

GENERAL SYNOD

FINANCING THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST
IN THE TRIENNIUM 2024 TO 2027Report by the Church Commissioners
and
Explanatory Memorandum to the Payments to the Churches Conservation Trust
Order 2023**Part A: Report**

The Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 (“the Measure” or ‘MPM’) provides a regulatory framework which enables the Church to support the provision of local worship, mission and ministry, and to adapt that provision as circumstances change of time.

When church buildings are no longer required for regular public worship but are important from a heritage perspective (e.g. in terms of their listing or historical significance) then it is sometimes not appropriate for them to be converted to an alternative use. The Measure makes provision for such buildings to be held by the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT), so that they can be retained in public use for a range of activities, including occasional worship and community and charitable events and functions.

The CCT is technically a statutory body under the MPM, a registered charity and an arms length government body, **funded jointly by the Church Commissioners and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (“DCMS”)**.¹ Under the legislation the Church Commissioners are required to seek approval from General Synod for the CCT’s funding order every three years. This report sets out the strategic context and background and seeks Synod approval for the funding order, for the period of 2024-2027, which was approved by the Church Commissioners’ Board of Governors in April 2023.

The Commissioners’ Board approved proposals to pay the CCT a fixed sum of £4.8m (£1.6m per annum) for the funding period 2024-2027 and an additional amount of up to £0.9m within that period, should the Commissioners’ share of net proceeds arising from the disposal of closed church buildings exceed £0.65m in any calendar year during that same period.²

Wendy Matthews,
Head of Mission, Pastoral and Church Property
November 2023
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¹ Detail of the CCT’s board of trustees can be found here - [Board of Trustees | The Churches Conservation Trust \(visitchurches.org.uk\)](https://www.visitchurches.org.uk).

² For convenience, the amounts in this report are rounded, but the Funding Order sets out the amounts in full.

Governance and strategic context

1. The Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 (“the Measure” or ‘MPM’) provides a regulatory framework which enables the Church to support the provision of local worship, mission and ministry, and to adapt that provision as circumstances change over time.
2. When church buildings are no longer required for regular public worship but are important from a heritage perspective (e.g. in terms of their listing or historical significance) then it is sometimes not appropriate for them to be converted for an alternative use. The Measure makes provision for such buildings to be held by the Churches Conservation Trust (‘CCT’ or ‘the Trust’), so that they can be retained in public use for a range of activities, including occasional worship and community and charitable events and functions.
3. There is a formal process in place for making the decision about whether a church should be ‘vested’ in the CCT; the Commissioners take advice from the Statutory Advisory Committee of the Church Buildings Council about which churches should be considered for vesting, and the Commissioners’ Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee (MPCPC), chaired by the Third Church Estates Commissioner, makes the final decision. For those closed church buildings that are vested, the Trust provides a long term solution which ensures the buildings can be both looked after and retained in public use, whilst at the same time relieving parish and diocese of the responsibility for care and maintenance. The CCT therefore furthers the mission of the Church by keeping these sacred spaces open and in use.
4. These arrangements form part of the wider Church/State regime which governs the protection and care of the Church’s historic built heritage. It is important that the Church has appropriate arrangements for historically significant church buildings as part of this overall approach.

Funding governance

5. The CCT is jointly funded by the Church Commissioners and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Both the Commissioners and DCMS provide three-year funding orders to support the Trust’s core costs so that there is longer term certainty about income. In the 2021-24 triennium the funding proportion was 34:66 – with DCMS providing the larger portion of the funding³. The combined grants from the Commissioners and DCMS provide approximately 69% of the CCT’s income (excluding grants for major projects) and the rest of their income is raised from a variety of other sources including commercial work, donations and legacies.
6. The process by which the Commissioners’ funding of the CCT is determined is as follows:
 - The Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee (MPCPC) is responsible for recommending the three year funding order to the Church Commissioners’ Board of Governors.
 - The Board of Governors then approve the funding order, and Synod is asked to approve the Commissioners using their general funds to support the CCT, when any closed-church sales proceeds are not sufficient to meet the funding order.
 - The MPCPC recommended the funding order for 2024-2027 to the Board, and the Board approved it in April 2023.

³ The proportions of the split have changed over time and are not defined by statute.

- As part of these arrangements, the CCT's annual report and accounts is discussed each year by the MPCPC and is tabled annually at the relevant session of General Synod.
7. The DCMS process is as follows:
 - The DCMS allocation is decided as part of the government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) arrangements. The CSR is led by HM Treasury and usually takes place every three years, but it can happen annually in certain political circumstances. At the end of the process, each department receives a funding settlement and settlement letter setting out the priorities for the department and what they are expected to deliver.
 - The DCMS officials include the funding request for the CCT in their departmental submission, and because the CCT is also classed as a government arms-length body, they also receive a settlement letter and are expected to take account of the government priorities in their strategy and day to day work.
 - The DCMS timeline is different to the Commissioners and depends on the timing of the CSR exercises.
 8. The arrangements between the DCMS, the Commissioners and the CCT are governed by a detailed tri-partite management agreement, which is part of the government's legal regime for the management of arms-length bodies. This document provides a comprehensive set of management arrangements and reporting requirements to which the Trust must adhere. As part of the recent 'Freedoms Review', the government has amended the arrangements to make them easier for smaller organisations to manage and changes to the agreement were agreed and signed off by DCMS in 2023.

CCT Strategy 2019-2025

9. The CCT currently looks after 357 closed church buildings and is following a strategy which was agreed in 2019 by the CCT Board, and was extended by one year to 2025 because of the disruption during Covid, which delayed the implementation and assessment of much of the strategy.
10. The strategy has a strapline which expresses the CCT's purpose as an organisation which would "empower and support communities to care for historic places of worship" and there are three main delivery objectives:
 - Promoting the value of our shared cultural heritage.
 - Supporting communities to use and love their historic places of worship.
 - Sharing our skills to sustain churches.
11. The CCT's approach is to recognise that fundamentally a Church building is a local building, that it is there for everyone, and that the best way to look after those buildings when they are no longer needed for regular worship is to encourage local people and groups to look after the buildings and make them available for communities to use for suitable events and activities. Therefore, much of their approach is about community support, capacity building and work with volunteers and Friends Groups, as well as the preservation and care of the buildings themselves.
12. With the consent of the local incumbent, CCT Churches can continue to be used for occasional services, in addition to which the charity has developed significant expertise in keeping these buildings open and in use for a wide range of purposes. As such they also offer advice and consultancy services to the Church and other partners.

13. As part of the strategy a series of headline key performance indicators (KPIs) were agreed and there is reporting on these in the annual report and accounts. In 2022, a new Chair (Liz Peace) and Chief Executive (Greg Pickup) were appointed to the Trust. During this triennium period, they plan to review the current strategy and then set a new strategy for the next 3-5 years. The Church Commissioners will continue to engage with and support the CCT Board as it develops a new strategy.
14. The Annual Review for 2022 which summarises the CCT's impact is attached at Annex B.

CCT Finances

15. A summary of the CCT's income and expenditure for 2022-2023 is attached in graphical format at Annex A. It gives an overview of:
 - The sources of CCT income.
 - Expenditure by function.
 - Church repair and maintenance expenditure.
16. The CCT's annual report and accounts was tabled at the February session of General Synod 2023 – for a copy see - [ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 \(churchofengland.org\)](https://www.churchofengland.org/annual-report-and-accounts-for-the-year-ended-31-march-2022).
17. Whilst the overall financial position set out in the annual report was positive, it is important to recognise the challenges of the current operating environment, including the impact of inflation rises, and the longer term challenges to achieve sustainability.

CCT Estates review

18. The CCT have been conducting an in-house review to assess the condition of the estate which will help inform future strategy and funding priorities, and the Board will be considering the findings of this exercise over the autumn. A methodology has been established which considers the state of the roof, masonry, drainage, internal finishes and woodwork and internal fittings. Every building has been given a rating of 'very good', 'good', 'fair', 'poor' or 'very poor'.
19. The findings were broadly positive with 73% of buildings being classed as 'very good' or 'good', and with 11% being classed as 'poor' or 'very poor' and a positive direction of travel, assisted greatly by external grant funding support. The main reason for the buildings in a poorer state is generally issues with the roofs and/or masonry. There is some variation in the regional picture, as the north and south-east benefitted particularly from post-Covid repair funding from the government's Heritage Stimulus Fund.
20. The CCT is developing a new priority list of projects to address the repairs for the churches in poorer condition.
21. The Commissioners will have more detailed conversations on the outcome of this exercise once they have been considered by the CCT Board.

2022 Independent review of CCT governance and finance

22. In 2022, the Commissioners asked an independent consultant to complete a review of the CCT, with terms of reference which were approved by the MPCPC, and in part informed by questions received at various sessions of General Synod. This review

focused on aspects covering governance and finances, and a specialist consultant was engaged to review the health and safety arrangements for Champing (overnight stays in some CCT churches), which had been raised as an issue of concern by a member of General Synod. The output of the review was a report, together with revised risk assessments and an updated fire safety plan for the Champing activity.

23. The consultant's report explored the CCT's strategic challenges, governance processes and looked in detail at financial governance and reporting, the security of long-term funding and risk management, and made a series of recommendations.

