

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.

New Email Address for the Church Buildings Support Officers support.churchbuildings@elydiocese.org

As Samuel and Holly work closely together, as well as managing more general items such as the Church Buildings Support Network and this newsletter, we decided it would be helpful to have a general email address. Samuel, Holly and Sam Reeder will all have access to this email account. This will make it easier to cover enquiries during periods of leave and to manage certain events and activities.

As a result, starting with the next (December) newsletter, notifications will be sent to you from this new email address. There is a chance the message might end up in your junk mail, so please either add it to your contact list or let Holly know if you don't receive notification of the December edition.

Please continue to use the general DAC email address for all matters to do with consent for works. You can also still contact all staff members via individual emails for more specific matters.

GOOD NEWS

From St Mary's Whaddon to St Mary's Whaddon: A Fundraising Tale

The last Quinquennial Survey for St Mary's Whaddon identified the need for some relatively urgent, but not too extensive, external stonework repairs. The PCC held a couple of fund-raising events over last winter and then this spring I hit upon the idea of a sponsored walk from another St Mary's Whaddon in Buckinghamshire (west of Milton Keynes) back to our St Mary's Whaddon in Cambridgeshire. It's a distance of just over 60 miles and I managed to sort out a route that mainly used sections of existing long distance footpaths, and principally the Greensand Ridge Trail, and earlier this month I completed the walk in 5 days, covering about 12 miles a day.

My wife had intended to accompany me on the walk, but unfortunately she managed to break her ankle while walking in Snowdonia in May, so I ended up doing it on my own. However, every cloud has a silver lining, and that clearly got me the sympathy vote from the local community, who very generously sponsored me to the tune of £1500 (including gift aid). More importantly, that means we can now go out to tender for the stonework repairs.

It was perhaps appropriate that the middle section of my walk coincided with part of the John Bunyan trail - which links places associated with the author of 'The Pilgrim's Progress' - and included a visit to the ruins of Houghton House, which is believed to have been the model for Bunyan's The House Beautiful in his book.

David Grech, Churchwarden

A few of David's sketches done over the course of the walk.





MR&I Grant Helps Churches

Late in 2023 the <u>Church of England announced a grant from the Buildings for Mission Fund</u>, to be awarded to dioceses to help parishes with repairs and specialist advice. The Church and Community Support Advisor role (Samuel Pedlar) has been funded by this grant, as has a pilot project in the Leightonstone Benefices called the Ely Church Buildings Management Partnership. The Diocese was also given a total of £108,000 to spend over 3 years to provide small grants to parishes to help with minor repairs and improvements to church buildings (MR&I Grant). Due to the small size and strict criteria of the funding, it was decided to manage this grant scheme by invitation only, and to carefully monitor the impact it had in the hope the grant scheme would be extended for another 3 years. All the funding has now been allocated and some of the projects have already been successfully completed, including:



Left: **St Peter's, Snailwell** (Vulnerable condition) Urgent repairs to roofs and rainwater goods Grant Awarded: £9,000

Right: St Michael, All Angels and Holy Cross, Wormegay Urgent repairs to rainwater goods Grant Awarded: £3,100





Left: **St Clement's, Outwell**(on the Heritage at Risk Register)
Urgent investigations of roof structures
Grant Awarded: £9,000









St John's, March

Urgent repair and replacement of rainwater goods Images show the before and after of one downpipe Grant Awarded: £9,000

Exciting New Church Trails App Launches

Samuel has been working hard over the last year with Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust and atCreative to create a church trail for this Diocese on the Church Explorer app. It is hoped that this will be the first of many, but for now (drum roll please)...

The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust and the Diocese of Ely present – Steeplechase: Cambridgeshire's Civil War Churches.

The English Civil War left a lasting mark on the nation, and many of its key figures had deep roots in Cambridgeshire. Their stories are woven into the fabric of the county's parish churches—from Major General John Disbrowe and the Earl of Manchester to the Lord Protector himself, Oliver Cromwell.

Have you tried our self-guided tour? You can enjoy a FREE self-guided tour of 15 of Cambridgeshire's Historic Churches using the ChurchExplorer App! 1. Download the ChurchExplorer App 2. Find our church by: Using the Map Using the Search feature Start exploring today — at your own pace. **Trill Summary** **Tri

To learn more about the ChurchExplorer app visit churchexplorer.co.uk

Follow the trail through Cambridgeshire's churches and cathedrals to uncover the rich history of this turbulent era. Along the way, discover hidden architectural treasures, remarkable local tales, and connections to other notable figures such as T.S. Eliot.

