

ST. MICHAEL' S CHURCH, CHURCHILL

CHURCH PLAN



Introduction

Part A - Current Report

Church Introduction and Statement of Significance
Current Use (bookings) and voluntary activity
Collection Review
Conservation Reports
Income, Expenditure and Balances
Local Community Officers Report

Part B – Survey

Results of our open survey conducted in 2020, canvassing all community contacts for feedback on the current report

Part C - Community Recommendations

Minutes of community meetings held to discuss opportunities, activities and plans for the church

Part D - Action Plan

Details of short, medium and long term actions agreed upon through Community Recommendations, assigned to community participants or Churches Conservation Trust staff

Introduction

The Churches Conservations Trust's strategy is to empower and support communities to care for historic places of worship, for the benefit of all. A sustainable CCT church is well used by its communities, generates sufficient funds for the maintenance that keeps it in a good state of repair and is able to raise funds for specific repair and improvement projects. Local Community Officers facilitate this through their work with the community to co-create Church Plans.

Church plans are a living document which combines information on the church's history, significance, maintenance and repair needs and the current use of the church, with feedback and recommendations from the community, and concludes with an action plan setting out agreed short, medium and long term actions to support the sustainable use and care of the church.

Part A - Current Report

Church Introduction & Statement of Significance

The church dates from the 14th century, and contains fragments of masonry from an earlier church building on the site. It was restored in 1863, and there was another restoration in 1910.

The plan of St Michael's consists of a nave with a south porch, and a chancel. At the west end is a bellcote. Each wall of the nave contains a single window.

Inside the church, the font dates from the 15th century. The pulpit dates from the 17th century, and the communion rail is in Jacobean style. The chancel screen and the lectern were moved from Great Malvern Priory at the time of the 1910 restoration. The oldest monument is dated 1688. There are two bells, one of which dates from the 15th century.

Current use (bookings) & voluntary activity

St. Michael's currently enjoys permission from The Church of England for six Sunday services each year and an unlimited number of additional services on an occasional basis. During the most recent three years the church has hosted services for Christmas. There has also been one blessing, which took place in 2018.

Voluntary activity undertaken by three local residents includes:-

- Occasional cleaning
- Ad hoc reporting of building change

Church Information

General Information:	
Open Churches Policy status:	Open
Local Community Officer:	Gurdev Singh
Current projects:	Not at present
Parking:	None on site, layby further down the road
Building services:	Electric lighting
Churchyard:	Not owned by CCT, owned by Parish Council
Ring-able bells:	Chiming
Organ:	Yes
Volunteering:	
Key holder role:	N/A
Key representative role:	Vacant and necessary
Fundraising roles:	Vacant and necessary
Stewardship/events roles:	Vacant and necessary
Research, interp. & talks role:	Vacant and necessary
Cleaning schedule:	None
CCT Items:	
CCT silver plaque:	Installed
CCT information board:	Installed, requires updating
Oak post:	Installed
CCT freestanding board:	Installed
Wall safe poster:	Installed, current
CCT A board:	Installed
Gift Aid envelopes:	Provided
Visitor book:	Installed
Welcome table:	Maintains stock of current leaflets (note unavailability of future leaflets for re-stock)

Children's explorer cart:	Not at present
Children's trail:	Not at present
Tourism/Marketing:	
Nearby attractions:	Croome Court, Harvington Hall, Worcester Cathedral
Social media presence:	Not at present
Images on CCT website:	One of four
Regular feature parish news:	Not at present
Events/Activity:	
Services per year:	At least one
Christmas memory tree:	Not currently
Heritage Open Days:	Not currently
Ride & Stride:	Not currently
Champing:	Not currently
Retail:	Not currently
Health & Safety:	
Fire rated capacity:	40
Seating capacity:	Not determined
Site plan:	Available
Roof alarm:	None installed
CCTV:	None installed
Individual item security measures:	None
Accessibility details:	Provided via website
Risk assessment general:	Current
Risk assessment fire:	Current
COSHH listing:	Current
Portable appliance listing:	Current
Security Audit:	Current
Pews:	Sound, no defects

