



# CHURCH HERITAGE

News from the  
Church Buildings Team



St Mary's, Fowlmere



St Michael, Chesterton



**Welcome to the newsletter from the Church Buildings Team,  
giving a quick overview of key information and updates.**

All the information in this newsletter is correct at the time of writing.  
If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the team directly.

## GOOD NEWS

### **Celebrating Forty Years of The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust**

The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust exists to promote the vast and important inheritance of church buildings in Cambridgeshire. The Trust spearheads the annual Ride and Stride event in the county, and has helped many PCCs to repair and equip their buildings through grants and loans. The Trust is also an important advocate for Cambridgeshire's church buildings in the media and through the national network of county churches trusts.

This year the Trust is celebrating its 40th anniversary, culminating in a **Festal Evensong at Ely Cathedral on Wednesday 27 June at 5.30pm**. Everyone wishing to help celebrate the churches of Cambridgeshire is very welcome to attend. Find out more about the Trust [on the website](#).



## MORE GOOD NEWS...PLEASE!

From repairs to ponds, we know that lots of projects are underway, but we don't often hear when they have been completed. Many of you have asked us for examples of projects in the Diocese and people to contact for some first-hand advice, but we need your help to do this. If you have a project, whether it is big or small, please contact Holly; she will happily come and visit the church during and after the project to take photographs and jot down some key details - that's really all we need. Please help us to highlight and celebrate the successes, and build a network of support across the Diocese.



## SECURITY

### Churches urged to review security in the light of thefts of audio equipment, historic silverware and...biscuits

Cambridgeshire Police have asked us to put out a note to all churches in the Diocese, following a recent spate of thefts from churches. These have ranged from minor incidents of thefts of flower vases and foodbank stock, to the theft of historic silverware from safes and audio and video equipment.

It is not clear whether or how these incidents may be linked, but the Police are asking that ALL incidents of suspicious behaviour, forced access and missing items should be reported to them, to help them build a fuller picture of where and when incidents are occurring.

For incidents of theft and forced break-in, these should be reported via the standard reporting system on 101 or via the Web: [Report a Crime](#). Anyone witnessing suspicious behaviour, unexplained vehicles in the vicinity of churches, or matters seemingly too trivial to report as a crime, should report these directly to the Rural Crime Unit [RCAT@cambs.police.uk](mailto:RCAT@cambs.police.uk), even if there is no evidence a crime has (yet) been committed.

### Review security but please do not lock the whole church

The answer to security is not to lock the whole church. This merely requires the thieves to break in causing more costly damage, and leaving them secure in the knowledge that no-one is likely to disturb their activities inside a locked church. Consider the following:

- Avoid leaving keys in prominent key safes.
- Upgrading an antique safe to a more modern safe.
- Install or upgrade CCTV in appropriate areas of the church or churchyard. Thieves have recently been stealing CCTV recording devices in order to remove evidence of the theft. Modern systems can upload images directly to the internet.
- Lock all modern audio and video equipment away out of sight.

The Ecclesiastical Insurance website contains several [guidance documents](#) on different aspects of church security. Guidance including a short video on how to keep churches open safely can be found on the [Diocesan website](#).

## REMINDERS

### Church Property Register

Please ensure your terrier, inventory and log book are kept up-to-date. A logbook, in particular, can be overlooked but its importance cannot be underestimated. Logbooks are a record of all alterations, additions, removals or repairs to the fabric, fixtures and fittings of the church and churchyard. This record enables future Churchwardens and PCCs to know exactly what action has been taken and when, in order to inform decisions which they may need to take in future.

It is recommended that you produce/maintain an inventory or terrier, together with a photographic record of valuables (including stained glass windows) to aid recovery/replacement of valuable items if stolen or seriously damaged. A copy of this document should be kept away from the church e.g. at the home of a Church official. For more details and paper and electronic versions of these documents, please visit our [Guidance Notes and Policies webpage](#).

