

Annual DAC Conference 2023

ChurchCare and the Diocese of Bristol

The Importance of Welcome

Tuesday 5—Thursday 7 September 2023



Diocese of Bristol

ChurchCare



16,000 buildings. One resource

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Welcome to the Diocese of Bristol

On behalf of all of us in the Diocese of Bristol it's a great pleasure to welcome you to the West Country and I very much hope you will find your time here stimulating.

As you will see, we have focused on the theme of "welcome" and how our work towards reaching Net Zero, improving accessibility, expanding our social engagement and responding to contested heritage feed into this.

We have embarked, with Church Commissioners' support, on a major period of change in parishes, dioceses and communities entitled, Transforming Church. Together. That work has church buildings and their communities at its heart.

We are, for obvious reasons, unable to show all our 210 churches, contexts and cultures. That said, we hope to provide a snapshot of the diocese as we take you on a walking tour of Bristol city centre. This will give you an opportunity to soak up the city's historic setting and vibrant culture as you visit a variety of churches and see the opportunities and challenges the diocese encounters day by day. You will also meet some of our wonderful clergy and volunteers who dedicate themselves to maintaining our church buildings whilst ensuring that they are adapted to meet the needs of our communities.

Rt Revd Viv Faull
Bishop of Bristol

Thank you to our 2023 sponsors



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Message from Jennie Page, CBC Chair

Welcome to Bristol. It is good to be together here to enjoy informal as well as formal opportunities to know and learn from each other. Thank you to the team in the Diocese of Bristol for all the work that has gone into putting this conference together and finding some fascinating churches to visit. I am especially pleased to welcome new DAC chairs, secretaries and officers who have joined during the past year.

The City of Bristol became headline news in spring-summer 2020, and from those events our engagement with contested heritage has developed significantly. The Diocese of Bristol has an acute challenge with some of the people memorialised in its churches (and cathedral). It will be sharing its response, during the conference and more widely, helping us to consider how church buildings are experienced by both worshippers and visitors.

The challenge of Net-zero carbon is a second national issue where the Diocese of Bristol has made a significant contribution. Its DAC Chair was a member of the group that developed the Route Map to Net Zero. In the diocese there has been a trial of a potentially net-zero heating solution and we will visit that church on Wednesday. As a reminder of the contribution of our churchyards to sustainability in the natural world we include a churchyard managed for biodiversity in our visits.

In Leeds we spent some time considering the review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure. The review has stimulated conversations about when it is the best time to offer support to a church to see a good outcome. We remain keenly aware that we must work in partnership with the dioceses to understand what good support for the parish and the diocese looks like. I, and my colleagues, would be pleased to hear your views and we will be engaging further on this subject during the year.

Thank you for making the time to be with us in Bristol. We have a full team of colleagues from Church House, London, here too. Please use these three days to build relationships with us and each other, so we can all more effectively support each other.

With my renewed thanks,
Jennie Page
Chair, Church Buildings Council

Who's Who

Diocese of Bristol



Emma Bakewell
Governance Support Manager



Antoinette Vyphuis,
Governance Support Officer



Nathalie Makeham, Governance
Support Co-ordinator



Carol Craddock, Governance
Support Administrative
Assistant



Simon Pugh-Jones,
Bristol DAC Chair



Jim Drennan,
Bristol DAC Vice Chair

Who's Who

Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division



Emily Gee
Director of Cathedrals and
Church Buildings



Dr David Knight
Senior Church Buildings Officer



Thomas Ashley
Senior Cathedrals and Major
Churches Officer



Janet Berry
Head of Conservation and
Collections Policy



Guy Braithwaite
Church Buildings Officer



Keri Dearmer
Church Buildings Officer

Contact us by email: firstname.lastname@churchofengland.org

Who's Who

Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division



Adrian Daffern
Cathedral and Major
Churches Officer



Jacinta Fisher
Church Buildings Officer



Tracy Manning
Church Buildings Officer
(Conservation)



Dr Claire Smith
Church Buildings Officer



Adrian Fox
Environmental
Sustainability Officer



Julian Atkins
Net Zero Programme Director

Contact us by email: firstname.lastname@churchofengland.org

Programme

Tuesday, 5 September 2023

12:00 **Registration and buffet lunch**

St Nicholas Church, 54 Baldwin Street, Bristol BS1 1UE

Lunch served from 1230

There is space for luggage for attendees who still have to check into their hotels

13:30 **Welcome to the Diocese and introduction of theme: The Importance of Welcome**

The Revd Dr Simon Taylor, Director of Ministry Development

All afternoon sessions and dinner take place in St Nicholas

13:45 **Welcome from our Sponsors**

Leigh Ide, Business Development Executive, Trinitas

13:50 **Annual Meeting and Director's Vision**

Chaired by Jennie Page, CBC Chair and Emily Gee, Director, Cathedrals and Church Buildings

- Reports circulated in advance
- Time for questions in advance and from the floor

14:30 **Implementing the Routemap to Net Zero Carbon 2030: How is our Journey progressing so far?**

Julian Atkins, Net Zero Programme Director, Church of England Environment Programme

14:50 **Update from EASA**

14:55 **Working with Churchyards**

Andrea Gilpin, Conservation and Communications Manager, Caring for God's Acre

15:00 *Tea/coffee break*

15:30 Update from NLHF + Questions

Jacob Eliot, Head of Policy at the National Lottery Heritage Fund

16:00 Discussion in round table groups

17:00 Time to go to hotels

19:00 Informal dinner

St Nicholas Church, Baldwin Street, Bristol BS1 1UE

BYOB

Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Breakfast in hotel

9:00 We will meet outside the Premier Inn (Haymarket) to walk to St Matthew and St Nathanael, Clare Rd, Cotham, Bristol BS6 5TB

For those who have booked onto the mini-bus, please meet outside Premier Inn (King Street).

Bristol, St Matt's and St Nat's

GII, 19th century

09:30 Welcome

Revd Ian Tomkins, Vicar of St Matt's and St Nat's

09:35 Diocese of Bristol's approach to achieving Net Zero (successes and failures)

Amy Dartington, Diocese of Bristol, Environment and Sustainability Manager

09:50 'Look up! - Feedback on the St Matthew's Radiant Heating Trial

Simon Pugh-Jones, Bristol DAC Chair

10:00 They like it (at) Upham: trial of a heat battery

David Cain, Portsmouth DAC Secretary

10:10 Carbon Reduction Options for Churches Using Oil for Heating

Dan McNaughton, Senior Building Services Engineer,
Historic England

10:30 Explore the church building and wildflower garden

*10:55 Walk to Cotham Church Hall, Cotham Road,
Bristol BS6 6DR*

Cotham Parish Church

GII* 19th-century

*11:05 Four groups of 25 to explore the church with Architect, Tim
Gough at 11:05, 11:15, 11:25 and 11:35.*

*Tea and coffee will be provided whilst attendees await their
group's turn to enter the church.*

**11:45 Welcome—Net Zero motion for General Synod and
Accessibility**

The Revd David Stephenson, Vicar of St Saviour with St Mary,
Cotham and St Paul, Clifton

11:50 Lifts in Churches—the Ups and Downs

Rhiannon Rhys, Historic England

12:00 Beyond ramps, toilets and t-loops: getting in and joining in...

The Revd Katie Tupling, Disability Adviser, Oxford Diocese & Chair of
National Network of Diocesan Disability Advisers

**12:15 A Kind of Belonging: parish churches in our cultural landscape
Parish churches and their past & future place in our cultural
landscape**

The Rt Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey , Bishop of Ramsbury

12:35 Walk to Clifton, All Saints, Pembroke Rd, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3ED

Clifton, All Saints

GII modern

13:05 *Lunch and exploration of church*

13:45 **Welcome**

The Revd Charles Sutton, Vicar of All Saints with St John Clifton

13:50 **Sharing the Sacred Space: navigating leases and shared use of Church buildings**

Lee Coley, Diocesan Registrar for the Diocese of Bristol

14:05 **'Space for Action: how the church building can provide the space for a response to those in need, with a case study of two churches supporting asylum seekers and refugees.'**

Wendy Coombey, Community Partnership and Funding Officer, Diocese of Hereford

14:20 *Walk to Bristol, St Stephen, 21 St Stephen's St, Bristol BS1 1EQ*
Bristol, St Stephen

GI medieval

15:05 **Welcome—Social Action and St Stephen's Response to Contested Heritage**

The Revd Kat Campion-Spall, Rector of Bristol Harbourside Churches

15:10 **Social Action - Avonmouth's Work to Adapt the Church Building and Hall to Help the Community**

The Revd Andy Murray, Priest-in-Charge of Lawrence Weston and Avonmouth

15:25 **"Asking if possible" Solar Together Schemes**

The Revd Capt Clive Deverell, Vicar of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze

15:40 **Insurance Implications of Social Justice Projects**

Peter Middleton, Business Development Executive, Trinitas

15:50 **Round-up and exploration of church**

Emma Bakewell, Bristol Governance Support Manager

16:00 *Depart for hotels*

17:00 Explore **Bristol Cathedral** and *All God's Children* Exhibition

17:15 Evensong

18:30 **Mshed**, Princes Wharf, Wapping Rd, Bristol BS1 4RN

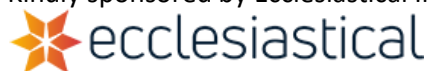
Bristol Places Gallery open for delegates to explore

19:00 **Drinks reception and conference dinner**

Mshed

After-dinner speaker: The Rt Revd Vivienne Faull,
Bishop of Bristol

Kindly sponsored by Ecclesiastical Insurance



21:30 *Depart Mshed*

Thursday, 7 September 2023

Breakfast in hotel

08:30 Morning Prayer at St Mary Redcliffe

9:00 *Leave hotels to walk to St Mary Redcliffe, Colston Parade, Redcliffe, Bristol BS1 6RA*

Redcliffe is near to Temple Meads Train Station and there will be space to store bags.

