

January 7th 2023

IDMISTON. ALL SAINTS

Church Plan



Part A - [Current Report](#)

The report current at the time of first issue summarises known activity at the church, stakeholders, trends, site resources and results in hand.

Part B - [Consultation](#)

Open consultation findings summarise notes provided by survey recipients in reaction to Part A, the current report and specifies community planning meeting details.

Part C - [Community Recommendations](#)

Community recommendations include the full resolutions set at the community planning meeting.

Part D - [Action Plan](#)

The action plan splits tasks agreed at and implied by the community recommendations.

Part A - Current Report

Church Introduction & Statement of Significance

All Saints Church in Idmiston, Wiltshire, England, was built in the 12th century. It is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade I listed building. It was declared redundant on 1 April 1977, and was vested in the Trust on 29 September 1978.

The church was built of flint with interspersed limestone in the 12th and 13th centuries. It has a west tower with north and south asiles and a nave. The chancel has a north porch.

The church was heavily restored, including the rebuilding of the upper section of the tower, by John Loughborough Pearson and Ewan Christian in 1865 to 1867. It includes a collection of mediaeval carvings, in the form of elegant corbel-heads, roof bosses, and externally in the form of fearsome gargoyles. The medieval octagonal font is made of Purbeck Marble. The tombs and memorials include those to the family of John Bowle who was the vicar of Idmiston in the 18th century and is known today primarily for his ground-breaking, annotated edition of Cervantes's *Don Quixote*.

After attendance at the church dwindled, it closed and was declared redundant. It was taken into care by the Redundant Churches Fund (now the Churches Conservation Trust) in 1978.

Current use (bookings) & voluntary activity

This church, situated right in the heart of the village, has a strong Volunteer Friends group (which fluctuates with around 10 core members) and good informal community support, built in earnest over past 5 years. Led by a dynamic and energetic Volunteer Team Leader, the team (most of whom are within easy walking distance of the church) open and close the church daily, as well as organising regular fundraising events and services

The Rector of the Bourne Valley Benefice is very supportive of the CCT. Over recent years there has been a Carol Service at Christmas, and on Good Friday.

Unfortunately, there are only a few small local businesses in the area. The other organisations in the area are public funded.

A new style CCT walk around guidebook, researched and written by volunteers, was printed in 2017.

The non-vested churchyard is cared for by the PCC.

To summarise, voluntary activity undertaken by the community includes

- Regular locking and unlocking. The church is opened and locked every day of the year via a rota of local volunteers.
- Regular calendar of services, concerts, exhibitions and community events, although this takes a lot of work by the volunteer group to sustain.
- Income from these community events is often supplemented by sale of merchandise and refreshments, raising additional money for the CCT.
- Regular volunteer led cleaning days
- Remittance of wall safe and service funds
- Planning and delivery of all bookings including services.
- Ad hoc reporting of building change, including monitoring and responding to the roof alarm.
- CCTs Heritage Learning Officer is currently working with the local school, building on a relationship built by the local volunteers.

Collection Review

Open Churches Policy status: Partnership 3
Local Community Officer: Rachel Whitty
Closest Church Classification: Partnership 3
Classification outstanding items: Commercial opportunities available with support of group, CF works with group to cover annual maintenance costs as minimum and additional unrestricted contribution

Visitor nos. 2016/ 17 (est): 1092
Visitor nos. 2017/18 (est): 5982
Visitor nos. 2018/19 (est): 4438
Current project: None
Cleaning schedule: Before events and services and occasional cleaning days led by volunteers in accordance with CCT guidelines
Welcome table: Present. Walkaround guide; maintains stock of current leaflets (note unavailability of future leaflets for re-stock)
Keyholder role: Fulfilled. Multiple Keyholders
Key representative role: Fulfilled (remittances, CCT liaison, volunteer management, maintenance reporting)
Area volunteer role: None
Fundraising roles: None formal
Stewardship roles: No stewards although tours available if requested
Research, interp & talks role: None formal
Accessibility details: Provided via website
CCT silver plaque: Installed, poor condition
CCT information board: Not installed. Scheduled to receive one.
Oak post: Not installed,
CCT freestanding board: Provided.
Wall safe poster: Installed, current
CCT A board: Provided