### Get Ready for Ride and Stride - Saturday 9th September

One of the biggest fundraising events for historic church buildings is only a few months away. It's a national event, but it is organised locally by County Historic Churches Trusts. There are numerous ways to take part to make it as inclusive as possible. You can be a sponsored participant walking, riding a bike, horse etc... to visit as many churches as possible, or you can be a sponsored welcomer at a church, greeting participants. You can open your church for all or part of the day, or if this isn't possible, encourage people to stop and explore the churchyard instead. If all else fails, people can just give a donation or support the event by displaying a poster or mentioning it on social media. It's as much about highlighting the importance and need for support on a local and national scale, as it is about raising money for church buildings.

Please take part in [Cambridgeshire](#) and [Norfolk](#). For other counties visit the [R&S information page](#). You can also take part in [Heritage Open Days](#) 8th-17th September.

## RISK CALENDAR

*Taken from [Ecclesiastical Insurance's Church Risk Calendar](#).*

### June - Fire Risk Assessment

Have you reviewed your [fire risk assessment](#)? All churches need to complete a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 which should be periodically reviewed to remain valid.

### July - Working at Height

Falls from height can result in serious injury. Identify circumstances where tasks or access at height may be required and check the precautions you have taken are adequate.

### August - Electrical Wiring

Electricity has the potential to cause considerable damage to property and serious personal injury. Check your electrical systems have been inspected by a qualified electrician within the last five years.



# MAINTENANCE MATTERS

## Call for Maintenance Contractor Recommendations

We need your help to gather a list of maintenance contractors in order to help parishes across the Diocese. We know that many PCCs carry out a lot of maintenance jobs with volunteer help from the local area, and we would like to hear about that too. But some jobs, particularly those involving high level access, can be difficult to undertake without specialist equipment. If your church uses a trusted maintenance contractor for more specialist tasks, including clearing gutters and rodding drains, please pass their details to Geoffrey (contact details on final page) so we can help other churches in your local area to access their services.



## Recommended Monthly Tasks From SPAB's Faith in Maintenance Calendar.

### June

- Inspect all windows. Check the glazing, putty, lead comes and wire ties for signs of damage.
- Check timberwork for signs of rot including less accessible areas such as floor and roof voids, under stairs and in cupboards.
- Clear any dirt from condensation drainage channels and holes at the base of windows.
- Remove any vermin from floor and roof voids.

### July

- Look at timber windows, doors, fascias and bargeboards. Check for cracked and rotten wood. Redecoration may be required.
- Clear away any plant growth from around the base of the walls and in particular from the drainage channel.
- Have the lightning conductor system serviced once every five years.
- If your building has a steeple, consider having it inspected by a steeplejack once every five years.

### August

Take a break!

Further information can be found on our website, along with updated advice for churchyards which now includes more on churchyards closed for burials. Follow these links for [Building Maintenance](#) and [Churchyards and Memorials](#).



# MAINTENANCE CONTINUED...

## Maintenance Morning

Earlier this year we arranged some informal meetings for volunteers centred around maintenance. Unfortunately, we only had 3 bookings so the sessions had to be cancelled. In case it was the time of year that deterred people, we have arranged another morning session at **Holy Trinity, Orton Longueville on Wednesday 20th September, 9:45am to 12:30pm.**

It includes a brief introduction to maintenance followed by a walk round the church highlighting maintenance needs, with tips and practical demonstrations where appropriate, led by the inspecting architect for the church, Peter Slinger.

The main aim is to give an opportunity for anyone involved in looking after a church building to get together and share experiences around the theme of maintenance. It is **free** to attend with morning refreshments provided. To book a place please contact Holly. Other venues and dates may be added depending upon funding and availability.

If you are interested but would prefer a different location, please let Holly know so she can plan future sessions.