24. The main findings were as follows:

- i. That there were no fundamental issues of concern relating to governance or financial integrity, but there were some improvements which the report recommended to the CCT Board and management team.
- ii. The Board and its Committees were functioning effectively and had a clear strategy for 2019-24. The restructure which had underpinned the strategy had bedded in well. Covid had caused some inevitable disruption so the Board extended the strategy for another year to 2025 to give more time to see how the model was working in practice. The report highlighted the need to ensure that there was shared agreement on how the CCT strategy was delivered in practice, as there was scope for different interpretations among the various partners. The report included some recommendations to improve membership for some of the committees, which have been followed up by CCT.
- iii. The staffing structure and resources were considered and the report stated that there was limited scope to significantly reduce operating costs, although it would be important for the new Chief Executive to make sure that only necessary work was being done, and in a cost effective manner. Comparisons with other organisations were deemed to be of limited value due to the particular nature of CCT's role and remit.
- iv. The report raised an issue about the need for more clarity in the MPM about the CCT's commercial powers and this is an issue that will be addressed in the proposed new MPM legislation. The commercial clauses will be updated to give greater clarity, partly so that the CCT can fulfil the DCMS requirements to diversify its income sources and maximise other grant funding to ensure longer term financial sustainability. The CCT board are well aware of the long-term funding risks, given the reliance on DCMS and Church Commissioners' funding, and that these funding plans are renewed on a three year basis. Although it is unlikely that the arrangements would change suddenly, it provides challenges for the CCT to fund the ongoing maintenance of its churches.
- v. The report also made significant recommendations to improve the financial reporting to the Board. In particular, the report suggested that reports needed to give a more comprehensive overview of the full state of the CCT's finance and associated bodies, and cash flows between them, to ensure the trustees had clearer information when making decisions. As the CCT's reporting system is defined by HM Treasury rules, there is some complexity in how matters are reported and more could be done to make reporting clearer to both internal and external audiences. A new Director of Finance was recently appointed in 2023, so improvements to financial reporting will be proactively progressed over the next year.

25. The report has been discussed by the CCT Board and the recommendations of the review accepted. A (Board-approved) plan has been put in place to implement the recommendations and good progress has already been made on implementation of all the action points. The Commissioners will continue to review the progress the CCT makes in implementing the plan and report back to the MPCPC.
26. Following on from the review, the Church Commissioners have put new arrangements in place for their work with and oversight of CCT, including additional finance meetings and new reporting requirements, which include a quarterly report setting out the detailed spend on Commissioners' funding. The CCT Board's finance reports are now shared in confidence with the Commissioners.
27. The regular structured meetings which take place between the CCT, the Church Commissioners and DCMS have been refreshed as well: two meetings take place each year dedicated to finance, performance monitoring and risk, and two further meetings cover detailed estate matters, including the scope for new vestings, which is chaired by the Commissioners.
28. In addition, the CCT Chief Executive attends the MPCPC meetings when required to discuss the annual report, vestings and any other significant issues. The Third Church Estates Commissioner and team also attend CCT Board meetings when relevant as part of the regular ongoing engagement.

Strategic approach for 2024-2027

29. The period of the next funding order (2024-2027) will be one of strategic transition and change. At a political and policy level there will be a General Election which may have an impact on future policy direction and the timings of the Comprehensive Spending Reviews and government funding processes.
30. The CCT will also be setting its future strategy and that will need to align with the outcome of the review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. Following Synod's approval of the draft proposals set out in GS2315 in July 2023, new legislation will be prepared and brought forward in 2024. This will include updates to the provisions relating to the CCT and further work needs will be completed on the detailed technical issues in 2023/2024. As part of this work, there will be discussions on the CCT's future operating model and how the Church Commissioners and the Board can work together to ensure the CCT is sustainable over the long term.
31. Therefore, the funding order for this period will ensure there is continuing stability for the CCT whilst these various conversations are undertaken. The Commissioners' expectation is that both organisations will continue to work together in a proactive and positive way with DCMS to ensure the best outcomes, for the Church, the CCT, the government and the wider public. The usual work of the CCT will continue during this period, and new vestings will continue.

Funding arrangements

Current funding triennium (1 April 2021 to 31 March 2024)

32. The 2021-2024 Funding Order made provision for a core grant of £4.5m (£1.5m per annum) which is being used to support the CCT's costs and includes a new vestings budget of £2m. The Commissioners' grant is roughly split 45% for new vestings and 55% as a contribution to ongoing costs, primarily maintenance, repairs, and community support.

33. In addition, the Order provided that if there were proceeds of £0.65m or above in any of the calendar years during the triennium, then the Commissioners would contribute up to an additional £0.9m to support CCT work.
34. In 2022 that threshold was reached and so an extra contribution of £0.45m was allocated in 2023 to provide funding for vesting and repairs to the churches in the 'poorest' condition band. (This support will leverage the CCT's annual campaign for donations for roof repairs).
35. The forecast for the current triennium is that £2.52m of the funding will have come from sales proceeds (including the additional £0.45m) and £2.43m from the Commissioners' General Funds. The total allocation for this period was therefore £4.95m.
36. There have been two new vestings during the 2021-2024 triennium: Grade II* listed Brougham St Wilfrid (Diocese of Carlisle), and Grade I listed North Hill St Torney (Diocese of Truro) where repairs are ongoing.
37. Note – the total grant from DCMS for the period 2022-2025 will be £8.7m.

Next funding triennium (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027)

38. The Commissioners propose that the Church's core grant should be £4.8m (£1.6m per annum). This is an increase of 6.6% compared with the previous triennium, an additional £100,000 per annum, to allow for some element of cost inflation (noting that this is well below the actual cumulative inflation over the past three years).
39. The two sources of funds for meeting the Church Commissioners grant to CCT are net proceeds from the disposal of other closed church buildings and distributions from the Church Commissioners' General (endowment) Fund. (The figures are reported in the Commissioners' annual report and accounts).
40. The forecast is that the £4.8m funding will require £3.3m from the Commissioners' General Fund for the next triennium (averaging £1.1m per annum), and £1.5m from sales proceeds (averaging £0.5m per annum). We will also retain the arrangement whereby an additional sum may be released to the CCT but only if, and to the extent that, net sales proceeds are above £0.65m in any calendar year of the triennium. The maximum amount that they may be provided from such additional proceeds is £0.9m. (This threshold has only been reached four times in the last ten years).
41. It is anticipated that the DCMS contribution will remain stable, but we do not yet know the timing of the next comprehensive spending review, or how the next General Election, expected in 2024, may affect timing and process.

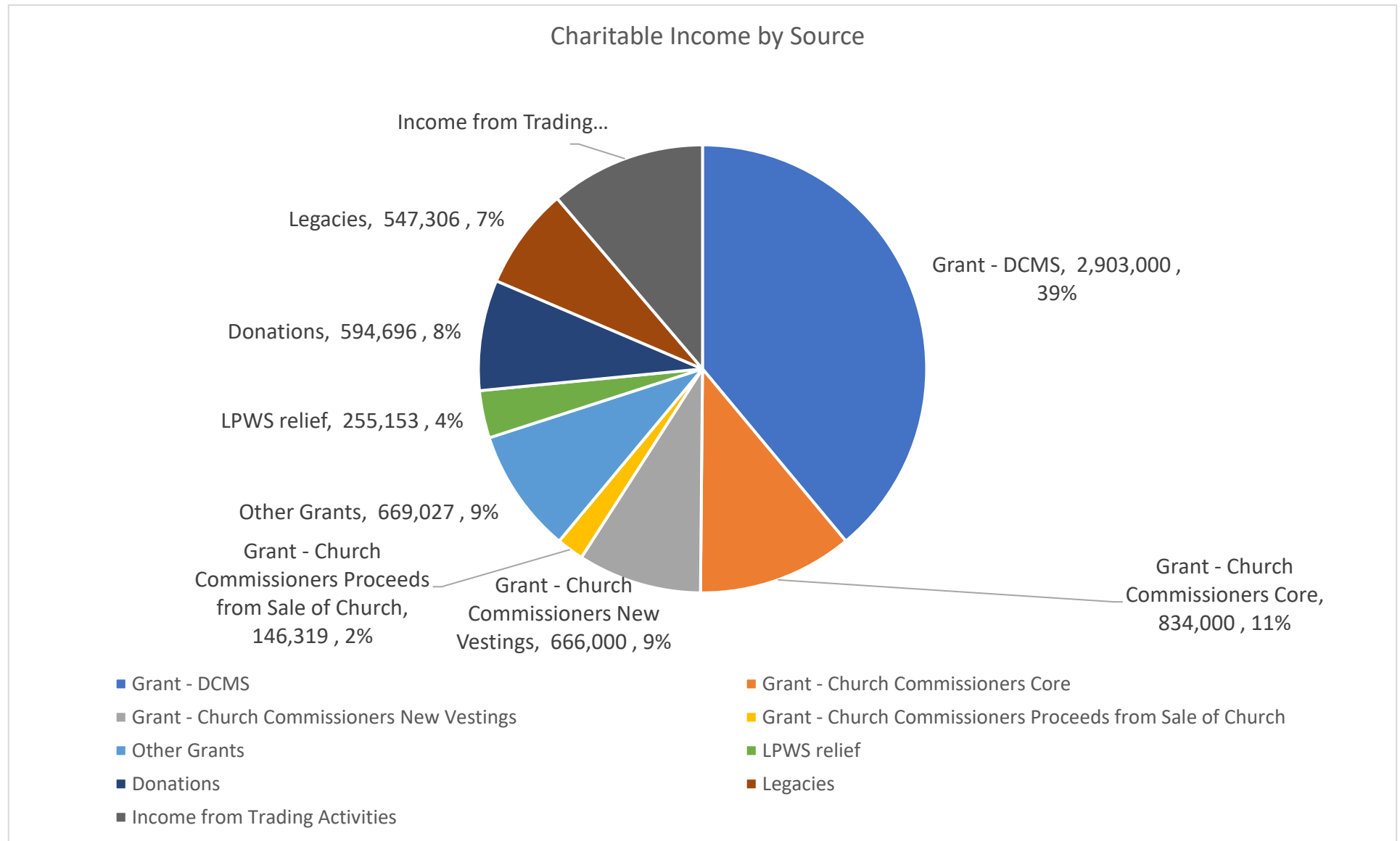
Recommendation

The Church Commissioners invite the Synod to approve their payment in 2024 to 2027 of a total grant of £4.8m as the Church's contribution to the financing of the CCT, with an additional amount of up to £0.9m if the circumstances set out in the funding Order are met, and only if and to the extent that the Commissioners' share of net proceeds arising from the disposal of closed church buildings exceeds £0.65 million in any calendar year during the term of the Funding Order. Grant payments will be made to the Trust only when the Commissioners are satisfied that the sum is needed by the Trust and that the appropriate funding will also be paid by DCMS. The funding Order laid before Synod provides for funding the Church's share on this basis (see Part B below)