Gift Aid envelopes:	Provided
Visitor book:	Provided
Building services:	Electric lighting, electric sockets,
Parking:	None formal. 3 /4 spaces on road.
Organ:	Yes. One manual Victorian organ in playable condition.
Churchyard:	Not owned by CCT. Maintained by PCC.
Ringable bells:	No. Bells reported as not ring-able.
Pews:	Yes.
Fire rated capacity:	100
Seating capacity:	Not determined
Site plan:	Available
Roof alarm:	Installed. Managed by E-bound
CCTV:	None
Individual item security measures:	None
Nearby attractions:	Salisbury.
Public transport:	The nearest railway station with public transport links is Salisbury. The No 66 bus runs from Salisbury and stops outside the church Monday – Saturday
Social media presence:	None.
Images on CCT website:	One of three
Regular feature parish news:	Yes. Via volunteers
Services per year:	Usually 2
CofE support for services:	Yes
Christmas memory tree:	Yes.
Tea Party:	No
Historic Church Tour:	Yes in 2019.
Heritage Open Days:	No
Ride & Stride:	No
Champing:	No, possible
Retail:	Yes, volunteer led at events. No CCT retail.
Risk assessment general:	Current
Risk assessment fire:	Current
COSHH listing:	Current
Portable appliance listing:	Current

Security Audit:	2015
Children's explorer cart:	No.
Children's trail:	No. Potential for one on the gargoyles?

Conservation reports

Condition Report:	2017
Repairs liability:	£124,712.50
Annualised maintenance:	£3,221.62

• Short term:	£1,500.00
- Clear moss and repair tiles	£1,500.00
• Medium term:	£15,000.00
- Window repairs	£2,650.00
- Masonry window repairs and ferramenta	£7,500.00
- Conservators repairs and reports on decorative items	£4,850.00
• Long term:	£28,050.00
- Nave aisle porch repairs	£25,000.00
- Conservator repairs and recording of John Andrews and Giles Rowbach monuments	£3,050.00
• Desirable:	£

All cost figures are estimates, exclusive of VAT and professional fees

Income, Expenditure & Balances

Income. 2019/20

Box Collections	- 24	- 13	- 9	- 32	- 17	- 14	- 5	- 32	TOTAL 147
Events				- 33					- 33
General Donations		- 500	- 779	- 712				- 15	- 2,005
Hire Fee				- 100					- 100
LPWS			- 127	65					- 62
Parochial Services Fees					- 100				- 100
Service Collection								- 424	- 424

Income 2018-2019:	£1923
Wall safe 2018-2019 (incl. above):	£415
Income 2017-2018:	£1478
Wall safe 2017-2018: (incl. above):	£241
Income 2016-2017:	£1183
Wall safe 2016-2017: (incl. above):	£722

Expenditure

Conservation expenditure '18/'19:	£0
Maintenance expenditure '18/'19:	£1789
Maintenance expenditure '17/'18:	£4622
Electricity '18/'19:	£85
Electricity '17/'18:	£102

Balances

Restricted Balance Report Jul '19	£143358
Income less expenditure '18/'19	+£51
Income less ann. maint.'18/'19:	-£1304.62

Local Community Officer's Summary

This medieval church, crammed with interesting features is situated right in the heart of the village has a strong informal Volunteer Friends group (which fluctuates with around 10 core members) and good informal community support, built in earnest over the past 5 years through the hard work and diplomacy of an energetic Volunteer Team Leader.

This group of volunteers, the majority of whom live within easy walking distance of the church, have organised a rota of opening and closing the church which enables public access to the church every day of the year.

The volunteers draw on the skills and expertise of their members to run a regular calendar of community events including art and history exhibitions, and recently hosting "This is my Theatre", although this takes a lot of work to sustain and it is presently difficult to see where further support would come from in the immediate community. Any seeking of further support from outside the current volunteer team should be carried out only in close coordination with the existing friends as there is a danger of damaging relationships if done otherwise. CCT should seek to retain the Volunteer Teams "ownership" of the church.

Recent conservation works to the church, including the repair of the wooden shingled tower, have been fully funded by the volunteer teams' efforts. There have been issues with this repair as some of the shingles have already been damaged by birds.

There are ongoing issues with the roof alarm, which gives frequent "false alarms", disturbing the neighbours and causing inconvenience to the volunteers. This should be sought to be fixed as a urgent priority.

There is an opportunity to provide better external signage to encourage visitors into the church. The church is due to receive a CCT noticeboard, which would fulfil this in part.

Scheduled guided tours through or improved interpretation (A new style walk around guidebook produced and printed in 2017) volunteers could increase donation per visitor head.

There are fixed pews, little on street parking and no toilets in the building or public toilets nearby, which restrict commercial opportunities / commercial uses of the building.

New ideas for use and potential supporters might emerge from the church planning process, but any community consultation should only be attempted in strict coordination with the Friends group so as not to disturb this currently positive relationship.