St Mary Redcliffe

GI medieval

09:15 **Welcome to Bristol, St Mary Redcliffe**

The Revd Canon Dan Tyndall, Vicar of St Mary Redcliffe

09:30 **Racial Justice and Social Inclusion: Fulfilling the Love Command**

Guy Hewitt, Racial Justice Director, Church of England

9:50 **Physical legacies of enslavement in the Diocese of Bristol: A pilot investigation into contested heritage**
 Alice Kinghorn, History PhD Student at Bristol University

10:00 **All are one in Christ: learning from the past to rebuild the future**
 The Revd Canon Rod Cosh, Priest-in-Charge of Henbury

10:10 **Sharing marginalised histories at National Trust Properties**
 Rupert Goulding, Interim Head Curator

10:25 *Tea break*

10:45 **Unlearning History: getting to grips with Contested Heritage at Churches Conservation Trust**
 Chloe Meredith, Learning and Participation Projects Manager for the Churches Conservation Trust

11:00 **(Not) Everything Everywhere All At Once: Contested heritage in the Church of England**
 Janet Berry, Head of Conservation and Collections Care, Church of England

11:20 **Official end of conference and thanks**
 Emma Bakewell and Leigh Ide

11:25 **Tours of St Mary, Redcliffe**
 James Rodliff, Operations Manager, St Mary Redcliffe

12:00 *Depart*

Practical Information

All events on Tuesday 5th take place in St Nicholas, Bristol, 54 Baldwin Street, Bristol BS1 1UE

Hotel information

Hotel accommodation is across two hotels.

Premier Inn Bristol City Centre (King Street), Llandoger Trow, King St, Bristol BS1 4ER, Tel: 0333 777 3957

Premier Inn Bristol City Centre (Haymarket), Avon, The Haymarket, Bristol BS1 3LR, Tel: 0333 777 3956

Emergency Contact numbers

David Knight: 07971 845152

Keri Dearmer: 07974211853

Emma Bakewell: 07738 726806

Feedback forms

Feedback forms will be sent via email after the conference. Please spare a few minutes to let us know your thoughts on this year's event.

DAC Conference 2024

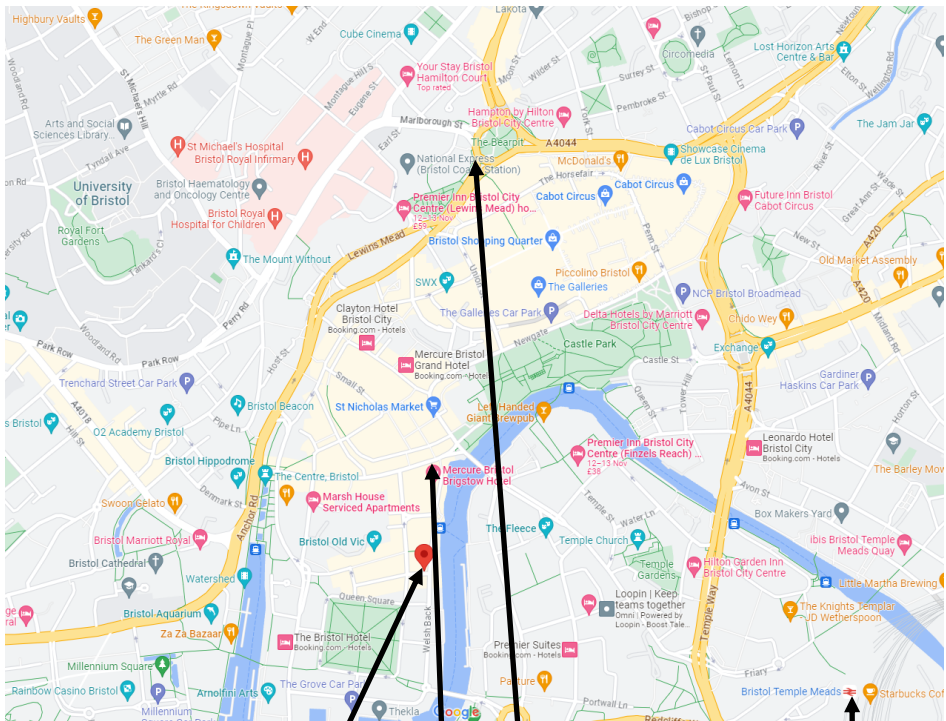
We look forward to seeing you for the 2024 conference (September). if you are interested in holding the 2025 or 2026 conference please let David know.



DAC Conference on Twitter

Please feel free to share using #DAC2023

Map showing Hotels and Train Station



Premier Inn King Street

Bristol, St
Nicholas

Premier Inn Haymarket

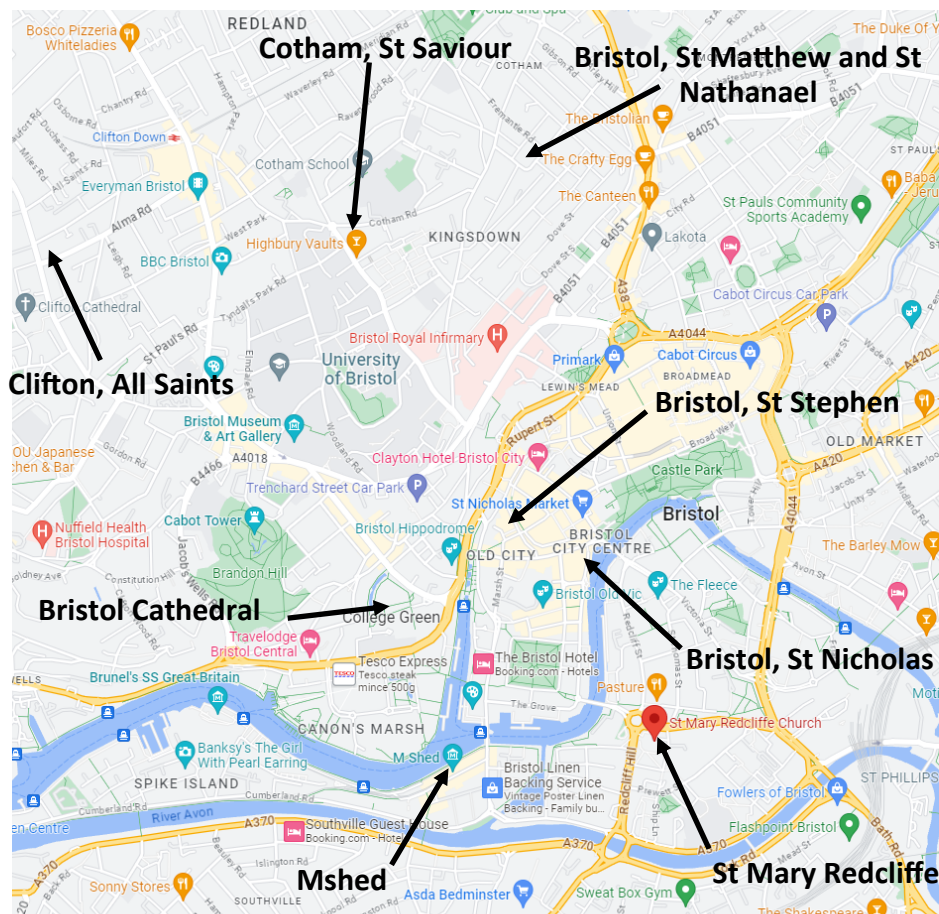
Bristol Temple Meads Station

Hotels:

Premier Inn Bristol City Centre (King Street), Llandoger Trow, King St, Bristol BS1 4ER, Tel: 0333 777 3957

Premier Inn Bristol City Centre (Haymarket), Avon, The Haymarket, Bristol BS1 3LR, Tel: 0333 777 3956

Important Locations - overview



Bristol, St Nicholas: 54 Baldwin Street, Bristol BS1 1QW

Bristol, St Matthew and St Nathanael: Clare Rd, Cotham, Bristol BS6 5TB

Cotham, St Saviour: Cotham Rd, Cotham, Bristol BS6 6DR

Clifton, All Saints: Pembroke Rd, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3ED

Bristol, St Stephen: 21 St Stephen's St, Bristol BS1 1EQ

Bristol Cathedral: College Green, Bristol BS1 5TJ

Mshed: Princes Wharf, Wapping Rd, Bristol BS1 4RN

St Mary Redcliffe: 12 Colston Parade, Redcliffe, Bristol BS1 6RA

Review of the Year for Annual Meeting 2022-23

Cost of Living Crisis

Soon after the 2022 conference in Leeds the cost of living crisis saw unprecedented increases in the costs of energy. The Division responded to a call from the DCMS for information on how the cost-of-living crisis has impacted the heritage sector, and to a request for information from the Archbishops' Council to inform the NCIs' efforts to mitigate impacts on churches and cathedrals, clergy, the Church economy and the NCIs themselves. We highlighted what some churches are able to offer, such as publicising the accessibility of already heated places, but also to warn against raising unrealistic expectations such as that *every* church will be able to provide a 'warm place'. We engaged with the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance and alongside other Heritage Alliance members were heard at Ministerial level in government.

With help from the dioceses, we produced a crowd-sourced document with advice to help churches use energy efficiently. The document is available here: [Practical suggestions to help parishes save energy and money - Google Docs.](#)

Engagement with the Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice

We have worked closely with the Dean of Arches and Auditor and our legal team in our response to the challenges raised by the Archbishops' Commission on Racial Justice (ACRJ). In September 2022 the Commission heard directly from the Dean about the operation of the faculty jurisdiction as it impacted on contested heritage. To address challenges about the training of Ecclesiastical Judges in cases involving racial justice the Dean has taken to General Synod legislative provisions over training of judges, intended to address this. Separately an amendment to the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules draws attention to the

Council's guidance on contested heritage and, as a consequence, draw diverse voices into these cases. These amendments to the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules have passed through Synod and will now become law in January 2024, subject to their passing through Parliament.

In May 2023, Emily Gee, Janet Berry and Novelette-Aldoni Stewart (Chair of the Council's Contested Heritage Committee) met with the Commission to discuss our ongoing work on contested heritage. This includes the review of our guidance, first published in 2021. Thank you to all those who replied to our survey in May / June 2023. We are working with the Racial Justice Directorate and a group of theologians reviewing and embedding the theology of contested heritage in the revised guidance. The revised guidance will be launched early next year. The Division is also undertaking work on the diversity of its member level bodies, and looking to work with educators and early career groups to develop a more diverse talent pipeline.