Part B: Explanatory memorandum to the Payments to the Churches Conservation Trust Order 2023

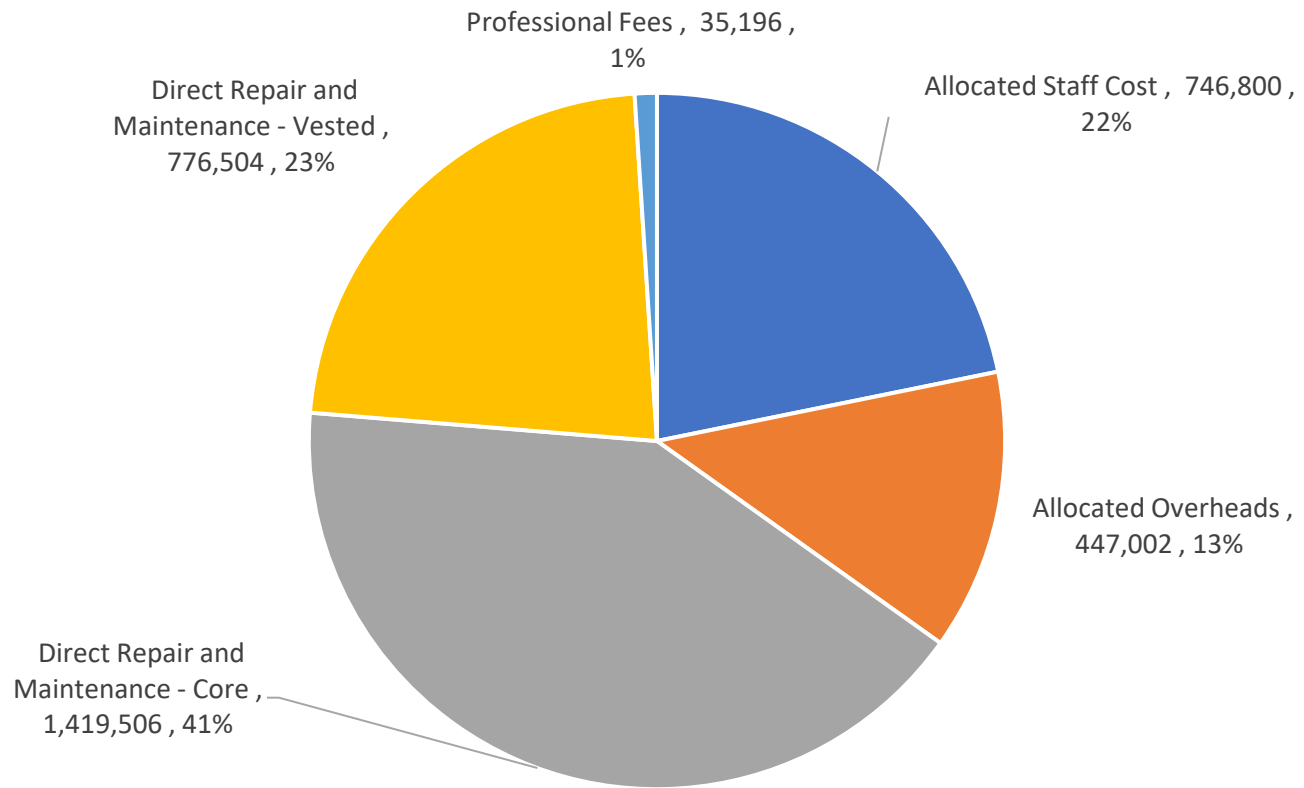
1. The Payments to the Churches Conservation Trust Order 2023 makes provision for the Church Commissioners' financial contribution to the Trust for the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027. The Church Commissioners have made the Order under section 65 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. That section provides that the Order cannot come into operation unless and until it has been approved by the General Synod. The Order, being a statutory instrument, must also be laid before Parliament.
2. The Order does not automatically entitle the Trust to receive the sums proposed to be provided. The money will not be paid in advance of need and is provided on the understanding that the Trust will continue to make every effort to generate income from other sources as well, to maximise their effectiveness and outcomes.
3. **Article 1** of the Order provides for citation, coming into force and interpretation.
4. **Article 2** specifies the funding period (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027).
5. **Article 3** makes provision for the total amount which may be paid to the Trust during the funding period. This is made up of £4,800,000 of grants (from the Commissioners' General Fund and moneys allocated from the Commissioners' one-third share of the proceeds of sale of closed church buildings). In addition, there may be a further sum available of up to £900,000 during the funding period, which may be available only if and to the extent that, the Commissioners' share of net proceeds of sale exceeds £650,000 in any calendar year during the funding period.
6. **Article 4** specifies the conditions that must be met before a payment may be made to the Trust under the Order.

Annex A: CCT financial summary,2022-23 ⁴



⁴The figures are taken from the 2022-2023 CCT annual report and accounts but adjustments have been made for transfers between entities to give a more complete picture. Major NHLF grants for particular church projects are stripped out to give a clearer picture of the overall position.

Breakdown of Church Repair And Maintenance Expenditure



- Allocated Staff Cost
- Allocated Overheads
- Direct Repair and Maintenance - Core
- Direct Repair and Maintenance - Vested
- Professional Fees

Annual Review

2022 - 2023

**Churches
Conservation
Trust**





Saving historic churches together

Annual Review 2022-23

Welcome from CCT Chair & CCT Chief Executive	2-3
2022 - 2023: A Year Like No Other	4-5
Facts and Figures 2022 - 2023	6-7
New Vestings	8-9
Volunteers and Community Supporters	10-11
Strategy Map	12
Annual Appeal Update	13
Conservation	14-15
Regeneration	16-17
Learning Update	18-19
Thank You to Our Patrons and Donors	20-21

Copywriters

Jessica Clarke
Chana James
William Lamb

Sub-editor

Liz Parry

Design

William Lamb

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Inside Cover: St Mary's Church Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Pages 2 - 3 Background: Wallpaintings at All Saints' Church in Cambridge (© Joseph Casey)



Welcome from Elizabeth Peace CBE

Churches Conservation Trust Interim Chair

It is my pleasure to be introducing the 2022/23 Annual Accounts of The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) as Chair of Trustees. I would like to start by thanking our Deputy CEO Sarah Robinson who stepped up as Interim CEO following the departure of Peter Aiers at the beginning of the year. Sarah's efforts, alongside the rest of our dedicated senior management team, ensured the Trust stayed on track whilst we awaited the appointment of our new CEO. We were delighted to welcome Greg Pickup to this position in September 2022.

Alongside this, we were pleased to welcome three new trustees in February of this year with the appointment of Tanvir Hasan, Dr Emma Wells and Erin Walsh. Together, they bring a vast array of experience, as well as enthusiasm, that will benefit our Trust in future years. We also said farewell to outgoing trustees Edward Harley and Carol Pyrah and thank them for their commitment and contributions during their time with us.

This year we completed much needed works to our Churches that were supported by the government's Heritage Stimulus Fund and I was pleased to see the results of some of this work during recent visits. This funding has made a huge difference to the buildings in our care and we remain enormously grateful for this support.

None of our work would be possible without the support of our volunteers and communities who have continued with fundraising initiatives and activities. They continue to keep our churches open and alive and I was delighted to hear more about their work during our recent annual volunteer awards evening. I would like to thank each of them for their efforts.

The number of those who support us continue to grow, as do our digital audiences across all our social media. We look forward to continuing to engage with those of us who joined us through the digital lectures during Covid as we continue to build our online presence.

The number of visitors to our sites remains below pre-pandemic levels however we remain committed to working with communities to support their plans to encourage greater use of our buildings. With this in mind, we have been pressing ahead on work to a number of major projects including large capital schemes at Sudbury and Lancaster. Work has also begun on site at the Old Black Lion, our innovative project to support our neighbouring St Peter's Church with much needed facilities for its activities, in addition to bringing a much loved historic building back into use as a pub on the ground floor and our new national office above. For all our projects large and small we remain grateful to a range of Trusts, Foundations and individuals, in particular the National Lottery Heritage Fund as major funder for our larger schemes.

The continuing care of our growing estate of Churches is also made possible due to the continued support of DCMS and the Church of England, whose commissioners continue to recognise the important of our role in keeping these historic places of worship active and of service to the communities for whom they were built. We end the year on an optimistic note, having made significant progress against our objectives but with continued challenges ahead. We look forward to working with our key partners at DCMS and the Church of England to explore how we can make use of the monies invested in us within our own estate and beyond, as well as with all of our friends, volunteers and supporters to build on our success in the year to come.



Welcome from Greg Pickup

Churches Conservation Trust Chief Executive

I am pleased to welcome you to the 2022 - 2023 Annual Review for the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT).

At the time of writing, I have just celebrated my first year as Chief Executive of the Trust. Since joining CCT in September 2022, I have been fortunate to visit many of our historic churches, to meet the passionate communities around these sites and hear the stories, old and new, that connect people to these special buildings.

A particular highlight of the year for me was bringing together volunteers and supporters for our virtual Community Supporter and Volunteer Evening. None of our work would be possible without those who give their time, expertise and dedication to the care of their local church, or in some cases churches over a vast area. I am pleased that through our partnership with the Marsh Charitable Trust, we can recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of some of the individuals and groups who support our work through the Volunteer of the Year Awards. I invite you to go to page 10 of our Annual Review to read more about some of the fascinating projects and successes from this year's award winners. Of course, those recognised through these awards are only a fraction of the over 9,000 supporters that the Trust relies on, and I would like to extend my thanks to each and every one of you who has supported CCT this year and in years past.

