



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

CHURCH HERITAGE

News from the
Church Buildings Team



All Saints', Shouldham



St Edmund's, Downham Market

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

New section added this month: [OFFERED AND WANTED ITEMS](#)

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.

National Churches Trust Survey

The National Churches Trust is conducting a major new survey to give a voice to volunteers who support the country's 38,500 churches. The results will be used to help politicians, the media, and the wider public better understand the challenges churches, like yours, face and to highlight the vital work they do.

"If you work or volunteer at a church, chapel or meeting house, we want to hear from you.

Your response will provide essential evidence to build a clearer picture – to tell a stronger, more informed story about your church, and others like it, so that together we can address some of the biggest challenges facing churches and help ensure their future."

The survey will close on Monday 30th June. [Access it here.](#)

GOOD NEWS

St Andrew's Soham Receives Major Funding Support

After nearly 7 years of planning, including smaller grant funded projects, St Andrew's church has taken a significant step towards being removed from the Heritage at Risk Register.

The PCC have been awarded initial support totalling £315,000 (£270,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and £45,000 from Historic England) to progress plans to restore the building and involve young people in learning heritage skills.

This development stage will progress over the next 2 years. The detailed proposals will then be considered by the Heritage Fund at the second round, where a final decision will be made on the full funding award of £2,858,247. [Find out more about the project.](#)

Please note: Historic England is a funder of last resort for Places of Worship; support for projects like Soham's is rare. See the [GRANTS](#) section for more details.

Hands-on Faculty Support Opportunity for One Church – Apply Now!

Are you planning a project at your church—such as removing pews, altering render, or installing a toilet or kitchen—and need help navigating the faculty process?

As part of a Historic Environment course project, Samuel, our Church and Community Support Adviser will be offering free support to one church this autumn. The support includes:

- Writing key faculty application documents such as the Statement of Needs and Statement of Significance
- Preparing associated forms like Risk Assessments
- Running a community consultation, including an event and survey, to help you engage with your congregation and local community

The project will begin in mid-September and run for 8 weeks. This is a great opportunity to get professional-quality support, while helping support heritage learning and conservation practice.

Interested?

[Email Samuel to express your interest or to find out more.](#)

While one church will be selected for full support, other interested churches may be able to receive guidance too.



St Andrew's, Soham



St Peter's, Snailwell



St Peter's, Barton

FESTIVAL WEEK

Join Us for Festival Week Across the Leightonstone Churches June 14th- 21st

In the Leightonstones Benefices, Samuel, our Church and Community Support Adviser, has teamed up with PCCs to plan a Festival Week. This is a brand-new trial project that seeks to bring together churches from across benefices to collaborate and engage with their local communities. If this event is successful, we hope to try it elsewhere in the Diocese.



Festival Week is a celebration of our wonderful Leightonstone churches, bringing communities together through shared events, and open doors. This special week is all about building stronger relationships within each parish, shining a light on the beauty and heritage of our churches, and welcoming others—both near and far—to join in. By concentrating events in one week, we hope to create a buzz of activity that will inspire greater interest and interaction from people across all our villages. It's a chance to explore different churches, meet new people, and enjoy a variety of community-led experiences.

Festival events can be anything—from traditional church fetes and concerts to creative partnerships with local schools. There's also the opportunity to take part in activity trails that encourage visitors to discover different churches throughout the week. Some of the events we have planned include a Pop-Up Pub, a church tour, a talk by a local author, patronal festivals, a stained glass presentation, and many more. Please come along to one (or more) of our events, support the churches involved and explore how a similar initiative may work for your church and benefice. [For more details contact Samuel.](#)

14 th - 15 th	Stow Longa Patronal Festival
15 th	Church Tour led by Historian John Vigar of Catworth, Abbots Ripton, Stow Longa, and Alconbury. 11am - 4pm
16 th	Talk by local author and former BBC Journalist Fiona Chesterton. 7pm
17 th	Garden party at Molesworth
18 th	Stained Glass window talk by Rev'd. Stephen Day at Molesworth. 7:30pm
20 th	Church party at Bythorn. 7pm
21 st	Winwick Picnic in the Churchyard
20 th - 21 st	Pop-up pub at Kings Ripton. 6pm
21 st	Keyston Patronal Festival. 3pm
22 nd	Leighton Bromswold History talk. 3pm-5pm.



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. Click [HERE](#) for more details and paper and electronic versions.

Security

Lead theft, break-ins and vandalism, unfortunately, continue to threaten churches. Please ensure you are taking all the necessary steps to minimise the risks and have in place adequate insurance cover if the worst happens. For more details, please see guidance on our website: [Metal Theft](#), [Church Treasures](#), [Safe Opening of Churches](#).

