

Church Buildings Conference and Annual Meeting of DACs

Annual Report
September 2021

Tuesday 28 — Wednesday 29 September 2021
[Online]



Stoke Orchard,
Gloucestershire

ChurchCare



16,000 buildings. One resource



DIOCESE OF
GLOUCESTER



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Welcome Message from Diocese of Gloucester | 3 |
| Welcome Message from Jennie Page, CBC Chair | 4 |
| Programme / Timetable / Agenda | 5 |
| Who's Who | 9 |
| Introduction | 13 |
| Report of the Year (for Annual Meeting of DACs) | 15 |
| Looking Forward | 23 |
| Environment Working Group and Net-Zero Carbon..... | 28 |
| Contested Heritage | 35 |
| The Online Faculty System & the Church Heritage Record | 36 |
| Conservation Grants | 40 |
| Parish Buying | 43 |
| Bats in Churches Project | 44 |
| Team Updates | 48 |
| Next Year | 49 |

Welcome Message from Diocese of Gloucester

Welcome to the Diocese of Gloucester.

Although you are with us virtually this year, we would like to extend a warm welcome to you all. From the Forest of Dean to the Cotswolds, we are privileged to support over 380 churches open for regular worship, over 90% of which are listed buildings.

The year that has passed since the last conference has been a challenging one, as we navigate the ever-changing path of this pandemic, but there has been a clear constant for our Church Buildings Team – faculty applications! Our parishes continue to come forward with exciting community projects and complicated, but vital, repair schemes. Even with doors being intermittently closed, we have seen amazing examples of leadership, imagination, faith and engagement across the Diocese.

As always, we continue to support those who pursue bold and creative initiatives to sustain our church buildings and worshipping communities, especially as they emerge into a post-pandemic landscape. Over these two days, we will share just a few examples of how we and our parishes approach different projects and relevant challenges, from conservation (Stoke Orchard) and climate change (Tirley) to large scale reordering (Leckhampton) and introducing new art to churches (Cirencester). Here at Gloucester, we are blessed with a highly-experienced and dedicated team of DAC members and consultants and our successes are testament to their ongoing and invaluable support.

We hope that this year's conference will inspire from across the screen and that we can collectively return to our Dioceses with some fresh ideas to help serve our churches.

Church Buildings Team, Diocese of Gloucester

Welcome Message from Jennie Page, CBC Chair

Welcome to the second DAC annual meeting and conference to be held online. We shall all miss the pleasures of spending real time together and the interest of site visits, last experienced in and around Blackburn in 2019, but I hope this occasion, featuring and building on the resources of the Diocese of Gloucester, will be informative and stimulating. Thank you all for taking time for two days together online, and a particular welcome if you are joining us for the first time. I am especially pleased to welcome new DAC chairs, secretaries and officers who have joined during the past year.

As the immediate disruption of the pandemic has eased it appears from conversations with Church House staff that most – if not all – DACs are receiving a steady number of enquiries and applications from churches and that there are still parishes with the confidence to bring forward ambitious schemes for reordering. The Church Buildings Council has continued to see a good level of interest in its conservation grants programme, a welcome indication of ongoing care for our churches and their furnishings. We have welcomed opportunities to engage with some churches with uncertain futures and will look for ways to build up this type of strategic engagement in the future. As I write, requests for reports in anticipation of closure remain at a level consistent with previous years.

At your regional DAC meetings this year the Secretary shared with you the concepts of the ongoing Transforming Effectiveness programme. As part of this she asked you to think about how your work with buildings sits alongside the work done by other colleagues in your diocese. Looking outside the diocese she asked you to think about the areas of work where the support of the national church is most needed and what elements of national support, including that from the Church Buildings Council, you value most. We will hear more about Transforming Effectiveness during our conference. As you prepare to join us I would like you to think about how you see your DAC as part of your diocese and what you value most from your relationship with the CBC.

With my renewed thanks

Jennie Page
Chair, Church Buildings Council

Programme (1)

Tuesday, 28 September 2021 *morning session*

| Time | Topic | Who |
|------|--|---|
| 0945 | Meeting open for login | |
| 1000 | Welcome from Bishop of Gloucester | The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek |
| 1015 | <p>Annual meeting and review of the year</p> <p>Short presentations from the Chair and Secretary following distribution of papers to read in advance.</p> <p>Introduction from Chief Executive, The Church Commissioners</p> <p>Emerging Church—what it means for buildings and how we work together</p> <p>Questions and discussion</p> | <p>Jennie Page & Becky Clark</p> <p>Gareth Mostyn</p> <p>Becky Clark, Secretary, Church Buildings Council</p> |
| 1105 | Comfort break | |
| 1120 | Welcome from Gloucester DAC. Reflections on conference topics and national priorities at a diocesan level. | Adam Klups, Gloucester DAC Secretary and David Ball, Gloucester DAC Chair |
| 1140 | <p>Breakout groups</p> <p>What are the opportunities of Emerging Church for your diocese?</p> <p><i>Each group will be able to share its key words in a word cloud.</i></p> | |
| 1210 | Wrap up, review of word cloud. | |
| 1215 | St John the Baptist, Cirencester: Project Blackjack. A video followed by a contribution from Meg Blumson. | Meg Blumson, Project Blackjack Officer |
| 1230 | St Saviour, Redbrook: Masonry Conservation Workshop. A video followed by a contribution from Kathryn Hilsden. | Kathryn Hilsden, Senior Church Buildings Officer, Diocese of Gloucester |
| 1245 | Lunch break | |

Programme (2)

Tuesday, 28 September 2021 *afternoon session*

| Time | Topic | Who |
|------|---|--|
| 1345 | <p>Net-zero carbon, the church and its rules</p> <p>Reflections on motivation for change: What is not in the rules?</p> <p>Questions (taken from Zoom chat window)</p> | <p>The Worshipful Morag Ellis QC, Dean of the Arches and Auditor</p> <p>Matt Fulford, Gloucester DAC Member and Sustainability Adviser</p> |
| 1435 | Comfort break | |
| 1440 | <p>St Michael and All Angels, Tirley: How does a rural church deal with the risk of flooding? A video followed by a contribution by Carmen Bowes.</p> <p>Adaptation and climate change</p> | <p>Carmen Bowes, Assistant Church Buildings Officer, Diocese of Gloucester</p> <p>Liz Fowler, Environment Agency, Flood Resilience Team Leader, West Midlands</p> |
| 1520 | Comfort break | |
| 1525 | <p>Adaptation guidance</p> <p>Church heating: Moving on from oil Report of Historic England research project.</p> <p>The ecological value of churchyards</p> <p>St Peter, Clifford's Mesne: Burial grounds, festivals and wildlife. A video followed by a contribution from Kathryn Hilsden</p> | <p>Dave Cherry, Diocesan Environment Group Climate Resilience Advisor, Diocese of Leeds</p> <p>Dan McNaughton, Historic England</p> <p>Harriet Carty, Caring for God's Acre</p> <p>Kathryn Hilsden, Senior Church Buildings Officer, Diocese of Gloucester</p> |
| 1630 | Moderated discussion | With Catherine Ross and David Knight |
| 1700 | End | |

Programme (3)

Wednesday, 29 September 2021 *morning session*

| Time | Topic | Who |
|------|--|--|
| 0945 | Meeting open for login | |
| 1000 | Welcome | Janet Berry ACR, Head of Conservation, Cathedral and Church Buildings Division |
| 1005 | Icon and conservation accreditation: How these can relate to the church and the DAC? Conversation between Sara Crofts and Janet Berry | Sara Crofts, Chief Executive of Icon (Institute of Conservation) and Janet Berry ACR |
| 1020 | Comfort break | |
| 1030 | St James the Great, Stoke Orchard: Wall painting conservation A video followed by a presentation by Adam Klups and Mark Perry | Adam Klups, DAC Secretary, Diocese of Gloucester and Mark Perry ACR, Perry Lithgow Partnership |
| 1120 | Comfort break | |
| 1130 | Ringling for recovery | Mark Regan, Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, Covid recovery group and Simon Lindford, President, Central Council of Church Bell Ringers |
| 1200 | St Philip & St James, Leckhampton, Cheltenham: Church reordering A video followed by a conversation between the Very Revd Stephen Lake and the Revd Nick Davies | Very Revd Stephen Lake, Dean of Gloucester and the Revd Nick Davies, Team Rector, St Philip and St James, Leckhampton |
| 1230 | Lunch break | |

Programme (4)

Wednesday, 29 September 2021 *afternoon session*

| Time | Topic | Who |
|------|--|---|
| 1330 | <p><i>Extended and wider use of churches: Contributions from Exeter and Chester Dioceses.</i></p> <p>Working with the DAC: St John the Evangelist, Bovey Tracey</p> <p>Adapting a medieval church building for 21st century needs: Development of Grappenhall St Wilfrid for a sustainable future.</p> | <p>Nigel Pratt, Senior Church Buildings Adviser and Exeter DAC Secretary</p> <p>Mark Pearce, Church Architect</p> |
| 1400 | <p>Vision – key to the future? Start by exploring what you want</p> <p>Church Buildings Management Partnerships</p> <p>Update from Association of Festival Churches</p> <p>Breakout groups: How to open up a conversation with a parish about its possible future uses?</p> | <p>Dr David Knight, Senior Church Buildings Officer, Cathedral and Church Buildings Division</p> <p>Dr Joseph Elders, Head of Church Buildings Church Buildings Strategy, Cathedral and Church Buildings Division</p> <p>The Revd Mark Betson, National Rural Officer, Archbishops' Council</p> |
| 1515 | Comfort break | |
| 1530 | Challenges we face | The Revd Canon Dana Delap, Gloucester DAC Vice-Chair |
| 1600 | 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



Janet Berry
Head of Conservation



Catherine Ross
Open & Sustainable Churches Officer

Who's Who

Cathedral and Church Buildings Division



Guy Braithwaite
Church Buildings Officer



Nick Chapple
Church Buildings Officer



Jacinta Fisher
Church Buildings Officer



Tracy Manning
Church Buildings Officer - Conservation



Keri Dearmer
Cathedral & Major Churches Officer
(parental leave cover for Rosanna Smith)