# GRANTS: UPDATES

## Benefact Trust

As part of a new-look grants framework, the Benefact Trust has launched a new Building Improvement Grants Programme to protect and enhance Christian buildings; ensuring their continued use for generations to come, and to safeguard their rich heritage. [Find out more here.](#)

## National Churches Trust

The National Churches Trust paused its grant programmes in 2022 in order to launch a new strategy and grant database this year. All the grant programmes have now re-opened with just a few key changes. To find out more [visit the Trust's website.](#)

## Amey Cespa Community Fund Name Change

The Amey Cespa Community Fund is now the **Thalia WB Community Fund**. The grant scheme remains the same. Please note that grants over £50,000 are only awarded in exceptional circumstances. [Visit the website for more details.](#)

## Mick George Alters Catchment Area

The eligible funding area has shifted west. Parishes in Norfolk or on the far east edge of Cambridgeshire may find they are no longer eligible to apply as a result. Please [check the map](#) on the website before starting an application.

# GRANTS: UPDATES CONTINUED...

## Heritage 2033

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) has released the first details of its long-term vision for the UK's heritage – [Heritage 2033](#).

There are four investment principles that will underpin everything:

- saving heritage
- protecting the environment
- inclusion, access and participation
- organisational sustainability

The vision includes a commitment to reducing the amount of 'heritage at risk' as well as new strategic funding streams which will include:

**“...identifying gaps in support to the heritage sector, particularly where there is heritage at risk and in need of conservation – for example places of worship or industrial heritage.”**

Further detail and direction is expected this summer, in the meantime, applicants are asked to continue to apply for funding using the [current guidance and outcomes](#).

The Fund has also revised its advice regarding the proportion of heritage activities to the grant request. In the past, parishes have been advised that heritage activities must be proportional to the total project cost, regardless of the grant request. This is no longer the case.

**“...the scope and cost of activities relates to **the amount of grant requested [from NLHF], not the total project costs.**”**

## Changes to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme Website

The web address for the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme has changed to [www.listed-places-of-worship-grant.dcms.gov.uk](http://www.listed-places-of-worship-grant.dcms.gov.uk) This is part of a series of planned changes that will culminate in service users being able to apply for a LPW grant online. EMB, the new administrators of the LPWGS fully appreciate that many service users will want to continue to apply on paper or via email and would like to provide reassurance that they will retain a variety of channels for applications once the online process goes live later this year. This includes the option to speak directly to a grant administrator.

## Plunkett Foundation: grants and adviser support extended to end of 2023

Thanks to funding from the Benefact Trust, Plunkett has been able to extend its programme of funding until the end of 2023 enabling them to continue offering free business support and grants to help community groups and active Christian places of worship across the UK to explore co-location. They can provide free adviser support on everything from engaging with your community to legal structures. There are also grants up to £5,000 available to help with feasibility and development work. If you are interested do call them on 01993 630 022 or email them [info@plunkett.co.uk](mailto:info@plunkett.co.uk)

More information about the grants as well as a wealth of new resources and case studies can be found on [Plunkett's website](#).

## Suspended Grants

- The Skinner's Company Lady Neville Charity - closed until further notice.
- Prince of Wales' Charitable Fund - due to re-open August 2023.
- The Leche Trust - online application in development - due to open for applications Sept 2023.



# GRANTS

## Current Deadlines

### June

1st	The Joseph Rank Trust
1st	Thalia WB Community Fund ( <i>Amey Cespa</i> )
5th	Church Buildings Council: church plate, churchyard structures, brasses & metalwork, monuments, textiles, wooden objects.
7th	FCC Communities Foundation
22nd	Veolia Environment Trust
29th	National Churches Trust Small Grants
30th	War Memorials Trust

### July

3rd	The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust
4th	National Churches Trust Large Grants
20th	The Steel Charitable Trust
31st	Valencia Communities Fund (Virridor)

### August

TBC	Congregational and General Charitable Trust
1st	Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
7th	Church Buildings Council (Stained Glass)
17th	National Lottery Heritage Fund
30th	Mick George Community Fund
31st	The Georgian Group - Cleary Fund
31st	William and Jane Morris Fund