Publication of report into Church Commissioners' historic links with transatlantic chattel slavery, and its response

Janet Berry was seconded to the Church Commissioners to manage the publication of the report on the findings of the Church Commissioners' research into the historic links of its predecessor funds with transatlantic chattel slavery. This report was published in January 2023. The public report can be found [here](#). As part of the project, the Queen Anne's Bounty ledgers and benefaction registers were digitised. Digital images are now online [here](#).

The Commissioners have responded to the findings with a commitment of £100 million over the next nine years to a programme of impact investment, research and engagement. An [Oversight Board](#) has recently been appointed to advise the

Commissioners on establishment of the new impact investment fund and grant funding programme.

In conjunction with release of the report, Lambeth Palace Library hosted a powerful free exhibition *Enslavement: Voices from the Archives* from 12 January to 31 March 2023. More information on the exhibition can be found [here](#).

Review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure

At the 2022 DAC Conference Wendy Matthews, Head of Pastoral and Closed Churches, gave an introduction to DACs on the review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure (MPM), with an emphasis on how this would impact on church buildings.

At its July 2023 group of sessions the General Synod accepted the proposals for revision of the Measure. During 2023 there will be further engagement with the Council over the provisions for church buildings in the Measure. There is a strong desire to review ways of working with church buildings to allow for discussions about the future of a place before the outcome seems inevitable. The recognition that closure with its sense of finality may be the wrong response to a situation that is capable of improvement over time has also informed proposals.

National Lottery Heritage Fund 10-year strategy

The National Lottery Heritage Fund launched its new strategy in March 2023, [Heritage 2033 – our 10-year strategy](#). The strategy marks a fresh start from the fund with a simpler framework of four investment principles supported by simpler criteria for grant distribution. Its strategy has a good alignment with areas of interest to the church.

- Saving heritage: including emphasis on heritage at risk, places and skills
- Protecting the environment: Landscape, habitats and species, reducing adverse environmental impact and mitigation
- Inclusion, access and participation: involving a more diverse range of people in heritage, removing barriers to access and supporting all communities to explore and share their heritage
- Organisational sustainability: to build resilience, heritage skills development, support in planning projects and championing more diverse funding sources.

We look forward to continued constructive working with the Heritage Fund on the future of historic places of worship.

Crafts and heritage skills networks

We continue to work closely with organisations and networks in the heritage sector on the current and future challenges of sustaining crafts and heritage skills that are and will be necessary to conserve our historic buildings and interiors.

We provide secretariat support for the Heritage Craft Funders Network. This network enables the division to discuss funding opportunities and challenges with other smaller funders and grant givers. The network includes Benefact Trust, the Pilgrim Trust, The Radcliffe Trust, Historic England, and the National Churches Trust.

We contributed to the Heritage Sector Resilience Plan 2022-24, facilitated by the Historic Environment Forum (HEF) which aimed to 'discuss ongoing skills challenges, trial new approaches, and maintain a close overview of the changing picture' in the heritage sector. A result of this will be the upcoming Heritage Sector Resilience Forum, and the Heritage Skills Demand topic group, on which we are represented.

The Heritage Skills Demand Group's aim is to examine how to increase awareness of the cost, efficiency and quality benefits of employing heritage expertise, and improve the ease of access to heritage skills. This will not only achieve high-quality outcomes for heritage, but move towards a balance between supply and demand, creating resilience in the market. So far the group has discussed stimulating demand, recognising accreditation and using understandable conservation language.

Terrorism and the Protect Duty: Martyn's Law

The government has published its proposals for the foundational policy for the Protect Duty, from now on to be known as Martyn's Law. The intention of this Duty will be to keep the public safe from acts of terror when gathered in public places. It will introduce duties on those responsible for public meeting places, including churches. Following the public consultation in 2021 the Home Office has listened to the concerns of churches and other faiths over the impact of the duty as previously proposed. The Martyn's Law proposals have developed considerably since the initial consultation, and the outcome is a tiered model linked to activity that takes place at a location and its capacity. This will prevent undue burden on premises in scope.

- A **standard tier** will apply to locations with a maximum capacity of over 100. The aim is to drive up use and engagement with existing resources that help teams undertake low-cost, simple yet effective activities to improve preparedness. Expert advice, training and guidance is already available on the online protective security hub, [ProtectUK](#).
- An **enhanced tier** will focus on high-capacity locations in recognition of the potential consequences of a successful attack. Locations with a capacity of over 800 people at any time will additionally be required to undertake a risk assessment to inform the development and implementation of a security plan.

- Nearly all **places of worship** will be placed within the standard tier, regardless of their capacity. Places of worship which have payment for entry will fall into the enhanced tier where their capacity is above 800.

The Home Office announced a further year of funding for protective security for places of worship that experience hate crime. The Church is represented on the multi-faith panel that reviews the grant applications.

We were represented at a security conference at Buckfast Abbey organised by the Community Security Trust as part of their Security Advice for Everyone (SAFE) programme. There was an emphasis on the introduction of Martyn's Law, which is being championed by Figen Murray, the mother of Martyn Hett, who was killed in the terror attack on Manchester Arena in 2017.

Heritage crime and metal theft

We continue to engage with the National Police Chiefs Council, Historic England and others over heritage crime. The sad emergence in 2023 of thefts of brass and precious metal from churches has been quickly recognised by the police and its crime analysis unit, Opal, as a new form of serious organised crime.

Responses from Historic England during the year have included new guidance on heritage crime and an accompanying risk assessment. Other work on preventative marking has gone forward. Heritage crime is now recognised as part of the national strategic threat assessment for serious organised crime.

Meeting with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

The Division has opened engagement with the policy officer for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. This was with a view

to encouraging prospective Police and Crime Commissioners to include heritage crime in their manifestos for 2024.

Heritage Alliance membership

The Cathedral and Church Buildings Division rejoined the Heritage Alliance from 1 January 2023. This has brought our voice to a table alongside other heritage sector and church partners, beyond the partners we meet through the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance.

This gives the opportunity for engagement with advocacy groups and more frequent engagement and opportunities for sharing experience. Areas of advocacy by the Heritage Alliance include special planning, mobile heritage, rural heritage, skills, education and engagement, and funding and investment.

The Alliance is engaged in policy work in areas where there is a wider sector need, such as Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, where a broader sector lack of diversity presents a challenge beyond the Council. Our membership has already proved helpful in advocacy for parish council funding for parish churches and the cost of living crisis.

Legislation with impact on the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

The July 2023 Group of Sessions of the General Synod included amendments to the faculty rules and a debate on proposals for the Mission and Pastoral Measure, along with a return of the Miscellaneous Provisions Measure 2023.

[Miscellaneous Provisions Measure](#) (2023) (and [explanatory note](#)) returned to Synod for final approval, which it received. It will not be laid before Parliament. A date (or dates) for its coming into effect is awaited. For the care of churches it will introduce a requirement to have regard to care for the environment, along with the church being a centre of worship and mission. The provisions for DAC

membership require the membership to include someone with knowledge of the environment, and another knowledgeable over access issues. The unrealistic requirement to maintain a list of local authorities to consult to make an appointment to the DAC will be removed, and churchyard regulations put on a statutory footing. This set of amendments will, overall, reflect current practice rather than introduce change.

The [Faculty Jurisdiction \(amendment\) Rules 2023](#) (and [explanatory note](#)) were passed after a positive debate. The CBC Contested Heritage Guidance was mentioned in the Synod, and commended for the help it gave churches in working through difficult issues. The amendment rules will come into effect on 1 January 2024.

The debate on the [Mission and Pastoral Measure Review](#) saw the measure carried, unamended, by a strong majority, with most voices in favour of the proposals. The themes of trust and power were explored by several speakers with the ability of the parish to determine its future being a matter of some concern. This point may be of relevance to the Council as it takes forward its work with struggling churches and will need to consider how the diocese and local engagement is built up, and how support for a diocesan strategy brings parish engagement with a plan. The offer was made of the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT), collaborating with other partners, to be part of the safety net for vulnerable churches. The maintenance of fallow churches, and where the cost was met, was raised.

Amendment to Levelling-Up Bill: Parish Council funding for churches

The government has agreed to amend its Levelling-Up Bill, currently in the House of Lords, to clarify the law around the ability of parish and town councils to fund churches – meaning that they would be able to do so without fear of legal challenge.

This has been a long-running issue because of a discrepancy between the 1894 Local Government Act (which forbids local councils from grant aiding property “relating to the affairs of the church or held for an ecclesiastical charity”) and the 1972 Local Government Act (which says that such grants are permissible). Advice had been issued in 2016 by the National Association of Local Councils saying that funding a church might result in a legal challenge, making councils nervous about doing so as matters stand. The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance has collected evidence demonstrating that the current confusion has had a chilling effect on the support of churches by local councils.

The Taylor Review of the Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals (2017) proposed clarification through guidance or change in the law. With guidance having failed to provide sufficient assurance, we asked our legal team to draft an amendment to the Levelling-Up Bill that would address this issue through primary legislation. The amendment was moved by Bishop Viv Faull, one of our lead bishops for buildings, with co-sponsorship from peers from across the House of Lords. Baroness Jane Scott, Heritage Minister in the Lords, has now confirmed that the government will introduce its own amendment to the same effect as ours. The amendment will be debated in September. Presuming that the amendment is accepted by the Lords and that the government’s Levelling-Up Bill then passes in the Commons – both of which, because of the government’s majorities, are confidently expected – this will resolve the issue once and for all, and a democratic, grass-roots means of supporting church buildings will be opened up. (It is important to note that the change would not require local councils to give financial support to church buildings – merely enable them to do so, should they wish.)

Because this is a devolved matter, the change would only apply to England, but our hope is that resolution of this issue in England will prompt the Welsh Senedd to take similar action to assist churches there.