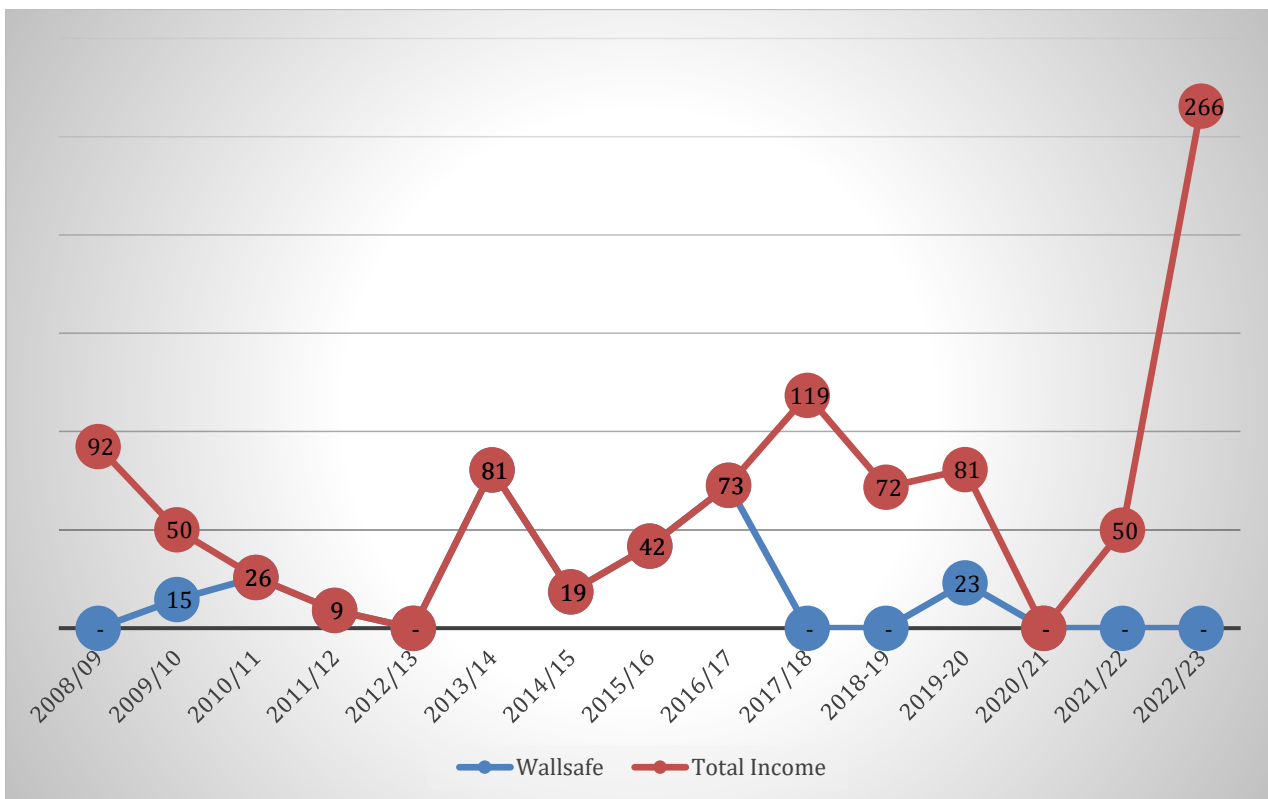
Conservation Reports

<p>Annualised maintenance costs (Exclusive of VAT): Annualised maintenance costs express the total costs of church maintenance divided by 25 years. Every forecasted cost which relates to the maintenance of this church over a period of 25 years is included. Any anticipated repairs are excluded. A list of typical maintenance tasks for any historic church, forecast over the period, is available to view at appendix 2.</p>	£214.26
<p>Routine maintenance costs (Per annum and exclusive of VAT): These are included in the annualised maintenance costs and are the total cost of two maintenance visits per year. A list of the typical maintenance tasks for any historic church included in the twice-annual maintenance visits is available to view at appendix 3.</p>	£552.00
<p>Other maintenance costs total (Exclusive of VAT): Additional maintenance needs discovered during twice-yearly maintenance visits, costed and listed individually below.</p>	£0.00
<p>Total short term repairs: Small scale items of limited cost which could be fulfilled with minimal fundraising.</p>	£12,500
- Minor roof repairs	£4,500.00
-Structural repairs	£4,500.00
- Internal carpentry repairs	£3,500.00
<p>Total medium term repairs: More expensive needs such as roof repairs and tower repairs which may require more involved fundraising and grant applications.</p>	£38,000.00
- Repointing works	£24,000.00
- Window masonry, glazing and ferramenta repairs	£20,000.00
- Conservation on royal coat of arms	£4,000.00
<p>Total long term repairs: Items which are known to require works in the longer term but which are not essential in the near future.</p>	£36,000
- Remove plaster board and replace with L & P	£16,000.00
- Remove any loose plaster and replace	£20,000.00
<p>Total desirable repairs: Repairs which are not essential to the conservation health of the church but which might improve aesthetics or usability of the building.</p>	£0.00
<p>All cost figures are estimates, exclusive of VAT and professional fees.</p> <p>VAT is charged at 20% of the total costs and can sometimes be recovered. Professional fees vary, but are either charged at an hourly rate or as a percentage of the total project cost. These are usually charged only on larger or more complex projects.</p>	