Who's Who

Gloucester Diocese



The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek
Bishop of Gloucester



The Rt Revd Robert Springett
Bishop of Tewkesbury



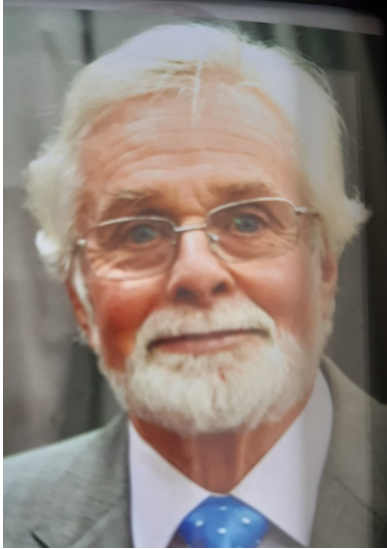
The Ven Hilary Dawson
Archdeacon of Gloucester



The Ven Phil Andrew
Archdeacon of Cheltenham

Who's Who

Gloucester Diocese



David Ball
DAC Chair



The Revd Canon Dana Delap
DAC Vice Chair



Adam Klups
DAC Secretary



Kathryn Hilsden
Senior Church Buildings Officer



Carmen Bowes
Assistant Church Buildings Officer

Introduction

The resilience and innovative spirit of churches and cathedrals throughout the very difficult period of the last 12 months has been remarkable to witness, and a privilege to support. Despite church buildings having to close, initially for all purposes and in the later stages of the pandemic for all but a very limited range of purposes, we have seen an extraordinary growth in alternative forms of worship and community engagement. Many churches moved services online, in some cases attracting congregations from all across the globe. And many thousands of churches continued to provide essential community support activities. The effectiveness of this was noted by the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, in his 2021 Easter address: “I’ve lost count of the number of Church leaders and congregations from all denominations that have stepped up to support not only one another but also to support the whole local community, people of all faiths and none.”

We know that for many churches this has been an incredibly challenging year. Although many were quick to move to online worship, opportunities for fundraising and income generation have been limited and the ongoing nature of uncertainty and closures has meant problems have arisen even for those who were doing alright at the beginning of the pandemic. Caring for our churches and cathedrals remains a challenge, but, the myriad volunteers and heritage professionals have displayed great resilience, ensuring the completion, progression and initiation of heritage projects.

I am also very aware of how hard this past year has been for many of you in the dioceses. Some staff remained on furlough for parts of this period, committees had to meet virtually, and there were challenges around home working and/or return to the office. At the same time diocesan buildings teams were working harder than ever before to support parishes with the challenges outlined above. The same is true for the national buildings team and members of the Church Buildings Council, of whom I am incredibly proud. There have been real challenges and not everything has gone exactly as planned, but despite this we and all of you have together provided thousands of parishes with a competent specialised planning service, a safety net and somewhere to turn when things got really bad, and engagement at national and regional level on policy priorities that will set the agenda for the coming years.

Although members of the Cathedral and Church Buildings team have been working from home for most of the year, we have continued to develop our services and programmes. Highlights include a series of webinars on how churches can reach net-zero carbon, development of new guidance on a range of issues, public engagement on issues of contested heritage, and the launch of the National Burial Ground survey.

I remain part of the DCMS Covid Recovery Heritage Taskforce, a group pulled together in the early stages of the pandemic to advise on government policy approaches to lockdown, re-opening, funding and other relevant factors. It has been a privilege to represent the religious heritage sector on that. Meetings have now dropped from once a week to once a month and will eventually be replaced by the return of meetings of the Heritage Council. Thank you to all of you who responded to my messages and requests for information over the year; it really did make a difference to be able to provide information so directly and immediately.

Introduction (2)

We will be discussing environmental work at this conference, whilst in the wider world preparations for COP26, to be held in Glasgow in November, gather pace. The pandemic meant that the just as threatening but less immediate threat of the climate crisis was pushed lower down some political agendas. This wasn't the case for the CofE. The work that the Council, and its specialist officers, has done to establish good principles and provide training and advice to parishes has been one of the year's biggest signals of how important we see this as. A net-zero carbon plan will be presented to the General Synod in February 2020 and our church buildings and cathedrals will form a core part of it. Again, thank you to all the DEOs and DACs who have given time and effort to this most crucial of priorities.

In 2020 we were delighted to continue our partnerships with the Pilgrim Trust, the Radcliffe Trust and the Wolfson Foundation, awarding £425k to 150 Anglican Parish Churches in England. These grants enabled parishes to undertake urgent fabric repairs and conservation work. The importance of these grants cannot be overstated: they are often one of the only sources of funding for the care and conservation of the collections held in our churches. Everyone involved is grateful to the funding bodies whose foresight sees them continuing to invest in projects that not only preserve key collections and buildings, but also provide training grounds for new conservation professionals.

The pandemic led to one of the biggest government support schemes for culture in history. The Culture Recovery Fund contained many strands covering arts, museums and heritage. The Church of England overall has benefitted from over £50m of this funding. I know that much of this funding was not easily accessible (or necessarily relevant to) parish churches, and that the capital components were heavily oversubscribed. With a multi-year government spending review approaching please be assured that these points, and the enormous value churches add to the life of the nation, are being made very emphatically to government. Reports such as the National Churches Trust's [House of Good](#) and the Centre for Christianity and Culture's [Covid-19 and Churches](#) are the written evidence of what we already know – that our churches are treasures that need targeted and continued support in order to continue to thrive.

Turning to the next year, I hope you have time to consider the request from the Chair of the CBC to think about the work you do, the ways the national team supports you, and what we most value about our shared support network. That conversation, which started at the regional DAC meetings, will be a feature of the coming months and I look forward to seeing where it takes us.

Thank you for everything you have done in this past year. I hope the conference provides you with time away from the day job (set your out of office and resist checking emails!) and gives a much-needed chance to catch up with colleagues from across the country.

Becky Clark

Director of Churches and Cathedrals and Secretary to the Church Buildings Council

Report of the Year (for Annual Meeting of DACs)

October 2020 to September 2021

Whatever our hopes were when we met online in September 2020 the year that followed has again been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic and our response to it. Although the country-wide closure of churches has not been repeated all churches, even those that have stayed open, have adapted and adjusted to the public health crisis.

Items covered elsewhere in this booklet, such as the environment work and Bats In Churches project, are not covered here.

This report has the distinction of being given in the centenary year of the Council, which was first formed in 1921 although the first meeting of DACs was in November 1922.

Coronavirus Response

During the year 2020-21 the rate of change of government advice for places of worship was much slower than in spring and summer 2020. During the winter months of 2021 many churches closed voluntarily for public worship in response to a spike in the pandemic. The Division provided advice to support churches facing winter closures. The Council worked closely with the Archbishops' Council Covid Recovery Group to keep advice for parishes in line with government guidance. With the removal of restrictions in July 2021 there is a shift in the advice to good practice to encourage Covid-safe behaviours in churches.

With the roll-out of Covid vaccination in Spring 2021, along with wider public testing for the virus, the Council contributed to advice on churches being used as testing and vaccination centres. Requirements around parking, access, security and space meant that this was not a possibility for large numbers of churches, but some churches and cathedrals were successfully used.

The Council supported engagement with government and organisations such as the Royal School of Church Music and the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers to help encourage Covid-safe return of music. In this area the Council supported the Archbishops' Council over clarity of advice between government departments.

The focus of advice is now on safe re-opening of churches. We know that in many areas of the country church buildings remain closed, or mainly so. We are seeking to understand what we could do to support wider re-opening, including discussing issues with the main insurance bodies.

Report of the Year (for Annual Meeting of DACs) (2)

Funding and grants

Culture Recovery Fund funding

The expansion of the Culture Recovery Fund was one of the mainstays of the Council staff's work this year. Over the course of the year the government has provided several funding streams intended to support places taking a financial loss due to the pandemic and to support places to be able to reopen to welcome visitors with the easing and removal of Covid restrictions. Churches that are of heritage significance and that make substantial community or visitor contributions to their places have benefitted from this funding.

All elements of the CRF are under the control of DCMS, administered by various arm's-length bodies. For most strands churches and cathedrals had to apply directly; to support this the Council attended weekly meetings of the DCMS Covid Recovery Heritage Taskforce to advocate for criteria that were accessible to places of worship (of all faiths and denominations) and to ensure that the circumstances of church applicants – being mainly volunteers and not heritage professionals – was understood.

The Archbishops' Council was able to apply on behalf of our churches for money from the Heritage Stimulus Fund, a capital component of the overall CRF, administered by Historic England. As funds were limited a decision was made to target funding on major churches as this group is selected because of the heritage, civic and tourist roles of the churches. It was the best fit to the funding criteria that could be managed in the timescale allowed by government.

In October 2020 we announced that 66 churches and cathedrals received a share of a £10m from the Heritage Stimulus Fund. At the time of writing we await the public announcement of the results of the second round of the Heritage Stimulus Fund.

Another part of Culture Recovery Fund was kickstart grants for large infrastructure projects delayed by Covid, and Heritage At Risk grants for capital repair projects. 310 churches were awarded Heritage At Risk funding in January and February 2021, totalling £5.49m. Unlike other elements of the Culture Recovery Fund, this fund was particularly suitable for smaller parishes. 90% of the CofE funding - £4.89m – went to parishes as opposed to cathedrals and major churches.

In total Church of England churches and cathedrals have so far received over £54m from the Culture Recovery Fund. This covers 745 grants to 555 buildings. Of this £19.75m is for capital works. A full list of recipients is being compiled and will be made available in due course.

Report of the Year (for Annual Meeting of DACs) (3)

These awards have been curated so far as possible to prioritise more deprived areas and the most at-risk heritage, in line with both CofE and government priorities:

| Covid Grants | Amount of funding | % of funding | Number of projects |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Total to 10% most deprived areas nationally | £9,451,957 | 17% | 109 |
| Total to 10% least deprived areas nationally | £4,867,137 | 9% | 63 |
| Total to 30% most deprived areas nationally | £23,203,710 | 43% | 307 |
| Total to 30% least deprived areas nationally | £11,943,629 | 22% | 180 |
| Total Culture Recovery Fund grants | £54,387,240 | 100% | 745 |

Every fund within the CRF has been over-subscribed, with capital funding schemes often receiving applications for 100% more funding than was available. The level of demand for this funding demonstrates once again the huge need for simple, capital repairs funding. This forms the core of our work towards the Autumn spending review.