Heritage Stimulus Fund

Historic England has published a review of the Heritage Stimulus Fund, of which the Grants for Programmes of Major Work formed part. The Cathedral and Church Buildings Division successfully bid for £14.3m for cathedrals and Major Churches under the two rounds of the Programmes of Major Work. The report was extremely positive, demonstrating the enormous amount achieved and the difference the Fund made to the wider heritage buildings sector in time of national crisis, and Historic England has acknowledged the contribution made by the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division amongst other partners in the delivery of the grant programme. The report is available at this [link](#).

Net-Zero Carbon programme

Projects in the Church Buildings Council include a £4.45m Demonstrators Project, to identify and support churches capable of showing others how a move to net-zero carbon can be achieved. Alongside this a £2.4m Quick Wins Fund, will give money to dioceses in combination with the Buildings for Mission Minor Repairs and Improvement Fund. This is to support tackling less-expensive actions that will have a benefit to the parish in reducing its carbon emissions.

Funding for cathedral surveys, housing surveys, school demonstrator projects, fundraising, and TEIs were also agreed at the July Programme Board, subject to final approval from the Church Commissioners' Board and the Archbishops' Council.

The year 2022-23 has seen significant progress in response to the adoption by General Synod of the Routemap to Net Zero in July 2022, through the formal establishment of the new national Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Programme in January 2023. The document and supporting information are available on the [Net zero carbon routemap | The Church of England](#).

To support the NZC Programme, the Church Commissioners for England have committed £190m between 2023 and 2031 to facilitate and pump prime the delivery of the Routemap but substantially more funding will need to be secured to make the progress required in reducing the Church's scope 1 and 2 emissions.

A new Net Zero Programme Board has been established, supported by a new Net Zero Carbon Programme team which has been working throughout 2023 to develop the key projects and workstreams needed to build capacity, prioritise decarbonisation actions and test new approaches across churches, cathedrals, schools, clergy housing, TEIs and the rest of the property portfolio. At the time of writing, 14 dioceses have been supported with grant funding to help build net zero expertise at the diocesan level and the package of projects and workstreams for Triennium 1 (2023-2025) is in final stages of being approved. More details will be available ahead of the conference.

Cop28, Dubai

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) will take place this year in Dubai between Nov 30th and December 12th. COP28 will mark the halfway point between the establishment of the Paris Agreement at COP21 (which seeks to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C) and 2030 – the date by which global carbon emissions need to be halved. Ahead of COP28, the UN will publish the first global stocktake (GST) to assess the progress of nation states in slowing down global warming. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC's) 6th Assessment Report on Climate Change has already identified the need to go much further, and faster, in responding to the climate emergency with the UN Secretary General stating that the world needs to shift into warp speed in its efforts to combat climate change. This urgent call for

action will need to inform the work of the programme, at all levels within the Church, to rapidly reduce our carbon emissions.

Energy Footprint Tool

The annual Energy Footprint Report for 2021 was published at the end of 2022, and can be found here: [Energy Footprint Tool | The Church of England](#)

32% of all churches submitted energy returns compared to 24% in 2020 but there were significant variations on completion rates across dioceses. 8% of churches completing energy footprint returns are 'net zero' churches (up one percentage point from the 7% reporting in 2020). The strategic focus on larger, busier churches, where energy-use is high, remains valid. Most small rural churches should focus on basic maintenance since they are generally already very low carbon.

Conferences and events attendance by officers

During the past year Cathedral and Church Building colleagues have attended a wide range of meetings that have enabled engagement with dioceses and sector partners, and learning from others. Officers are always pleased to be invited to participate in relevant events. Those reported below are representative, not exhaustive.

The 2023 Regional DAC Meetings were hosted in Truro, Worcester, Hull, Ropely and Norwich. David Knight attended these all, joined by Joseph Elders, until his retirement, and by a member of the Pastoral and Closed Churches Team. Thank you to everyone who made these possible.

David Knight regularly attends the Historic Environment Forum (HEF). This enables the voice of the church to be heard alongside others from the sector and to contribute to some helpful outputs. For example, the Foresight Day event considered manifesto asks of the heritage sector for the General Election that will be held by end 2024.

Points raised by the church related to net-zero and policy and planning frameworks that would encourage its achievement, and the impact of VAT disincentivising restoring an existing building over were shared widely among those present.

We were strongly represented at the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance Big Update. Emily Gee attended as Director for the first time and introduced current key work of the team. David Knight spoke briefly on heritage crime.

Tom Ashley and Adrian Daffern attended the residential meeting of the Major Churches Network to discuss their strategic objectives.

Adrian Daffern attended and addressed the London Regional Major Churches Network meeting at St Marylebone. He was also a keynote speaker at the national Clergy Chairs Forum at Launde Abbey.

David Knight and Chris Walsh attended a training day for Chelmsford DAC, held in Stratford on 2 November. This gave a good opportunity for engagement on policy matters. Chris drew out the missional side of the churches response to severe weather incidents, and David gave a wider policy update.

David Knight and Keri Dearmer attended an evidence session on metal theft held by the All Party Parliamentary Group on metal theft and heritage crime. The session was chaired by Andrew Selous MP, 3rd Estates Commissioner. The picture of metal theft as it impacts on churches is still at a lower level than it has been since early 2020, although it is likely to change as the economic situation deteriorates. A new theme made with eloquence at the session was the impact of theft on the trade itself, with significant amounts stolen from scrap yards.

David Knight attended the launch of REACH Ely (Re-imagining churches for the common good) in Cambridge. The one-day event

shared the headlines of research with the Judge Business School into churches in Ely Diocese and their engagement as community assets. [REACH Ely - Diocese of Ely \(elydiocese.org\)](http://elydiocese.org) Some of the research findings that were especially notable were the significant reduction in churches holding weekly worship, the increase in churches undertaking community activities and that the absence of facilities was not an impediment to the church being engaged in its community.

Joseph Elders took part in a 2-day international conference in North Yorkshire on the use of remote sensing in (“smart”) farming and other land use and potential applications in archaeology and other disciplines, hosted by the University of Glasgow as part of their Ipaast research programme. Along with the National Trust and English Heritage as other major owners of land and heritage, Joe gave an overview of our GIS mapping, biodiversity protection and Net Zero work, including the mass sampling of churchyard soil, and the National Burial Grounds Survey. Some of the techniques being used were of great potential in exploring the best use of land and property, analysing carbon sequestration and identifying reasons to cease intensive farming, such as archaeology or rewilding opportunities.

David Knight and Keri Dearmer attended the first national conference for [Serious Organised Acquisitive Crime](#), organised by the National Police Chief Council lead for this area of work. David spoke to the conference about the impact of metal theft on churches, how we are encouraging churches to respond and how we encourage churches to work with the police. David was joined by the national police lead for heritage crime, ACC Rachel Nolan and Mark Harrison, Head of Heritage Crime for Historic England.

David Knight was invited as a guest, along with the Bishop of St Albans, to the annual Ecclesiastical Judges Association (EJA) annual dinner. This came with the opportunity to say a few words, which

were used to thank the Ecclesiastical Judges for their work and attention to the mission of the church. The Chair of the EJA thanked the Council for its work and paid tribute to the helpfulness of its policy guidance and casework advice.

Guy Braithwaite represented the Division at the inaugural AGM of the Church Recording Society CIO On 15 November. The society was established in 2020 as the umbrella group for volunteer church recording groups, whose main activity is producing illustrated inventories of church furnishings (known as NADFAS reports). Recording activity had previously been overseen by the Art Society (formerly NADFAS) but in 2020 the Arts Society decided to discontinue it. This led to a split which has been resolved by the formation of the new society. The meeting celebrated the completion of the 2,000th report. Looking to the future, the Society intends to review its activities with its membership and with interested parties, including CBC. This will encompass the process of recording, the nature of the record (electronic storage and access), how best to serve the public interest and who the present users and potential users are. A meeting with the society officers leading the review and with the V&A Museum (which founded the church recording initiative in 1973) was agreed to be needed. Staff will wish to explore the scope for volunteer recording groups to focus their efforts on churches where there is a need for support and to promote the use of the Church Heritage Record as the primary recording and reference tool. In time, this promises to ease the burden on churches and support staff, not least in the statutory casework handled by the Council under the MPM.

Staff changes

Duncan Gregory, Church Buildings Officer, had a six-month contract from January 2023 to release capacity in the team to work on the Buildings for Mission project. Duncan went on to a role with Donald Insall Architects.

Adrian Fox joined in July as the Environmental and Sustainability Officer. Adrian has recent experience working with the National Trust on its environmental programme.

James Miles has returned to full-time work after taking a period of parental leave and has seen a change in job title to Data Manager, reflecting his wider responsibilities in this area both within the National Church Institutions (NCIs) and our heritage and environment/net-zero programmes.

The Cathedral and Major Churches Officer role has gained an additional day a week and will now be covered by two .6 FTE posts.

Rosie Smith has returned to the role, following parental leave. The **Revd Canon Adrian Daffern**, a cleric with cathedral and Major Church experience and also a tutor at Lucy Cavendish College in Cambridge, has been appointed for the other 3 days. This is intended to increase capacity in the Division to build a closer relationship with the Major Churches as a group, generate a sense of community among them and grow the support that the Council can offer in its engagement with casework and struggling Major Churches.

Tom Ashley's job title is now Senior Cathedrals and Major Churches Officer, reflecting his responsibility for the Major Churches brief within the department and his line-management of Rosie and Adrian.

From 1st January 2023, **Catherine Ross** and **Denise Rowley** moved to work in the newly formed Net Zero Carbon team, reflecting the fact that the work on net zero carbon is increased in scale with the delivery of the new triennium funding, and spans all parts of the Church.

Catherine Ross has now left for a new sustainability role with the British Library. **Denise Rowley** left to move into local government work. She was replaced by **Shannon Carr-Shand**, Net Zero Programme Officer.

The Net-Zero team is now headed up by **Julian Atkins**, who joined on 1st February as Net Zero Carbon Programme Director, having previously held a number of senior environment conservation and leadership roles in local government. The latest addition to the team is **Helen Rimmer** who has joined as the new Net Zero Carbon Communications and Engagement Coordinator.

