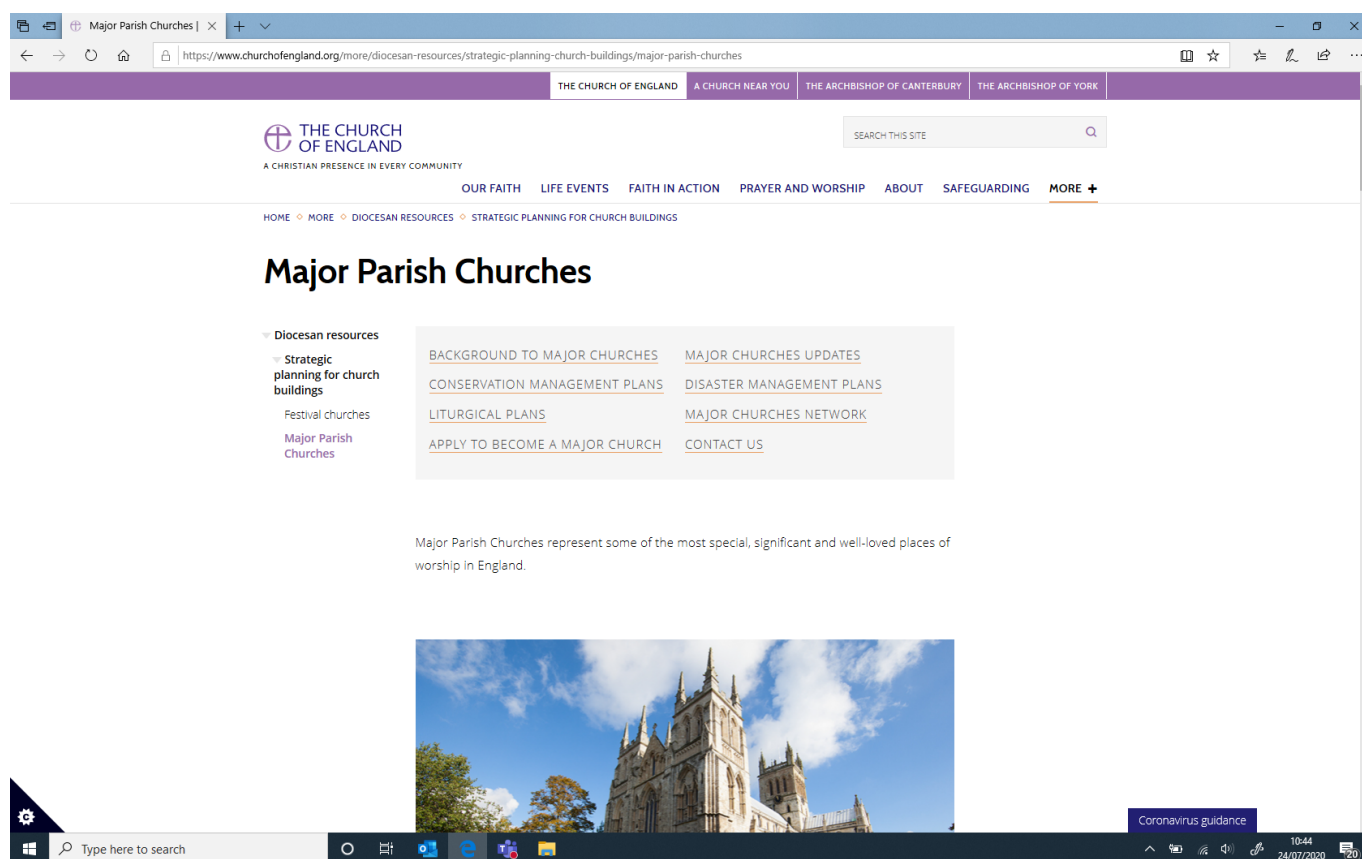


Major Churches (3)

General

Work was underway for a day conference in London, for representatives from major churches before Coronavirus hit and has sadly had to be postponed. The conference was to focus on getting a better understanding of the church building, as we are working to produce guidance on writing Conservation Management Plans, Liturgical Plans and Disaster Management Plans. The updated guidance and a template for Conservation Management Plans will be circulated to all DACs and Major Churches soon. There is also a new Lighting Guidance document for Cathedrals and Major Churches that will shortly be circulated for consultation. These documents are intended to help give those who care for major churches a holistic picture of their church's significance, resources and potential for further development. Work was also underway for planning the Major Churches Network's residential conference in Cambridge for 2021, but progress on these conferences will be picked up again when the future is looking a little more certain.

A major churches webpage has been created since the DAC's last conference and can be accessed [here](https://www.churchofengland.org/more/diocesan-resources/strategic-planning-church-buildings/major-parish-churches).



As well as useful information and background documents on the major church initiative, the website has an application form to ask the Church Buildings Council to designate a church as a major church and an application form to join the Major Churches Network. A separate webpage for the Major Churches Network is in development.

