



CHURCH HERITAGE

News from the
Church Buildings Team



St Peter and St Paul, Watlington



St Mary, Shouldham Thorpe



St Peter, Duxford



**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.

FREE WORKSHOPS

We are piloting a new approach to training this year with some free, informal workshops for anyone involved in looking after historic church buildings.

Find out more in the **Building Volunteers** section.

There will also be a special heating seminar for the Diocese of Ely to help review options and answer questions.

Find out more in the **Environment** section.



GOOD NEWS

Architect Wins Award for Project at West Dereham

The 2022 EASA/National Churches Trust UK Architecture Awards for repair and conservation work were awarded at the EASA Autumn Meeting on 20 October 2022, and formed part of a National Church Awards event at the Mercers Livery Company.

Ashley Courtney RIBA AABC Limited won the King of Prussia Highly Commended Award 2022 for works to the chancel at St Andrew, West Dereham.

To find out more, visit the website for [EASA](#) (The Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association). Membership of the association includes a correspondence category for non-architects and surveyors.

Soham Grant Success

After a good few years of planning, St Andrew's PCC has been awarded just over £300,000 in grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Amey Cespa Community Fund and Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust. The funding will support Phase One of urgent repairs to the church building and an accompanying programme of heritage engagement activities. The project will be formally launched after Easter and you can follow progress on the [church's website](#).



National Burial Ground Survey

The National Burial Ground Survey project was announced by the Church of England in September 2021 and aims to survey and map all churchyards in England and provide a digital online map free to all parishes through the Church Heritage Record.

The project is to be delivered in partnership with AG Intl Ltd (formerly Atlantic Geomatics) and the Diocese of Ely has agreed to take part.

Three virtual Information Webinars to launch this project are being held on Thursday 30th March at 10am, 2pm and 7pm. Each identical event will last approximately 1 hour and will provide you the opportunity to meet representatives from the AG team, learn about the processes involved in the project and to ask any questions you may have. Spaces are limited and so we recommend a maximum of two attendees per church.

[More information and how to register.](#)



REMINDERS

Security

Thefts from churches continue – please be aware that would-be thieves will take advantage of any opportunity presented to them. Recently, £10,000 worth of silver was taken from a church safe during daylight hours. The key had been left in the vestibule door and the safe was unlocked. For guidance, please see the [Ecclesiastical Insurance website](#) and the [Safe Opening of Churches video](#).

Quinquennial Inspections

Please ensure that your Quinquennial Inspection (QI) is up to date, as well as your maintenance plan and logbook. If you are not sure when your QI is due, please contact Holly.

Insurance

It is a good idea to get more than one quote for insurance. The insurance companies which are specialists in insuring church buildings include Ecclesiastical and Trinitas. Other companies may be available, but please check that the cover provided is appropriate.

SAVE THE DATE: Big Update on 14th June 2023, London

HRBA's annual, all day event bringing you up to date with what is happening in the Sector. It will follow the usual format of a mixture of 20-minute talks on a wide range of topical and inspirational subjects as well as short videos and interviews. [More details to be released soon.](#)

Get Ready for Ride and Stride

One of the biggest fundraising events for historic church buildings takes place on the 9th September. 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. Find out more in [Cambridgeshire](#), [Norfolk](#) and [across the country](#). You can also take part in [Heritage Open Days](#).

RISK CALENDAR

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

March - Ladders

If using ladders or stepladders check that they are right for the job, free from defects and used properly, being appropriately positioned and secured.

April - Tree Management

Trees form a natural part of the landscape and bring many benefits. However, they can present a number of hazards as they age and careful management is needed. *Remember, major works to trees need List B consent and felling may require a faculty.*

May - Events

Events are a great way to engage with the wider community and raise vital funds. Larger events or unusual fundraising activities can present additional risks. These may need to be properly managed to ensure everyone remains safe and your event is a success.



MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Recommended Monthly Tasks

From *SPAB's Faith in Maintenance Calendar*.



March

- Check that eaves, gutters and downpipes have not been damaged by frost. Look for cracks and leaks in rainwater goods.
- Clear parapet and valley gutters of snow to prevent melt water rising above them and causing damp internally. Take care in icy conditions.