Emily Gee joined on 27 March 2023 as Director for Cathedral and Church Buildings for the Church of England. Emily came from Historic England where she has worked since 2001 including as Head of Listing and Regional Director for London and South East with responsibility for listing and planning advice, stakeholder engagement, and grants and regeneration projects in this region, and work on contested heritage.

Oliver Lack, Data Support Officer left at the end of February to take on a new role with the National Churches Trust as their Digital Engagement Officer.

Minutes of Annual Meeting 2022

CHURCH BUILDINGS COUNCIL

Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHAIRMEN AND SECRETARIES OF THE DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR THE CARE OF CHURCHES

Minutes of the 64th Annual Meeting, held at the St George's Centre, 60 Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3DL on 20 September 2022.

The Chair was taken by Jennie Page, Chair of the CBC. Officers of the Council were in attendance.

MINUTES

The minutes of the 63rd Annual Meeting were approved.

WELCOME

The conference was welcomed to the Diocese by the Rt Revd Arun Arora, Bishop of Kirkstall. Bishop Arun introduced the theme of the conference: Churches and communities: building one another up. He noted that Leeds was the youngest diocese and one of the largest in terms of geography and numbers of churches. The merger of three dioceses into one had enabled the creation of a single buildings team covering DAC functions, growth and revitalisation, and closure. He reflected on two themes that had occupied the foreground of our attention since the conference had last met in person - sustainability and contested heritage – and how both offered the chance to work with local communities in partnership in ways that directly invoked the 4th and 5th marks of mission.

INTRODUCTION

The Chair, Jennie Page, commenced by thanking Bishop Arun. She expressed her relief that it was now possible again to hold the conference in person so that delegates could enjoy informal as well as formal opportunities to know and learn from each other. She thanks the diocesan team for their hard work in organising the proceedings and visits and welcomed the new DAC chairs, secretaries and officers who have joined during the past year.

The past year had seen the quiet demise of the phrase 'new normal'. Delegates would have their experiences and knowledge to inform a view of

where they think the church was now that Covid restrictions were behind us (for now or for good?). At best the picture was as varied as it ever was. Reports in the Church Times and elsewhere showed that some churches had come out of the pandemic to renewed growth, some had not. However as we heard of challenges now or to come we were using this conference to share more time with colleagues familiar with pastoral work caring for churches not used for worship.

Since conference had last met, successful funding bids for the triennium 2023-25 had been announced, including commitments for the first time stretching forward six years beyond the present triennium. The sums involved would bring significant new resource to work with net-zero carbon and, at diocesan level, support for an increased network of church support officers, with new money for grants for the fabric of church buildings. For the church buildings posts, she was keenly aware that to be successful we needed to work in partnership with the dioceses and support them at their point of need.

The Chair reflected on the epoch-making event of the funeral of HM the late Queen the day before. The ceremonies, watched by an estimated one billion people, had taken place in two C of E churches over which we had no control. Looking ahead, there was potential for some upheaval in the relationship of Church and State after such a long reign. This coincided with the crisis of climate change, the security situation in Europe and, at home, new political leadership, inequality and division between people and the cost of living crisis. She recalled the late Queen's advice to the New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, at the start of her term of office to 'just get on with it.'

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Dr David Knight, Senior Church Buildings Officer and Acting Secretary of the CBC, welcomed delegates and noted that around half the audience this year was attending for the first time.

He introduced the Review of the Year 2021-2. Some recent articles in the Church Times illustrated some of the themes of the year. Recent research suggested that [Faith Communities can help Britain overcome collective trauma](#) (25 February 2022). There was now financial relief available for the energy crisis and cost of living squeeze. Churches could help with traumas but it was costly. Trauma could explain odd responses from people when

we interact with them at the grassroots. Meanwhile, another study found that a [Volunteer crisis is affecting youth and childhood ministry](#) (27 May 2022). Families tended to look for friends from their participation in church, not for activities. Relational contact was what mattered, begging the question as to when voluntary activity overlapped with relational contact (or, in plain language, enjoyment). The crisis in volunteering was affecting rural areas and smaller congregations most markedly. Another study ran somewhat counter to this, indicating that [Smaller churches have recovered more after lockdown than larger ones](#). Decline, it suggested, was not inevitable. Maintaining online presence made a difference.

NEW INITIATIVES

Dr Joseph Elders, Head of Church Buildings Strategy, provided an update on some current initiatives.

National Burial Grounds Survey

The NBGS project was asking each diocese to sign an MoU, following a mailing to all diocesan secretaries at the beginning of the year. The MoU provided a framework under which Atlantic Geomatics would conduct an aerial survey and supply electronic churchyard plans and Family Search would digitise the parish registers. This was free of charge to the diocese. Online access to searchable parish register data would be available to on a subscription basis via Family Search, as it had been for many years. So far, twelve dioceses had signed up.

Church Buildings Management Partnerships

The CBMP was a new model to support parishes on maintenance, insurance and potentially other responsibilities. It extended the concept of previous maintenance group purchase schemes. The diocese, or dioceses, would set up a CIO (charitable incorporated organisation) in a given area, and take a lease on part of each church building belonging to participating parishes. For each member church, the subscription to the CBMP would be the same as their existing insurance premium. The COI would then procure maintenance services and insurance for the churches in the partnership and would expect to achieve sufficient savings through its buying power that the pooled subscriptions would cover both insurance and maintenance, thereby providing a saving for every participating church.

In a survey, 35 dioceses had said that they were interested. A start-up grant of £10,000 was available to any diocese wishing to establish a CBMP.

Support would be provided by two new specialist officers, one for insurance, one for maintenance procurement. The start-up grants formed one strand of the Buildings for Mission project which had received funding from the Church Commissioners for the 2023-25 triennium and was now being set up. Dioceses would also be able to apply for grants to appoint Church Buildings Support Officers on the Taylor Pilot model. There would also be a budget for repairs and other works to churches which would be distributed by dioceses. The CCB would be recruiting an officer to coordinate this activity. A further element of the Buildings for Mission project would rebuild the Church Heritage Record and Online Faculty System on a new software platform, introduce new functionality and applications and better integrate the database with other systems and datasets. Dr James Miles had sent out a consultation on this recently.

COST OF LIVING

Tom Ashley, Senior Cathedrals Officer and Acting Secretary of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission, reported on the cost of living and energy crises. As the Division's link with the Archbishops' Council, he was feeding into the Church's liaison with Government, detailing the impact on churches, NCIs and clergy, and lobbying for appropriate support.

The government support on energy costs for households via the price cap recently announced did not extend to churches, which were classified as businesses. Churches were facing threefold increases if they were in the Parish Buying energy basket scheme and up to sixfold if they were not. Some cathedrals were contemplating a tenfold hike. Some churches would just turn the heating off this winter. Only some could hope to fulfil the call to provide warm spaces for people suffering from fuel poverty. Space heating churches might not be feasible anyway; hot drinks and blankets might be the right answer. Energy efficiency guidance based on the Oxford document would soon be issued. Contributions were welcome.

QUESTIONS

Charlotte Hodgson (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich)

Will representatives of faculty applicants and parishes be consulted on the changes proposed for the CHR/OFS?

Joe Elders: Yes, there will be consultation among all user groups. The changes planned under the Buildings for Mission project would fall intop

two phases: a recording of the existing system followed by development work to bring about real improvements.

Geoffrey Hunter (Ely)

Have the basic sums for reduced insurance premiums and maintenance costs under the Church Buildings Management Partnerships been established? Will dioceses have to put anything in?

Joe Elders: The assumptions are adapted from the experience of the scheme in the Diocese of Norwich. The level of insurance cover will be as little as 25% of total reinstatement costs, which will bring about a major saving if they have been insuring at 100% hitherto. Not all will be comfortable with that figure, so there will need to be some flexibility. We will not dictate terms.

Dan Spraggon (Durham)

Have any dioceses shared their experience of the National Burial Grounds Survey?

Joe Elders: We will come and present but as it is a contractual arrangement, it is not possible to make it completely generic. We have recently resolved queries and teething trouble in the agreements for Truro and Carlisle. There can be pastoral issues regarding recent burials.

Emma Critchley (St Albans)

We welcome the funding available for support officers. Having employed one for the last six years, would that rule the diocese out of applying for the new funding scheme?

Joe Elders: We will look at every application on its merits. Decisions will be made by the Board which will be convened to distribute the triennium funding, not the CBC. Historic England has welcomed the initiative and Diana Evans has indicated that HE is now more likely to invest in this work. We hope this self-help on the part of the Church and the continuing partnership with HE will be looked on favourably by Government.

The Chair brought the annual meeting to a close.

Triennium Funded Activities Update

A budget has been agreed by the Church Commissioners for three projects, representing a historic investment in our built and natural heritage. These are:

Net Zero Carbon Programme, assigned up to £190 million over the next three Triennia (up to 2031) to drive delivery against the Routemap to Net Zero by 2030. Dioceses and other bodies have been invited to make applications for funding towards achieving the milestones and outcomes set out in the Roadmap from the beginning of 2023.

Buildings Digital Provision Project has been assigned a working budget of £300,000 for a technical rebuild of the Online Faculty System and Church Heritage Record. This will see an integration with the Contact Management System and provide the necessary features to complete the partially developed Faculty Management System. Work has now begun to develop this and in 2024, further funds from the Triennium funding assigned to digital outputs will be utilised to expand this system further, and will include work related to pastoral secretaries, and the creation of a church inventory system, as well as an online version of the log book. A project board will govern these works and two DAC secretaries form part of this.

Buildings for Mission Project, assigned up to £10.75 million for 2023-25. The project will:

- Provide start-up grants for Church Buildings Management Partnerships (CBMPs) across the country. The CBMP is a new model for the management of certain core services on behalf of parishes (insurance and maintenance, perhaps also others) through the setting up of formal partnerships as CIOs.

- Extend the existing network of diocesan Church Buildings Support Officers (CBSOs) by around 30 FTEs with a view to providing broadly national coverage across England, prioritising areas and activities of demonstrable need, augmented by specialised officers in relevant partner bodies. The first support officer grants have been offered, with some posts now being recruited. There will be a second round of grant decisions later in the year.
- Provide a £6m fund from which dioceses can make grants targeted at areas of need and prioritising urgent and necessary minor fabric repairs and 'stitch in time' projects which can save money in the long term, including improvements which are essential to sustaining mission.