Contact Details for Church Officers

Please remember to send the Diocese a list of your church officers each year. Without this, the contact details we have on our database may be incorrect, meaning information is not getting to the right people. This should be done at the APCM, but if any details change in the interim, it really helps to let us know. If the care of the church building is carried out by someone in a 'different' role, and they would prefer not to be added to the database, please ask them to contact Holly to receive information relating to church buildings.



DAC Meeting Dates		
Meeting Date	Papers Deadline	Target Feedback Date
10th July	30th June	24th July
25th September	9th September	9th October
20th November	4th November	4th December



Take a Virtual Church Tour

St James the Great

Waresley

[Google Street View Tour](#)

BUILDING VOLUNTEERS

Church Buildings Support Network

The support network has been developing well this year with sessions on project planning, bats and community engagement to name just a few.

Coming up over the next few months...

Evening Zoom Meetings

- Festival Church and Friends Groups - 23rd July
- Developing Maintenance Plans - 3rd September

In-person Meetings

- Heritage Skills Sessions- 11th July and 15th August
St Swithin's church, Old Weston
- Friends and Festival Church Event - 29th August
St Mary the Virgin, Leighton Bromswold

[More information and to book](#)



Look what 'Friends can do'.
Daffodils planted by the Friends of Somersham
Parish Church.

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

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: [Building Maintenance](#)

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.



Fire Safety Guidance for Churches

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service Norfolk County Council

Following a series of recent fires affecting churches in Norfolk, the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service would like to emphasise the importance of fire safety in Places of Worship.

To assist you in managing fire risks effectively, they recommend consulting the following resources:

- [DCLG Guide for Small and Medium Places of Assembly](#)
- [DCLG Guide for Large places of assembly](#)
- [Fire Safety for Traditional Church Buildings \(Historic England/IFE\)](#)
- [Church Safety: Health and Safety in UK Churches and Places of Worship](#)

and highlight these key actions:

1. **Conducting a Fire Risk Assessment:** Ensure this is carried out by a competent person and updated regularly.
2. **Implementing Fire Precautions:** Address ignition sources, combustible materials, and ensure appropriate firefighting equipment is available.
3. **Training and Emergency Planning:** Provide training for staff/volunteers and establish clear evacuation procedures.
4. **Arson Prevention:** Secure matches, candles, and external bins to reduce risks of arson.

Norfolk Churches: If you have any questions or require further guidance, please contact firebe@norfolk.gov.uk. Include “Church fire safety” in the Subject Line.

Cambridgeshire Churches: visit the [Rural Crime website](#).

GRANTS

Historic England Grants

You might have noticed a £15 Million Heritage at Risk Capital Fund advertised earlier this year. If you didn't, that's probably because it had a very short application window and whilst it didn't exclude Places of Worship, applications would only have been considered in 'exceptional circumstances'.

Historic England already have a Regional Heritage at Risk Grants scheme, but as some PCCs will be all too familiar with, grants are incredibly difficult to secure. The process can also take longer than many other grant schemes. To be considered:

- the building must be at serious and immediate risk
- the applicant must evidence that all other possible sources of funding have been fully explored and secured where appropriate. This includes The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

In most cases only emergency stabilisation works are eligible for funding and despite it being a regional grant scheme, applications which involve a Place of Worship will be referred to a National Panel, and decisions made will be based on priority. You may have read in the news that St Andrew's church, Soham received a project development grant from Historic England of £45,000. This was indeed an exceptional case, which we have been asked to stress.

You can read more about the [Historic England grant here](#).

You are welcome to contact Historic England to make enquires, but you will probably be asked to contact the DSO (Diocesan Support Officer) which for Ely is [Holly Robinson](#), so we would advise you to contact her first with any queries about funding or the Heritage at Risk Register.

Cornerstone Grants Database: Free for churches

Developed by the National Giving Team, Cornerstone is an online generosity tool available free of charge to all Church of England churches. It offers three distinct functions: Insights, Pathways and a comprehensive Grants database. The Grants database gives churches free access to over 650 grants, covering a range of purposes, values and geographic areas. This searchable, filterable database is updated weekly and is the biggest range of grants currently available to churches. Each grant is described and there is a link to the grant making body so you can read further and apply.

PLEASE NOTE: this is a very new generic database produced centrally. It does not currently reflect the real experiences churches have had with funders relating to church buildings, or local knowledge. Please do take a look at the database and let us know your thoughts - [Cornerstone](#).

For advice and support with grants we recommend you contact [Holly Robinson](#).



St Peter's, Old Hurst

GRANTS

LPWGS Latest

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent survey on the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. Harlow Consulting who are evaluating the scheme on behalf of the DCMS, have confirmed that the overall number of responses will allow a robust analysis.