Part B - Consultation (Interim Round September 2020)

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), **two responses** were received for **Idmiston, All Saints'** by the deadline of **August 30th**.*

The responses were received from a respondents writing in a **personal** capacity, who confirmed that their responses related to **All Saints', Idmiston**.

In addressing the question of *a perfect outcome for our work together at the church* the respondents indicated **1) This is a pipe dream. However, for the church to become viable heating a kitchen and loo are needed. There is a village hall half a mile down the road. Also, with new housing developments there will be another new village hall in Allington. I cannot see the Idmiston Parish Council (not the church PCC) supporting All Saints to become a competitor. Also, who would run something like that?**
2) To continue to maintain this beautiful church and ensure that the outstanding maintenance tasks are completed on time and as planned by CCT. If we are able to fully re-open the church post Covid 19, hopefully the volunteer team will once again be able to resume a programme of fund raising events to support the church.

In writing about challenges anticipated in respect of repair liabilities and running costs, the respondent indicates **1) Money and harnessing enthusiasm within the community. 2) It will be essential to try to ensure that the current level of local volunteer support is maintained and to put in place some 'succession planning' to replace those volunteers who move away or retire for age /health reasons.**

Thinking about local life away from the church, in relation to other community projects or activities which might combine with our work to protect the church for the future, the respondent indicated **1) It is quite difficult to hold non -church events at All Saints Idmiston due to the total lack of toilet and hand washing facilities. In addition, car parking is very limited. 2) This is difficult to answer. All the Bourne Valley churches are struggling. The current pandemic has bought everything to a grinding halt so there are no village activities happening at all.**

Considering if increased use of the church might benefit the community, or if increased use might benefit the church itself, the respondent indicated **1) Yes, definitely and such usage could provide some useful income. But, we would be competing with a village hall less than one mile away (with car parking and toilets etc) 2) Cultural activities, i.e. plays and concerts that would not be in competition with the village halls. Visits from people on church tours.**

In relation to identifying conservation priorities for the church, the respondent provided **1) Keeping the church weather proof and free of infestation from woodworm and other nasties.2) The bird-proofing the spire.The roof and gutters**

Regarding priorities, opportunities or ideas for fundraising the respondent noted **1) To continue with our programme of successful exhibitions. 2) Cultural events.** In respect of means for initiating fundraising activity, the respondent gave **1) Nothing really feasible until post Covid 2) Finding people who have contacts in the business and cultural world. Good or bad there is the cathedral 5 miles away...!!.** The respondent also indicated that they would be available to, and have previously been involved in fundraising activity.

In seeking respondents' participation in a future group discussion regarding church planning the respondent indicated **they'd be happy to meet via phone or video conference.**

In answering our final, open question about any additional church matters not covered in other areas of the survey, the respondent indicated **1) Good support from 'head office' is vital regarding fund raising.**

In addition to responses fielded through the questionnaire, a further **[no response]** respondents wrote back to their Local Community Officer, expressing the following perspectives:

Nil

Part C - Community Recommendations (to follow meetings scheduled for October 2020 - January 2021 ahead of final report April 2021).

Minutes of meeting between 3 volunteers referred to as A1, B1 and C1 and Ed McGregor (EM). 11/02/2021

A1 queries how the church is performing in relation to other churches in the area. EM explains that All Saints was outperforming most of the other CCT churches in Wiltshire in terms of income, number of events and community engagement and thanks the volunteer team for this.

A1 notes that in his relative new coming to the community he has been given the impression of strong community support and involvement with the church. He notes that all expectations from the CCT for further support from the community should be kept reasonable and that the volunteer group have demonstrated success in organising a small amount of very well organised and successful events, which is something they intend to keep doing.

C1 notes that the volunteer group is currently operating at its maximum capacity in terms of fundraising and event organisation and the request for more would be draining. EM notes that this is not the intention of the Church Plans

A1 notes that there will be a lot of conflicting interests within the local community if events are attempted at All Saints in 2021 as individuals will be adjusting to post lockdown society and have numerous personal commitments.

B1 also notes that there is also a general feeling of charity fundraising fatigue around fundraising, which might hinder any further efforts.

A1 suggests focussing solely on a Christmas carol service to bring the community back together

B1 notes that speculating on what events can / can't be held in 2021 is futile due to the changing lockdown conditions.

C1 notes that one local volunteer would like to organise an art exhibition perhaps this year but they would require a lot more guidance on Covid 19 safety from the CCT. There is a wedding booked in June which is hoped to proceed in some format, whatever is allowed.

EM assured the group that the CCT has rigorous Covid-19 event guidance in place, which could assist any decision making in the community around what type of events to hold in 2021.