Pilgrim Trust funding of conservation grants programmes

The Pilgrim Trust has awarded £185,000 for the 2021 conservation grants programmes. This continued level of funding, in an increasingly difficult funding landscape, is testament to the continued strong partnership between the Pilgrim Trust and the Church Buildings Council, recognising the importance of our church heritage. There is a fuller report on the Council's grants elsewhere in this booklet.

Work with government and the heritage sector

Collaboration across the heritage sector

The importance of continuing strong ties with the wider secular heritage sector cannot be overstated. It is through close working with key partners such as Historic England and the Historic Environment Forum that we can ensure the specific needs and contributions of our churches are known about and provided for.

CCB staff contributed to the Heritage 2020 sector collaboration which replaced the National Heritage Protection Plan Panel. Dr Elders, Head of Church Buildings Strategy chaired one of the five panels which has now completed its work, which can be [accessed here](#).

The planned Heritage Observatory to co-ordinate historic environment research is one of the main outcomes. The panels merged into a reformed Historic Environment Forum with

Report of the Year (for Annual Meeting of DACs) (4)

task and finish work groups where the Council is represented. Representation covers COP26, Covid recovery, the Planning White Paper and the Historic Environment Planning Reform Group.

On 25th March 2021, Heritage Minister Caroline Dinenage announced, at the annual Heritage Day, that a new Heritage Statement would be published in 2021. The Statement will replace the previous HS published in 2017. The aim of the Statement is to outline the UK Government's priorities and strategy for the Heritage Sector for the next three years, underpinned by an action plan for both government and partner organisations.

Council staff have been involved in several different activities run by DCMS to help draft the new Statement. The Secretary attended an online roundtable and chaired one of the breakout groups looking specifically at recovery and resilience, as well as chairing an in-person event held at Coventry Cathedral. Staff were also involved in an online workshop on environmental priorities. We hope to see the concerns and opportunities of places of worship represented fully and accurately in the resulting Statement, which will be published before the end of the year.

National Lottery Heritage Fund

The NLHF reopened its general grants programme in a phased way in November 2020 and February 2021. Although this was welcome news the NLHF has held firm to its commitment not to re-open £5m+ grants at all (for now) which impacts plans at some major churches. The Council also raised a concern on behalf of applicants with existing applications in hand who were asked to reframe their application to reflect new NLHF funding priorities. Although the NLHF is free to set its priorities the Council represented to the fund that this approach created real problems for some churches who had continued to work on existing applications in good faith.

Following this, in April 2021, the Council welcomed Simon Thurley as Chair of the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Simon is a long-term supporter of churches and has served as a churchwarden for many years. His understanding of the heritage sector, and of church heritage, is undoubted.

Historic England Heritage Crime research – The Intelligence Lead Project

The Intelligence Lead project is being managed by Historic England to use crime analysis support from the national police intelligence unit and analysis by its own staff to inform good interventions for prevention of metal theft where risk is greatest. The Senior Church Buildings Officer participated in the steering group for this work. The church was also represented by the Support Officer from the Diocese of Leicester who made a strong contribution from his engagement with victims of metal theft.

Although in 2020-21 this work was against a backdrop of lower numbers of metal thefts, the impacts of Covid and Brexit will eventually be either removed or addressed by the organised crime groups.

Report of the Year (for Annual Meeting of DACs) (5)

The Division is also represented on the National Police Chiefs Council Heritage Crime group and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Heritage Crime and Metal Theft. Between these organisations there is useful work being progressed on avenues for improved legislative response and engagement on police response.

Permitted development and temporary structures

During the year the MHCLG announced a change to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 which allows historic visitor attractions (listed buildings accessible by members of the public (whether or not for an entry fee) for the purposes of promoting their enjoyment, and advancing their knowledge, of the buildings) to erect 'any moveable structure within the curtilage'. This is assumed to mainly relate to marquees, although one can't be erected 'within the curtilage of a scheduled monument; or if the use of the moveable structure is for the display of an advertisement'.

Despite this change a faculty (or interim faculty) is still be needed for a marquee on church grounds. This is due to a specific concern about not being able to grant a retrospective faculty should a marquee be erected in a disused burial ground, so getting the (interim) faculty in place first is important in that circumstance.

Protect Duty

In Summer 2021 The Home Office consulted on a proposed [Protect Duty](#). The proposals would place a duty on all those responsible for publicly accessible space to take appropriate protective security measures to protect the public from terrorist threat.

Although the intention of the proposed duty (to protect the public) is good the Council has responded to the duty to show how the duty could be another potential disincentive to volunteers in churches. Instead it asked for a system of advice, with a duty on, for example, the local authority to encourage engagement to achieve similar levels of protection, without fear of prosecution.

Work within the Church of England

Contested Heritage

The murder of George Floyd and following events of summer 2020 generated work for the Council in seeking to support parishes and cathedrals to understand the implications in a Church context. Examples of material culture that speaks of enslavement and profit from oppression of others can be found amongst the monuments, memorials, gravestones, imagery and texts both inside our buildings and in our churchyards. Crucially, the effects of enslavement continue to impact the lives of many UK ethnic minority communities to whom, at best, these objects may be reminders of an 'overcome' past; at worst, for these objects to remain in place with no discussion or interpretation could be taken to imply that the oppression and disenfranchisement they evoke for many in affected communities is socially and theologically acceptable to the Church. At the same time, the high regard in

Report of the Year (for Annual Meeting of DACs) (6)

which others hold these monuments and memorials can also be understood. It is within this context that the Division worked to provide support to those parishes, dioceses and cathedrals addressing their contested heritage.

Our aim throughout has been to find ways of mediating discussion that will help churches and cathedrals and their wider communities to develop solutions that will ultimately tackle the issues behind the feelings that contentious memorials evoke. It is important to remember that this is not about judging people in the past by the standards of the present, but about how items of contested heritage and wider issues of under-representation affect our ability to be a Church for all in the 21st century.

In May 2021 the Council and Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England [jointly published guidance](#) on contested heritage. Thank you to all who contributed to the consultation work on this. We will keep this guidance under review as casework progresses through the system but have been gratified to see it referred to by Chancellors in judgements already given.

Diocesan Chancellors and the Ecclesiastical Judges Association

The Council Chair, Secretary and Senior Church Buildings Officer offer all new Chancellors and Deputy Chancellors the opportunity of a meeting. Two of these have been held during the year with a good attendance of newly-appointed Chancellors and Deputies attending. The Environment Officer and Senior Church Buildings Officer spoke at the annual conference of Ecclesiastical Judges Association. They gave attention to net-zero carbon and had good engagement from those present.

Mission and Pastoral Measure Reform

The Church Commissioners Pastoral and Closed Churches Team launched a [Review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure](#) (MPM) in July. The Council is engaging with colleagues in the Commissioners over this and is sending a formal written response.

Not all aspects of this review touch on church buildings issues, but a great deal of our work is in some way impacted. The intention of the Council's response will be to encourage ways of working that will promote timely consultation where a useful contribution can be made to decision making and seeking to focus the Council's attention on cases where it has the most to contribute.

National Burial Grounds Survey

The Cathedral and Church Buildings Division has, as part of the National Burial Grounds Survey, digitally mapped the boundaries of all Anglican churchyards. It has now contracted a company to survey them all in detail, diocese by diocese. This will provide a free digital plan of every churchyard showing every grave and natural feature, able to be used for planning and Faculty applications as well as churchyard management and record keeping.

Parishes will be approached to take part and it would be helpful for DAC officers and members who work with parishes to reassure them that this is a Church of England project, and that the church will benefit from allowing the surveyors to record the

Report of the Year (for Annual Meeting of DACs) (7)

churchyard, photograph the gravestones and make digital copies of any Registers that they hold.

Regional DAC Meetings 2021

The Secretary and the Senior Church Buildings Officer both appreciated the opportunity to engage with the five regional DAC meetings, with support from other Council officers. These regional gatherings are always a good chance to discuss both national and regional issues, and often feed into content for the national DAC Conference.

Topics discussed at most regional meetings included: Transforming Effectiveness, environmental issues, the House of Good report, contested heritage and possible changes to Faculty Rules. The Council is grateful to the regional coordinators for the work put into making these meetings happen.

Council membership

The date of appointment for Council members follows the inauguration of a new General Synod. A new synod will be inaugurated in November 2021 and a new Council membership come into effect on 1 June 2022. As the term of the General Synod that ended in July 2021 had been extended by a year, to make it six years, two members of the Council that had served the full length allowed by the Measure sadly left.

Dr Hilary Taylor, a nominee of the DCMS and Sylvia Johnson, a nominee of the annual meeting of DAC Chairs and Secretaries. The DCMS nominated Thomas Pearson, Designer and Conservationist with Arup, in the place of Hilary Taylor and the DAC Chairs and Secretaries Liz Kitch, Oxford DAC Secretary, in place of Sylvia Johnson. Two longstanding vacancies were also filled and we were pleased to welcome Michael Dyer JP, Electrical services engineer and former Stewardship Adviser and Company Secretary, and Mel Allwood, Sustainability Consultant with Arup.

The Council is extremely grateful to Hilary and Sylvia for their service to the Council, they are already missed. Thank you to all DAC Chairs and Secretaries who participated in the election to choose Liz Kitch for nomination to the Council.

As part of the search for new members for the Council for 2022 the Council will run a further advert to ask for expressions of interest. When it is published we will share it with you. It is not too soon to think of people who you know whom you may wish to encourage to put their name forward.

Council officers presenting at events

Council officers are always pleased to be able to accept invitations to speak at events online and around the Country. During 2020-21 presentations made included:

- The Director of Churches and Cathedrals gave the annual Stephen Dykes Bower Memorial Lecture for the Ecclesiological Society, titled *The Challenges of English Cathedrals in the 21st Century*.