The previous financial year has also seen significant progress at many of our major projects. I was delighted to see the launch of Seventeen Nineteen at Holy Trinity Church in Sunderland, Tyne & Wear and Sound and Art at St Swithun's in Worcester. These multi-million-pound projects were made possible through funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, with the support of national and local organisations and donations made to our 2016 and 2017 Annual Appeal. The opening of these sites, which provide their local areas with much needed community and cultural spaces, is also the result of years of work from the Trust's Regeneration Team who have diligently ensured they will be used and loved for years to come.

Regarding Annual Appeals, I am pleased to report that CCT's 2022 Appeal, 'At The Heart of Communities. Always' was one of our most successful fundraising campaigns to date. Launched in June 2022, the Appeal raised £33,090 (with an additional £4,362 from Gift Aid) through the generosity of our members, donors, volunteers, and other supporters who hold our work in the highest regard. This loyal support has allowed us to invest further in providing creative ways to deliver the school curriculum, welcoming vulnerable individuals to our safe spaces, and teaching heritage craft skills to support career development for young people. I encourage you to read more about the impact of this campaign on page 13.

A year in the life of CCT 2022 - 2023



Wings on the the Hoardings of St Peter's Church, Sudbury

April 2022

An unusual and engaging piece of public artwork was unveiled on the hoardings at St Peter's Cultural Venue. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and produced in collaboration with local artist and sign writer Wayne Tanswell, the artwork, representing two large angel wings, was designed to inspire community participation.

May 2022

We were delighted to announce that our project at Holy Trinity Church, Sunderland, won 'Restoration or Conservation Project of the Year' at The Museum and Heritage Awards 2022. The project transformed Sunderland's first parish church and civic hub into a spectacular space for connecting people and sharing stories and heritage through conservation repair and sensitive adaptation.



Historic image of the Old Black Lion

June 2022

The Churches Conservation Trust announced plans to move its headquarters from London to one of its own sites: St Peter's Church in Northampton and the neighbouring Old Black Lion, a Grade-II listed coaching inn. The pub, which closed for business in 2018, is the focus of a major National Lottery Heritage-funded regeneration project led by CCT.

July 2022

The Churches Conservation Trust revealed the appointment of its new CEO, Greg Pickup. Greg's career in heritage began with nearly six years at the National Lottery Heritage Fund, following which he managed several projects and funding schemes, including Nottingham City Council's Carrington Street Townscape Heritage Scheme and the Other Stories LGBT History Project for the charity Derbyshire LGBT+.



Stained-glass at St Mary the Virgin, Shrewsbury

August 2022

The past, present, and future project at St Mary's Shrewsbury was made possible by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, from whom we received a grant of £246,883. Thanks to support from National Lottery players a project will urgently stabilise, conserve, and celebrate the stained glass, within Grade I listed St Mary's church, in Shrewsbury.

September 2022

Members of the Communications and Fundraising teams attended the *Charity Times Awards* ceremony in London recently where we received a 'Highly Commended' award in the Digital Transformation category. The award was presented for our work on CCTDigital.com, our online streaming platform, launched in 2021 as a new way to share digital content. and present to their local church.

October 2022

'Bridging the Gap' Pilot Research Project

Bridging the Gap was a pilot research project carried out by the CCT Regeneration Team, Historic Churches Scotland, Heritage Trust Network and Churches Trust for Cumbria. It formed part of a wider research initiative called 'Outreach to Ownership', which was a cross border pilot programme exploring innovative approaches to inclusive community engagement across cultural sector organisations in England and Scotland.

A year in the life of CCT 2022 - 2023



November 2022

Light Up Lancaster St John's

St John the Evangelist Church, Lancaster, was taken over by contemporary artist Anne Bennett, with her light installation Butterfly Dream: Making the Invisible Visible. The church was transformed, with thousands of glowing neon butterflies suspended from the galleries and spinning slowly in the air above the beautiful Georgian pews, creating a true spectacle and an amazing atmosphere in a church which is normally closed due to its poor condition.

December 2022

CCT's Candida Lycett Green Memorial Annual Lecture goes Christmas Past, Present, and Future: The Sounds of Christmas in our Historic Churches.

CCT and Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) were excited on Thursday, 1st December 2022, to host Christmas Past, Present, and Future: The Sounds of Christmas in our Historic Churches; a unique Christmas Carol Concert hosted by Zeb Soanes, which explored the nature of traditional and modern carols and their symbolism within historic churches in a unique narrative combining words, live choral music, and participative song.



Christmas Past, Present and Future: The Sound of Christmas in our Historic Churches
(© Joseph Casey)

Following a successful partnership for the virtual event The Big Christmas Carol Service in December 2020, RSCM and CCT once again teamed up to host another unique and exciting collaboration, showcasing the continued importance of church buildings, engaging in the history of congregational singing, and exploring the living tradition of carols.

January 2023

Peter Aiers awarded OBE in New Year's Honours List

Former Chief Executive of CCT, Peter Aiers was awarded an OBE in the King's New Year's Honours List. After 15 years of working for the Trust, Peter took up the post of Master and Chief Executive Officer at The Charterhouse in London in March 2022.

February 2023

The King approved the appointments of Ms Tanvir Hasan; Ms Erin Walsh; and Dr Emma Wells as trustees of the Churches Conservation Trust, each for a four-year term effective from 1 February 2023



Old Black Lion Ground breaking

March 2023

Building work began to rescue the Old Black Lion public house in Marefair, Northampton. The milestone was marked by a small gathering of those involved in the project including the contractors – Midland Conservation Limited – the Churches Conservation Trust, the Friends of St Peter's Church, and representatives of West Northamptonshire Council, who are key funders of the project.

Key figures for 2022-2023

9,203

Supporters, including members, volunteers and those who donated over £5 have contributed to caring for the 357 churches in the care of CCT.

66

members have elected to designate a portion of their membership subscription to their favourite church through our Church Based Membership Scheme

£32,980

was raised by CCT's 2022-23 Annual Appeal At the Heart of Communities, Always (excluding gift aid)

£543,472

was raised in church-based funding

£595,000

was donated to support our work

£547,000

was raised through legacies income and 62 known members of the Legacy Giving Group who have pledged a gift in their will to CCT

88%

of CCT's expenditure went on frontline projects to repair and support churches. At £5.8m, 'Church repairs and maintenance' continues to be the main call on our funds

£2.6 m

spent on supporting volunteers and communities, keeping churches open

61,219

accounts follow CCT across our social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter)

1.59 m

visitors walked through the doors of the 357 churches in our care

15

communities at churches outside those in the care of CCT were supported by the trust

15

churches will benefit from better churchyard management and wildlife training from organisations such as the Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Our New Churches

CCT's collection of historic churches continues to grow: find out about our two new vestings this year below.

A medieval church with over 700 years of history

St Torney's Church, North Hill, Cornwall —



The Church of St Peter, Tickencote, Rutland
(© CCT/George Reynolds)

The 90ft tower of St Torney's Church in North Hill, Cornwall, rises above the surrounding landscape and has formed part of the historic skyline of North Hill for centuries. The first recording of an incumbent at St Torney's was in 1260, and since that time it has been elegantly developed upon, especially during the 15th and 17th centuries.

The church sits in the centre of the village of North Hill, the population of which stands at around 992 residents, with the local village hall only a four-minute walk away. Despite its fairly central location, the use of St Torney's for worship declined in recent years, until on 17 March 2019 the church held its final service 'to give thanks for the witness and service of St Torney's at the foot of the moors for more than a millennium'. This stunning church has also been on the Heritage At Risk register, kept by Historic England, for the last seven years. In April 2022, St Torney's Church was placed into the care of CCT and conservation and repair work to the building began in late 2022. Water ingress is a major contributor to the works that are needed at the church, caused by inadequate drainage and gutters on the chancel, nave and aisles, including the lack of a drain at the east end of the church. This has resulted in damage and damp through parts of the building. CCT's plans include repairing or overhauling all rainwater goods, alongside re-detailing the tower, vault and porch roofs using Welsh slate and carrying out associated leadwork on all roofs.

Inside St Torney's Church are two magnificent 17th-century monuments to the Spoure family. The church is Grade I listed and sits within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, on the eastern side of Bodmin Moor. Visitors will notice the many exquisite monuments within, including the Spoure and Vincent tombs. These feature vibrantly coloured statues and macabre reliefs. In recent years, with considerable thought and care, the stonework was overpainted with several types of different paint. However, behind the paint an accumulation of damp and salts is now damaging the monument. CCT has begun to conduct an investigation to reach a full understanding and offer recommendations for the improvement of the condition and appearance of these monuments, ahead of conservation work to them.

These splendid monuments are juxtaposed with an especially beautiful, minimalist, undecorated Norman font. It is a space that is both grand, redolent with splendour, and calm: impressive rather than imposing.

An antique gem harbouring marvellous woodwork

St Wilfrid's Church, Brougham, Cumbria —



Exterior of St Wilfrid's Church, Brougham
(© CCT/Hannha Boatfield)

The Chapel of St Wilfrid at Brougham, near Penrith in Cumbria, was vested into the care of CCT in spring 2023. St Wilfrid's is in good company, joining its historic parish church, St Ninian's, which has been in the care of CCT since 1979.

Both are of historic interest for their association with Lady Anne Clifford (1590–1676). Her fascinating story is one of a struggle to secure her rightful inheritance and determination to put her family's estate into good physical order.