Income, Expenditure & Balances

Income

	Wall Safe	Service Collection	Services Fees	Events	Donations	Third Party Hire	Total Income
2022/23	£0.00		£100.00		£126.00		£226.00
2021/22	£0.00				£50.00		£50.00
2020/21	£0.00						£0.00
2019/20	£23.00				£58.00		£81.00
2018/19	£0.00						£72.00
2017/18	£619.00						£619.00



Visitors

		Wall safe income per visitor
2022-23	921	£0.06
2021-22	477	£0.16
2020-21	Data not collected	£0.00
2019-20	854	£0.03
2018-19	1,217	£0.00
2017-18	946	£0.00
2016-17	882	£0.08
2015-16	1,356	£0.03



Expenditure

Total spend since vesting (non-maintenance): £182,033

	Conservation (repair) expenditure	Maintenance expenditure
2022-23	£1,505.00	£405.00
2021-22	£47,239.00	£824.00
2020-21	£0.00	£681.00
2019-20	£0.00	£1,362.00
2018-19	£0.00	£735.00
2017-18	£0.00	£519.00
2016-17	£0.00	£697.00

Income less expenditure 2022/23 **-£1,684.00**
(Income from all sources, minus maintenance, and conservation expenditure)

Income less annualised maintenance 2022/23 **-£179.00**

(Income from all sources, minus the annualised maintenance cost, as shown in the Conservation Report section above)

Balances

The restricted balance is the amount of money which has been covenanted or restricted for expenditure at the church. Any expenditure needs to match the terms of the covenant under which the money was donated, for example, a term expressing that a donation is intended for roof repairs only.-

Restricted Balance Report 2023/23 £0

Local Community Officer' s Summary

This pretty Worcestershire church gains most of its visitors from local walkers or cyclists. Members of the local community support the church on an ad hoc basis, though this is not currently a formal arrangement with The Churches Conservation Trust. Signatures in the visitor book indicates support for the church and for The Churches Conservation Trust throughout the town and from tourism.

Occasional services arranged by the local community presents an opportunity to review the level of contribution from wall safe donations and service collections, given that visitors may be currently unaware of our annualised maintenance liability. This message could be amplified through information presented in the church.

Marketing could focus on historical societies with an interest in the history of the local area, seeking bookings to tour the church alongside other popular Worcestershire venues with a related connection. Churchill is situated within 20 minutes of Evesham, Spetchley and Worcester where there are other Churches Conservation Trust sites. Voluntary effort towards research and interpretation products could facilitate encouragement of these bookings at the same time as enriching the visitor experience further. The site has limited open floor space for alternative use. Additional revenue could derive from promotion of local, sympathetic businesses seeking to promote services and products through signage at the church. The Community may need to review some of the options detailed in this summary towards the shortfall against annualised maintenance costs, addressing the risk of necessary repairs wanting for funds in future seasons.

CCT will need to provide a walk around guide and additional notice board signage for visitors early in 2020. The wall safe has attracted attention from thieves in recent months and as a result review of means for emptying the safe and providing associated signage would be beneficial.

A supply of Christmas cards and a sponsor for the Christmas Memory Tree might also help develop useful income against maintenance liability.

Part B - Survey

Summary of consultation responses received by end August 2020

Following distribution of fifteen questions through our standard church plan questionnaire in summer 2020 to existing Churches Conservation Trust correspondents, (together with an invitation for correspondents to share the survey and associated Church Plan Part A), no response was received for **Churchill St Michael' s** by the deadline of August 30th. An example of the survey is in appendix 1.

Part C - Community Recommendations

Churchill Church Planning Meeting Held - February 2023, Attending GS (Local Community Officer) et al.

Bats

Bats is a big problem, especially during the Spring and Summer time, the volunteers do their very best to keep the church clean, however this can be very difficult due to the bats issues.

Churchyard

The PCC's gardener looks after the maintenance of the churchyard.

Events

CCT booking system being used for services and events.