### Early September

1st	The Sharpe Trust
1st	Thalia WB Community Fund
1st	The Joseph Rank Trust
5th	The Idlewild Trust
6th	FCC Communities Foundation
11th	The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust



St Lawrence's, Wicken

## Grants without Deadlines

The Archer Trust  
Benefacts Trust  
Church Buildings Council Conservation Reports  
Garfield Weston  
Geoffrey Watling (Norfolk only)  
Henry Smith Charity  
National Lottery Community Fund: Awards for All  
National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities Fund  
National Lottery Heritage Fund: Grants for Heritage (upto £250,000)  
Paul Bassham Charitable Trust (Norfolk only)  
Suez Community Fund  
Tarmac Funding  
Tesco Bags of Help  
The Barron Bell Trust  
The Beatrice Laing Trust  
The Bernard Sunley Foundation  
The Clothworkers' Foundation  
The Co-op Local Community Fund  
The Foyle Foundation Small Grants  
The Hobson Charity Ltd  
The Jack Patston Trust (Cams only)  
The Jill Franklin Trust  
The John S Cohen Foundation  
The Rank Foundation Pebble Grants  
The Round Tower Churches Society  
The Swire Charitable Trust - grants under £25,000  
The Tudor Trust  
TASC Grants

For advice on grants whether it is for repairs or new works, please contact Holly. If you would prefer to search for grants and receive more frequent updates on funding opportunities, you can register for free with the following websites:

- [Support Cambridgeshire](#)
- [Hunts Forum](#)
- [Grants Online](#)
- [My Funding Central](#)
- [Funds Online](#)

# ENVIRONMENT

## Love Your Burial Ground Week and Count on Nature: 3rd - 11th June

Love your Burial Ground Week is a celebratory week which has been running for many years.

**Caring for God's Acre** has been encouraging all who help to look after churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries to

celebrate these fantastic places in the lovely month of June – in any way you choose. We've seen history talks, picnics and even abseiling teddy bears!

Churches Count on Nature 2023 is part of Love Your Burial Ground Week, focusing on the brilliant wildlife to be found in churchyards and chapel yards. It is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK. [Discover more here.](#)

## Heating Seminar: 8th June, St John the Evangelist, Waterbeach

Places are still available on this morning event, which is aimed at helping churches to focus on the heating options which are most suitable for their building and how it is used. [Book via Eventbrite.](#)

## Churchyard Conservation Scheme

This year the Wildlife Trust's Churchyard Conservation Award scheme marks 40 years, having been set up originally in Northamptonshire by botanist and conservationist Franklyn Perring. There are bronze, silver and gold awards (see image below) to aspire to with a points system accrued for various criteria - any churchyard can enter and receive a free advisory visit; award winners receive a display plaque.

[Read an article](#) about the work of the Cambridgeshire Trust.

Visit the Wildlife Trust websites for [Cambridgeshire](#) or [Norfolk](#) to discover how your church or group could get involved.



### Scoring Guide (points)

#### Grasslands and Wildflower areas (meadow or equivalent)

- Spring flower areas (cut late spring/early summer). Mowings removed (3)
- Summer flower areas (cut autumn and early spring. Mowings removed (3)
- Uncut area(s) (cover for small mammals) (2)
- Short grass, mowings removed. (1)
- Paths cut through and around meadows (2)
- Efforts to develop flowers and reduce coarse grasses e.g. with yellow rattle (2)
- Nettles retained and managed in sunny areas for butterflies (2)
- No use of chemicals or herbicides (2)

#### Trees, Shrubs and Herbs

- Old trees well maintained (2) and new plantings well cared for (1)
- Providing berries/fruit (1), seeds/nuts (1) and nectar (1)
- Mainly native species (1) providing potential nest sites (1)
- Area of planted herbs for pollinators (1)