St Wilfrid's was originally built as a chapel of ease for Brougham Hall; however, the existing medieval chapel was entirely rebuilt by Lady Anne Clifford in 1658. Built on the site of an earlier church, it was the passion project of Lady Anne when she inherited the Brougham estate in 1658, making it one of four places of worship that were constructed during the Cromwellian period. It is, ostensibly, a simple building with buttresses, a nave, chancel, and bellcote. The marvels of the site lie in the medieval woodwork of continental origins, placed there by Lord Brougham in the 1840s.

These include stalls from 15th-century France, which feature carved canopies and lettering of brilliant blue and gold Latin text.

Water ingress is presently the main threat to the building. Too much of it is getting into the wall tops through aged lead-lined stone gutters and too little of it is escaping via the drains. Some alterations to the rainwater disposal systems will be necessary to ready the building for the challenges of climate change and the warmer, wetter weather it will bring. Repointing and replastering with lime mortars will allow the building to dry out. Its important collection of furniture and medieval glass will also be conserved.

Conservation and community always go hand in hand for new vestings. St Wilfrid's is part of a close and friendly local community, so we are delighted that CCT and the Parochial Church Council (PCC), which previously cared for St Wilfrid's, have forged a strong cooperative working relationship following vesting.

Volunteers and Community Supporters

Celebrating your outstanding contributions

Every year CCT recognises the incredible support and outstanding contributions of the community supporters and volunteers who help to care for our churches at the Community Supporter and Volunteer Evening. This culminates in the Community Supporter and Volunteer of the Year Awards, which is generously supported by the Marsh Charitable Trust. This year's event took place on 15 March and for the third year in a row, it was held virtually over Zoom.

Once everyone had settled in behind their screens and Judith Patrick, Head of Region, North, had covered all the necessary technological housekeeping, the evening began with a welcome speech by our Chair of the Board of Trustees, Liz Peace CBE. Attendees then heard from Greg Pickup, CCT Chief Executive. This was Greg's first time attending the event since joining as Chief Executive.

This was followed by the announcements of the Marsh Charitable Trust Community Supporter and Volunteer of the Year Awards winners for each of the seven categories

Community Supporter and Volunteer of the Year Awards 2023 Winners:

Digital Initiative

The All Stars Volunteers
All Saints', Cambridge, Cambridgeshire

The volunteers at All Saints' (aka the All Saints' All Stars) launched their project to welcome more visitors to Cambridge's Painted Church in autumn 2021. As a small team they didn't have the resources to open the church every day, so decided to organise events that would appeal to the widest possible audience.

Penny Robson undertook to find musicians, and so on 3 October 2021, Music @All Saints' was born. With no website, social media or mailing list the volunteers advertised through posters and word of mouth. Despite this, over 50 music lovers came to that first concert, and the All Stars realised how much more they could achieve if they had a presence on social media. And so, inspired by this initial success, the volunteers quickly upped their game, developing a website and setting up accounts on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. An account was also set up with Mailchimp and regular email campaigns are now sent to the growing mailing list (now nearly 400), while advance sales are booked through Eventbrite. Recent diagnostics from Mailchimp show that the mailing list is of a very high quality 'with over 57% highly likely to purchase again'.

Since that first recital in October 2021 audience numbers have continued to grow as recent events demonstrate. The Christmas concert with Granta Chorale was oversubscribed and it was wonderful to see over 200 people participating in the Ceremony of Carols.

MARSH

Charitable Trust

Achieving Impact

Judith Hall
St Mary Magdalene, Battlefield, Shropshire

Judith has long family links to the Battlefield church. Her father was one of our former longstanding volunteers who would open and close the church on a daily basis and meet and greet our many visitors. Sadly, after Judith's father passed away, the church went through a period of key access only, which saw a decline in visitor numbers and donations.

Judith took up the mantle her father left, opening and closing the church on a daily basis, which has seen a significant increase in visitors and donations. She was also instrumental in supporting a rewilding project of the churchyard, through identifying all of the current wild flowers that exist within the area, along with their locations. Alongside support from the local PCC, this has enabled the churchyard to have a cutting regime, allowing both flowers and grasses to flourish, identifying locations of orchids and reducing the maintenance costs for the PCC.

Without Judith's daily commitment to the church, the building would still only be available through key access, leading to reduced visitor numbers and donations in turn.

Fundraising Achievement

Ivor Walker
Elston Chapel, Elston, Nottinghamshire

In October 2022, Elston Chapel was subject to vandalism, which caused damage to the windows and the interior wall fabric of the church. The church warden, Ivor Walker, subsequently decided to host a bonfire night event on his land to help raise funds towards the costs of the repairs. This was a remarkable turnaround, as within a month of the vandalism taking place, Ivor had organised and held the event, which raised £500 towards the chapel repairs. A truly remarkable achievement in a small village! Ivor and his family have been church wardens for generations, including his father, himself and his daughter.

Team of the Year

Volunteer Team at St George's
St George's, Portland, Dorset

St George's team recently held their first Flower Festival and Coronation Celebration event, partnered with Dorset Wildlife Trust and local botanists. This wonderful event ensured that their volunteer-led churchyard maintenance project was as beneficial to the biodiversity of the vast graveyard as it was pleasing to the 20,000 visitors St George's has each year. The team held yet another very successful Summer Celebration and their second annual Light-up event this Christmas. They provide guided tours of the church and regular guided tours of the churchyard.

The team have also expanded their range of merchandise to optimise fundraising opportunities for the church and have successfully taken on the challenge of piloting a contactless payment machine.

The volunteers have a remarkable wealth of skills and knowledge that they give generously to maintain the church and welcome visitors, showing them all the delights of St George's.

Supporter of the Year – North

Adrian Argent-Cook
St Peter's, Gamston, Nottinghamshire

Since St Peter's, Gamston, was vested into the care of CCT in 2018, Adrian has been one of the main points of contact for the Trust.

As church warden, he has an extensive knowledge of the history of the church and the area as well as the people associated with St Peter's, past and present. He has put together an interesting history of the church in the form of a booklet.

During a lengthy period when conservation works were ongoing, Adrian kept an eye on the church, unlocking the doors for contractors and keeping the Gamston residents up to date with what was happening.

Whilst conservation work was taking place on the church interior, Adrian got together a group of villagers who now meet monthly to keep the churchyard in good order and improve it for visitors and wildlife. Some of the group have since gone on to be involved with the group looking after the church.

After the initial opening in December 2021, the church couldn't be fully opened to visitors because of ongoing work to the memorials. During this period, Adrian and his wife Sarah organised events that could be supervised, such as guided walks and talks as well as Foodie Fridays, where the villagers would congregate in the church, bringing their own food and getting to know each other better. When temperatures reached 40°C during the summer, Adrian opened up the church as a sanctuary for residents to escape from the heat – an initiative which was well received by many!

Supporter of the Year – North

Bobby Johnson
Milton Mausoleum, Milton, Nottinghamshire

Bobby has been a dedicated volunteer steward for over 10 years. Her love of this unique building, with its personal story and historic and social importance, is shared enthusiastically with its increasing numbers of visitors. A founder member of the Friends group and Treasurer, her dedication to her role and to ensuring that the Friends can finance their aims of making the Mausoleum a thriving community space drives their many and varied fundraising activities. Bobby is full of ideas; she sees things that need doing and does them. Bobby has been the driving force behind many events from launching the '100 Club' to holding 'Chocabola' at local Christmas markets. A recent initiative, 'Buy A Pane', was geared towards restoring the building's three remaining windows and turning an unused chapel and vestry into a meeting room and office. The team feel it is appropriate that her dedication and continuing hard work are recognised at this time.

Supporter of the Year – South East

Paul Unwin
St John the Baptist, Parson Drove, Cambridgeshire

Paul has gathered members of the neighbourhood to turn an unloved church into a community hub, hosting many unusual and creative events to raise money for the church and the CCT. From a Black tie dinner, to Farmer's markets, Christmas buffets and sales to Afternoon Teas, Paul and his team have attracted many visitors to the church who now appreciate the beauty of the building, and the work of the CCT. He has contributed to other projects in the LCO area which helps the volunteers and supporters of other churches as well.