You can drive the full route, or choose to cycle or walk between different stops along the trail -

exploring at your own pace.

The tour is easy to follow, with a floorplan/map, clear instructions, images, stories and interactive text. You can download it from the from the App Store and Google Play: ChurchExplorer app - AT Creative.

In order for the download to be successful please make sure you download with adequate Wi-Fi and make sure to enable location tracking services.

If you enjoy it, please share it where you can. Please send any feedback to Samuel.

For more information about the ChurchExplorer app please visit the <u>atCreative website</u>.



Historic England Research Shows Public Value of Historic Churches

New research has found that the public places a significantly higher value on preserving historic churches compared to modern ones, which Historic England has described as a "heritage premium." Those surveyed were willing to pay an average of £6.30 to restore a historic church, compared to £0.40 for a modern church, with regular churchgoers willing to pay even more. The study also found support for making churches more accessible and increasing community use. **Read more here**.

REMINDERS

Support Ride and Stride - Saturday 13th September

One of the biggest fundraising events for historic church buildings.

Please take part in <u>Cambridgeshire</u> and <u>Norfolk</u>. For other counties visit the <u>R&S information page</u>. You can also take part in <u>Heritage Open Days</u> 12th- 21st September.

Quinquennial Inspections

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

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.

Faculty Consent and the OFS

If you have a problem or a question concerning the Online Faculty System (OFS), the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), and/or a Faculty or List A/B application, call 01353 652729 or email dac@elydiocese.org and the Church Buildings team will help.

DAC Meeting Dates		
Meeting Date	Papers Deadline	Target Feedback Date
25 th September	9 th September	6 th October
20 th November	4 th November	4 th December
Jan	Jan	Jan
March	March	April
May	April	May
July	June	July



Take a Virtual Church Tour
St Mary
Longstowe
Google Street View Tour

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Recommended Monthly Tasks From SPAB's Maintenance Calendar

September

- If your roof space has safe access and is boarded, check for evidence of leaks or damage to the roof covering during heavy rain, especially below gutters.
- Clear away any plant growth from around the base of the walls and in particular from the drainage channel.
- Make sure that water tanks and exposed water and heating pipes are protected from frost. Any leaks should be repaired.
- Make sure that any airbricks or under floor ventilators are free from obstruction and clean if necessary.

October

- Check masonry for signs of damage. Report any deeply eroded mortar joints or cracks or signs of movement.
- Check that snowboards and access walkways are in a good state of repair.
- Clear leaves and debris from gutters and rainwater pipes regularly and check for any storm damage. Frequent attention may be needed if the building is surrounded by trees or perched on by pigeons.

November

- Check that the flagpole is secure.
- Check the roofs for damage. Debris on the ground from broken or missing slates and tiles indicates that there may be a problem.
- Continue to clear leaves and debris from gutters and rainwater pipes regularly and check for any storm damage.







GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING

Payment of Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme against claims 2025-26

The DCMS has confirmed that for the current financial year applications for grants from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme are being considered on a first come first served basis. The £25k cap per place of worship is designed to ensure that this is sufficient funding available within the £23mn budget. However, as it remains a risk that the fund could be spent before the end of March 2026 the scheme website will include some text to help applicants understand the likelihood of claims not being paid out.

A new 'funding tracker' has been published on the <u>LPWGS website</u>. This shows the amount of funding that has already been allocated and the amount of funding remaining until the end of March 2026. It will be updated fortnightly.

The webpage also states: 'due to unprecedented demand in the 2024/25 funding cycle, we allocated a small portion of the 2025/26 budget to fund all claims submitted before the 31 March 2025 deadline. This totalled £469,000'. This may be indicative of what will happen towards the end of the current financial year. Therefore, it will be wise for those planning to apply for the grant to keep an eye on the tracker and ensure they put in applications during the funding year not just towards the end. So that if the fund closes early they will have at least received some of the grant before that time.

The Worshipful Company of Glaziers - Grants for conserving stained glass

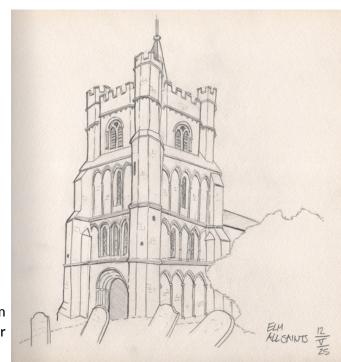
Conservation Awards are currently under review, and applications are not currently being accepted. It is hoped to make a further announcement in Autumn 2025. <u>Glaziers Company</u>

Change to the Idlewild Trust

The Idlewild Trust no longer funds conservation projects submitted by Places of Worship This is not immediately clear on the website; you need to read the full funding guidelines to find that Places of Worship are no longer eligible to apply for grants from the <u>Idlewild Trust</u>.