This year the fete will take place at Redfern House, White Ladies Aston on Saturday, 24th June. A proportion of the funds raised are used to support the maintenance of the churchyard of Churchill, for mowing and the repairs of the perimeter churchyard stone walls.

Detailed discussions took place and agreed that it would be great for the church to be used more for services and events.

H helps to organise an annual fete namely 'The Parish of White Ladies Aston with Churchill and Spetchley' is held every year and is supported by the Parish.

General Discussion

The church is discussed at every PCC meeting.

A very popular cycle route, look into possibilities of the cyclists visiting the church.

HL encourages people to visit the church on the White Ladies Aston 'Church Near You' Website, Fete Brochures and other forms of communication.

Part D - Action Plan

Community Actions

Short term actions (to end August 2023)

Medium term actions (to end August 2024)

- Ride and Stride to be promoted wider by HL.
- Try to recruit new volunteers.
- Possible summer tea party/garden fete could be organised by the local community.
- Everyone to have a discussion with local community about ideas they may have and how they can be involved with the church.
- The PCC are looking into repairing/replacing the broken gate.

Long term actions (to end February 2026)

- Identify and approach contacts who may wish to use the church for exhibitions, use as gallery space or for other events.
- Investigate suitability of church for more regular religious use.
- Discuss potential for regular church related features, parish newsletter and inclusion of church updates in parish council meetings.
- Consider means for increasing footfall and consequent donations.

Actions complete (to end August 2023)

- A very successful fete as kindly reported by HL was held on Saturday 24th June 2023.

Local Community Officer Actions

Short term actions (to end August 2023)

Medium term actions (to end August 2024)

- Need to explore if CCT can put a finger post on the road as this would encourage more visitors.
- A QR code system possibly needs to be installed, there is currently no facility to leave donations.
- Try to recruit new volunteers.
- Engage in regular and on-going communications with the community, also support them as required.
- Engage in regular and on-going communications with the community, also support them as required.
- Organise regular meetings with the community.

Long term actions (to end February 2026)

- Investigate suitability of church for hire to increase usage and income.
- Consider means for increasing footfall and consequent donations.

Actions complete (to end August 2023)

- CCT Estates team informed about the wall safe, issue of bats and peeling plaster, they will if possible arrange for the repairs to be undertaken.

Appendix 1: Summer 2020 Questionnaire

This is the first of fourteen questions in the survey - thank you in advance for working through each one. First of all, we need to know if you're completing the survey on behalf of an organisation or writing in a personal capacity (If you're writing on behalf of an organisation, please use the text box to let us know which one. Thank you!)

Which church are you writing about? (Don't worry, you can complete additional questionnaires for other sites if you like!) Please state the location and dedication, as in 'Sapperton, St. Kenelm's'. Thank you.

People are involved with our sites in so many different ways. In your own words, please describe your relationship with the church building.

Some people are actively involved at the churches we look after together. If you're part of this group, tell us about your involvement. Cleaning, attending services and fundraising are just a few of the most frequent activities we share, but we'd appreciate as much detail as you might be happy to provide. In your own words, and having reviewed 'Part A' of our church plan (sent to you by email with the invitation to this questionnaire), please describe a perfect outcome for our work together at the church. What would you like to see happen in terms of community involvement and other use of the building?

Bearing in mind the repair liabilities and running costs described in the report you've read, what challenges do you anticipate for a sustainable future at your church?

Thinking about local life away from the church, which other community projects or activities are you aware of that could combine with our work to protect the church for the future?

Here are two questions together... Could increased use of the church benefit the community? How would this increased use benefit the church itself?

What do you think are the most important conservation priorities at your church? For each or all of these priorities, please also let us know about any ideas you have for addressing them.

Income and expenditure for the church is detailed in 'Part A' of the report we sent you. Addressing conservation priorities will entail finding new ways to raise funds. Tell us about any ideas or opportunities you have identified for raising additional income at the church.

What do you think might be the best ways to get started with any fundraising activities you have suggested?

If you don't already, would you be interested and available to take part in future fundraising activity?

Almost done! We'd like to invite you to join us in a group discussion about the church later this year, either in person or through 'phone / video conference. Would you be willing to join the discussion?

Last question! Is there anything else you'd like to share about your interest in the church which we haven't asked you already? Otherwise, thank you again so much for reflecting on the future of the church through your answers.