Supporter of the Year – West

Rupert Hardy
St Andrew's, Winterborne Tomson, Dorset

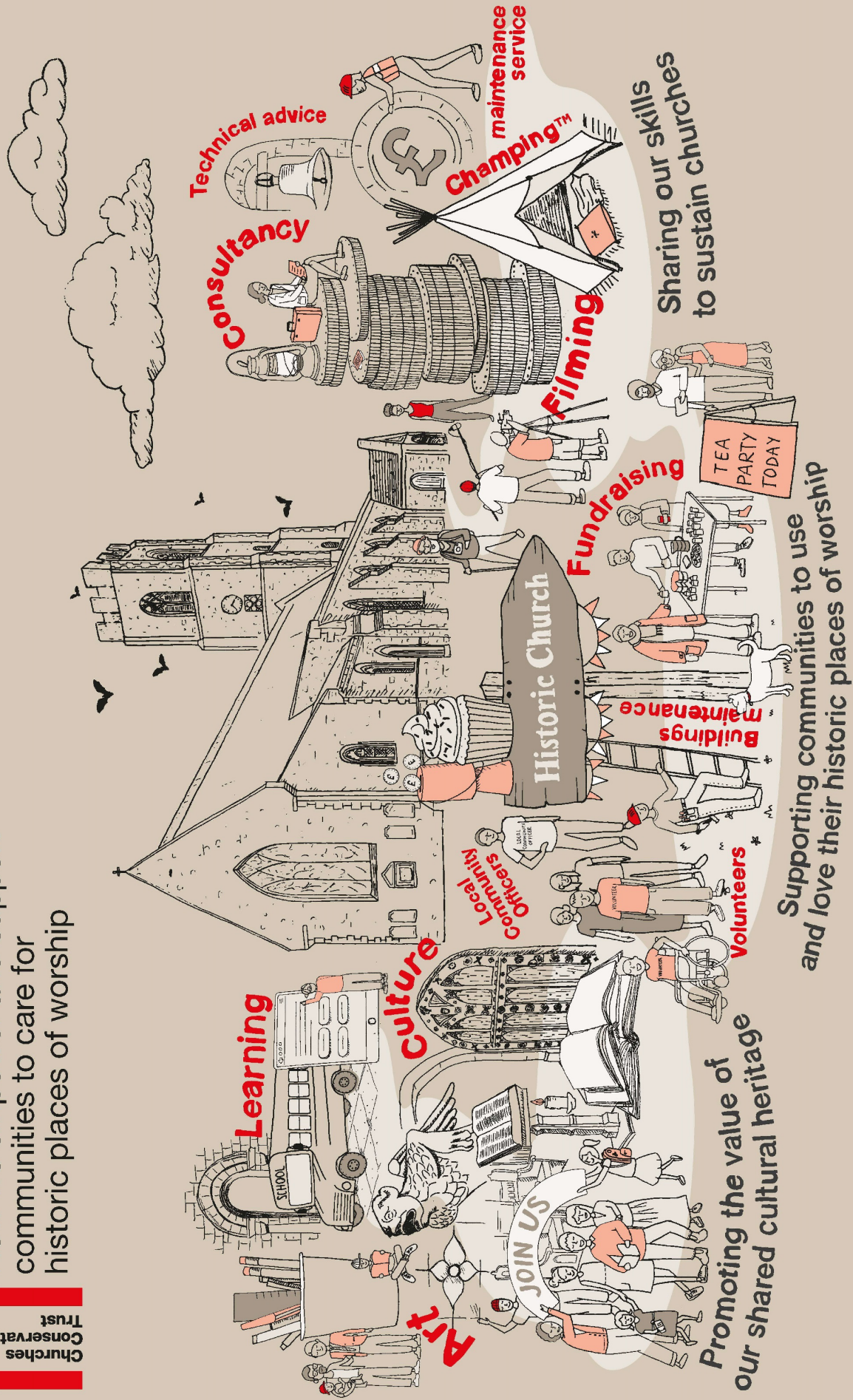
Rupert Hardy is an active supporter of his local church, St Andrew's in Winterborne Tomson, as well as the wider network of CCT churches in Dorset.

Rupert organises an annual concert at St Andrew's and hosts a post-concert reception at his home, the Manor, which is opposite the church. The last concert raised an impressive £747, which is remarkable given the capacity of this tiny Norman church. Rupert and his family also host drinks and mince pies after the annual Advent Service. During lockdown, Rupert produced a delightful video about the history of St Andrew's to reach a wider audience and encourage visitors. He has also worked with the Local Community Officer, suggesting new ways to promote text and online donations inside CCT churches. Rupert helps to coordinate annual lunches where volunteers from all the Dorset CCT churches share news and best practice and receive updates from CCT staff. During the last lunch in January, seven Dorset churches were represented and a healthy discussion was generated about fundraising ideas.



Strategy Map

How we empower and support communities to care for historic places of worship



Promoting the value of our shared cultural heritage

Supporting communities to use and love their historic places of worship

Sharing our skills to sustain churches

Annual Appeal Review: 2022 - 23

At the Heart of Communities. Always.

In June 2022 we launched our Annual Appeal, *At the Heart of Communities. Always*. This appeal aimed to increase the profile of our invaluable existing church communities and importantly, to raise funds to enable the Churches Conservation Trust to engage new audiences with these historic spaces which have been much more than just places of worship for many generations.

At CCT, we hold our members, donors, volunteers, and other supporters who fund our work in the highest regard. Due to their loyal support this past year our Appeal raised £33,090 (with an additional £4,362 from Gift Aid). This support has allowed us to invest further in providing creative ways to deliver the school curriculum, welcoming vulnerable individuals to our safe spaces, and teaching heritage craft skills to support career development for young people.



St Stephen's, Copley

Within this Annual Review, we are proud to report that as a charity we spent 2.6 million on supporting volunteers and communities during the past financial year. This is an increase from the previous year, 2021 – 22, when we spent £2.1million on these activities. We are also proud that 2,334 individuals support our organisation's work on a voluntary basis, an increase from 1,800 the year prior. It is thanks to these community supporters that we are able to keep our church doors open and free for the public to enjoy.

As is reflective of the current heritage sector, the number of visitors to our sites remains below pre-pandemic levels. However, we remain committed to working with communities to support their plans to encourage greater use of our buildings. We are optimistic that with their support the number of people



St Swithun's, Worcester
(© Andy Marshall)



St Peter's, Sudbury
(© Allison Burke)

As a small gesture of thanks to these church communities, each spring we host an awards evening that celebrates their achievements. This event is held in partnership with the Marsh Charitable Trust and recognises various activities, ranging from fundraising to digital innovations, to community impact. More information about the winners and their triumphs can be found on page X.

In June of this year, 2023, we were pleased to launch our latest Annual Appeal, *Roofs at Risk*. This Appeal will raise funds to contribute to our emergency and planned roof repair and intervention projects. However, we recognise that these special spaces would be nothing without the people who love and care for them and we will always keep people at the centre of our work.

Thank you once again to all those who supported our 2022 – 23 Annual Appeal. With our help and with your support the 357 churches in our care remain open and in use – living once



St Nicholas' Chapel, Kings Lynn

Conservation: Heritage Stimulus Fund

We are pleased to report that thanks to the funding provided by the Heritage Stimulus Fund over the last few financial years, the majority of CCT's top 15 urgent repair priorities, as set out at the start of the strategic period, have been successfully completed. This means that this financial year the team has been able to develop a new top 15 list, in consultation with regional teams, although the focus for both conservation and regional staff for the remainder of the strategic period is delivering a number of community initiatives.

This year's maintenance programme had a particular focus on meeting legal and regulatory compliance across the churches in the care of the trust, using additional funds received at the start of the strategy period from the Church Commissioners. St Torney's Church in North Hill, Cornwall, was vested into the care of the trust in 2022 and phase I repairs are currently underway to repair external stonework, rainwater goods and roofs, as well as grout the tower. You can read more about St Torney's Church, as well as our second new vesting of the financial year, St Wilfrid's Church in Brougham, Cumbria, on page X.

This year has seen a wide variety of projects both begin and reach completion. Each and every one of these projects posed its own unique set of opportunities and challenges and we are delighted to share some of the highlights of the year with you below.

Case study one:

Repointing, reopening and rejoicing

The Church of St Peter in Tickencote, Rutland, was welcomed into the care of the trust in December 2019. This quiet little church has been a part of the landscape since the Norman period; indeed its most striking feature is a grand, multi-layered Norman arch described by author, journalist and CCT trustee Sir Simon Jenkins as 'the great arch of Tickencote ... like a peacock's tail, comprising every motif of Norman art' in England's Thousand Best Churches.

At the start of the project, CCT set out three main aims for St Peter's: to make the church structurally safe and sound, repair the structural roof timber and weather-proof the church, and to ensure that the church can be open for use and enjoyed by the local community and the wider public.

The journey to get St Peter's to its much-awaited reopening date involved a number of moving parts and projects. The conservation works that were undertaken included repointing to the Norman chancel arch and recording traces of historic paint, repair and limewashing of the vaulted chancel ceiling and repairs to the slate roof, leadwork and roof timbers. Alongside this, glazing repairs were undertaken, including protective glazing for the medieval head found in the central window on the north side of the nave. Outside the church, existing drains underwent repairs and some new drains were

added to help with keeping the walls and pew platforms dry inside. Upgrades were also made to the electrics, including new energy-efficient lighting to highlight architectural features like the chancel arch and altar and installing a new lightning protection system. Last but not least, replicas of the historic keys to the church were made for local keyholders and staff.

Of course, at the time of vesting we could not know the turmoil that would come over the following years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact this would have on the future of this special church. With this in mind, we are particularly pleased to say that on 29 June 2022 St Peter's opened its doors with a special reopening ceremony. In addition to this, the project was able to deliver on all its aims at a cost of £186,000, less than the initial estimate for the works, which was set at £255,000.

The church is now open and can be enjoyed by all. It is cared for greatly by the local community in the village of Tickencote and hosts a small library inside the church. St Peter's attracts, and will continue to attract, visitors from all over because of its rare and beautiful Norman architecture. It is a favourite for groups to visit, including Leicester Cathedral walking group.



The Church of St Peter, Tickencote, Rutland
(© CCT/George Reynolds)

Culture
Recovery Fund
for Heritage

The
National Lottery
Heritage Fund

Historic
England



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

Case study two: Saving a Suffolk Gem

Stonham Parva, also known as Little Stonham, is a small village in the heart of Suffolk. It boasts the beautiful, Church of St Mary the Virgin. However, for the last few years, the churchyard was as close as most could get to this rural church due to health and safety concerns caused by the movement of roof trusses. Fortunately, thanks to funding from the Culture Recovery Fund, the urgent works needed to make this church safe have been able to take place in 2022.

The double hammerbeam roof came to be at severe risk of being lost without urgent intervention. Following the sudden fall of a roof timber element, St Mary's had to be closed to the public for health and safety reasons. Investigations and high-level surveys took place, and a programme of structural repairs was identified, but due to limited funding the project had to be put on hold.

However, CCT was delighted to learn that we had been awarded a further grant of £1.6m towards the delivery of urgent repair projects by the Heritage Stimulus Fund. CCT was one of 445 heritage organisations across the country to receive funding from the first round of funding from the Culture Recovery Fund in 2020, with a total of £1.57bn provided by the Government. The Culture Recovery Fund is delivered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England, using funds provided by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport.