The Joseph Rank Trust

Applications are treated on a "first come, first served basis", and funding rounds close when enough applications have been received. Due to high demand this year, this has been achieved within a month. If you are intending to apply, please check the website and submit an application as close to the date the next round opens as possible.



All Saint's Church, Elm Sketch by James Ryder, Church Buildings Advisor

GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING

Living Alongside Bats in Churches Grant

Places of worship in England are again being offered the opportunity to apply for the Living Alongside Bats in Churches Grant Fund. This is a small grant aimed at supporting places of worship who need help with their roost if, for example, the roost is causing an increased cleaning burden.



Places of worship can apply for up to £1000 and they

will need to explain why they need the grant and what they will use the funds for, as well as carry out a positive community engagement activity which will be inspired by nature. The next round will open at 9am on 18th August 2025 and will close at 9am on 27th October 2025. For further details and to apply, <u>visit the BCT website</u>.

King Charles III Charitable Fund - Small Grants Re-opens

In 2024/25 the Fund received almost 1,500 small grant applications. Of these, it was only able to support 100. This increase in demand "has prompted a review of our small grants programme, so that we can ensure our processes are as simple as possible for applicants and our funding delivers maximum impact to communities across the UK and beyond".

Following a comprehensive review of the feedback from applicants and insights from across the wider grant making sector, the Fund has refined its small grants programme plans for 25/26.

Key changes include:

- Adjustments to the eligibility criteria to include new income thresholds of £25,000 to £500,000.
- The total eligible project cost has been reduced to £50,000.
- A revised maximum grant request of £9,000 over three years; maximum of £3000 per year.
- Reapplication timelines of two years

"We know that it is an incredibly challenging time for many nonprofit organisations facing rising demands for services. We remain committed to supporting small organisations delivering vital support at the community level across our six funding themes and in underrepresented areas.

We have updated our website to reflect these changes and are currently testing our online small grant application form before we open for applications."

In 2025/26, applications will open as follows:

August - Environment and countryside funding themes

October - Education and heritage and conservation funding themes

January – Social inclusion and health and wellbeing funding themes

Specific dates will be published on the <u>kccf website</u> and social media platforms at least two weeks prior to the application window opening.



GRANTS

Current Deadlines

September

1st The Sharpe Trust

1st Jack Patston Charitable Trust

1st Thalia WB Community Fund

1st The Joseph Rank Trust

1st The Georgian Group - Cleary Fund

25th Norfolk Churches Trust

30th The On Organ Fund

October

2nd Veolia Environment Trust

6th Church Care - Organs

13th Church Care: church plate,

churchyard structures, brasses & metalwork, monuments, textiles, wooden objects

24th Congregational and General Charitable Trust

31st War Memorials Trust

November

TBC The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

1st **Cambridgeshire Community Foundation**

4th National Churches Trust Large Grants

10th FCC Communities Foundation

12th Augean Landfill Fund

12th National Lottery Heritage Fund

30th The Aurelius Charitable Trust

December

1st Jill and Norman Franklin Trust

1st Thalia WB Community Fund

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:

- Cornerstone new database
- Support Cambridgeshire
- Grants Online
- My Funding Central
- Funds Online



St Peter and St Paul's, Alconbury

Grants without Deadlines

The Archer Trust

Benefacts Trust

Church Care - Conservation Reports

Garfield Weston

Geoffrey Watling (Norfolk only)

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 John S Cohen Foundation

The Round Tower Churches Society

TASC Grants

ENVIRONMENT AND NZC

Tree Council Grants

The Tree Council has announced a range of grants to support tree, hedgerow, and orchard establishment. This includes the long running <u>Branching Out Fund</u> which is now open for applications for planting projects valued between £250 and £2,500.

Churchyards are publicly accessible spaces which fulfils the first eligibility criterion, although other criteria will need to be checked with each grant as there is a wide range of scale between the funds. Expert advice and support is available from The Tree Council where needed; from application, to planting, to ensuring the trees have the best chance of establishing successfully.

A reminder that our tree guidance is here.