The future of the scheme was debated at Westminster Hall on May 13th but no assurances were given. The Minister for Local Government, Jim McMahon said "continuation of the scheme was a matter for the Comprehensive Spending Review, due to take place in June". [Church Times](#).

In the meantime, keeping churches visible to MPs remains vital, as is making the case for the LPWGS to continue beyond April 2026. Please reach out to your MP for events at your place of worship, both where an LPWGS grant has been received, and also where there is a public event or activity that will show the building and engagement of the church and community.

National Churches Trust and the LPWGS

NCT have made a video talking to two churches whose future has been put at risk due to the changes to the scheme. [NCT Facebook Page](#).

They have also created a [template letter to write to your MP](#).

Parliamentary Petition

Mr. John O'Meara from Dunkeld Diocese (in Scotland) has created a parliamentary petition to 'Ensure the renewal of LPWGS beyond March 2026 without any caps. You can sign it here [LPWGS Petition](#).

Cats with a Bank Account

Thanks to the HRBA for highlighting this from the BBC Archives...

Watch until the end – only 3 minutes - to find out how Quince and Quicksilver helped Cathedrals back in the 1970s. [Link to Facebook Video](#).

Change to the National Churches Trust's Grant Programme

The small and medium grants programme have been combined. You can now apply for small grants via the medium grants stream. Grants can fund urgent maintenance works and small repairs identified as high priority within a recent Quinquennial Inspection, Building Survey or Condition Report. Also, small investigative works and surveys. Awards will never exceed 50% of the costs. [Find out more here](#).

The Benefact Trust - Important Update

A new improved grant application system was launched at the end of May. Any applications in progress which were not submitted by the 19th May 2025, will no longer be available as the previous system has now closed, with no further access. For questions, email info@benefacttrust.co.uk or call 01452 873189.

GRANTS

Current Deadlines

June	
1st	The Joseph Rank Trust
1st	Thalia WB Community Fund (<i>Amey Cespa</i>)
2nd	ChurchCare: organs
9th	ChurchCare: church plate, churchyard structures, brasses & metalwork, monuments, textiles, wooden objects.
26th	Veolia Environment Trust
29th	National Churches Trust Small Grants
30th	War Memorials Trust
July	
TBC	The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust
1st	National Churches Trust Large Grants
August	
1st	Congregational and General Charitable Trust
1st	Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
6th	National Lottery Heritage Fund £250K+
11th	ChurchCare: Stained Glass
29th	Mick George Community Fund
31st	William and Jane Morris Fund
Early September	
1st	The Sharpe Trust
1st	Thalia WB Community Fund
1st	The Joseph Rank Trust
1st	The Georgian Group - Cleary Fund
5th	The Idlewild Trust

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](#)
- [Cornerstone](#) - new database



All Saints', Knapwell

Grants without Deadlines

The Archer Trust
 Benefacts Trust
 Church Care - 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 (Cambs only)
 The Jill Franklin Trust
 The John S Cohen Foundation
 The Round Tower Churches Society
 The Tudor Trust
 TASC Grants

See the next page for NZC grants

ENVIRONMENT AND NZC

Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) - closes 30th June!

The data collected from the tool will help your church understand its carbon footprint and will mean you may be eligible for grants to help kickstart your net zero projects. This work is an essential part of caring for God's Creation, by helping to combat global heating and climate change.



The easy-to-use online tool will reveal your carbon footprint, based on the energy you use to heat and light your buildings. Simply gather your energy bills from 2024 and enter your church's energy use figures into the online survey. This includes your actual energy consumption, as well as costs – you can find all this information on your bills. Once you have entered all the data, you will immediately receive a report and results on your computer or smartphone. This includes the church's carbon footprint in CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent) and how this has changed in recent years.

For more information about what you need and how the EFT has changed this year in response to feedback, visit [Energy Footprint Tool](#). You will also find details here of how to sign up to the Church of England's monthly Environment Bulletin, to keep up to date with news and support.

A brief explainer video is [here](#) and a more in-depth 20-minute walk through video is [here](#).

Finally, you can also email [Sacha Watson](#), Net Zero Carbon Officer, if you need further help.