Report of the Year (for Annual Meeting of DACs) (8)

- The Head of Conservation at the International Institute of Conservation (IIC) 2020 Congress *Current Practices and Challenges in Built Heritage Conservation*.
- The Senior Church Buildings Officer spoke to a meeting of the Institute of British Organ Building on report writing.
- Three officers spoke at the EASA AGM and covered between them the Practical Path to net-zero carbon and the critical role of architects and surveyors in achieving this; the faculty process and how it supports and hinders environmental action; the updated QI framework and the increase emphasis within it on environmental matters.
- Council member Dr Nigel Walter and the Environment Officer addressed two EASA events on 'Zero Carbon Matters'.
- Dr Walter also addressed one of four online conference events run by the European religious heritage charity, Future For Religious Heritage, on the topic of extended use of church buildings.

Looking Forward

At the regional DAC meetings we discussed Emerging Church, and in particular the strand known as Transforming Effectiveness, and how it relates to our work. We also discussed external priorities such as funding and the understanding of the contribution of churches to wider society.

This section lays out some background and asks further questions in anticipation of the discussion session on the first morning.

Emerging Church

The Emerging Church of England is the name for four strands of work which together will help leaders in every diocese to discern the shape, life and activity of the Church of England in the 2020s. The main aim of the Emerging Church of England is to follow a shared vision - to share what God has done for us in Jesus Christ and continues to do through the Holy Spirit - with simpler national governance structures.

The work is overseen by the Emerging Church Steering Group, chaired by the Bishop of Manchester and made up of members of the Church Commissioners, the Archbishops' Council and the House of Bishops. Its job is to recommend proposals to the governing bodies to ensure the necessary changes happen at the right time, as well as ensuring the different areas of work join up well.

Three groups - Vision & Strategy, Governance, and Transforming Effectiveness - have been tasked with consulting the wider Church, providing recommendations and guidance, and transparently communicating their progress and findings.

This work pre-dates Covid 19 but responding to the pandemic and lockdown is now a key part of it.

The Vision and Strategy work is led by the Archbishop of York who says:

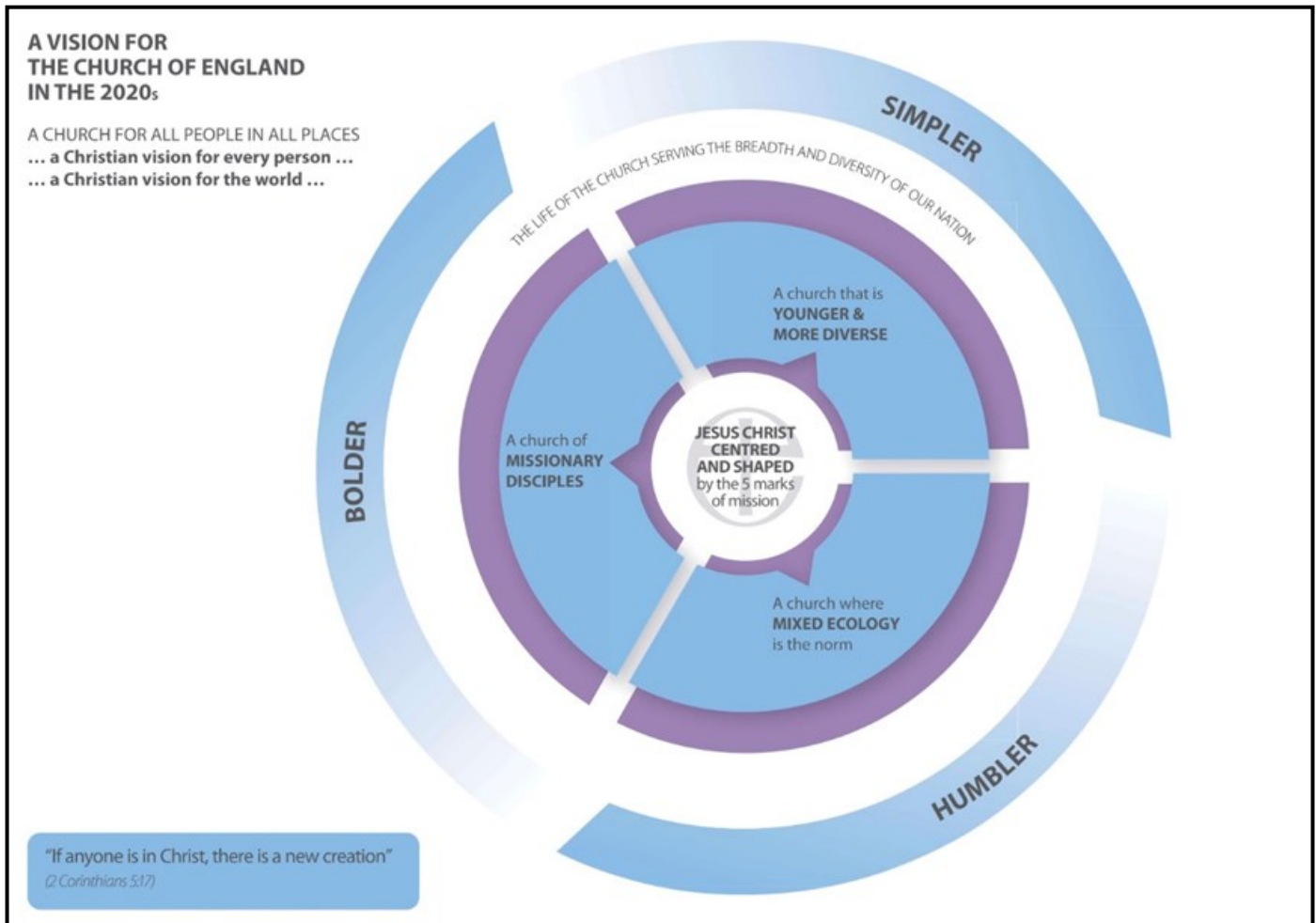
"The work to develop the new Vision and Strategy is underway but the foundations are already clear: The Church of England must adapt and put its trust in God to become a simpler, humbler, bolder Church that is Jesus Christ centred and Jesus Christ shaped."

- A simpler Church, both in governance and structure and in the way we live and share the gospel
- A humbler Church, recognising our failings and working with others to serve the common good
- A bolder Church energised and enthused by the good news of what God has done in Jesus Christ and sharing that with everyone.

Its strategic priorities are:

Looking Forward (2)

- To be a church that is younger and more diverse
- To be a church where mixed ecology is the norm – where every person in England has access to an enriching and compelling community of faith by adding new churches and new forms of Church to our parishes, schools and chaplaincies
- To become a church of missionary disciples where all God's people are released to live the Christian life.



Transforming Effectiveness

Transforming Effectiveness (TE) is a programme of work within the overall Emerging Church programme, led by the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, focuses on the practical ways the Church is organised and gets things done that enable the local church to flourish. The whole system will be looked at: what should continue as is, what should be changed, and what should stop.

Two areas concern us most: Simpler NCIs and Simpler Support for Dioceses (sometimes called Simpler National Models).

Looking Forward (3)

A series of conversations have been held with Bishops, Diocesan Secretaries and other senior diocesan figures. Early findings show significant levels of demand from diocesan colleagues for buildings, technology, and policy support.

Conversations have also been held with a number of parish leaders, both clergy and lay. Clergy and lay leaders are requesting greater HR, finance, payroll, buildings, and administrative services for churches. Buildings is one of six areas being looked at in the first phase of Simpler NCIs. The other areas being looked at now are:

- Ministry and People
- Growth (Vision & Strategy)
- Young people
- Data
- Public face

As part of this work, the functions provided by the national Cathedral and Church Buildings Division have been looked at in detail. It has been gratifying to see the value placed on our work and the clear understanding from the Emerging Church Board that we fulfil an essential statutory function, as well as providing a high level of additional value through our digital, advice, advocacy, fundraising and grant giving functions.

No immediate changes are proposed to the operation of the Church Buildings Council, but we have been charged with considering the way we do things at staff level, and where the opportunities for improvement may lie. It is this that we want to discuss with DACs. This work will form part of the feedback into the Simpler Support for Dioceses work also taking place as a TE project. All involved in setting up and leading this work have been adamant that there must be clear alignment throughout the buildings support systems; we nationally cannot stop or start doing something, or change how we work, if it places an unmanageable burden on dioceses. The work of the national and diocesan teams is symbiotic.

MPM Review

The review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure is in full swing and consultation on a green paper sent to the General Synod is open until 30th September.

The Church Buildings Council will publish its response as soon as it is finalised. We see huge opportunity in the process of revision. In particular there is a chance to reconsider the point in a church's lifecycle where use-seeking takes place, as well as further widening the ways mixed use can take place whilst a church remains open for worship. We also

Looking Forward (4)

advocate strongly for greater use of the Festival Churches model where this is missionally appropriate. It is very welcome that the green paper seeks to remove the open/closed dichotomy that has for years dictated the options available for the use of a building.

The Council has concerns that the green paper does not necessarily present the best future arrangement to maximise the contribution of qualified, expert advice on heritage and community use. Heritage is not an adjunct feature of church buildings, it is an inherent part of their character and management and we believe the value of advice on this can be maximised by being requested earlier in the process and better built into decision making.

The Council is seized of the opportunities presented by this review, especially in addressing known pressure points and in smoothing existing complex processes. Within this the importance of protecting national heritage and community assets, and in particular considering the value of their decades or centuries of public access, needs to remain paramount.

Liaison with government

The Chancellor has announced a three-year spending review, known as SR21, which will be presented to Parliament on 27th October. This is the first multi-year spending review in three years and presents an opportunity for government to lay out financial priorities and commitments for the remainder of this parliamentary term. The funding allocated by it will run from April 2022 to March 2025, assuming this parliament remains until then under the Fixed Terms Parliament Act.

SR21 is a very difficult review. The financial and societal pressures of the pandemic are combined with the economic uncertainties of Brexit, demands from business as well as public sector bodies, and the desire to fulfil government commitments before the end of this Term. As such the opportunities for new and increased funding are limited.