Parish Energy

From September 2025, the old Energy Basket will close for the last time, and be replaced by a new, greener product – <u>Parish Energy.</u> It will continue to offer great value gas and electricity, but will give you more choice over the type of energy you buy. As well as green electricity for everyone, members can also opt for ordinary brown or green gas options, though we'd encourage you to spend money on making your building more energy efficient rather than the additional cost of a 'green gas' tariff.



Churchyard Conservation Scheme

Visit the Wildlife Trust websites for <u>Cambridgeshire</u> or <u>Norfolk</u> to discover how your church or group could get involved.

Churchyard News from the Wildlife Trust - June 2025

Congratulations to those churches who have recently gained the Bronze <u>Churchyard Conservation Award</u> (Haddenham Burial Ground, St Peter's in Carlton, St Dennis in East Hatley, St Mary's in Wooditton and St Michael's in Great Gidding). These churches have created excellent areas to help nature without losing site of the primary purpose of a burial ground. It has been good to hear local people remark how much better their churchyard now looks, in contrast to previous endless short, parched, grass which produces no flowers or cover for wildlife.

Read more about Reptiles and Amphibians and see photos of Summer flowering areas at St Mary's, Wooditton and St Andrew's, Witchford, here: <u>Churchyard News</u>.

Monthly Nature Notes for your Parish Magazine or Town Council newsletter?

With more and more people recognising the potential wildlife value that can be found in their churchyard or other burial ground, do you know of a parish magazine or town council newsletter that might like to subscribe to monthly Nature Notes?

These short articles, written by one of <u>Caring for God's Acre's</u> staff ecologists, highlight a seasonal plant, creature or feature to be found in churchyards. 2025 has seen articles ranging from green woodpecker to lizards and the value of churchyard walls, taking in betony and birdsong along the way.

If you or anyone you know would like to be added to the mailing list, they can request monthly Nature Notes by emailing enquiries@cfga.org.uk

Heating your Church this Winter

As autumn cooler temperatures approach, our thoughts turn to heating. As Net Zero Carbon Officer, my hope is that we try to do this as efficiently as possible.

Using the least energy to provide a warm and welcoming environment in our churches will help to ensure that energy bills are kept to a minimum and carbon footprints will follow suit.

You may also have a church with an aging boiler and be worrying whether it will make it through the coming cold season. There are many decarbonised heating solutions working successfully in churches, but these take time to plan, so starting to consider your needs early on will help you prepare for this.

Perhaps your energy tariff is drawing to a close and you are considering switching to a 'green' energy provider – Parish Buying has recently launched Parish Energy, which includes green energy options you may be interested in (see previous page).

To start reducing your energy consumption you will want to begin by looking at your heating settings. Check that the heating timings suit your church's needs and consider turning the heating off earlier, before the end of the service (trialling this incrementally so that people don't get cold), as residual heat can keep a church warm for 30-45 minutes after being switched off.

Add timers to electric heaters so that these can't be left on by mistake. If you are providing background heating when the church is empty, unless the fabric, fixtures and/or fittings require it, turn it down or off and monitor for any potential ill-effects such as mould.

If your boiler is nearing end of life, you will want to begin thinking about your next heating solution. Churches are possibly the most challenging buildings to try to heat, but there is a wealth of <u>guidance</u> available to help you, including <u>case studies</u> and <u>webinars</u>. There are also churches in the diocese with a variety of electric heating systems in operation, visiting some of these will help you to experience and hear about what it is like to use these. Warm air rises, so direct heating solutions such as <u>cushions</u>, wearable vests, or infra-red heating, can work well for quieter churches.

If you would like to hear more about any of the above suggestions, please don't hesitate to

contact me by email and we can arrange a chat or a visit.

Sacha Watson Net Zero Carbon Officer

For further ways to reduce your church's energy consumption, this Church of England booklet has lots of practical ideas. And for further information about reducing your church's carbon footprint, this webpage contains lots of information you may find useful.



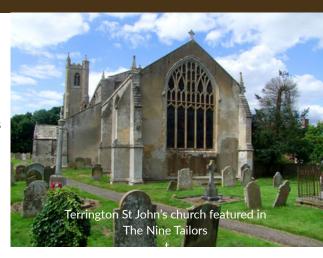


INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Starring GREAT Britain Campaign

The National Churches Trust has created a map of churches, chapels and meeting houses that have been used as film locations. This encourages people to visit the locations they have seen on screen. The map is still evolving, so if there are places of worship that have not yet been included, please contact:

sarah.crossland@nationalchurchestrust.org



New guidance on Church of England website

A brief guide to the use of drones around churches is helpful if you become aware of drones being used around a church and also if you want to use a drone either for survey work or professional photography.