These activities will be supported by three centrally-based posts: an officer providing training and support for the CBSOs, and specialist advisers on maintenance procurement and insurance based in Parish Buying to facilitate the CBMPs.

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
- A role or roles beyond those of a typical parish church, making a considerable civic, cultural and/or economic contribution to their communities

This strategic category was established following the 2016 report into Sustaining Major Parish Churches. In the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division the work of supporting Major Churches is led by Tom Ashley, with Officers Adrian Daffern and Rosie Smith. There are 320 Major Churches, ranging from the traditional ‘greater churches’ such as Bath Abbey and Beverley Minster to large Victorian churches such as Widnes St Mary and Blackburn St Silas. A full list can be found on the Church Heritage Record [here](#). The division’s current work is to strengthen the relationship between Major Churches and dioceses, as well as with the designated officers in the Church Buildings Council. This takes place alongside supporting DACs in their particular offering to these churches in terms of conservation and development.

The issues of maintenance costs, contested heritage, net zero emissions, and financial/human resources are writ especially large for Major Churches, and the division is working ever closer with the (a) Major Churches Network, an organisation for mutual support and information sharing for the Major Churches; and (b) the Cathedral and Major Church Projects Support Panel, which offers free advice from a group of experts in a variety of fields. The Panel, which is managed by the Association of English Cathedrals, has been generously supported by the Benefact Trust.

Environment Working Group and Net-Zero Carbon

The Church of England Environment Programme

This is a wide-ranging programme, with care for creation at its heart. The achievement of the Net Zero ambition forms a core part of the 5th Mark of Mission as does managing all of the Church's natural capital with biodiversity recovery and creation care in mind.

Progress toward net-zero carbon

Really good progress continues to be made:

All dioceses are registered for [Eco Diocese](#), and 20 have reached bronze award.

34 dioceses have passed their own net-zero carbon motions and a Climate Change motion tabled by Oxford Diocese received overwhelming support at the July 2023 meeting of General Synod. The motion:

- Calls for the National Investing Bodies to prioritise and scale up investment in renewable energy and climate solutions.
- Urges all parts of the Church of England to review their policies and procedures to ensure they give due priority to creation care.
- Urges all parts of the Church of England to support, through prayer, advocacy and practical action, the poorest in the world who are suffering the most from the impacts of climate change.
- Commits Synod to earnestly pray about the climate and wider environmental crisis.
- Calls upon all institutions of the Church of England to make urgent practical preparations to deliver substantial reductions in our carbon footprint.
- Encourages the inclusion of a creation care question in the liturgy for confirmation services.
- Asks Synod to review planning regulations in order to facilitate the installation of renewable technologies in buildings, including those that are listed or in conservation areas.

The popular net zero carbon webinar programme continues with recordings of previous webinars available, and new live sessions regularly scheduled.

As has been said before, but remains true, the scaling up of the Church's response to the climate emergency 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.

Eco Church

The ecumenical awards framework [Eco Church](#) continues to grow. By completing an online survey, churches, dioceses, cathedrals and offices can be considered for an Eco Church Award at either Bronze, Silver, or Gold level. Registrations now number 3582 (as of 30 June 2022) and there are currently 954 Bronze (last reported here as 752), 308 Silver (previously 181), and 19 Gold (previously 11) Church of England Eco buildings, with a second gold cathedral, Chelmsford, joining Salisbury.

The scheme is a fantastic resource for encouraging churches, cathedrals, and dioceses to embody the fifth mark of mission and for it to be part of the life of the whole worshipping community.

Land and Nature

New guidance on the management of Glebe Land has been developed in recognition of the multiple benefits which glebe land provides. And a land and nature motion which seeks to strengthen the Church's commitment to creation care and nature recovery was tabled under contingency business at General Synod in July. There was not time for it to be debated and it is hoped that it will form part of the business under consideration during the February 2024 session.

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
 - Wooden objects
 - Monuments
 - Organs
 - Paintings and wall paintings
 - Stained glass
 - Textiles



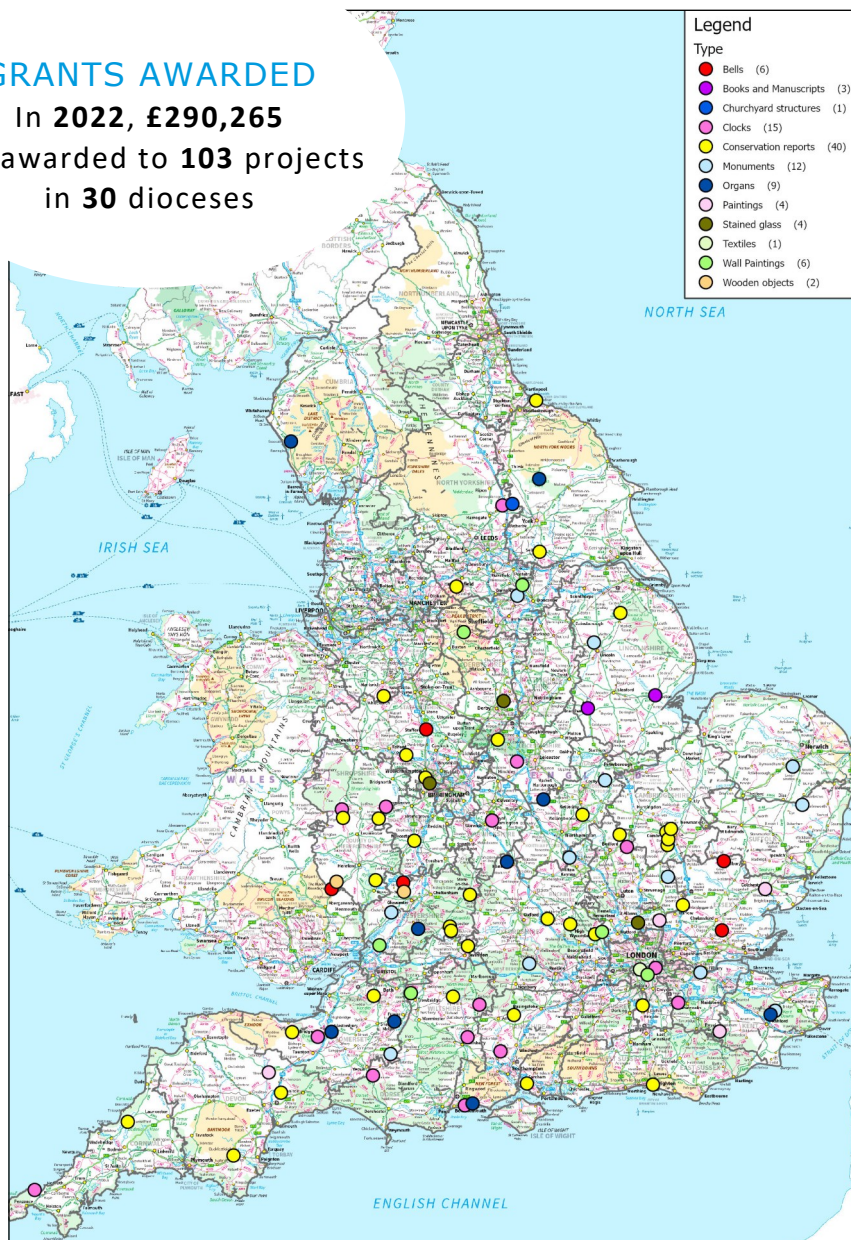
Morley, St Matthew (Diocese of Derby)

A grant of £10,000 was awarded for the conservation of the outstanding 14th– and 15th-century stained glass at Morley. The windows, including the masonry, glass, and ferramenta, are believed to have come from the cloister of Dale Abbey when it was dissolved in 1539. *Images courtesy of Jim Budd ACR*

In 2022, the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division's grants programme provided £290,265 to 103 projects in 30 dioceses. More information is available in our [Annual Report](#).

GRANTS AWARDED

In **2022**, **£290,265**
was awarded to **103** projects
in **30** dioceses



Grant awards

- Up to £10,000, but usually smaller
- We aim to support as many parishes as possible and have a high application success rate, around 65%
- We consider ourselves seed funders and 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 a rigorous process, encouraging 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](#).

Grant deadlines	
Conservation reports	Applications accepted year-round
Bells	25 March 2024
Books and manuscripts, churchyard structures, metalwork, monuments, textiles and wooden objects	9 October 2023
Clocks	8 April 2024
Organs	2 October 2023
Paintings and wall paintings	29 January 2024
Stained glass	12 August 2024

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

Pilgrim
Trust



Bats in Churches Project

This is the last year of the Bats in Churches project, which ends on October 31st 2023 after five years.

In this final update to the DAC conference, we want to:

1. Distil the project's key recommendations for DACs
2. Mention the past year's highlights

Recommendations for DAC members, secretaries, environmental officers and buildings officers

1. Build a relationship with your local bat group(s). County bat groups can be a wonderful source of expertise and support for DAC decision-making and PCCs. These are voluntary groups and vary in capacity.
2. Know, and communicate to PCCs, how to get expert advice about bat issues, either through the National Bat Helpline (0345 1300 228) or through a professional ecologist. Maintain recommendations of ecologists who are knowledgeable about the issues that PCCs face with bats.
3. Ensure that bat awareness and empathy is built into all relevant job descriptions and task lists, especially for Church Buildings Support Officers.
4. Training opportunities for DAC members and staff should include issues around bats and historic buildings. There are many such courses [Events & Training - Bat Conservation Trust](#).
5. Encourage PCCs to use the new funding for bat surveys, management plans and mitigations through Buildings for Mission. This is the first such funding available and we need to show demand from affected churches.

6. Where you are setting up a Church Buildings Management Partnership, ensure that the maintenance activities protect bats and include activities such as monitoring and cleaning bats boxes where necessary.
7. When considering applications for capital works for net zero, ensure that bats are considered in projects such as roofing/ insulation.
8. Where PCCs are planning to undertake mitigation works, urge them to explore thoroughly low cost interventions such as paying for cleaning, covers/gazebos or sails before proceeding to capital works.