This second round granted funding to an additional 19 projects, including St Mary's Church in Stonham Parva. St Mary's was awarded £371,000 and required 20% of match-funding to fund the £464,000 total project cost, the largest single grant out of any of the churches to have benefited from the fund since 2020. FA Valiant & Son Ltd were appointed to undertake the project which included repairs to the nave roof structure, recovering of the south east chapel roof, repairs to the chancel roof and interior decoration of the nave and south east chapel.

This urgent conservation work has not only saved this historic church for future generations but has revealed details of the hammerbeam roof that likely have not been seen for centuries, such as the high level of detailed carving on the beams. CCT is delighted that St Mary's Church is once again safe to be open to the public, for the local community to use and enjoy for events and services.



Stonham Parva during HSF works
(© CCT/FA Valiant & Son Ltd)

Case study three: World-class stained-glass

Thanks to support from National Lottery players, we were delighted to announce in August 2022 that a project was going ahead to stabilise, conserve and celebrate the stained glass within the Grade I listed St Mary's Church in Shrewsbury.

The grant for £246,883 was awarded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The stained glass within St Mary's is a remarkable collection, which is internationally renowned. It includes acclaimed English and important continental glass spanning the 14th to the 19th centuries. In total, 12 windows are undergoing conservation, including stained glass within the Trinity Chapel. This glass is unique in Britain and represents very fine work of a particular period, of which there are few surviving examples worldwide.

Work on the windows will help to restore delicate paint pigments, stabilise existing paintwork and repair lead work which has become distorted or deteriorated. This work is needed due to the age of the windows and the effects of weathering. The grant will allow CCT to repair some windows which have unfortunately been the target of heritage crime.

As well as support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, project costs of £353,000 were met with the generous support of individual donors and through events at St Mary's, for which the Churches Conservation Trust is truly grateful.



King in Majesty at St Mary the Virgin, Shrewsbury
(© CCT/Churches Conservation Trust)

Regeneration

The Regeneration Team has had much to celebrate in the last financial year, with progress being made at our projects at the Old Black Lion, Northampton, and St John's Church in Lancaster, alongside our consultancy projects which have continued to support communities at historic places of worship across the country.

Most notably, two of the team's major regeneration projects, Sound & Art at St Swithun's and Seventeen Nineteen in Sunderland, were launched to the public in 2022, and a third major project at St Peter's Church in Sudbury has reached numerous milestones in the last 12 months. We are pleased to be putting the spotlight on the exciting year these three projects have in the 2022/23 Annual Review.

Launch of Sound & Art at St Swithun's, Worcester

In September 2013, over 400 people dropped in at a community fun day with a purpose at the Grade I listed St Swithun's Church in Worcester City Centre. Visitors took part in one of the first stages of consultation on how to develop new uses and create the investment needed to give this city centre building a sustainable future at the heart of its community.

Just shy of 10 years later, thanks to the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Friends of St Swithun's, the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and all those who supported CCT's 2016 Annual Appeal and beyond, Sound & Art at St Swithun's has opened its doors.

While consultation and fundraising began nearly a decade ago, the physical work to regenerate this historic church did not begin in earnest until 2019. This was when St Swithun's began its exciting £2.8m transformation aimed at conserving, repairing and adapting the building to create a distinctive venue for arts, music and a cultural space in the heart of Worcester. The impact and effect of Covid-19 delayed the project, which was set to launch in 2021. But finally, with a new Arts Centre Manager and Business Administration Apprentice in role, Sound & Art at St Swithun's launched in October 2022, showcasing the best in arts and music to the Worcester community and further afield.

Prior to the launch, there were many key priorities for the team to complete to become fully operational. These included applying for a premises licence so that the venue could sell alcohol and provide entertainment, setting up a functioning bar area, building local arts and heritage partnerships and running soft-launch events. These consisted of an organ recital given on St Swithun's Day and involvement in Worcester Music Festival, as well as various other activities that enabled us to test and learn how the building worked in an operational capacity. One of the team's biggest tasks was to curate a programme of events from the launch date until the end of the year. This involved booking a diverse mix of artists and performers with a big emphasis on marketing and promoting the launch.

The launch was very successful, with over 300 visitors throughout the day and evening. The event started with Georgian-themed family activities provided by our West Heritage Learning Team. Children were invited to 'make their own tricorne hat', 'decorate a Georgian pocket', 'learn a new language' and 'dress like a Georgian'. From the afternoon onwards, we had a variety of poetry, spoken word and live music performances delivered by such artists as Hannah Law, Katherine Gallagher, Luc Ralinoro, Poppy WS and a headline performance by up-and-coming singer-songwriter LionHaire.

Feedback from visitors was very positive and many were in awe of the restoration of the beautiful Georgian architecture.

Since launching, the stunning Georgian church has showcased a diverse mix of artists and performers and played host to an exclusive VIP visit for representatives of key funders and stakeholders. The team have been working closely with other heritage partnerships in the city to combine forces to promote the wonderful and historic assets Worcester has to offer. They have also formed a partnership with Worcester University to give students the opportunity to take part in poetry slams and regular open mic, spoken word evenings.

Alongside a packed calendar of events, the team are building relationships with local schools and colleges to provide educational workshops revolving around heritage, music and art. Sound & Art at St Swithun's has very quickly become a popular destination and addition to the arts and music scene in Worcester. CCT is very excited to offer the community a resource to learn and engage with the building and to support emerging talent both locally and nationally in the arts and music world.

St Peter's Church, Sudbury

Since 2020, CCT's Regeneration Team has worked closely with project architects, engineers, surveyors and other technical professionals to refine the plans for St Peter's church, an amazing (but underused) Medieval church set right in the heart of the market town of Sudbury, at the top of Market Hill. Pre-site works involved developing architectural and engineering technical designs, discharging pre-commencement planning conditions, preparing construction phase management plans and refining final specifications.

Because of complex building constraints the works at St Peter's was split into two. Phase 1 Enabling with Maldon Structural who carried out preparatory works from September – December 2022, which meant closing the main road through the heart of the town to drill through the medieval foundations into the main sewer, which meant we were able to install toilets for the first time - The diamond tipped drill was a site to behold and the team held their breath as the works took place.

Phase two was the main contract works- awarded to were Universal Stone Limited (USL), in June 2022. The company are based in Wickford, Essex. Established in 1939 USL have extensive experience working on church and other listed heritage buildings, making them the perfect company for the innovative £2.5m regeneration project which aims to regenerate St Peter's as a cultural and community centre for Sudbury, embedding it further into the heart of the town for generations to come.

Alongside working with the Regeneration Team to deliver a fantastic heritage craft skills programme for local schools, heritage professionals and the local community, Universal Stone also recruited a Stonemason Apprentice, who has been training on site at St Peter's and other USL sites. We are pleased to be able to support another young person in addressing the nationally recognised shortage of traditional heritage skills through work at one of the sites in our care.

Work has progressed at pace throughout the year and additional heating upgrades, graveyard enhancements, nave decoration, restoration of the Chancel curtains and conservation of the nave floor have also be funded through additional fundraising and project contingencies.

Alongside regeneration of the site, CCT embarked into a partnership with The Bridge Project, exploring a mutually beneficial plan for the operation of the site at a local level. Originally outlined at the café operators for St Peter's in our Round2 bid to NLHF, with a new CEO the Bridge started conversations about taking on the full lease, we are excited to see where these conversations lead us. We were also thrilled to learn in November that Allison Burke, former Development Officer at CCT and now Operations Manager for The Bridge at St Peter's, had been awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (FRSA). Since 1754, the RSA Fellowship has been a community of leaders in the fields of art, literature, journalism and business who have made contributions to society or the arts and are able to support the mission of the RSA. As of 2022, the RSA welcomes to the Fellowship all those who are aligned with the organisation's values and share its vision. Its Fellows are an integral part of the RSA in creating a better future. Thanks to her outstanding dedication to St Peter's, Alli is now one of these Fellows

Award winning Launch for Seventeen Nineteen

We are delighted to report that on 16 April 2022 Holy Trinity Church in Sunderland opened its doors as Seventeen Nineteen, following the completion of a £5.1m transformation. This was made possible by support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Sunderland City Council, Allchurches Trust, Garfield Weston, and other funders, individuals, supporters and donors, including many CCT members who donated to 2017's appeal.

In 2017, the Churches Conservation Trust's annual appeal was focused on Holy Trinity, which at the time was one of the seven most endangered buildings in Europe according to Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register. The ceiling was held up in parts by scaffolding, water was penetrating the building and there was damage to masonry and plasterwork, as well as rotting timbers. Hard hats were a must for visitors, with plaster falling from the damaged ceiling, yet the beauty of Holy Trinity Church still shone through.

Historic Restoration Ltd (HPR) balanced the preservation of this historic Grade1 listed building with sensitive interventions to help secure the site with a sustainable future. Works here were tricky, on opening up, despite numerous scans and reports the nave was found to have no foundations – the Lady Chapel was literally resting on the wooden floor boards, and

the 1735 addition of the Apse was pulling the building to the East and damaging the Waile stained glass ranged from urgent and highly skilled fabric building repair, such as historic brickwork and masonry, plastering and joinery to sensitively equipping the space with up-to-date facilities. Holy Trinity Church has now completed its transformation into Seventeen Nineteen, a spectacular space within the church for connecting people and sharing stories and heritage.

On 16 April 2022, Seventeen Nineteen opened its doors to the public with a spring fair showcasing a renovation as stunning as it is sympathetic to the fabric of the building. The event was well attended and packed full of stalls selling homemade wares and baked goods, craft sessions, performances, an art exhibition and children's rides. In the evening visitors came to listen to Sunderland musicians the Lake Poets, whose song Shipyards is the theme music for the Netflix series Sunderland 'Til I Die.