The Council and its Secretary is working on two fronts: to protect the LPOW grant scheme until such time as VAT on repairs can be lowered or removed entirely, and the need for capital repairs funding. There is strong support for both across the heritage sector, but the chance of success is truly unknown. All involved are aware of the very real and immediate pressure on churches trying to care for and maintain their buildings.

Clearly the outcome of SR21 will have a big impact on how we proceed in our interactions with government in the coming year. The pandemic has necessitated very close working – weekly meetings at one point – with DCMS and MHCLG officials and Ministers. They have been appreciative of the efforts of churches and very ready to hear concerns and issues

Looking Forward (5)

raised. We hope to continue this conversation and continue to show the importance of churches in multiple areas of life and government interest.

Questions for discussion

With this in mind, we would like to discuss the following questions:

1. What work of the national buildings team do you value the most?
2. We have worked hard in the past two years to improve our offer of support to what is broadly called 'struggling churches', to major churches, and on key areas where a single national approach could yield greater efficiencies (such as Church Buildings Management Partnerships). Do you know about these offers? Are they valuable?
3. What would you most like the national team to bring to government's attention, beyond the need for capital funding for repairs?
4. What would you like the national buildings team to do that is not currently provided?
5. What areas would you prefer the national buildings team to stop doing or do less on? Is this because you don't think it needs to be done, or because it replicates diocesan functions?
6. Which areas do you think could benefit the most from a fresh look at how they are provided and resourced? Suggested areas (not exhaustive) include:
 - a. Digital provision including the Online Faculty System
 - b. Training for dioceses and/or parishes
 - c. Grants and fundraising
 - d. Engagement on closed and closing churches

Environment Working Group and Net-Zero Carbon

Progress toward net-zero carbon

It is 18 months now since [General Synod's landmark motion](#), calling on all parts of the Church to work towards net-zero carbon by 2030.

Much has been achieved since then:

- 27 dioceses have passed their own **net-zero carbon motions**.
- 37 dioceses are now **registered for [Eco Diocese](#)**, and 12 have reached bronze.
- A **Net-Zero Carbon committee** has been formed nationally (Simon Pugh-Jones, DAC Chair from Bristol, is a member). The committee is creating our national "*Routemap to net-zero carbon by 2030*". The draft of this plan will come out for consultation to dioceses and others in the winter.
- The [Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon](#) has been created, including the self-guided checklist version which can be used by any church.
- **New guidance** has been issued on heating, solar panels, EV car charging, and biomass boilers, all available via the [net zero carbon landing page](#).



Environment Working Group and Net-Zero Carbon (2)

- **New case studies** have been created for [net zero](#) and for [heating](#). Many projects were also nominated for the recent **Green Church Showcase** from the *Church Times*, which will lead to videos and case studies of several more projects,
- The popular [net zero carbon webinar programme](#) has been created.
- The [Energy Footprint Tool](#) for churches has been launched, with 4000+ churches completing it in year one. A range of tools for other buildings is under development.
- The new Dean of Arches has set up a working group to **review the faculty rules** in the light of net-zero carbon (see later).
- **Best practice guidance for church architects and surveyors** has been created by the CBC and EASA, on both [Quinquennial Inspections](#) and on [project work](#)
- The national [Quinquennial Inspection framework](#) has also been updated, to make clear the link to the General Synod net-zero carbon motion, and emphasis the environmental aspects of QI reports.
- An [environmental fundraising guide](#) has been created, and webinars run. Clearly, looking for additional funding is absolutely key to achieving net-zero carbon, and we are currently commissioning national work from a fundraising company to help us develop our thinking on how to do this.
- **Parish Buying has expanded their range of [net zero carbon products and services](#)**, and for example will be offering solar PV installation, electric pew heaters, and green gas, alongside still offering energy audits, LED lights, and the green energy basket.

This could not have been achieved without concerted effort by many teams, centrally and in the dioceses, including many colleagues within DACs, and **our thanks go to everyone involved**. In particular, the efforts of the [Diocesan Environmental Officers](#) must be mentioned.

The fact that dioceses have worked so hard towards the goal of net-zero carbon, in the midst of the pandemic, can only demonstrate the very real commitment that exists around the country to responding to the climate crisis.

‘Greening’ the faculty rules

A working group formed by the Dean of the Arches has made a set of proposals for amendments to the faculty rules to support the move to net-zero carbon ([view here](#)). Many DAC colleagues responded to the to the consultation, for which thank you.

The intention of the proposals is to encourage behaviour that will move churches towards net-zero carbon by making the permissions route more straightforward for proposals that are most likely to reduce carbon. For proposals that will commit a parish to producing

Environment Working Group and Net-Zero Carbon (3)

additional carbon well after 2030 and those that are for heating - which generates 83% of our carbon footprint - a more rigorous review of proposals is proposed.

The proposals will now move forward to the Rules Committee, who will also be given a synthesis of DAC feedback. The aim is for a final set of revisions to come to February's General Synod.

Updated heating guidance

The work on updating our heating guidance has continued.

Sections issues so far include:

- [Heating principles](#)
- [Heating perspectives](#)
- [Heating checklist](#)
- [Options appraisals and getting advice.](#)

A requirement for heating options appraisals is included in the proposed changes to the faculty rules (above). Recent consistory court judgements over heating have taken great interest in how the choice of heating was reached, for example at [Mitcham, St Mark](#) (Diocese of Southwark) and [Dudley, St Thomas](#) & St Luke (Diocese of Worcester). This latter judgement makes specific reference to an options appraisal as part of the supporting documents for a heating proposal (para. 47) and sets out an expectation that they will be provided to support heating proposals.



Environment Working Group and Net-Zero Carbon (4)

Current research

The Historic England research into **how churches can move away from oil** was delayed by COVID, but is now continuing, and will report to the Conference. This research has studies of eight churches in Gloucester and Bristol dioceses, to determine the viable options for each to move away from an oil-fired boiler to a lower carbon alternative.

With Historic England, we are commissioning a desktop review of a wide range of **Lifecycle Carbon Analysis** tools, to see if any meet our needs.

Heating advisors from Lichfield and Carlisle dioceses are collaborating to put the heating-system additive **Endotherm** to the test. If any dioceses have experience of using Endotherm, good or bad, they would welcome a conversation. Contact John Polhill from Lichfield Diocese (john@reflectiongardens.org.uk)

Learnings from year one of the EFT

The findings of the first year of the Energy Footprint Tool tell us:

- Five per cent of churches sampled were already net-zero carbon. (The majority of these are on electric heating and a renewable electricity tariff.)
- A 12.5 per cent carbon reduction has already been made across the country, when compared with a comparative, although smaller, 2006 study.
- The estimated total net carbon footprint for the Church of England's church buildings (based on energy use alone) is around 185,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases, measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent or tCO₂e.
- There is still significant scope for churches to install cleaner technologies to reduce their carbon impacts, with just one per cent of churches presently having installed solar panels.
- If all churches switched to a renewable electricity tariff, the estimated total net carbon footprint for church buildings would be 22 per cent smaller.

New Church Energy Advisors Network

For several years, there has been a thriving network for Diocesan Environment Officers, including sub-groups. This year, the DEO Energy Group has broadened its membership to include diocesan heating and sustainability advisors, and changed its name to the Church Energy Advisors Network. The new CEAN network has around 40 members and meets bi-monthly. If your diocese is not represented, and would like to be, then email the chair John Polhill from Lichfield Diocese (john@reflectiongardens.org.uk).

Environment Working Group and Net-Zero Carbon (5)

Energy audit programme reopens for 2021/2

The [church energy audit programme](#) run by Parish Buying has now reopened. The surveys provide advice on the main energy and cost saving opportunities, including an assessment of the feasibility of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies, to reduce a building's energy consumption and carbon footprint.

As in past years, central funding enables us to subsidise 100 of these audits by £200, reducing the usual cost of an audit from £445 (+ VAT) to £245 + VAT. Churches are eligible for the subsidy if they meet any one of a set of criteria, covering size, energy use, plans, and commitment.

Eco Church

The ecumenical awards framework [Eco Church](#) continues to grow. By completing an online survey, churches can be considered for an Eco Church Award at either Bronze, Silver, or Gold level. There are currently 752 Bronze, 181 Silver, and 11 Gold Church of England Eco Churches, and even our first gold cathedral; Salisbury.

The scheme is a fantastic resource for encouraging churches, cathedrals, and dioceses to embody the fifth mark of mission.

Land and Nature

This summer, we piloted a new project, [Churches Count on Nature](#), where members of the community recorded the precious ecology of their local churchyards. We were delighted that 520 churches across England and Wales took part; far more than our expectations.

All this new species data will, alongside existing information from wildlife groups and the National Biodiversity Network, flow through into the new ecology fields being created on the Church Heritage Record. Soon, churches and DACs will be able to see information, on veteran and ancient trees, SSSIs, protected species, and more.

[Booking has now opened](#) for the online conference on 'Church Land, Climate and Nature' Oct 11/12. This is an event for internal decision-makers about our own church lands, recognising the urgency of climate change and the biodiversity crisis. It has been organised by the Diocesan Environment Officers Land and Biodiversity group. As well as updates on current work within the Church, centrally and in dioceses, there are external speakers from the Soil Association, the Duchy of Cornwall, Natural England, Defra, the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers, Northern Forest, and A Rocha International. DAC colleagues are very welcome to attend.

Environment Working Group and Net-Zero Carbon (6)

Climate adaptation

Whilst a great deal of work has gone into climate **mitigation** (reducing fossil fuel usage, to reduce the world effects of climate change) comparatively little has yet gone into climate **adaptation / resilience** (coping with the effects of climate change).

We are starting to take some early steps here;

- With Leeds Dioceses, we will create a new webpage highlighting risks and offering guidance on the Climate Resilient church.
- We have applied for a grant for a climate adaptation researcher, and await results.
- Our Digital Manager has been working on how to integrate DEFRA flood data with the Church Heritage Record, to identify at risk churches.