Please do get in touch with [Rosie](#) if you have any questions or suggestions relating to major churches.

Festival Churches

The recent changes to Canon Law mean that the concept of Festival Churches has now come of age, allowing churches which embrace this model to use their buildings with the utmost flexibility in terms of service patterns. The CBC has developed templates for the PCC Resolution and letter to the Bishop in this regard, although no formal steps are strictly necessary. These templates and comprehensive advice can be found on the [ChurchCare section of the CofE website](#).

The independent Association of Festival Churches also has a new [website](#).



The Festival Church model may be attractive to PCCs who are considering how to re-open safely as we learn to live with Covid-19, as they can release themselves from the pressure of having to deliver services on a fixed rota. As the harvest festival season approaches, there may be opportunities to reconnect with communities by emphasising the celebratory festival role of their local church. Festival Church status can be adopted for a short period as an experiment, which can be ended at any time or made long-term if it proves to work well.

The Festival Church model can be an integral part of strategic planning. For more details contact Joe Elders or see the published guidance.

Struggling Churches

South Hylton, St Mary
(Diocese of Durham)



In 2019, the Division carried out research on struggling churches and published a report on the findings in February 2020. We define 'struggling churches' as those which, for one reason or another or for a combination of reasons, are in difficulty and where there is a concern as to their sustainability as local centres of worship and mission. Their communities may as a result decide to set in motion the closure process or to embark on a process of more or less radical change in order to maintain regular public worship in them.

CBC has a formal role in this area. Where the closure process is initiated, the Mission and Pastoral Measure requires us to prepare a report on the heritage interest of the church and the scope for change which might enable it to continue in worship use. The research was intended to find what fifteen years of producing Church Buildings Reports tells us about the general patterns across the country and what the recipients of the reports made of them.

Among the headline findings:

- There is a marked correlation in terms of geographical distribution: struggling churches are more likely to be found in the north of England and London than they are in the Midlands and even more so than in the south of England outside London. Actual closures follow the same pattern except that London no longer counters the north-south trend.

Struggling Churches (2)

- The smallest parishes in population terms produce disproportionately few struggling churches and actual closures.
- Whether it arises from historic provision of chapels of ease or pastoral reorganisation in recent times, parishes with more than one church appear to invite rationalisation, especially in populous areas.
- Churches in the most deprived parishes in the country are far more likely to struggle than those in less deprived areas and even more likely to close.
- The higher the listing grade, the less likely is the church to struggle and go on to close. Unlisted churches are yet more likely to seek a report and go on to close. The result of all this is our stock of churches round the country is becoming ever more concentrated on listed buildings and, within that, the higher grades
- Victorian and Edwardian churches formed just over half the caseload of struggling churches over the survey period and almost two thirds of the closures.

A survey of dioceses, DMPC secretaries and archdeacons revealed:

- 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 Division produces, on average, around 37 reports each year. During the period studied, there were an average of 23 closures per year. However, there was quite often a long gap between a church seeking help and a formal closure. Indeed, in recent years, just under half result in closure within five years. In other words, when we issue a report on a church, closure is far from inevitable.

Our approach has long been to suggest changes which might boost the prospects of survival for churches which find themselves in difficulty, even where they are actively considering closure. This is in line with our policy to promote open and sustainable churches. We are currently working on how we might move our effort in this area of casework upstream, so that we get involved earlier, when there may be more options available and where the process is not dictated by the Measure. We are also looking at how we might best support local decision making and encourage a strategic approach. This work is being taken forward as part of the NCIs response to COVID-19 and, in particular, how we help churches emerge from lockdown.

The report of the research project can be found [here](#).

You may also be interested to read the [coverage in the Church Times](#).

See also [the link to a comment article](#) by Rt Revd Philip North, Bishop of Burnley.

Online Faculty System (OFS)

The Online Faculty System has recently undergone a major redevelopment with the introduction of the new Faculty Rules. The system is now capable of recording List A items, and processing List B, Temporary Minor Reordering, and Faculty applications under both the 2015 legislation and the 2019 amendments. Since the 1st April 2020 following the introduction of the new Rules, 731 Faculty applications have been sought together with 981 List B applications, 368 List A items and 38 application under the Archdeacon's temporary license. Of these Faculty applications, 91 are currently publicly available on [our Public Notice page](#), and allow for members of the public to access the necessary documentation whilst the case sits within the public notice period.