NZC Grants

Fund Name	Area of Support
CPCA Business Growth and Social Impact Investment Fund - CPCA Growth Hub	Energy Efficiency - Halls
Facilities Improvement Grant East Cambridgeshire District Council	Energy Efficiency - Halls
Section 106 funding for community facilities East Cambridgeshire District Council	All NZC building issues in halls
Pride of Place grants East Cambridgeshire District Council	Biodiversity/offsetting
Whitemill Environment Fund - Fenland District Council	All NZC building issues
Glassmoor Local Environment Fund - Fenland District Council	All NZC building issues
Ransonmoor Community Fund - Fenland District Council	All NZC building issues
Thrive Renewables Community Benefit Programme - Centre for Sustainable Energy	All NZC building issues
Huntingdonshire Rural Business Grants - CPCA Growth Hub	All NZC building issues
CAF criteria / FCC	All NZC building issues
BIFFA	All NZC building issues
South Cambs Zero Carbon Communities Grant (deadline 5pm 1 July)	All NZC building issues

INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Updated Guidance on Statements of Significance and Needs

The Church Buildings Council has updated its guidance on statements of significance and needs following a year-and-a-half review process with stakeholders. The new guidance is parish-focused and provides a holistic approach to defining significance and needs within a church setting. As part of the new guidance, new templates for statements of significance and needs are provided and should be used for ongoing faculty applications. These will be available when the Building Management Portal is released later this year, and the current Online Faculty System will turn off access to the old format. The new guidance and templates are available on the Church of England's website: [Statements](#).

OTHER SUPPORT

FOCUS: OPEN AND WELCOME CHURCHES

Evaluate what you do now and start planning for next year

Churches are designed to be open, welcoming buildings. Whatever their origin, church buildings all testify to a living faith but, if they are to be accessible and welcoming to all, they need to be open. Locked, they give out so many negative messages and appear elitist. Opening the door and inviting people to share, explore and use the church is a first step in building its future.

The challenges then are to provide a welcome that speaks of loving and caring; to tell the stories of our church in interesting and engaging ways, and to provide opportunities for people to explore their own faith and spirituality.

Every church is different – some have exciting stories to tell others are a place of calm to take time to reflect. The main thing is to celebrate and share what is unique about your church and not to bite off more than you can chew.

Summer is a great time to evaluate what you currently do, identify opportunities and plan for next year. Visit the [Open and Welcome webpages](#) for resources to help.

National Churches Trust: Free online training sessions

These one-hour sessions are aimed at church volunteers and staff cover a range of topics including fundraising, applying to the NLHF, digital-giving, managing your project, and the importance of maintenance. They run from March until November. [Visit the website for details of current sessions](#).

Could your church host a farmers' market?

Support is available to help churches host sustainable farmers' markets, food hubs, cafes, as well as cooking and growing projects. Better Food Traders, a UK-wide organisation which supports independent food traders who focus on selling climate and nature-friendly produce, would like to support churches to use their buildings and churchyards to host farmers' markets and similar events. Email for further information: julia@betterfoodtraders.org



OFFERED OR WANTED ITEMS

OFFERED: Clay peg roof tiles

Location: St Mary Magdalene's church, Church Lane, Madingley, Cambridge, CB23 8AF

Delivery: Collection Only

Cost: Free - a donation in lieu would always be welcome but the most important matter is that they go to a home where they are needed.

Description

The tiles were removed from the Chancel roof in 2021 and range in colour from red to a creamy buff to an apricot shade. The tiles measure a nominal 270mm x 160mm and are approximately half an inch thick.

There are approximately 2,600 tiles available.

Contact: Mrs Sue Baldwin, PCC Secretary - suebaldwin1000@gmail.com



Classifieds Disclaimer

The classifieds in this section are published to assist parishes and individuals in advertising items for sale, giveaway, or wanted. All advertisements are accepted in good faith; however, the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance (EDBF) does not verify, endorse, or guarantee the accuracy, condition, safety, legality, or suitability of any items or transactions listed.

All sales or exchanges are made entirely at the parties' own risk, and any disputes must be resolved directly between the parties involved. The Ely Diocesan Board of Finance reserves the right to edit, refuse, or withdraw any advertisement without notice. Readers are encouraged to exercise appropriate caution when responding to any advert.

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

Geoffrey Hunter - DAC Secretary and Head of the Church Buildings and Pastoral Department

Telephone (01353) 652737 or email geoffrey.hunter@elydiocese.org

James Ryder - Church Buildings Advisor

Telephone 01353 652705 or email james.ryder@elydiocese.org

Sam Reeder - DAC Administrator

Telephone 01353 652718 or email sam.reeder@elydiocese.org

Holly Robinson - Historic Church Buildings Support Officer

Telephone 07948 350211 or email holly.robinson@elydiocese.org

Samuel Pedlar - Church and Community Support Advisor

Telephone 07539 916607 or email samuel.pedlar@elydiocese.org

Sacha Watson - Net Zero Carbon Officer

Telephone: 07301 298561 or email sacha.watson@elydiocese.org



St Andrew's, Great Staughton



All Saint's, Morborne