Appendix 2: Typical Maintenance Tasks Forecast For A CCT Church Over 25 Years

The list below gives examples of items that CCT needs to maintain in its churches. Some items on this list will not relate to this church but give guidance as to the typical items we cover. These estimations are based on the cost in 2020, please note we are not able to predict inflation costs and therefore these are not included.

A specific report is created for each church every nine years by an experienced and trained building inspector. This details the repair needs of the building and lists the repairs required according to their priority. Please contact your Local Community Officer if you wish to see this report.

Item	Method & Purpose	Cycle/ Yrs	Estimated Cost per visit (present day levels)	Cumulative Estimated Total Cost After 25 Years (2020 values)
Drains, rodding	Below-ground drains can be blocked by debris which stops the rain water dispersing properly and potentially leading to water backing up and overflowing. To prevent this they require rodding and cleaning even ten years.	1	£ 39.00	£ 975.00
Soakaways, inspection and clearance of silt build-up	Soakaways consist of a large pit filled with gravel of varying sizes which act as a filter to allow rainwater to slowly seep into the surrounding ground. Over time material carried into the soakaway in the rain water fills in the gaps and slows the rate of dispersal which can lead to water backing up and potentially damaging or even flooding the church	10	£ 600.00	£ 1,500.00
Mansafe hatchway system	Man safe systems are steel cables or anchor points which are fixed to the roofs of churches to allow people to safely access and work on the roof. As these systems are used for safety it is a legal requirement that they are tested every year for loose fittings or damaged cables.	1	£ 360.00	£ 9,000.00
Lightning conductor testing	Lightning conductors are required to be checked every three years to make sure that they are still performing correctly and will be able to disperse a lightning strike effectively. Metal thefts have often targeted lightning conductors and they may need replacing.	3	£ 480.00	£ 4,000.00

Organ maintenance	Organs are complex machines built using numerous natural materials which can be damaged by moisture, heat and animal attack. It is recommended that organs are checked every year to carry out minor repairs and to be re-tuned as required. Regular servicing can also reduce the likelihood of large unexpected repair bills.	1	£ 140.00	£ 3,500.00
Fire extinguisher inspection	Fire extinguishers servicing checks that the fire extinguishers are functional and maintaining adequate pressure for use in an emergency. Note the CCT only provides fire extinguisher in churches which are either stewarded, used for Champing™ or have significant timber items.	1	£ 166.00	£ 4,150.00
Electrical periodic inspection testing	Electrical tests ensure that the electrical system of the church is both safe and fully functioning. The test will check all elements of the system and highlight any concerns.	5	£ 350.00	£ 1,750.00
Replacement of electrical fittings	As items are highlighted as faulty through periodic testing and maintenance visits they will need to be replaced.	15	£ 1,500.00	£ 2,500.00
Replacement of lamps	General wear and tear - Bulbs require regular replacement. Note LED bulbs will be used where possible	2	£ 250.00	£ 3,125.00
Heating installation, servicing	Annual servicing of the heating system to ensure the efficiency and safe working order of the boiler etc.	1	£ 384.00	£ 9,600.00
Roof alarm, servicing	Roof alarms require annual servicing to check that the system is in good working order and to replace minor parts such as the batteries in sensors.	1	£ 316.80	£ 7,920.00
Rainwater goods, redecoration	All external rainwater Goods (RWG) require redecoration as they are in exposed locations and are exposed to significant amounts of water. The redecoration significantly extends the lifespan of the RWGs and ensures that they are working correctly and are securely fixed in position.	7	£ 1,560.00	£ 5,571.43
Internal & external ironwork redecoration	Redecorating the ironwork prolongs the life of the item and improves the aesthetic of the church. The redecoration of ironwork also provides a good opportunity to inspect the item for damage.	7	£ 1,500.00	£ 5,357.14