Sort by:

Diocese

Ascending

Descending

Filter by:

Diocese

Refresh

☐ Show applications that fall under 9.9 rule

First

Previous

Next

Last

Page size:

10

Page 1 of 16 (160 items)

To apply liquid plastic solution to gutters

2020-052366 | Birmingham | Birmingham: St Paul | 23/08/20

[View details](#)

To install toilets and servery in the narthex

2020-051268 | Birmingham | Highters Heath: Immanuel | 09/09/20

[View details](#)

To rebuild a section of old churchyard wall

2020-051398 | Birmingham | Water Orton: St Peter & St Paul | 25/08/20

[View details](#)

To install a water butt at front of the church

2020-051923 | Birmingham | Selly Park: Christ Church | 30/10/20

[View details](#)

To carry out phase two repairs to tower and spire



In addition to this, also added during the redevelopment of the site, is the formal consultation function which allows external bodies to reply directly to consultation requests. Within this, the DAC secretary and the petitioners have the ability to add all offline correspondence on behalf of these invited bodies, to allow for Registries and Chancellors to review all consultation within one place. Currently, 46 applications sit within this stage.

Online Faculty System (OFS) (2)

[Add a response](#) [Edit](#)

[Add a response](#)

Responses [Edit](#)

Responding User	On behalf of	Response date	File Uploaded Instead	Commented	Response iteration	View response details
Liz Kitch	Historic England	12/08/2020 13:32	No	No	1	
Liz Kitch	The Victorian Society	12/08/2020 13:29	No	No	1	

Invited Consultees [Edit](#)

Consultee	Number of Responses	Consultee invited date	Consultee invited iteration	Days remaining
The Victorian Society	1	04/08/2020 16:55	1	19
The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings	0	04/08/2020 16:55	1	19
Historic England - South East Casework	0	04/08/2020 16:55	1	19

Following the introduction of the new system, and after feedback, changes will also be made to improve certain features. This will include how the public file selection process is operated and additional emails will be added to the consultation process, as well the reintroduction of the Notification of Advice email to the DAC secretariat.

The website as a whole has now been viewed over 8.5 million times and the emails generated by the Faculty system now stands at 1.6 million, which is an increase of 400,000 on last year's figure.

Whilst the Online Faculty System and the new Rules has been the largest developmental work of the year, we have also updated the available listing details found on the Church Heritage Record pages, and updated the national records for Conservation Areas (where possible) through the dataset provided by Historic England.

Online Faculty System (OFS) (3)



Ancient Yew tree, Much Marcle Church (Diocese of Hereford)

An enrichment process around environmental data will also be completed by the end of the year, with the addition of ancient and veteran trees, protected species, and general species summary. This data will be provided by the NBN Atlas which holds the UK's largest collection of biodiversity information and is an end product of a collaborative project with Caring for God's Acre and their Beautiful Burials Grounds project. This data will be listed within each Church Heritage Record page and is made possible through the churchyard boundary data that has been collected over the last year. This data will be updated on a regular basis with the introduction of an API between the two systems, and where data is unavailable due to a lack of available records on the NBN, once added to their system, this will automatically appear on ours. It is hoped that through this method, individual churches are made more aware of what species they have within their churchyards and it will assist in any faculty applications made and determined.

Grants

Our grants support Anglican parishes in the conservation of their historic church interiors and churchyard structures.

We provide grants for:

- Conservation reports, environmental surveys, building performance surveys, and technical investigations such as paint, pigment or salt analysis

We provide grants for the conservation of:

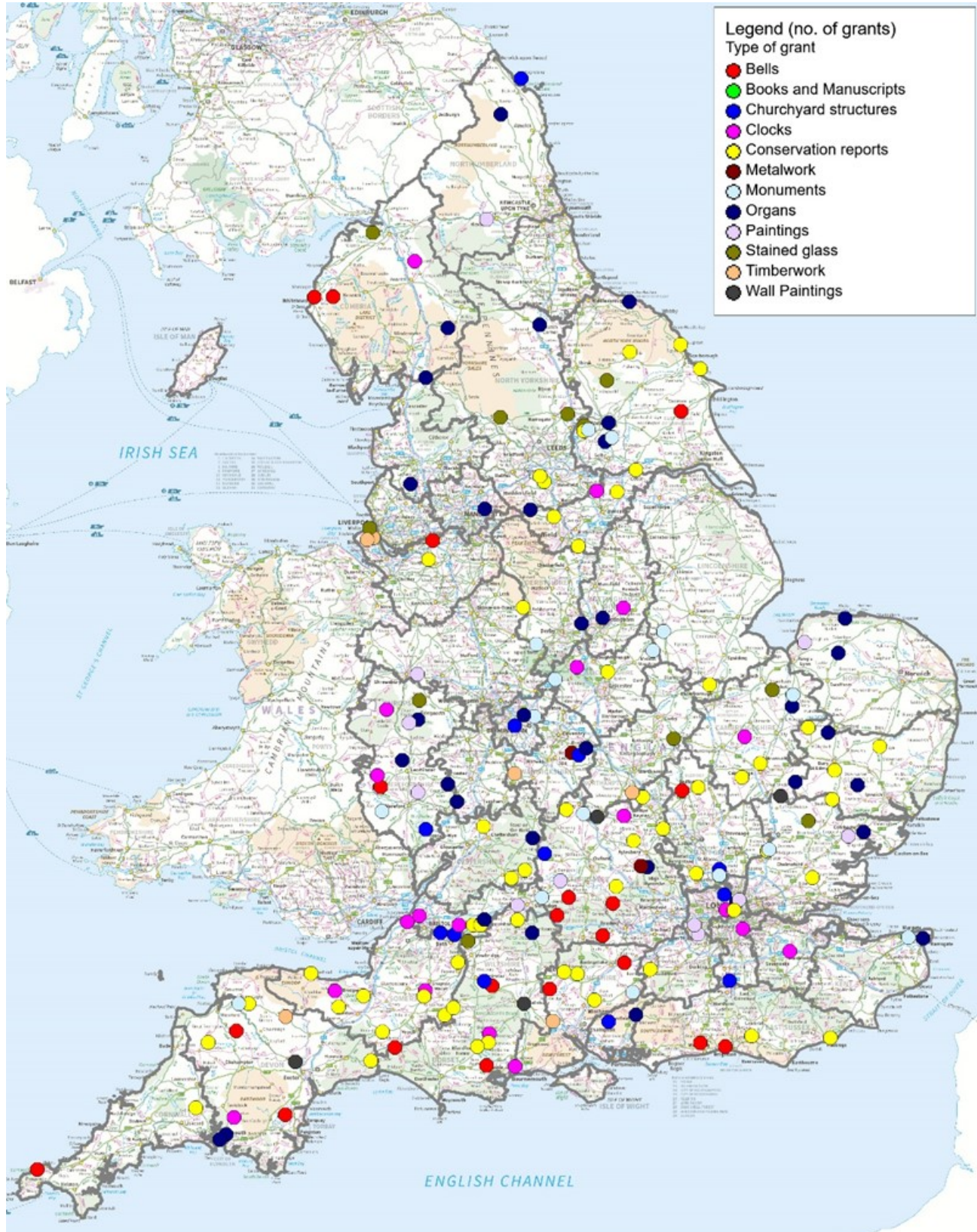
- Bells
- Books and manuscripts
- Churchyard structures
- Clocks
- Metalwork
- Monuments
- Organs
- Painting and wall paintings
- Stained glass
- Textiles
- Wooden objects



Grants (2)

In 2019 the Cathedral & Church Buildings Division's conservation grants programmes provided £275,000 to 110 projects in parish churches in 29 dioceses.

Grant distribution in 2018 and 2019



Grants (3)

Grant awards

- Up to £10,000, but usually smaller
- We aim to support as many parishes as possible
- We have a high application success rate, around 65%
- We consider ourselves seed funders
- Almost all projects are successfully completed

We run 6 conservation committees, made up of 50 experts drawn from the heritage sector. We also rely on a wider network of support, that includes DAC advisers, church architects and other professionals. These structures ensure checks and balances and a rigorous process, encouraging and rewarding good practice and raising standards. In addition, the programme supports heritage skills and capacity building in the conservation sector.

Deadlines

Grants for:	Deadline date
Conservation reports	Applications accepted year round
Bells	22 February 2021
Books and manuscripts, churchyard structures, metalwork, monuments, textiles and wooden objects	28 September 2020 4 May 2021 4 October 2021
Clocks	15 March 2021
Organs	21 September 2020 26 April 2021 27 September 2021
Paintings and wall paintings	18 January 2021
Stained glass	9 August 2021

Our grants are provided with the financial support of the Pilgrim Trust and the Radcliffe Trust and a number of other funders:



The Pilgrim Trust

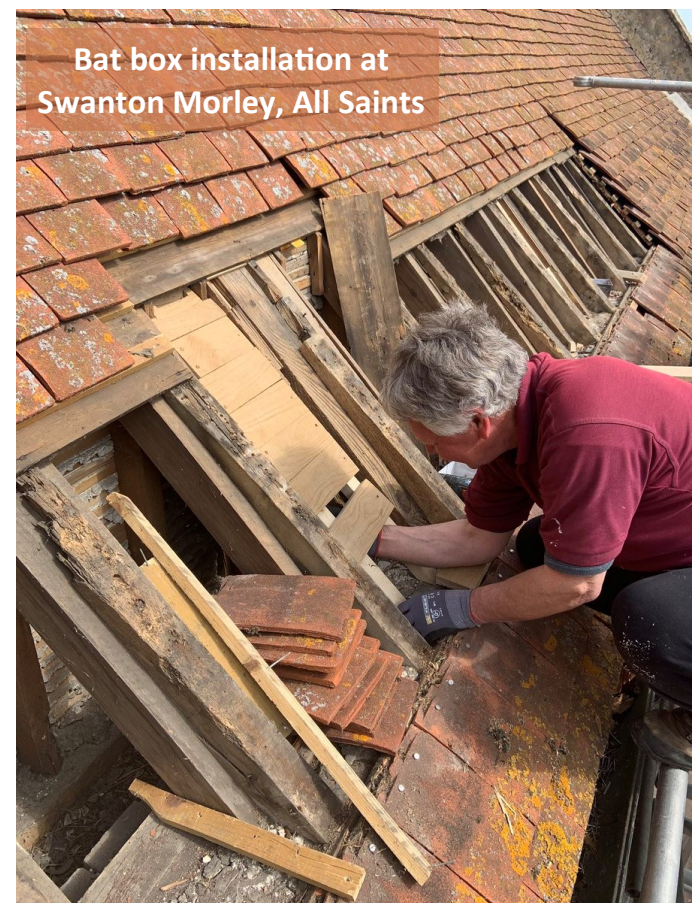


Bats in Churches Project

The Bats in Churches project, a pioneering endeavour to develop solutions that allow church communities to thrive alongside their resident bats, is now in its second year. It is a cross-sector partnership of organisations all bringing contrasting expertise and priorities, comprising Natural England, the Church of England, the Bat Conservation Trust, the Churches Conservation Trust and Historic England.



During the end of 2019, the project received the ecologists reports for churches surveyed for bats over the summer and bringing together ecologists, DACs, PCCs and architects to decide which bat mitigation works the PCCs wanted go ahead and decide which needed faculty.



There is now a much better understanding what parts of the process do need faculty, but it is also worth noting that even if the bat mitigation is able to go ahead without faculty, PCCs still sometimes need to seek permissions for related wiring or electrical work or similar.

The restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic meant that much of the planned construction work incorporating bat mitigation measures in churches for the beginning of

Bats in Churches Project (2)

2020 had to be postponed until the autumn. This highlights the seasonal sensitivities of bat-linked work as the summer is not viable due to the presence of roosting bats.

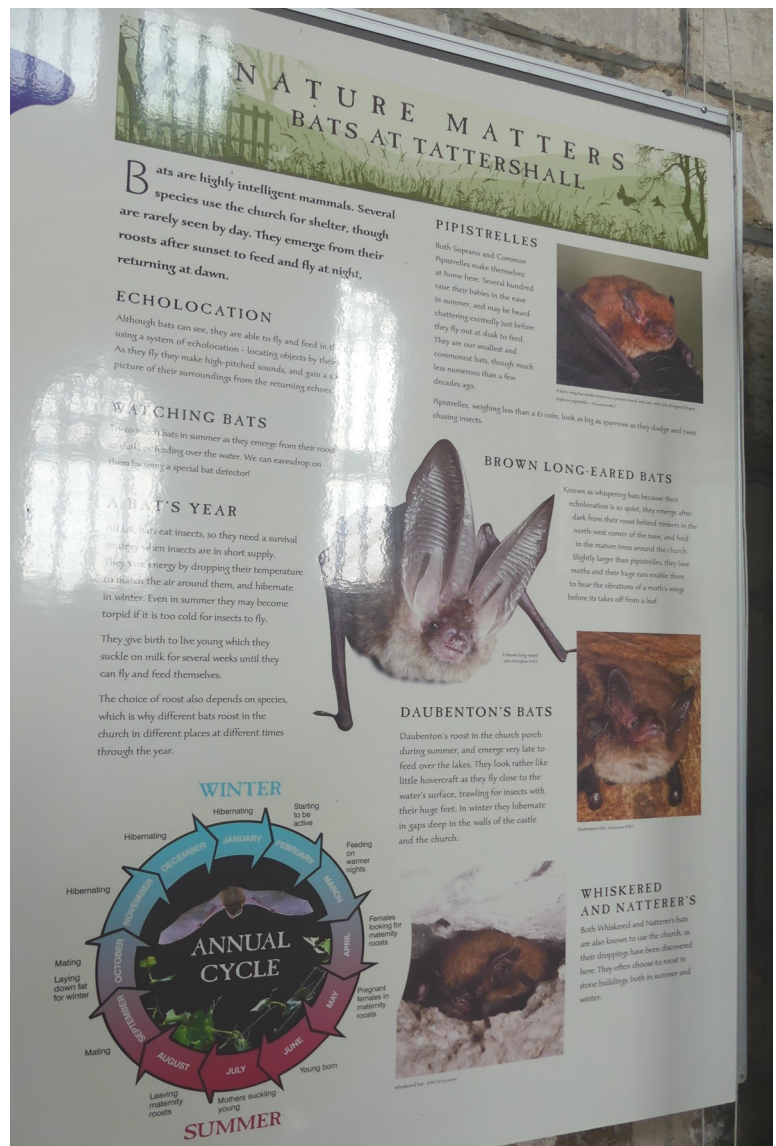
However, the team was able to shift their focus online, devising a lecture series able to engage a wide audience with the issue of bats in churches and the varied content that falls within the project's remit. The series enjoyed a great success, far outstripping expectations with over 800 attendees over the 5 sessions from across the globe and far more catching up with the recorded sessions subsequently. These are still available to view on the [Bats in Churches website](#).

A set of interpretation materials covering bats in churches is also now available to DACs, namely a leaflet about the project and a factsheet produced with the Bat Conservation Trust with guidance on using the helpline and the services it can provide.