The interior of Lamorran, St Moran (Truro) following works undertaken.

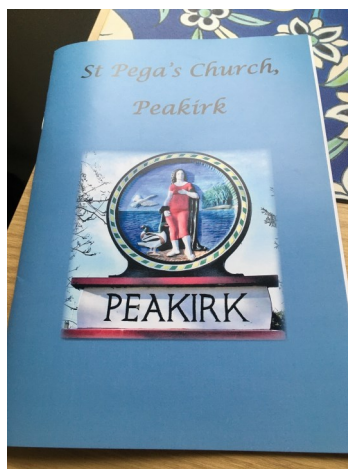
2023 Bats in Churches project highlights

National Bats in Churches survey

- In the final National Bats in Churches survey season, volunteers discovered DNA evidence of the rare grey long-eared bat in a church in Somerset. There are only thought to be around 1,000 of these threatened mammals in the UK so this was a hugely important discovery and only the second record of grey long-eared bats using churches in England. The resulting publicity was extensive, with local, regional and national publications and outlets including BBC Radio Five Live reporting on the discovery and the National Bats in Churches Survey.
- The results of the survey are yet to be fully available, but evidence so far indicates that around 60% of medieval churches in England shelter bats. This means that access to expertise and building knowledge in dioceses is of great importance.

Church interventions

- Bat counts for St Pega's Peakirk (Peterborough), a project church, indicate that the mitigation installed earlier in the project has been extremely successful. An internal bat box was installed when the chancel was re-roofed after a lead theft in 2019 which put the church on the Buildings at Risk register. The Soprano Pipistrelles have taken to their new home – they are present in larger numbers than previously, but they cannot access the church interior, which is clean. The church community is delighted not to share the church interior with the bats any longer. The project also funded and contributed to a new guidebook, using information from CERC not known to the PCC, and supported the Patronal Festival.



- After eight years of closure, in part due to extensive bat roosts and the cleaning that they necessitate, the church of St Moran, Lamorran (Truro), is open for monthly services. This has been a true journey for the project, the PCC the ecologist (BurtonReid) and the architect (Robert Shaw). A substantial maternity colony of Brown long-eared bats is now confined to two spacious transept voids. The furniture has been cleaned, conserved and reinstated and the project has funded a new church guidebook.
- At the church of St Nicholas, Fyfield (Salisbury), the project funded and managed production of a conservation report on the state of the important medieval woodwork. We also funded construction of two storage cupboards and supported two fundraising events.

Engagement

- The project's specially commissioned artwork, *On A Wing And A Prayer*, has toured several churches this year, including Wintringham (Yorkshire), Tattershall (Lincolnshire), Walpole (Norfolk), Dalham (Cambs) and is now in Chacewater (Cornwall). It will go on to Braunston (Leics) and London, before reaching its permanent home at Wintringham.



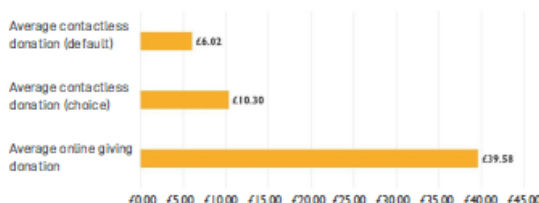
- *The Little Church Bat* book is very popular, selling well in churches and cathedrals. We have had to reprint an additional 500 copies.
- Bats in Churches Live, our webinar series, was launched in 2020 as a response to lockdown. Our final series took place in May, with well-attended events on church heritage, nature in churchyards and the project. More than 100 participants attended the live events, and the videos have been viewed more than 150 times since being put up on YouTube.
- The Bats in Churches schools programme has been extremely popular over its lifetime. So far 740 children and 77 adults have participated, with 32 sessions delivered to 18 schools.
- St Lawrence in Radstone featured in a BBC Songs of Praise programme entitled 'All Creatures Great and Small'. Aired in November 2022, the episode told the story of St Lawrence, which was so badly affected by bats it had to close its doors and the congregation feared it would never open again. Working with an ecologist and the church architect, an innovative solution involving separating the bats from the congregation via a false ceiling was created. This has been so successful that the church is now open for worship once more. The ceiling has also improved the look, feel and acoustics within the church. The bats are thriving in their new home, and the PCC runs a popular programme of bat walks and events.
- The project was invited to submit a paper to the Journal of Building Survey, Appraisal and Valuation entitled: 'What buildings professionals need to know about working with bats in English churches'. The 18-page paper discussed the issues surrounding working with bats in churches including legislation, licencing, surveying, planning works, and carrying out works, and also profiled several successful case studies from the Bats in Churches project. The paper has been approved for publication in Volume 12 of the journal.

- The project was also invited to submit a paper to British Islands Bats and took the opportunity to profile some of the smaller-scale mitigation works carried out in project churches, and share learnings around what constitutes success for church communities with bats, including the insight that bats can have a positive impact on engagement and help churches reach a new audience within their communities.

Ways to use Parish Buying

Did you know that the Parish Buying service was created by the national Church to serve parishes and other church communities, and that over 23,000 PCC members, church wardens, treasurers and clergy have joined so far?

Importance of digital giving



Registering is quick, easy and free - parishbuying.org.uk/register

WHY DID THEY ALL JOIN?



GIVING AND PAYMENTS

The average gift online to churches is four times more than a contactless gift, and for people who prefer to give this way, it is an important method to offer. An excellent solution, currently free of all charges except the transaction charge, is available on the Parish Buying online giving page, (parishbuying.org.uk/giving) For people who like to pay via mobile phone, you can offer QR codes too (parishbuying.org.uk/QR-codes)



ENERGY, INCLUDING SUSTAINABLE ELECTRICITY

Something really simple has become quite complicated in the last few months, with huge price changes for electricity and gas, and chaotic conditions in the market. The Parish Buying Energy Basket (parishbuying.org.uk/energy-basket) – with its green electricity – has protected member churches from price changes year after year. And if your church prefers to enter into a 1, 2 or 3-year fixed-term contract, you can do that too.



CONNECTIVITY AND TELEPHONES

Connecting to the internet for your church, church office or hall gives lots of benefits – there are some examples at churchofengland.org/connectivity. Parish Buying suppliers can help set you up on parishbuying.org.uk/telecoms



CONTACTLESS GIVING

Some people still carry cash, but many don't, and the place to go if your church is deciding which contactless giving unit to buy is Parish Buying (parishbuying.org.uk/giving) which has negotiated some keen pricing. On average people give between three and five times more than when they give in cash. You can also find devices for taking payments for concerts, hall rents, fundraisers, raffles and fees.



NET ZERO CARBON – ENERGY AUDIT

Are you considering an Energy Audit for your church, to work out the changes you can afford to make a difference? Take advantage of a subsidised one (parishbuying.org.uk/energy-audit) from Parish Buying.



NET ZERO CARBON – SOLAR PANELS AND HEATING

Some quite small changes to your building can make a surprising difference. When you have a plan, then some suppliers/installers of solar panels and heating solutions are available on our Net Zero pages at parishbuying.org.uk/net-zero-2030.



INSURANCE

Insurance is often one of the biggest items of expenditure for a parish, after the cost of ministry. Before your current contract comes up for a renewal it is worth getting a quote from one of the two specialist insurers, Ecclesiastical and Trinitas. There is a helpful buying guide at parishbuying.org.uk/insurance.



AUDIO-VISUAL

Maybe you're looking for a sound system, or perhaps you want to share your activities over the internet to include those who are house-bound or unable to be there in person. Either way there are solutions available on the Parish Buying AV pages, (parishbuying.org.uk/av).



SUPPLIES AND PRINTERS

We can't list every product category available on Parish Buying, but if you need catering, hygiene or cleaning supplies you will find them at parishbuying.org.uk/office-products. Parish or team printers are available on the photocopiers and printers page, (parishbuying.org.uk/photocopiers).

CAN'T SEE WHAT YOU NEED?

We survey our members regularly, and try and respond where there is enough demand. Registering is quick, easy and free - parishbuying.org.uk/register and you will receive a monthly newsletter as well as full access to the website.



Church Descriptions

Bristol, St Nicholas Grade II*

Age	Post Medieval
Eco award	Bronze
Info	<p>St Nicholas closed as a church following bomb damage during the Second World War. It was leased to Bristol City Council and was rebuilt as a museum telling the story of Bristol and making reference to the church setting. A central feature of the church is a large altar triptych piece by William Hogarth originally commissioned for St Mary Redcliffe and subsequently bequeathed to the city. Since the museum closed, the Council has used the space for firstly the Tourist Information Centre and then latterly offices.</p> <p>On 30 September 2018, St Nicholas Bristol re-opened as resourcing church and have since been serving the city of Bristol and most particularly its students.</p>



Bristol, St Nicholas

Bristol, St Matthew and St Nathanael, Grade II



St Matt's and St Nat's

Photo: Wikimedia

Age	Post medieval
Eco award	Sliver
Info	<p>St Matthew's vision is "welcoming, vibrant and serving the community – God's love in action".</p> <p>The parishioners of St Matthew's are always in action and seeking out new ways of serving their community.</p> <p>The church has a nursery, wildflower garden, cider distillery and has recently trailed infra-red heating chandeliers.</p>

Cotham, St Saviour Grade II*

Age	Victorian/Pre-WWI
Eco award	Bronze
Info	<p>Cotham parish church is committed to social and environmental justice. It maintains an active programme of community giving and eco activism, whilst resourcing as much community and individual action it can.</p> <p>It is currently undergoing a significant re-ordering to, among other works, create a new entrance and create a slopped floor.</p> <p>There will be a brief opportunity to see the church as building works are ongoing.</p>



Cotham, St Saviour

Clifton, All Saints, Grade II

Age	Modern
Eco award	Silver
Info	<p>All Saints has always striven to be a beacon of Anglo-Catholic worship. It is a that is open and accessible to everyone, all day, every day. It also hosts a program of community and cultural events including exhibitions and concerts.</p> <p>It has recently completed a project to create an accessible entrance, and it is the midst of another project to conserve and protect its John Piper windows.</p>



Clifton, All Saints Photo: Chris Dobson

Bristol, St Stephen, Grade I



Bristol, St Stephen

Age	Medieval
Eco award	Bronze
Info	<p>Saint Stephen's is an ancient church at the heart of Bristol's Old City.</p> <p>The church is home to The Bristol Reconciliation Reredos. A contemporary artwork, its four relief panels are carved from MDF, painted in bold primary colours. The Reredos seeks to respond to this complex legacy inspired by themes of hope and healing.</p> <p>The PCC has also just completed a project to re-plaster some of its walls and conserve its monuments.</p>

Bristol Cathedral, Grade I

***All God's Children* is an exhibition in Bristol Cathedral that explores the impact of the slave economy on Cathedral life, past and present.**

All God's Children is part of the Cathedral's work to understand its links with the transatlantic trade of enslaved people. Research that informed the exhibition discovered that between 1670 and 1900, roughly 1,000 people were buried or memorialised in the Cathedral and its grounds. Around 200 (20%) of them had a close connection to the slavery-based economy.