A strong faith voice at the COP26 International Climate talks



All of this work proceeds in the context of the climate and ecological crises, and the need for urgent action on the international stage by the governments of the world. This year's crucial UN climate talks, [COP26](#), are taking place in Glasgow in November, chaired by the UK, and are absolutely critical. The recent IPCC report gave humanity a "[code red](#)"; a catastrophe can only be avoided if the world acts fast. The decisions made in Glasgow need to set us on that path.

Environment Working Group and Net-Zero Carbon (7)

In the run up to COP, for many months, the Church of England has been working collaboratively on several fronts to push for more urgent action. We have:

- worked with fellow faith organisations as part of the Environmental Issues Network and the Make COP Count group. This has led to a set of [clear faith asks](#), a multi-faith statement [to be launched soon], and to the major ecumenical and nation-wide [Climate Sunday](#) initiative. This culminated in a Nations' Climate Sunday service from Glasgow Cathedral on 5th September.
- worked with fellow heritage organisations as from the Historic Environment Forum in preparing a call to action for the sector on Heritage and Climate.
- The National Investing Bodies of the Church of England have been engaging with policy makers globally, including direct Ministerial meetings and wider collaborative engagements such as through the Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance, the Powering Past Coal Alliance, the Investor Policy Dialogue on Deforestation, and the Global Investor Statement to Government on the Climate Crisis: [Global Investor Statement to Governments on the Climate Crisis – 2021 – IIGCC](#)
- supported The Climate Coalition to promote the [Great Big Green Week](#) and the [Time is Now Declaration](#).
- supported the [Young Christian Climate Network in their relay](#) from the G7 in Cornwall in June all the way to COP26 in Glasgow in November.

Contested Heritage



The Division has continued its work on contested heritage through 2021.

On 22 April 2021, the Anti-Racism Taskforce published its report '[From Lament to Action](#)', proposing a suite of changes to begin bringing about a change of culture in the life of the Church. On 11 May 2021, the division's contested heritage guidance was launched on the [Church of England website](#). The guidance can be found [here](#). Most media coverage of the guidance was positive or neutral, with a few commentaries expressing concerns about resources and church priorities.

This guidance is the latest in the division's and wider Church's ongoing programme of works to identify all manner of obstacles to an inclusive welcome, be that down to disability, dementia, neurodiversity or indeed aspects of our heritage. While it may not be the majority who experience any one of these things, it does not mean we should not address them for the benefit of the minority who do.

The [Options Matrix](#) is currently being road tested and refined through use on a number of cases. An updated version of the Matrix will be provided by the end of 2021.

The Division is forming a temporary Contested Heritage Committee that will report to the Church Buildings Council. This committee will provide advice on casework to the Council and the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England (CFCE), focussing on the social justice of contested heritage proposals, and helping to provide resources to parishes and cathedrals on contested heritage. This work is being informed from the roundtable discussions and consultations undertaken in early 2021.

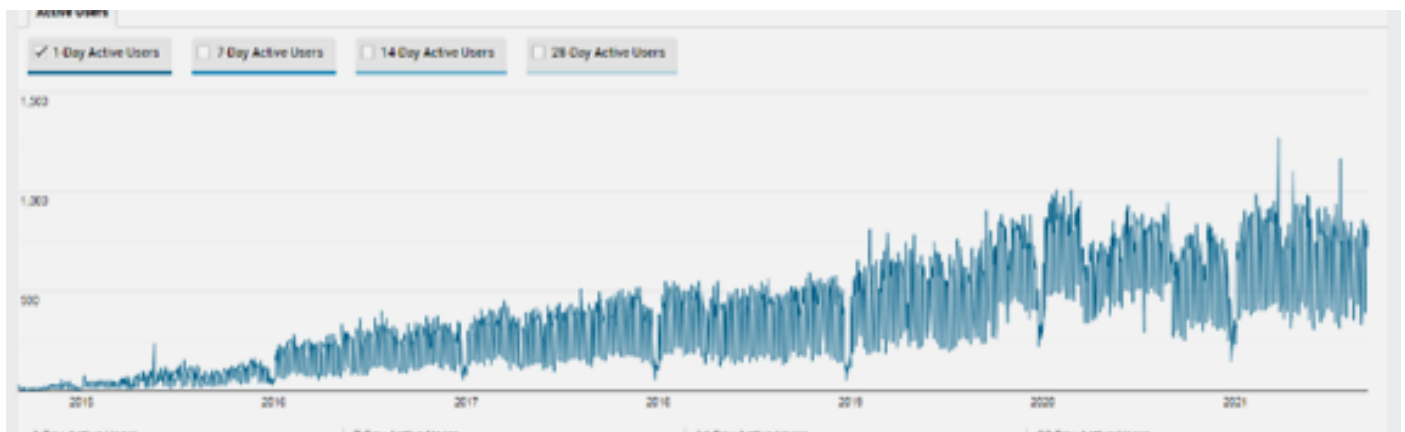
As the [Archbishops' Racial Justice Commission](#) begins its work this autumn, the division will liaise with the Commission, particularly around the area of Slavery (including monuments).

Online Faculty System & Church Heritage Record

Online Faculty System (OFS)

Since the redevelopment of the Online Faculty System following the 2019 rules change, the system, under these new rules, has processed 376 completed faculty cases, 4,200 List B determinations and recorded 1,379 List A items. In addition, we have over 3,500 open and ongoing faculty cases and an additional 1,000 List B items that are in the process of being determined.

Since its launch, including these above figures, the system has now recorded just short of 12,000 completed Faculty cases and over 16,000 List B determinations against a total of 8551 churches. The website as a whole has now been viewed over 11 million times, with an average of 800 unique visitors per day. The site has over 17,500 users across the 37 dioceses who use the system, and we see a daily increase of around twelve petitioner users.



The average number of active users per day

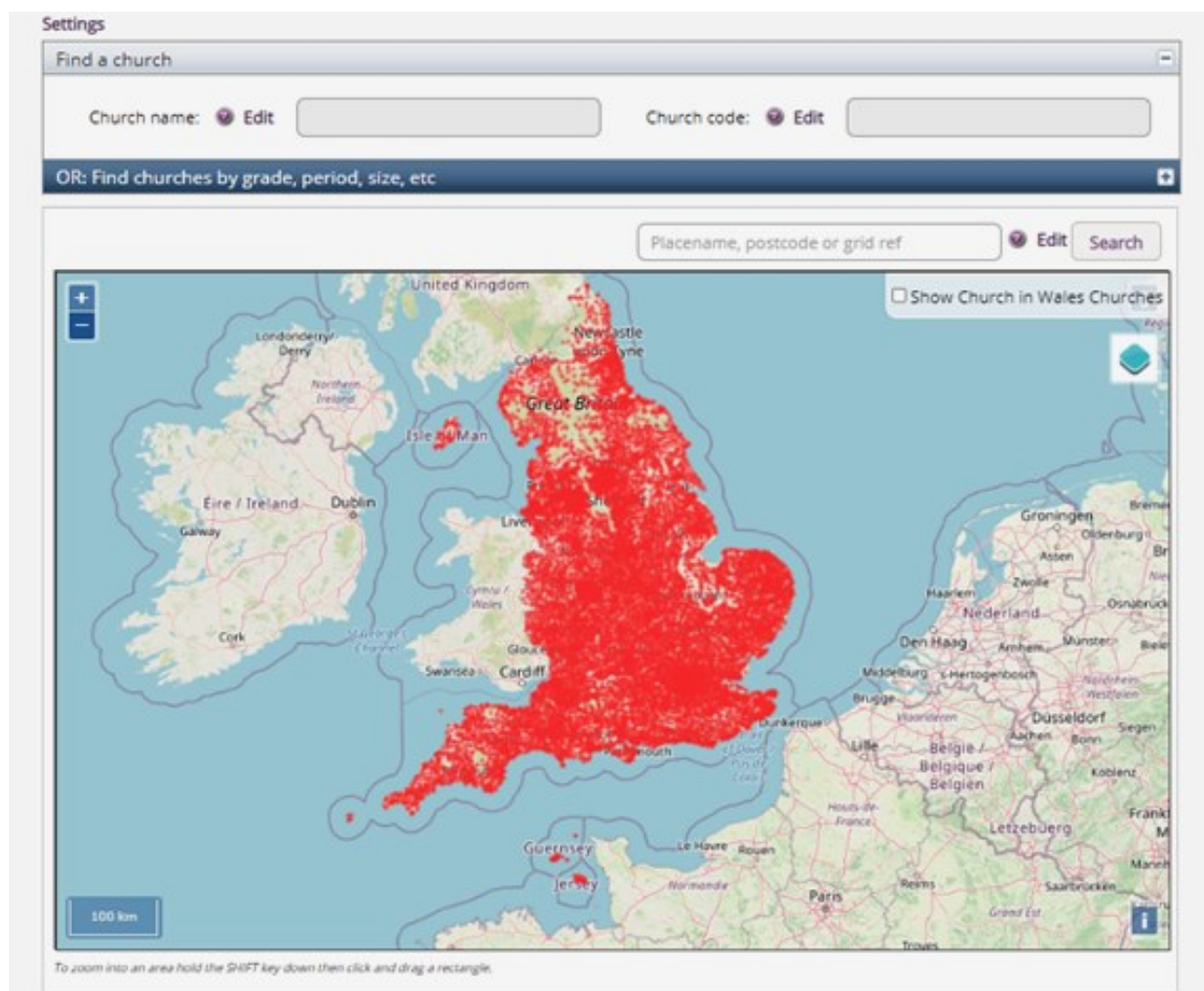
The site has recently undergone a few changes with the adaptation of how the formal consultation process is managed, together with fixes to issues that have been raised over the last year. Further development work to the site will be discussed at the next user group meeting for OFS users, and these changes will be implemented next year. This user group approves any work to the site outside of legislative requirements, and if requests or issues need to be made, please get in touch with your DAC representatives, Liz Kitch and Rupert Allen.