The project has been closely supporting and providing guidance to their churches during re-opening with regular contact, the sharing of CoFE guidelines, and the provision of bat specific cleaning guidelines.

With the re-opening of churches, the project has been able to launch its [volunteer survey](#) for the remainder of the summer where the public is encouraged to survey their local church for evidence of bats, subject to church permission. The results will help to give a better understanding of how bats are using churches across England and the attitudes towards them.

With DAC staff furloughed and now faced with a huge amount to catch up on as lockdown eases, the project is incredibly grateful to DACs for rapidly processing faculty applications for churches to install bat mitigation measures this autumn.



*Tattershall, Holy Trinity—
interpretation of their bats*

Major Infrastructure Projects

The CBC continues to work with dioceses, the government, local authorities and developers to mitigate the impact and realise any opportunities of major infrastructure projects.



Although the Heathrow expansion project is temporarily on hold, discussions continue.

The High Speed Rail 2 project is ongoing with discussions over appropriate mitigation, and arrangements have been made for the respectful treatment and reinterment of human remains disturbed from Church of England cemeteries and churchyards. There are also several major road schemes having this kind of impact.



High Speed Rail 2, exhumation work at Euston

The CBC is always available to give advice on such developments. For more details contact [Joe Elders](#).

National Environmental Programme

Since the last DAC and DEO conferences in 2019, there has been considerable change and progress, from an environmental perspective, in particular the Net Zero Carbon declaration by General Synod.

General Synod Motion



In February 2020, General Synod voted to set new targets for all parts of the church to work to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030.

Members voted for all parts of the Church of England to take action and ramp-up efforts to reduce emissions, and called for urgent steps to examine requirements to reach the new target, and draw up an action plan.

Read more about it, and the full wording of the motion, [here](#).

Support and guidance on getting to Net Zero Carbon

A range of useful support has been issued since the last DAC and DEO conferences:

The [Energy Footprint Tool](#) has been launched, to help churches work out their carbon footprint. Well over 1700 churches have already accessed the tool, and over 800 have completed the tool and got their results.



The proposed [national definition of Net Zero Carbon](#) and how to measure it has been issued. From June-August 2020, all dioceses and cathedrals were consulted on the definition. The national Environmental Working Group meets the day before the DAC conference opens, to agree the final definition.

A series of [Net Zero Carbon webinars](#) have been written and run, plus presentations made at all the DAC regional meetings. The existing topics are:

- * Forming your net zero carbon team
- * Action planning for net zero carbon
- * Defining and measuring net zero carbon
- * A Positive vision of a zero carbon church building.



The films of the webinars have been made available on the webpage, and webinars on additional topics are currently being planned.

The "[Practical Path to Net Zero for Church Buildings](#)" has been published, as has guidance on [heating principles](#), and on [energy efficiency](#). Other guidance is in development on a range of 'net zero' topics such as low carbon heating, solar PV, optimising existing heating systems, and EV car charging.



Support and guidance on getting to Net Zero Carbon (2)

[Case studies](#) are being gathered, to inspire others about what is possible.

The [Church Buildings Council and Cathedral Fabric Commission of England](#) have issued a joint statement on how these issues will inform its decisions and guidance.

National guidance is in progress on heating, solar PV, EV car charging, and more. Oxford diocese is leading on guidance on draft-proofing.

In the pilot year of the national Energy Audit Programme, 100 audits were carried out in churches and halls in 6 diocese. The learnings from this helped the individual churches but also allowed us to develop the national 'Practical Path' guidance. [Registrations are now open for the 2020/21 audit season](#). If a church would like to register interest in an audit, they should do this through the Parish Buying website.

Since the Synod declaration, we have had positive conversations with the Amenity Societies, ongoing conversations with Historic England, and have spoken at the SPAB Guardians' Conference. There is a very positive engagement across these organisations in the role of heritage in responding to the climate crisis.

The updated [framework for Quinquennial Inspections](#) has a greater emphasis on the environmental performance of the building. For example, it is recommended that the survey should now cover.

- * environmental sustainability (e.g. lighting, heating, rainwater goods, suitability for renewables, opportunities to reduce heat loss through steps such as draught-proofing and insulation)
- * the risk of impact of a changing climate on flood-risk, rainwater goods, and stonework.

Support and guidance on getting to Net Zero Carbon (3)

The new [360carbon footprint calculator developed by Climate Stewards](#) is also now live. This is a collaborative web-based tool which enables churches to measure their total carbon footprint from different activities – energy, travel, food, waste, water and other expenditure.



It is a great next step for keen churches who have completed the Energy Footprint Tool (above) and want to go further.



Thermal imaging of a church

Wider Environmental News



In February, the new Environmental Officer, [Jo Chamberlain](#) joined the Church of England. Jo previously worked for Christian Aid and was the Diocesan Environment Officer for Sheffield.