April

- Check the roofs for frost, snow and wind damage. Look for signs on the ground like broken bits of slates and tiles. Check for splits and cracks in areas of flat or sloping sheet roofing.
- Inspect lead flashings and mortar fillets at chimneys for signs of decay.
- Clear leaves and debris from gutters and rainwater pipes regularly. Cast iron gutters may also require repainting.

May

- Regularly clean out gully and drains to make sure water flows freely away from the building.
- Make sure that windows and ventilators are operable so that the building can be ventilated. Lubricate door and window ironmongery and check security of locks.
- Have the boiler serviced, bleed radiators and ensure that the frost thermostat is operational.
- Clear away any plant growth from around the base of the walls and in particular from the drainage channel.

For guidance, including maintenance plans and videos visit our [website](#).

Burst Pipes

Following an increase in enquiries recently, Ecclesiastical Insurance have produced guidance on how to prevent burst pipes and what to do if the worst happens. [Preventing Burst Pipes](#).



GRANTS

Current Deadlines

March

- 8th Mick George Community Fund
- 8th FCC Communities Foundation
- 27th The Worshipful Company of Glaziers
- 27th Church Buildings Council (Clocks)
- 31st William and Jane Morris Fund

April

- 1st - The Prince of Wales' Charitable Fund
- 20th - The Steel Charitable Trust
- 30th - On Organ Fund
- 30th - Valencia Communities Fund

May

- 1st - Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
- 4th - The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust
- 5th - Congregational & General Charitable Trust
- 10th - Screwfix Foundation
- 18th - Norfolk Churches Trust
- 22nd - Church Buildings Council (Organs)
- 25th - National Lottery Heritage Fund
- 31st - Augean Landfill Fund

Early June

- 1st - Amey Cespa Community Fund
- 1st - The Joseph Rank Trust
- 5th - Church Buildings Council (Church Plate)
- 5th - Church Buildings Council (C/yard structures)
- 5th - Church Buildings Council (Brasses, metalwork)
- 5th - Church Buildings Council (Monuments)
- 5th - Church Buildings Council (Textiles)
- 5th - Church Buildings Council (Wooden objects)
- 7th - FCC Communities Foundation

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](#)



St Andrew, Whittlesey

Grants without Deadlines

The Archer Trust
Benefacts Trust
Church Buildings Council Conservation Reports
Garfield Weston
Geoffrey Watling (Norfolk only)
Henry Smith Charity
The National Heritage Memorial Fund - COVID-19 Response Fund (closes April 2023)
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 John S Cohen Foundation
The Rank Foundation Pebble Grants
The Round Tower Churches Society
The Swire Charitable Trust - grants under £25,000
TASC Grants

Suspended: The **Tudor Trust** will remain closed until 1st April 2023.

GRANTS CONTINUED...

Funding Week

Hunts Forum and CCVS would like to invite you to take part in this year's Funding Week, 14th – 16th March. This three-day funding fair comprises of lots of separate webinars open to any organisation within Cambridgeshire. All webinars are free to attend; you can get involved in as many as you wish. Just sign up for those which catch your eye. Speakers include: Grantscape, Garfield Weston Foundation, Bernard Sunley Foundation, National Lottery Community Fund, Easyfundraising, National Lottery Heritage Fund etc... [BOOK HERE](#).

UPDATES

There have been a lot of changes to grants programmes this year already, with more to come. Here's a quick round-up.

National Churches Trust Set to Launch New Strategy

The National Churches Trust is making a few small changes to its grant programme in line with a new strategy for 2023 and a new grants database. Tweaks include changes to the names of the programmes and to eligible project costs for each programme. This means there will also be some changes to the usual windows for grant applications and decisions in the first half of 2023. [Full details to be published soon](#).

Benefacts Trust New Look Grants Framework

The Trust is reshaping its grants programme, placing greater emphasis on the social impact it wants to help facilitate. The biggest change is a new Community Impact Grant. Essential repair and improvement of buildings will still be supported through the new Building Improvement Grants. [Details to be announced soon](#). Grants to help with the installation of roof alarms will continue to be available throughout the year.

Jill Franklin Trust Re-opens

The Trust is now open for applications from churches, although the website and application form still need updating in places. For more details visit the [Church Applications](#) page.