#### Management, Education and Public Relations

- A management plan (1), displayed (1) and being implemented (1)
- Attempts to involve others (1) and evidence of effort/enthusiasm (1)
- Surveys have been carried out (1) and monitoring of species continues (1)
- Current churchyard conservation information available (2)
- A seat provided for visitors to enjoy the churchyard and its wildlife (1)

#### Sustainability

- Reduction of plastic flowers and recycling of visitors flowers and churchyard cuttings (2) Consider growing cut flowers and source bulbs locally (1)
- Communication of what the church/churchyard is doing towards sustainability (1) Water butts in use (2)

#### Variety of Habitats

- Mix of vegetation heights (grass, shrubs and trees) (2)
- Log or brushwood piles (1) and compost heap (1)
- Pond or water feature (e.g. bird bath) (2)
- Bird boxes or supply of natural nesting sites (1)
- Bat boxes or evidence of bats using buildings (1)
- Seed bearing plants for finches left over winter (1)
- Insect tubes/bug hotels and no unsympathetic pointing /repairs of stonework that block up insect holes (1)

### BRONZE AWARD INFORMATION

The bronze award is aimed at churchyards who are starting to manage their churchyard for wildlife. You need some form of management plan and to have made a start on some conservation work.

Requirements: 10 points

- A Management Plan
- 6 points from the Grassland section and a further 4 points made up from any of the sections

### SILVER AWARD INFORMATION

The silver award is aimed at churchyards whose conservation management is up and running with obvious benefits to a range of wildlife

Requirements: 25 points

25 points from across any of the scoring sections, but must include 10 from the Grasslands and Wildflower section, plus:

- Wildflower areas (where grass cuttings are removed)
- A leaflet, noticeboard or other way of informing people what work is going on and why
- Water for birds, insects and mammals
- A compost heap, and a log or brushwood pile
- Bat, bird or insect boxes
- A good source of berries or seeds available over the winter months

### GOLD AWARD INFORMATION

The gold award is aimed at the best churchyards for wildlife, where conservation management is well established across a range of habitats and species and benefiting a range of wildlife.

Requirements: 40 points

- Meet all requirements from the silver award
- Plus score 40 points including at least 5 from each section (except sustainability) and including:
- An ongoing programme of monitoring and recording of wildlife



# ENVIRONMENT CONTINUED...

## Embodied Carbon

Nearly everyone will know by now of the Church of England's commitment to Net Zero Carbon by 2030. This was initially adopted by General Synod and has now been endorsed by most diocesan synods, including our own in June 2021. Whether this target is achieved or not, it is certainly energising the church to do its best to meet it. As far as church buildings are concerned, the core guidance, some of which is statutory, is at [Net zero carbon church | The Church of England](#). The DAC's policy statement is at [Environmental Policy](#). Although not 'in scope' and so not part of the 2030 target, there is concern about how much carbon is emitted in building projects. The Church Buildings Council has just issued its advice on the topic at [Embodied Carbon | The Church of England](#). We encourage parishes and their professional advisers to read and make use of it.

This guidance outlines rules of thumb that can be applied to all projects. In summary, consider the principles:

- Retain/reuse/repair/recycle or upgrade before disposal/rebuild
- Avoid large changes for small energy savings

When new items or rebuilding are required:

- Retain materials and structures and carefully consider waste disposal
- Use less material, salvaged or recycled materials, natural materials and long-lasting products
- Find products/suppliers with a low carbon footprint through using clean energy, low carbon supply chains and less transport

You are welcome to consult our newly appointed **Net Zero Carbon Manager, Nigel Cooper**, about this: [environment@elydiocese.org](mailto:environment@elydiocese.org)



St John's, Waterloo. Reconstructed after WWII; restored in 2022.

## BUILDING VOLUNTEERS

### Valuing Volunteers: Benefact Trust webinar recording now available

Volunteers are the life blood of the charitable sector so how can we ensure we engage with and attract potential new volunteers, retain existing volunteers, and build volunteer advocacy?