All God's Children is an exhibition in two parts:

Inside the Cathedral, exploring the Cathedral's connections with the transatlantic trade of enslaved people through its memorials and grave-markers.

On College Green, featuring portraits of and remarks, comments or questions from Christians in Bristol, some of whom live with the legacy of slavery and experience the reality of racism in their everyday lives. The portraits displayed were taken by Garfield McKenzie. Garfield has worked in many areas of photography, but his passion has always been people, capturing them in as natural, relaxed manner as possible. He has made it his life's work to portray the beauty, dignity and multi-faceted nature of members of the African family, countering the often one dimensional, negative images portrayed in the West.

At the end of the exhibition everyone is invited to comment, reflect and feedback about what they think the Cathedral should do next.



Bristol Cathedral

Photo: Pixabay

Redcliffe, St Mary the Virgin, Grade I



Redcliffe, St Mary the Virgin

Photo: Emily Whitfield-Wicks

Age	Medieval
Eco award	Silver
Info	<p>Described by Queen Elizabeth I as "the fairest, goodliest and most famous parish church in England".</p> <p>Redcliffe has recently been granted a faculty to remove four stained glass panels in the North Transept window containing the Colston family motto 'Go thou and do likewise', a dedication to and shield of Edward Colston. These panels have been replaced by contemporary stained glass designed by competition winner Ealish Swift. One of the new panels celebrates the Bristol Bus Boycott, which the artist explains "paved the way for the Race Relations Act of 1965, with Jesus as a fellow protester and radical."</p>

Attendance List

Diocese of Bath & Wells

Jacqui Carreira-White	DAC Secretary Designate
Jill Channer	DAC Member
Sarah Williams	DAC Secretary

Diocese of Birmingham

Naomi Fisher	Chair, Birmingham DAC
Ian Simpson	Historic Buildings Officer
Ben Smith	DAC Secretary

Diocese of Blackburn

Jen Read	Senior Church Buildings Officer
Andrew Holliday	Chair, Blackburn DAC

Diocese of Bristol

Emma Bakewell	Governance Support Manager
Christopher Bryan	Archdeacon of Malmesbury
Carol Craddock	Governance Support Administrative Assistant
Davinia Davey	Apprentice Solicitor
Jim Drennan	DAC Vice Chair
Viv Faull	Bishop of Bristol
Richard Leaman	Bristol Diocesan Secretary
Nathalie Makeham	Governance Support Co-ordinator
Simon Pugh-Jones	DAC Chair
France Reynolds	Registry Manager
Simon Taylor	Director of Mission & Ministry Support
Antoinette Vyphuis	Governance Support Officer

Diocese of Canterbury

Paul Britton	DAC Chair
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Diocese of Carlisle

Morven Anson	DAC Secretary
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Attendance List

Diocese of Chester

Caroline Hilton	DAC Secretary
Nicholas Rank	DAC Chair
Sheena Wilson	Buildings for Mission Advisor

Diocese of Chichester

Emma Arbuthnot	Senior Church Buildings Officer
Katherine Prior	Diocesan Fundraising Adviser

Diocese of Coventry

Stephen Davenport	Director of Operations
Tim Latham	DAC Secretary
Claire Strachan	Church Buildings Development Officer
Mark Seabourne	Assistant DAC Secretary

Diocese of Derby

Kat Alldread	Interim DAC Secretary
Matt Barnes	DAC Chair
Nigel Sherratt	DAC & DMPC Secretary

Diocese of Durham

Nick Barker	Retired Archdeacon
Martin Howard	Buildings for Mission and DAC Secretary

Diocese of Ely

Geoffrey Hunter	DAC Secretary, CBC member
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Diocese of Exeter

Nigel Pratt	DAC Secretary
Alice Risdon	Church Buildings Officer
John Scott	DAC Chair

Attendance List

Diocese of Gloucester

Anne Cranston	DAC Vice Chair
Dana Delap	DAC Deputy Chair, and CBC Member
Kathryn Hilsden	Senior Closed Churches & Projects Officer
Adam Klups	Senior Church Buildings Officer, DAC Secretary
Hilary Menendez	Church Buildings Officer

Diocese of Guildford

Peter Coe	DAC Chair
Wendy Harris	DAC and Pastoral Secretary

Diocese of Hereford

Stephen Challenger	Property Secretary
Lorna Theophilus	Church Building Support Officer
Joyce Marston	DAC Chair

Diocese of Leeds

Rob Andrews	Team Coordinator
Lisa McIntyre	DAC Secretary

Diocese of Leicester

Rupert Allen	DAC Secretary
Gillian Elliott	Buildings Development Adviser
Richard Tretheway	DAC Chair

Diocese of Liverpool

Chris Leggett	DAC Secretary
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Diocese of London

Patrick Booth	Church Buildings Adviser
Annie Hampson	DAC Chair
Kevin Rogers	Director of Parish Property Support
Isabelle Ryan	Church Buildings Adviser

Attendance List

Diocese of Manchester

Judith Popay	Governance Support Officer
Alan Simpson	DAC and DMPC Secretary

Diocese of Norwich

Andrew Barnes	DAC Chair
Nicholas Cannon	DAC Secretary

Diocese of Oxford

Emily Jackson	Church Buildings Officer
Abigail Lloyd	DAC Chair, CBC and SAC Member
Liz Kitch	Head of Church Buildings

Diocese of Peterborough

Emily Elliott	DAC Caseworker
Sally van der Sterren	DAC Secretary

Diocese of Portsmouth

David Cain	DAC Secretary
Giles Chapman	DAC Chair
Catherine Gray	DAC Secretary

Diocese of Rochester

Sarah Anderson	DAC Secretary
Isabella Rowbotham	Secretary to the DAC Secretary
Derek Shilling	DAC Chair

Diocese of Salisbury

Daniel Crooke	DAC Secretary
Richard Curtis	DAC Chair
Andrew Rumsey	Bishop of Ramsbury

Attendance List

Diocese of Sheffield

Simon Chesters-Thompson	Head of Church Buildings, DAC Secretary
Jo Edwards	Church Buildings Officer
Josh Hunter	Church Buildings Officer

Diocese of Southwark

Melvin Hughes	Vice-Chair/Acting Chair Southwark DAC
Luke Tatam	DAC Secretary

Diocese of Southwell

Graeme Renton	DAC Chair
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Diocese of St Albans

Emma Critchley	DAC Secretary
Joanna Chandler-Clarke	Pastoral and Advisory Officer
Anne Wise	Historic Church Buildings Support Officer

Diocese of Edmundsbury & Ipswich

Julie Alcock	Assistant to DAC Staff
Edmund Harris	DAC Secretary
Graeme Knowles	DAC Chair

Diocese of Truro

Paul Holden	DAC Chair
Sue Thorold	DAC Secretary

Diocese of Winchester

Richard Streatfield	DAC Secretary
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Diocese of Worcester

Mark Carter	Church Buildings Officer, DAC Secretary
Hannah Taylor	Assistant Church Buildings Officer
Jim Grevatte	Church Renewals Project Support Officer

Diocese of York

Catherine Copp	DAC Secretary
Keith Halliday	Church Buildings Adviser, CBC Member

Attendance List

Cathedral & Church Buildings Division

Tom Ashley	Senior Cathedrals and Major Churches Officer
Julian Atkins	Net Zero Programme Director
Janet Berry	Head of Conservation
Guy Braithwaite	Church Buildings Officer
Adrian Daffern	Cathedrals and Major Churches Officer
Keri Dearmer	Church Buildings Officer
Joseph Elders	Consultant
Jacinta Fisher	Church Buildings Officer
Adrian Fox	Environmental Sustainability Officer
Honor Gay	Bats in Churches Project
Emily Gee	Director for Cathedral and Church Buildings
David Knight	Senior Church Buildings Officer
Tracy Manning	Church Buildings Officer—Conservation
Claire Smith	Church Buildings Officer

Church Buildings Council

Jennie Page	Chair, Church Buildings Council
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CFCE

Novelette Aldoni Stewart	CFCE Member, Contested Heritage Committee Member
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Church Commissioners

Adrian Browning	Closed Churches Case Officer
Guy Hewitt	Racial Justice Director

Caring for God's Acre

Andrea Gilpin	Conservation and Communications Manager
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Churches Conservation Trust

Chana James	Communications Manager
Judith Patrick	Interim Director of Operations

Attendance List

Ecclesiastical Insurance

Michael Angell	Benefact Group Church Relationship Director
Heather Ford	Church Support Manager
Helen Richards	Church Operations Director

Historic England

Diana Evans	Head of Places of Worship Strategy
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National Churches Trust

Anna Ellis	Church Support Officer
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National Lottery Heritage Fund

Lucy Emerson	Policy Project Manager
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SPAB

Rachel Broomfield	Caseworker
Christina Emerson	Head of Casework

Trinitas Church Insurance

Leigh Ide	Business Development Executive
Peter Middleton	Business Development Executive