Viridor Credits Changes to Valencia Communities Fund *(Peterborough only)*

Following a change in name to the donor landfill operator, Viridor Credits is now the [Valencia Communities Fund](#). This change will not affect eligible applicants, which includes some parishes in and around Peterborough.

The Leche Trust

During 2023 the [Leche Trust](#) will be implementing an online application system. To allow for this it will not be holding the usual grants meeting in June. The next grants round will be in October 2023. The date will be confirmed nearer the time.

ENVIRONMENT

HEATING

Diocese of Ely Heating Seminar: Thursday 8th June - Time and Venue TBC.

Following the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon 2030 target, many churches in the diocese are reviewing their heating systems. There are many heating options available, some familiar, some new, and it can seem difficult to know where to start.

The Diocesan Advisory Committee's Heating Adviser, Bawden Burrows, will be leading this 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. Booking will open soon.

There is also a range of free webinars available as part of the [Church of England's Environment programme](#).

Those relating to heating include:

- Heating - To replace or not replace?
- Choosing the best heating solution for your church
- Heat Pump Training Day:
- Solar Panels

Sustainable Church Flowers

Floral foam was revolutionary when it was introduced in the 1950s, but it is a single-use plastic and the latest science confirms that it is bad for the environment.

Floristry without floral foam is entirely possible and there is support available for parishes looking for more sustainable approaches to church flowers. [Read more here](#).

Churchyard Conservation Scheme

Find out how to encourage wildlife and create beautiful, tranquil spaces in your churchyard. Visit the wildlife trust for [Cambridgeshire](#) or [Norfolk](#) to find more.

Below - Wildflower meadow at Salisbury Cathedral and extract from Cambridgeshire Churchyard Conservation Awards Scheme leaflet.



Salisbury Cathedral

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

BUILDING VOLUNTEERS

Church Buildings Meet-ups

Following suggestions in the 2021 survey of church building volunteers, we are piloting some informal workshops. The aim is to give an opportunity for anyone involved in looking after a church building to get together and share experiences around a common theme. Our focus this year will be on maintenance. There will be three sessions which will differ in content in order to test out different approaches. The first will be a morning session at **St Mary's, Godmanchester**, which will include a brief talk by the Quinquennial Inspecting Architect and a walk round the church with plenty of practical tips and advice. A tea break with time for conversations is also included. The second will be at Tilney All Saints on Friday 14th April and the third in September. To book, please contact Holly. Details will be published on the website asap - for Godmanchester see the [Events Calendar](#).

INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Time for a Spring Clean?

Many of us wouldn't question using our domestic cleaning products to clean the interior of churches, but not only could we be doing more harm than good, we might actually be cleaning far more than we need to. Sometimes less is more, particularly when it comes to caring for historic objects. Visit our website for [advice on cleaning historic churches](#).

There is also still time to benefit from practical cleaning workshops delivered as part of the Bats In Churches project. The project is now into its last seven months and due to be finishing at the end of September. [BOOK HERE](#) for the final cleaning workshop in this region, at Brampton Church on Saturday 15th April. The workshop will be about 2½ hours, very informal with lots of hands-on practice. It's free, travel expenses can be covered and you also get a free cleaning kit to keep.

New Toolkit Launched to Help Preserve Church Buildings

The Diocese of Lincoln has launched a new online toolkit to help preserve and maintain church buildings that might otherwise fall into disrepair.

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Volunteers' Project and Resources Toolkit is a set of seven videos that cover a range of topics including project management, grant funding tips, masonry, heating and environmental advice for church buildings and churchyards. [Discover more](#).

OTHER SUPPORT

New Energy Bills Discount Scheme

A [Factsheet](#) is available and The Heritage Alliance have also produced a [useful summary](#).



TRAINING AND EVENTS

Hunts Forum Funding Weeks: 14th - 16th March. [BOOK HERE](#).

Maintenance Morning: 25th March, 9:45am - 12:30pm. St Mary's, Godmanchester. Contact Holly to book.

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust Annual Conference: 1st April. [BOOK HERE](#).

Maintenance Workshop: 14th April. Times TBC. Tilney All Saints. Contact Holly to book.

Bats in Churches Cleaning Workshop: 15th April. Brampton Church. [BOOK HERE](#).

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

Diocese of Ely Heating Seminar: 8th June.

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

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

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

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 19th May.

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

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