External joinery, redecoration	Redecorating external joinery prolongs the life of the item and improves the aesthetic of the church. The redecoration of ironwork also provides a very good opportunity to inspect the item for damage.	7	£ 1,875.00	£ 6,696.43
Window repairs	Minor repairs to the windows such as broken panes of glass, replacement of glazing bars, mortar repairs or lead work repairs are important to exclude the weather and birds and other animals.	5	£ 350.00	£ 1,750.00
Bell maintenance	Bells require ad hoc inspection and minor maintenance to fixtures and fittings	5	£ 235.00	£ 1,175.00
Condition inspection report, all specialists	We have a 9 yearly architect or surveyors inspection plan. When the survey is undertaken all elements of the church will be inspected and a prioritised plan for all required repairs will be created.	9	£ 450.00	£ 1,250.00
Roof overhaul	Roofs require constant minor maintenance with a major overhaul every seven years	7	£ 2,500.00	£ 8,928.57
Clock maintenance	An annual service of the clock with minor repairs and checks to ensure good timekeeping	1	£ 140.00	£ 3,500.00
Tree inspection	A five yearly inspection of all the trees in the churchyards we are responsible for to check for defects and enable us to plan for any required works.	5	£ 225.00	£ 1,125.00
Churchyard maintenance	Grass cutting and minor trimming of plants and bushes etc.	0.5	£ 200.00	£ 10,000.00
Overheads	Office costs to support maintenance planning etc.	1	£ 20.00	£ 500.00
Staff Costs	Staff costs incurred in preparing the required inspections and reports	1	£ 97.00	£ 2,425.00

The total cost over 25 years for this example of a typical church is £107,598.57 (exc. VAT)

The average yearly cost for this example of a typical church is £4,303.94 (exc. VAT)

Appendix 3: Typical Maintenance Tasks Forecast - (Twice-Annual Maintenance Visits)

Item	Method & Purpose
Gutters, downpipes and gully clearance	Gutters, hoppers and downpipes are easily blocked by leaves and debris both windborne and dropped by birds which can lead to overflowing and water damage to the building.
Roof, inspection & replacing slipped/missing slates/tiles	Over time some slates/tiles or the pegs/nails which hold them will reach the end of their useful lifespan. When this happens it will allow slates to move from their correct position which can let rain in to the building and potentially poses a risk to visitors as the slate/tiles can fall.
Vegetation, control of growth	Overgrown vegetation against walls and buildings can hold moisture against the building potentially causing damage and some plant species are invasive. Vegetation can also obscure the building hiding potential damage and can provide shelter for vermin such as mice.
Tower stairs & boiler room steps, sweeping	Leaves and other debris can build up on steps which could lead to accidents if people slip. Regular sweeping reduces the risk for potential accidents.
Principal steps and paths, clearance	Leaves and other debris can build up on steps which could lead to accidents if people slip. This is especially the case for churches with trees in the area. Regular sweeping of the steps reduces the risk for potential accidents.
Wall Safe, servicing	Servicing of the wall safe helps to ensure that the donations can be easily collected and also checks to ensure that there hasn't been an attempt to steal from the safe.

Appendix 4: Typical Champing™ Arrangements and Related Income

Champing™ is the exclusive overnight hire of a church to visitors. Camp beds and chairs are set up inside the church, along with tea making provisions, battery lighting, and cushions and blankets to give guests a cosy stay.

Guests book online through the Champing™ website www.champing.co.uk and these bookings are related to local contacts so everyone knows when visitors are staying. A local member of staff sets out equipment for the night and removes all gear each morning. Guests have exclusive access to the church between 6.00 p.m. until 10.00 a.m. so visitors can enjoy the church during the day.

Champers don't expect much in the way of facilities and understand that these are ancient buildings. For most churches we've installed eco-loos either inside or outside in wooden cabins. We don't allow candles but provide battery lanterns and fairy lights. As most of our churches don't have heating we only operate Champing™ between the end of March and the end of October, and we recommend Champers bring warm sleeping bags and extra blankets. We also supply bedding and breakfasts but this option isn't available at all churches. Most Champers will eat out locally or may bring their own picnic.

For those churches without electricity we provide a gas camping stove and we also provide amply bottled water for Champers and all visitors to use.

Typically Champers are couples and families. Some of our churches are large enough to welcome groups of up to 16 people. We are dog-friendly, and child-friendly. Many Champers appreciate the history, architecture, and unique features of their surroundings, and come to learn about the building and its locale through this unique accommodation. We offer those staying for the first time a free CCT membership so they can learn more about our work and consider support for The Trust after their visit.

You can evaluate typical income which derives from Champing™ in the table below.

Church	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Langport, Somerset	£10,47	£2,766	£3,810	£3,128	£7,748	£4,938
Emborough, Somerset	/	£2,024	£1,378	£2,625	£5,270	/
Chiselhampton, Oxfordshire	£10,156	£2,696	£5,864	£1,705	/	/
Wolfhamcote, Warwickshire	/	£3,001	£2,214	£1,624	£4,763	£5,924
Holme Lacy, Herefordshire	/	£4,369	£4,759	£1,004	£7,501	£4,144
TOTAL	£20,628	£14,856	£18,025	£10,086	£25,282	£15,006