Whilst we aim to provide updates to the site in a timely manner, the process involved can take a significant amount of time due to the nature of development work and the availability of our developers. A consensus of what is required has to be established advance, and a specification of these requirements has to be given to the developers, who will then assess what is possible within a given time frame and the site's coding. Any development work has to be booked out in advance, usually three months. Once development work starts, to avoid any delays and issues becoming apparent after the

Online Faculty System & Church Heritage Record (2)

allocated development time has been used up, continuous testing is required as the changes are made and launched onto the live site. As the site grows and becomes more complex, as with two legislative faculty systems, greater time is now required to develop these requests and amend existing content. Changes then are grouped into development stages, and any issues raised must be considered over an extended period in line with the other works needed. What may appear to be minor changes are often not due to the nature of the site, and these have to follow what the Rules allow. We cannot group all of the requests within one development stage as we book out defined periods that generally cannot be extended due to the other ongoing work that the developers have. Where possible, we need to prioritise legislative requirements defined by the Rules and then focus on the requests made through the user group. With the legislative changes for the 2019 amendment now having been made, we can again start to focus on diocesan requests and updates.

Church Heritage Record (CHR)



Separate from the Online Faculty System, the Church Heritage Record follows a different development process and is managed separately from the faculty system. Whilst these

Online Faculty System & Church Heritage Record (3)

two systems talk to each other, keeping these systems separate allows for prioritising works according to diocesan requests for faculty changes and heritage data collated nationally. Work on the Church Heritage Record has been completed over the last few months and is waiting to be added to the live site once small changes have been made. This update will see the addition of the outlines of all burial grounds that we have digitally produced over the last two years. Having these outlines now allows for spatial datasets to be interrogated. As part of the CHR changes, we will add all listed buildings found in our churchyards, details on scheduled ancient monuments that intersect them, and the location of biodiversity data such as ancient, veteran and notable trees, SSSIs and Local nature reserves. In time, now that this data exists, we can also look to work with other national datasets, and include these on the CHR and work with dioceses to analyse data, such as flooding risk areas, to help identify churches that may be at risk.

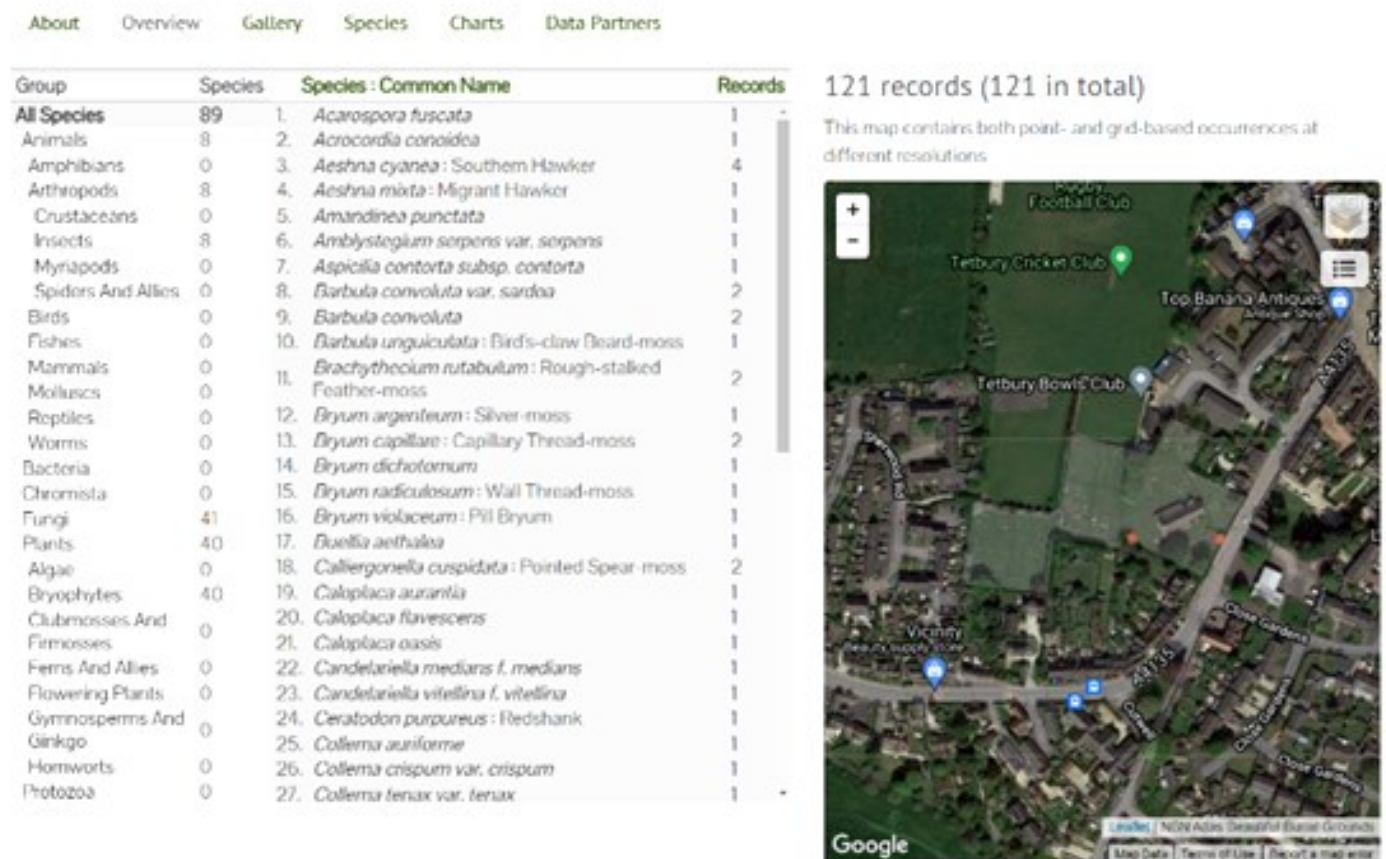


Sherston Magna: Holy Cross churchyard showing the listed buildings found in the curtilage

Further work is ongoing to connect the CHR with the National Biodiversity Network to highlight species that have been identified within our churchyards and what protected species churches need to be aware of as part of the general management and gaining faculty permission. The NBN has this data publicly available, and we are waiting on an API to be finished to allow us to show this on our site. This will be a live connection and allows for new records and new sightings to be included as they are added to the NBN. The interface on the NBN is available at [here](#), but please be aware that small changes are

Online Faculty System & Church Heritage Record (4)

needed to their site and this, whilst live, is not the final version.



The NBN interface for Tetbury: St Saviour showing 121 sights of 89 unique species found within the churchyard.

Conservation Grants

We continue to provide grants for the conservation of historic church interiors and churchyard structures, with thanks to the generous support of the Pilgrim Trust, The Radcliffe Trust and the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.

We provide grants for:

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

Conservation of:

- Bells
- Books and manuscripts
- Churchyard structures
- Clocks
- Decorative metalwork and monumental brasses
- Monuments
- Organs
- Painting and wall paintings
- Stained glass
- Textiles
- Wooden objects



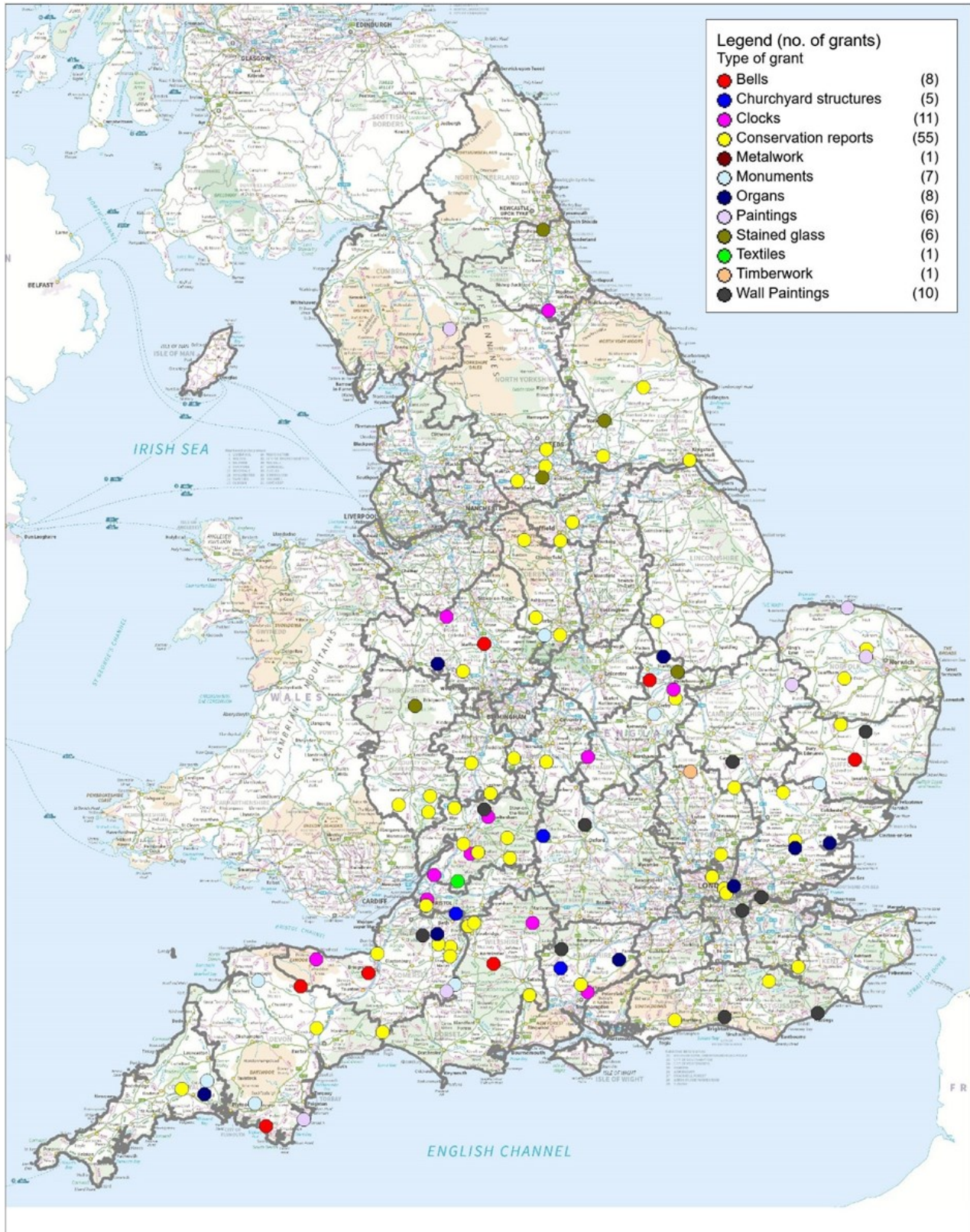
South Hill, St Sampson (Diocese of Truro)

A £5,700 grant was awarded for the conservation of the monument to Michael Hill (d.1633). He is depicted as a soberly dressed scholar with a doublet or jacket with slashed sleeves and a wide Puritan-style collar such as one might have worn during the Commonwealth. The monument is carved mostly of limestone but has been skilfully painted to resemble alabaster and was originally highly coloured. Salts and old mortar repairs will be removed and the monument reinstalled using stainless-steel fixings with a damp-proof membrane. Image courtesy of McNeilage Conservation.