Jo will work on the Church's wider policy on environmental matters whilst Catherine Ross leads on the sustainability of church buildings.



Twenty four dioceses are now registered as "[Eco Diocese](#)" and eight have made it to their bronze award.

1994 churches are now registered for Eco Church, of which 364 have achieved bronze awards, 145 silver and 7 gold.

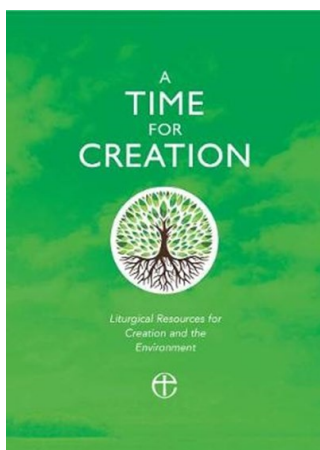
A Rocha are working with several dioceses to arrange major regional events on Eco Church and Eco Diocese. The St Albans Diocese in on Sat 10th October and Manchester Diocese on 21st November. Rochester and Coventry will follow in early 2021.



The Church of England is part of a coalition of church and faith environmental groups supporting Climate Sunday. Churches are encouraged to host a Climate Sunday service at any time from 6th September onwards, as a kickstarter for action to tackle the climate crisis.

Resources to support the worship will provided, and this will be the start of the journey all the way up to the UN climate conference, COP26, in Glasgow in November 2021.

[Read more.](#)



Available to order from [Church House Publishing](#).

A Time for Creation – a new liturgical resource for Creation and the Environment – Robert Atwell, Christopher Irvine, Sue Moore

Drawing together texts from Common Worship with newly commissioned material, this new book offers liturgies for all times and occasions when there is a focus on creation - in daily prayer, services of the word, school assemblies, eucharistic celebrations and seasonal services to mark the agricultural year.

It has been compiled by the Liturgical Commission of the Church of England and is designed to provide its parishes, schools and chaplaincies with a rich selection of resources for worship and prayer.

Wider Environmental News (2)



Letters for Creation invites children and young people to join the call for climate justice by reflecting on what caring for creation means to them.

'Letters' can take any creative form, whether that's a poem, a video, a drawing, and so on. Selected submissions will be featured as part of a national exhibition, at the Lambeth Conference, COP26, and a number of cathedrals.

For more information, see the [webpage](#).



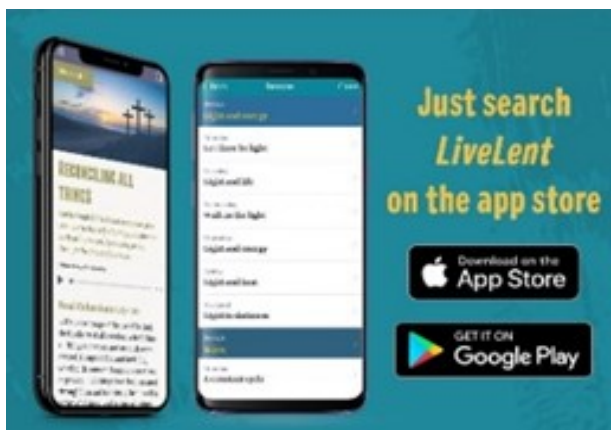
The Beautiful Burial Ground project continues to develop, encouraging people to record what they see in their churchyards, and the information is linked through into the Church Heritage Record.

Anyone can [enter records onto Caring for Gods Acre's online form](#) or [email them direct](#).