In this recorded webinar Jamie Wilcox, Head of Volunteering Services, Great Ormond Street, Chloe Keen, Head of Involvement & Experiences at the National Trust and Mike Phillips, DSC Associate and Independent Consultant discuss ways to value volunteers and all they bring to your organisation.

You'll learn:

- How organisations can develop their profile to attract volunteers
- How to create the right roles and the right opportunities to attract the right volunteers
- The key principles of effective recruitment
- The importance of motivation and reward in retaining volunteers, and
- How small actions can demonstrate big appreciation of our volunteers.

[Watch now on the Benefact Trust website.](#)

## INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

### Research into church attendance: Post-Covid-19 Trends, Patterns and Possibilities

Oxford Diocese has recently published research into church attendance since Covid involving returns from five dioceses. [Post Covid-19 Trends, Patterns and Possibilities](#).

They have also published a new report which showed that Easter Day churchgoing in the Diocese of Oxford has recovered to 73% of pre-pandemic levels. [Rise in Church Attendance](#).

### Draft Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill

The Government has published the [draft Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Bill](#).

The most important aspect of the Bill for places of worship is that the Government has kept to its undertaking that they will all be treated as "standard duty" premises – on which the compliance obligations are much less onerous – regardless of their capacity unless they impose an admission charge. It is not the intention of the Home Office that this duty will cause additional costs for most places of worship, although there will be a time burden for compliance and work is being done to keep this as straightforward as possible. If you do experience any specific costs or issues in order to comply, please let Geoffrey know.

### National Churches Trust Training Videos

The National Churches Trust is promoting a series of guides and videos to help parishes welcome visitors to their churches. The website features great advice on opening up your building, whether you're looking to enhance interpretation, target a wider audience, or just need somewhere to start. [Find out more](#). There are also some excellent photography training videos to help you take vibrant pictures of church buildings this summer. Whether they are for sharing online, applying for a grant or just for fun, there's always a great photo that can be taken of a church. [Watch now](#).

## OTHER SUPPORT

### Could your church unite the ages?

The Benefact Trust has partnered with intergenerational storytelling charity, Truth Be Told, to grow its work with churches, giving them the resources and training needed to bring families and older people together through storytelling, singing and friendship. A project helping to tackle loneliness and increase wellbeing.

[Discover more here](#).



Image from The Benefact Trust

### Ecclesiastical and Benefact Group launch the Movement for Good Awards 2023

Ecclesiastical Insurance is inviting people to nominate a heritage charity to receive £1,000 as part of Benefact Group's Movement for Good Awards. The Awards seek to give out more than £1 million in funding to heritage charities throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland. The more nominations a charity receives, the more likely they are to receive funding. They are accepting Nominations throughout 2023 until 27 December 2023.

[Movement for Good](#).

# TRAINING AND EVENTS

**Love Your Burial Ground Week:** 3rd - 11th June. [More Information](#).

**Diocese of Ely Heating Seminar:** 8th June, St John the Evangelist, Waterbeach. [Book via Eventrbrite](#).

**HRBA Big Update:** 14th June. London. [More Information](#).

**Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust Evensong:** 27th June, Ely Cathedral. [More Information](#).

**Ride and Stride:** Saturday 9th September. Take part in [Cambridgeshire](#), [Norfolk](#) and [other counties](#).

**Heritage Open Days:** 8th - 17th September. [More Information](#).

**Maintenance Morning:** 20th Sept 9:45am - 12:30pm, Holy Trinity, Orton Longueville. Contact Holly to book.

**Church of England Environment Webinars:** Various dates. [More Information](#).

# CONTACT DETAILS

Please contact Holly if you:

- have any problems with the links contained in this newsletter
- would like to be added to/removed from the mailing list for the newsletter
- have information for the next edition; cut-off date 18th August.

All initial enquiries about works to your building or churchyard and queries about the faculty process or applying for consent should please be directed to the Church Buildings office via [dac@elydiocese.org](mailto:dac@elydiocese.org)

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Tydd St Giles Parish Church and Detached Tower