Conservation Grants (2)

In 2020 the Cathedral & Church Buildings Division's conservation grants programmes provided £225,725 to 119 projects in parish churches in 30 dioceses.

Grant distribution in 2020



© Crown copyright and database rights 2021. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100040148

More details can be found in our [2020 Annual report](#).

Conservation 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.

Our 6 conservation committees of 50 experts drawn from the heritage sector provide expert advice on grant applications, conservation casework and policy. 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.

Our awards are published on the [Church of England website](#) after each award round. We also publish our annual awards on the [360Giving website](#).

Deadlines

| Grants for: | Deadline |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Conservation reports | Applications accepted year-round |
| Bells | 28 February 2022 |
| Books and manuscripts, churchyard structures, metalwork, monuments, textiles and wooden objects | 9 May 2022 10 October 2022 |
| Clocks | 21 March 2022 |
| Organs | 3 May 2022 3 October 2022 |
| Paintings and wall paintings | 17 Jan 2022 |
| Stained glass | 22 August 2022 |

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





Start your net zero carbon journey with Parish Buying

At Parish Buying we have developed a suite of net zero solutions to help your church go green. This includes pilot solutions such as solar panels and under pew heating as well as approved supplier products for everyday use including green electricity and LED Lighting.

Going green with Parish Buying offers the following:

- ✓ One-stop shop for a range of low carbon solutions
- ✓ Saves you time: We carefully research and select suppliers
- ✓ Gives you confidence: No hidden catches or surprises
- ✓ Cost-savings: Central procurement across many churches

Take your first step towards becoming a greener church with Parish Buying:



parishbuying.org.uk/net-zero-2030

Bats in Churches Project

“The Bats in Churches project has provided hope to beleaguered church communities.... That people’s concerns were being taken seriously appears to have been a factor in a typically positive attitude towards the programme and the team.” External evaluation report, 2020/1

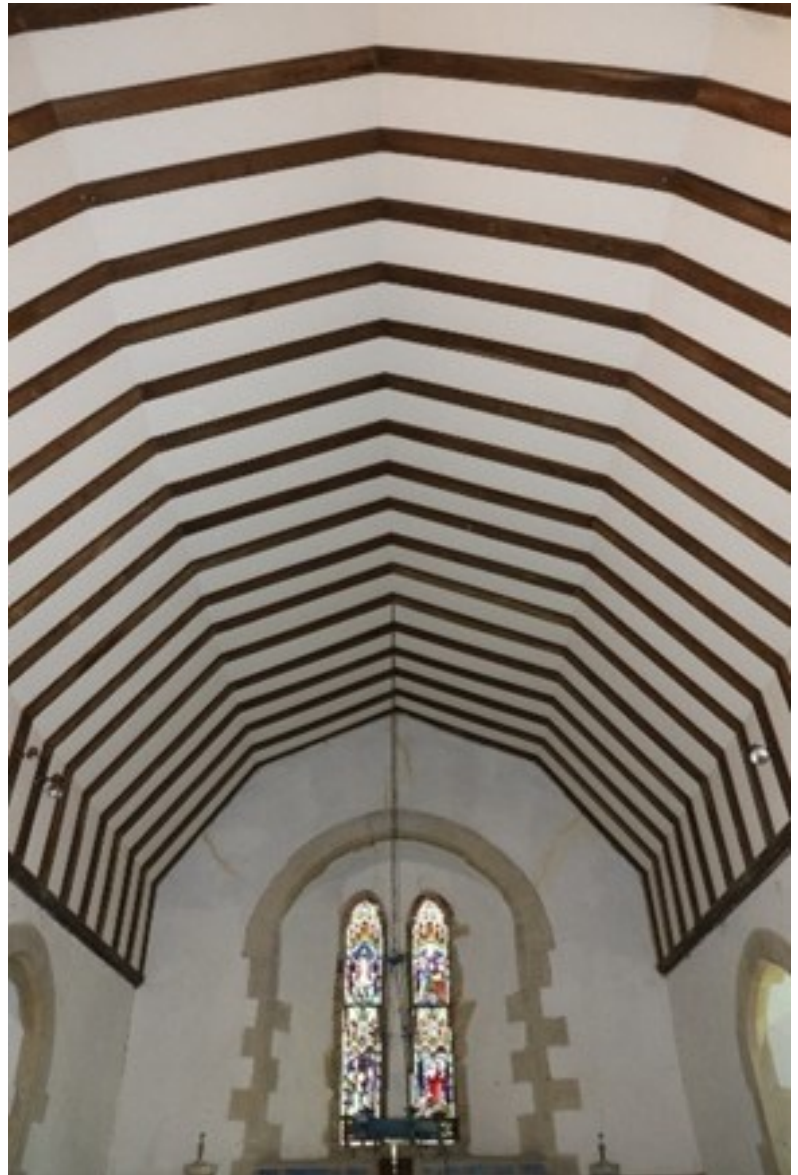
The Bats in Churches project has enjoyed good coverage in local and national media this year, including features on Holy Trinity Tattershall and Pembridge on the BBC. Now in our third year, we adapted successfully to COVID-19 restrictions and have much to report.

We would like to start this account by emphasising how much the project values its positive relationships with Diocesan staff and volunteers. This is a key reason for the project’s success, and DACs will be crucial to our legacy.

Separating church communities and bats

During 2021, we worked with PCCs, architects and ecologists to install bat mitigation at 12 churches, bringing the total number of interventions to 25. Mitigation can range from creating eaves or rafter bat boxes to building a ceiling void. Many of these are complex projects, requiring faculty and a bat licence, and we are grateful to DAC secretaries who facilitated PCCs obtaining timely faculties.

St. Lawrence, Radstone is a particular highlight. Grade 1 listed, it was rendered unusable by a nationally important maternity colony of Natterer’s bats. An ecologist worked with the church architect and the PCC to create a ceiling void to contain the bats safely and protect the church below. In the words of the church warden: ‘I felt I must send a huge thank you to all of you, for all your hard work in helping St Lawrence Church being able to be used for worship again’.



New chancel ceiling enclosing a bat void
at St Lawrence Radstone

Bats in Churches Project (2)

Bat surveys

We have extended support for struggling church communities by funding an additional 25 bats in churches ecological surveys this year. These will lead to the production of bat management plans. The project is unable to fund the implementation of these plans/surveys, but we are supporting PCCs in fundraising. We are grateful for the support that DACs are able to give PCCs in fundraising and building up skills.

National volunteer survey of bats in churches

Accurate data on bats in churches are scanty, and the project is committed to leaving a clearer picture as part of its legacy. Plans for a nationwide volunteer survey across four years have been affected by lockdowns, but this year volunteers across the country have been visiting churches to look for evidence of bats. We have registered 625 volunteers to date. DACs can play a key role in getting the word out about the survey to PCCs, crucially for the final summer 2022 season. This is the third survey season and so far we have records from over 200 places of worship. Find out more at on [our website](#).

Training

Building skills is an important part of the project. This year we have focussed on developing the skills and confidence of bat workers to help churches, and on helping church communities engage wider audiences. We have delivered 21 online training sessions for over 700 participants. Training can be found on [our website](#).

Heritage protection

Our endeavours to engage the heritage sector have gathered pace this year. Events included a skills sharing day for conservation architects, a workshop with the Monumental Brasses Society and a seminar with the Institute of British Organ Building. These partnerships will lead to development of bespoke guidance on protecting church heritage. Our popular cleaning workshops could not take place this year, but three are planned for autumn 2021.

Bats in Churches Project (3)



Workshop with the Institute of British Organ Building

Education

Despite restrictions, we were able to run some popular events. We worked with Beautiful Burial Grounds to host biodiversity workshops at two churches. Our school sessions have been in demand and we ran three sessions in project churches. Bat walks are proving extremely popular, with many churches benefitting from their local bat group's expertise.



A bat walk at St Mary the Virgin, Salford

Bats in Churches Project (4)



'Bats in Churches' school session at Newton Blossomville Primary School

Team Updates

There are a number of temporary changes to the team in 2021 and 2022. Keri Dearmer has taken up the role of Cathedrals and Major Churches Officer whilst Rosie Smith is on parental leave. Nick Chapple has joined the team for 6 months as a part-time Church Buildings Officer. Nick will be working with Guy Braithwaite on closed and closing churches casework, mainly on Church Buildings reports.

We are enjoying undertaking site visits again. 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 are still asking parishes to provide copies of their risk assessment as part of our processes.

Church House Westminster has re-opened, although we are not all back in the office. The National Churches Institutions (NCIs) are trialing hybrid working options until the summer of 2022, with a mix of working remotely and in Church House Westminster. We are aiming to capture the positives of remote working whilst still delivering high quality services to dioceses. Church Buildings Councils meetings will resume in person at Church House in October 2021, with a mix of in-person and online meetings proposed for 2022. All post for the team should still be sent to Church House Westminster, but it would be very helpful if communication via email remained the norm. We have access through Teams to our phone numbers, so please continue to phone us using our Church House phone numbers.

See you next year in Leeds
20 to 22 Sept 2022



Burley in Wharfedale (Diocese of Leeds)

© 2021

Archbishops' Council
Church House
27 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3AZ

churchcare@churchofengland.org
0207 898 1863