<u>Ventilation and draughtproofing in historic churches</u> will particularly help parishes considering their progress on <u>the practical path to net-zero</u>. The guidance explores what ventilation is, what it is trying to achieve and successful strategies for managing it while caring for historic furnishings in a church building. If a conservation report is needed as part of a net-zero project, for example if a change in heating may impact on historic furnishings, please see the <u>Churchcare Conservation Report Grant</u> programme.

The <u>security advice</u> on the Church of England website has been updated with new content on Martyn's Law, the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025. The update introduces the key concepts of the Act and includes links to advice on the ProtectUK and government websites. It will be updated when the government publishes more faith-specific guidance.

ICON Launches Revamped 'Find a Conservator' Service

The Institute of Conservation (ICON) has launched its updated Find a Conservator platform, replacing the former Conservation Register. The refreshed service improves access to accredited conservation professionals and aims to make it easier for individuals and organisations to find trusted help for preserving their heritage objects and collections. Explore the Find a Conservator service here.

RISK CALENDAR

Taken from Ecclesiastical Insurance's Church Risk Calendar.

September - Slips and Trips

Claims data shows that slips and trips are the most common cause of injury in churches. To reduce the risk, review your precautions to tackle slip and trip hazards both indoors and outside.

October - Working Alone

Working alone can present a number of hazards, including an increased risk of assault and/or aggression. Review situations where people complete tasks on their own to check the adequacy of precautions in place to protect them.

November - Flood Safety

Climate change is resulting in more extreme weather events. Though it's impossible to flood-proof your church properties, there are some simple actions you can take to reduce the damage caused

Over 9,000 Crimes Reported at UK Churches in Three Years

In April this year, the Countryside Alliance published new research showing that, on average, at least eight crimes took place at churches every day from 2022-2024. Read More



OFFERED OR WANTED ITEMS

OFFERED: A group of pews designed by Sir Gilbert Scott

Location: St Mary's Parish Church, Church Lane, Linton, Cambridge CB21 4JX

Delivery: Removal and collection only (subject to Faculty confirmation).

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: St Mary's in Linton has a group of pews designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, obtained from Great St. Mary's in Cambridge in the 1960s, which are no longer needed. These would be ideal for a Victorian Gothic space, a CCT church or a proprietary chapel. There are 12 matching pews 2m long with decorative carved Poppyhead ends. 6 with left hand, 4 with right hand and 2 with both ends carved. There are also 2 x 3m long pews with elaborate carving and a pair of frontals 2.25m long with carving including the Four Evangelists.

Contact: richard.tonry@stmaryslinton.org.uk







OFFERED: Chest of drawers and wardrobe

Location: St Mary's Church, 3 Mill St, Houghton, Huntingdon PE28 2AZ

Delivery: Collection only

Cost: Free, but donation welcome. **Description:** Chest of drawers and a

wardrobe in two sections (main wardrobe and a top cupboard).

The main wardrobe is about 1.2 meters wide and 2.3 meters high with the top section (about 1.8 meters high

without).

Contact: Rev'd. Geoff Boucher at geoffboucher@btinternet.com





TRAINING AND EVENTS

Ride and Stride:13th September. More Information.

Heritage Open Days: 12th - 21st September. More Information.

Eco Church Support Zoom: 30th September 6-7pm. Register Here.

Church Buildings Support Network (More Information):

Evening Zoom Meetings

- Developing Maintenance Plans 3rd September
- Clocks, Bells and Musical Instruments 8th October
- Repairs: What to do, How to pay, and Permissions 12th November

in-Person Sessions

- Faculty and List B Surgery 10th September
- Maintenance Day 19th September
- Maintenance Enquiries ECBP 23rd September
- Interpretation: Tech, Activities and Booklets 29th October

An Evening with the Dean of Westminster: 19th September, 7pm All Saints, Hamerton

An evening with the Dean of Westminster. We are excited to announce that the Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev'd Dr David Hoyle KCVO MBE will be coming to Hamerton to give a talk about the Coronation of King Charles III. An accomplished theologian and Historian, David is also a witty and engaging public speaker and will be sharing the inside track on the run up to the Coronation and on the big day itself. £10 per ticket Friday 19 September 7pm bar opens at 6 pm Scan to book Tickets from https://buytickets.at/alisaintshamertonpce/1728644 All profits in aid of the Hamerton Church restoration fund.

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 17th November.

DAC

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

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Holly Robinson - Historic Church Buildings Support Officer

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Sacha Watson - Net Zero Carbon Officer

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