From the outset, Seventeen Nineteen was designed to be a cultural, heritage and events space and it is holding true to those ideals. The project drew on the East End's heritage as a seafaring port to hold an evening of sea shanties with live music, dancing and games. By reminding the local people of their shared heritage and culture, Seventeen Nineteen is restoring a sense of community to this historic corner of Sunderland. We are also pleased to say that the wider heritage and conservation community has come together to recognise this very special project, as Seventeen Nineteen has received a total of nine national and regional awards including:

- Georgian Group 'Re-use of a Georgian Building' winner
- RIBA – RIBA NE Award 2023, RIBA North East building of the year 2023 and RIBA North East Conservation award 2023
- Museums+Heritage 'Conservation project of the Year' 2022
- National Brick awards (Conservation and Restoration awards)2022 – Judges Commendation
- National Construction in Excellence awards (Conservation and Regeneration awards2022) – Highly Commended
- G4U - Apprentice of the Year Award (17nineteen young apprentice Tyler Moore)

Thank you to all who have supported this project from near and far.



Learning and Participation

Through match-funding from the Department for Education via Historic England, our Learning team have continued to support the equivalent of three full-time Heritage Learning Officers who work with schools to bring young people into our church buildings. The programme has now been going since 2012, allowing us to build relationships with schools, teachers and learning networks. The Team also devises and runs popular family learning programmes across the country and interpretation at new Vestings.

Celebrating 10 years of Heritage Schools

Both Historic England and CCT believe that every child should have the opportunity to be inspired by their local heritage, take pride in it and that every teacher should have brilliant resources to help explore the local historic environment in and outside the classroom.

For over ten years, CCT has delivered the Heritage Schools Programme in partnership with Historic England to help achieve this aim. This has involved delivering sessions in churches and schools, offering a wide range of free online learning resources, including films, for teachers and supporting more than 400 schools across England to engage with their local heritage.

Over the past decade, CCT's Heritage Learning Team has engaged over 24,000 school pupils in curriculum-based sessions inside historic churches and in classrooms local to many of the churches in the trust's care. These draw on aspects of a particular church building and its history through tailored sessions which have been expertly developed to support cultural learning for different ages and abilities. We also work with teachers and other education professionals to expand awareness of how to teach a broad range of subjects, using a local historic church and the rich inspiration it provides as a stimulus for learning. We offer a wide range of engaging workshops exploring topics on a variety of curriculum subjects from Art and History to Science and Maths.

Thanks to this programme, the last decade has created unique opportunities for children to experience their local heritage as part of their education, establishing a deeper connection to where they live and discover their local historic CCT church.

Foliage, fruit and fabulation: inspiring the next generation

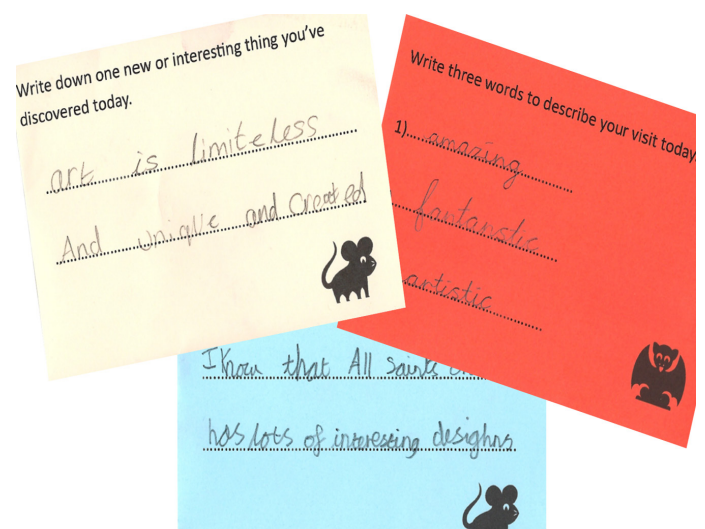
Inside All Saints' Church in Cambridge, patterns cover almost every surface with the walls and ceilings decorated in rich, dark, red, green, and gold patterns. Many of the stencilled designs are based on foliage and fruit, such as the pomegranate, bursting with seeds and symbolising the new life of the Resurrection. The stunning Pre-Raphaelite east window, along with the stained glass in the nave, allows sunlight to pour into the building. The church was created by the architect George Frederick Bodley, and features work designed by Edward Burne-Jones, Ford Madox Brown, William Morris, and Charles Eamer Kempe. It is perhaps unsurprising then that Cambridge's painted church would find itself as the inspiration for four newly

commissioned works by four artists, each with a connection to the city. Fabulation, a responsive exhibition featuring works from local artists, was supported by funding from the Arts Society and the works, created in a variety of media, were a response to the elaborately decorated Victorian church.

Three classes of pupils from local primary schools visited the exhibition at All Saints' to take part in CCT-led art workshops and meet one of the artists whose work featured in the exhibition. The sessions started with a game to introduce the children to the church and got them searching for the pomegranates as well as for a dog and a dragon. They heard from artist Jenny about some of the ideas and processes behind her compositions and then set off to explore the building and the exhibition in search of inspiration for their own creative work.

As the church is filled with colour, the focus for these workshops was the use of colour, so the children were not given any white paper or lead pencils. For their first piece, they worked with one- or two-coloured chalk pastels on a black background. This was followed by an activity using only scissors and coloured paper to create a freehand design inspired by the stencilled patterns richly decorating the interior of the building. They then chose from the available materials to create their own artwork. The children finished the session by viewing a wonderful diorama, a miniature model, kindly loaned by David Parr House, showing the amazingly patterned interior of the local Victorian decorative artist's home. David Parr worked for F R Leach & Sons, the Cambridge firm that carried out much of the painting inside All Saints'.

One of the teachers commented that they liked how 'every child could take part' and that the children could 'express themselves freely'. Teachers and pupils left filled with enthusiasm from their visit and with lots of ideas for their own artwork back in school.



Examples from the Learning and Participation's team exercises at All Saints' Church, Cambridge
(© CCT / Churches Conservation Trust)

At the heart of a Buckinghamshire community

Hidden away amongst modern housing developments, and within earshot of the M1 motorway, the tiny medieval Church of St Lawrence, Broughton, is re-emerging as a cherished community asset.

Over the last three years, CCT has been working with local partnerships to introduce an increasing number of residents to this exceptional historic building. Recent housing and commercial developments near this ancient village on the outskirts of Milton Keynes have stimulated a population increase, bringing many newcomers to the area who are unfamiliar with its history. By offering the local primary schools a learning programme at St Lawrence's, we have been able to develop further activities which bring children and adults – some new to the area and some life-long residents – together. The enthusiastic response from local participants shows that there is clearly an appetite for more opportunities to come together in the church.

Children from the two local primary schools now regularly participate in a programme of learning activities devised in collaboration with teachers. St Lawrence's is full of artworks, objects and stories which provide stimulus and inspiration for learning, as well as a unique setting to explore curriculum topics. Activities predominantly focus on Local History Studies and Religious Education, though there is plenty of opportunity to cover other areas of the school curriculum too. Inside the church, children can explore the building and marvel at the amazing medieval wall paintings showing scenes of dragons and of judgement. In the classroom they might examine a series of archived maps of Broughton as they discover more about the changing local landscape and the traditional parish community with the church at its centre.

In order to build and strengthen local ties and a sense of connection in this new and growing community, local teacher Emily Garratt started offering a series of Welcome and Wellbeing Wednesday Walks for the parents of children attending Brooklands Farm Primary School. With support from Heritage Learning colleagues, notably Heritage Learning Officer Caroline Wilkins, CCT has welcomed children and adults, many of whom had never visited the church, to informal drop-in family activities during school holidays. We topped off the year with a festive Winter Walk, a wreath-making workshop and refreshments put on by local volunteers who have been involved with the life of St Lawrence's for many years. It has been wonderful to see local groups and different generations come together and connecting both with each other and with the building.



A mural of St George and the Dragon at
St Lawrence's, Broughton
(© Andy Marshall)

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The Trust wishes to record its thanks for the continuing help and support it receives which enables it to do its work across its 356 churches. The list below notes the Trust's sponsors (who provide its Statutory Grant), Key Funders, Trusts, Foundations, Friends of Churches, other organisations and individuals that in the year gave generously to the Trust. We are also grateful to those who would like their support to remain anonymous.

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Gifts in wills play an important and much-valued part in supporting the work of the Trust. We would like to thank the following named donors and those who wish to remain anonymous for pledging a gift for the Trust in their wills:

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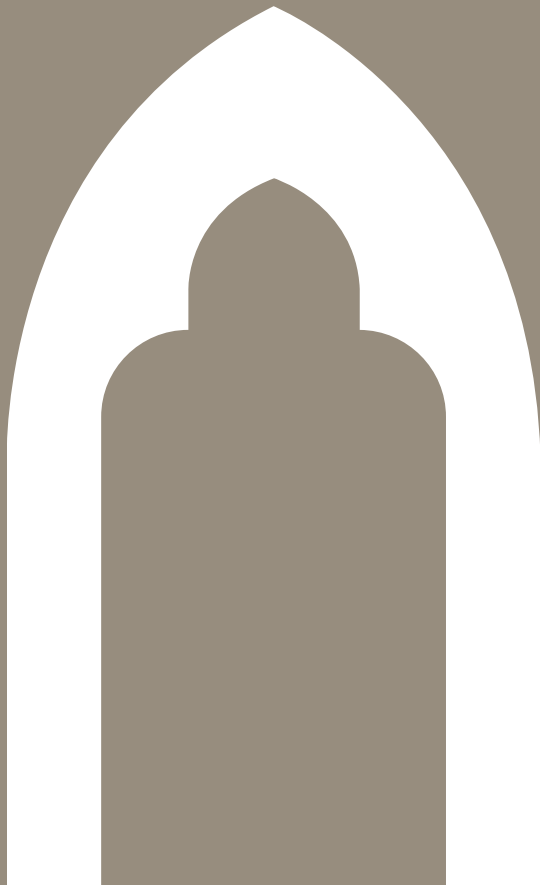
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