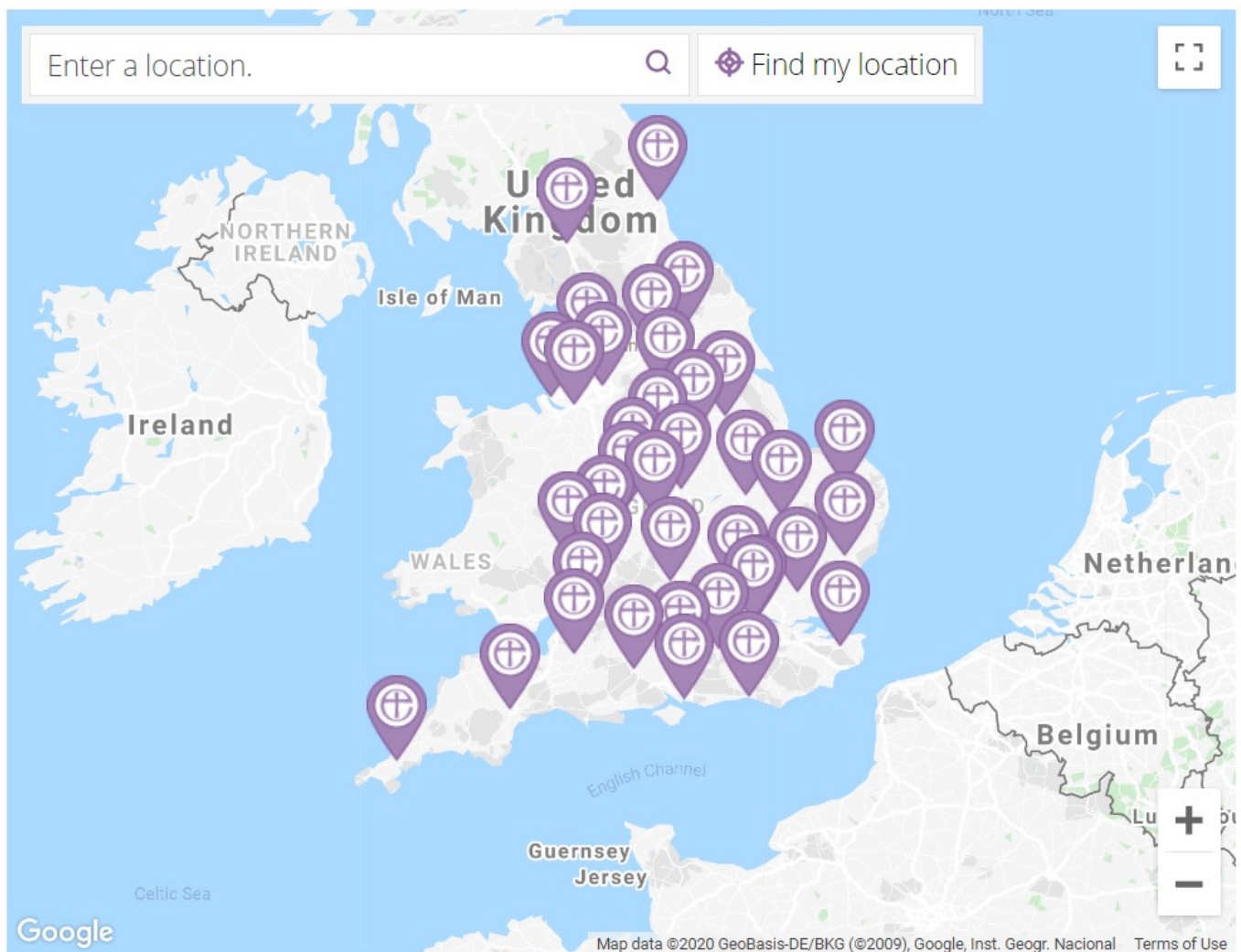
CfGA Membership Pack

Caring for God's Acre are celebrating their 20th birthday this year and they are offering **FREE membership** for the remainder of 2020, so why not encourage churches to [join the movement](#)? CfGA help keep burial grounds beautiful, accessible and connected to their communities. They offer a range of free resources, including their 'starter pack' and run practical training for volunteers.



Whilst the [#LiveLent](#) environmental campaign of daily reflections and practical actions got overtaken by the COVID19 pandemic, it did reach a lot of people. Over 100,000 of the #LiveLent booklets were sold; more than twice last year's Lent campaign.

Diocesan Environmental Officers (DEOs)



The contact details of all Diocesan Environment Officers are kept on the [DEO map](#). If yours are out of date, please let [Catherine](#) or [Jo](#) know.

Team Updates

The team has been working remotely since late March and, at present, there are no immediate plans for all of us to return to Church House, Westminster. Our committee meetings will be held virtually for the remainder of 2020 and reviewed after that. It is likely that a few team members will start to regularly work in Church House from September-December, which will allow us to process post, but it would be very helpful if communication via email remained the norm for now.

Site visits are an essential part of all our work, so getting back on site is a priority. The team works to a risk-assessment process whereby every visit is assessed to ensure that proper mitigation has been put in place and every step – from getting there to getting home – thought about. We will start to request visits where casework requires it from September onwards and will be asking parishes to provide copies of their risk assessment as part of our processes. We all hope to see many of you out on site where it is safe to do so in the next few months.



Church Buildings Council membership

The extension of the term of the General Synod for an additional year until November 2021 has had the consequential effect of adding an additional year to the term of the current Church Buildings Council. Its term will now end on 31 May 2022. Members eligible to serve for this additional year have all indicated a willingness to do so.

However, members serving a second full term can only serve until 31 May 2021. This will create three vacancies on the Council. One of these will be for a member nominated by the annual meeting of DAC Secretaries. This note is to let you know that the process of finding a new nominee from the DAC Chairs and Secretaries will be conducted in the autumn. David Knight will be in touch with full details and a nomination form. Later this year an advert will be issued to seek people interested in the other vacancies. Please look out for this and consider people you may wish to share this with. We will be looking for new members who will bring something new to us, in particular to better reflect the racial diversity of England and broaden our understanding of sustainability as we consider the future use of church buildings.

Early morning sunshine -
Norham, St Cuthbert (Diocese of Newcastle)



See you next year in Gloucester
28 to 30 Sept 2021



View from Ruardean church tower (Diocese of Gloucester)

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