A1 notes that All Saints might be a very long way from getting heating. He also expresses an interest in champing and is not averse to considering it at All Saints.

C1 notes that there is a wide variety in the type and commitment levels of the volunteers at the church. She has canvassed all the supporters and has identified that the approach of doing a few events but doing them well is the general consensus. The volunteer group is a good social network within the village too and has built partnerships with the school, the vicar the PCC etc.

Visitors get great satisfaction from the church simply being open.

EM recognises the groups' contributions to the improvements to the church over the past few years and thanks them on behalf of the CCT.

Summary of meeting held with RW Local Community Officer on January 7th 2023 at Boscombe & District Social Club – 14 volunteers attended

RW welcomed the group and thanked them all for giving up time on a Saturday morning. RW was pleased to have already met some of the group at the successful Carol Service in December and wanted to express many thanks and much appreciation for all the hard work put in. Particular mention was given to the main volunteers who emptied the wall safe, took meter readings, recorded visitor numbers and organised services and exhibitions, all of which raised vital funds for the upkeep of the church and the CCT which was very much appreciated.

RW explained the purpose of the meeting was introduce herself officially as their LCO, update group on the CCT ,new CEO, strategic focus and West Region plan, discuss and agree plans for the coming year at Idmiston.

Everyone at the meeting took it in turns to introduce themselves.

RW updated the group on the CCT, new CEO and West Region Plan.

Previous action points were closed down or carried forward (amendments reflected below)

All agreed that having the Carol Service was a great success and marked the first service since lockdown. The exhibition worked very well and all thanked the main volunteer who worked tirelessly to organise it. A general discussion took place about ideas for the coming year and it was agreed to avoid event fatigue and manage the capacity of all, three events would be focused on with the addition of a Carol Service.

1. An event to mark the Coronation of King Charles – a service with drinks and nibbles afterwards and possibly a small exhibition to note the connection to Idmiston Manor and the meeting held there to re-instate the monarchy of Charles 11
 - a. **Action – short term - volunteers to organise**

2. This is my Theatre production in August
 - a. **Action – short term RW to share contact details with main volunteer**
 - b. **Action – short term – main volunteer to contact and organise with This is My Theatre for July/August**

3. Exhibition Fundraiser before Christmas – focus on Social History of Church and or Alternative Christmas Trees!
 - a. **Action – short term - main volunteers to discuss and decide**

There was a discussion around the roof alarm and maintenance contractors' visits. The key volunteers requested advance notice of scheduled visits to avoid unnecessary call outs to the

police which had happened in the past. There was also instances of petty vandalism at the church such as supergluing up the locks and the volunteers were in the process of contacting the Police community officers to up their patrols in the area,

Action – short term RW to ensure Conservation team issued scheduled maintenance visits so they could be passed on to the key volunteers

Action – short term – community to work with local community police officers to up their patrols.

The maintenance of the churchyard was discussed which was the responsibility of the PCC – there had been improvements with the recent tree works but there were concerns over the state of the perimeter wall.

The CCT notice board had been put up at last and all welcomed its addition.

The broken wire mesh in the doors was raised as during a recent wedding, the bride had caught her dress on them. RW requested and that a picture was taken so Conservation could be informed and one of the key volunteers offered to mend it temporarily with a few small brass screws, to lessen the chances of visitors catching their clothing on the sharp bits.

Action – short term – RW to send picture of broken mesh to Conservation

Action – short term – volunteers to fix temporarily with brass screws

Purchasing extra folding chairs for events was also discussed as the ways the pews were configured meant that there were a lot of blind spots in the church. One of the volunteers offered to research finding some suitable chairs and that paying for some should come from the Idmiston restricted funds as it would enable more tickets to be sold at seated events.

Action – short term – volunteers to research suitable folding chairs and share with RW

The meeting concluded with RW thanking everybody for their input to the meeting and for their continued commitment and support for the church, it was much appreciated.

RW summarised the meeting and all the action points were agreed.

The plan would to be have another meeting in September/October.

Part D - Action Plan

The action plan below has been written post the *interim edition* of the church plan, published at the end of **September 2020** and a first full edition of the church plan to be published at the end of March 2021.

Community Actions

Short term actions (to end September 2023)

- Work with local community police officers to up their patrols to help reduce incidents of petty vandalism at the church
- Research suitable folding chairs and share with RW
- Fix broken mesh on doors temporarily with brass screws
- Organise event/service to mark the Coronation
- Book This is my Theatre for August
- Consider exhibition content for later in the year as a fundraiser

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- Book Carol Service with local incumbent

Medium term actions (to end March 2024)

- Consider the suitability of the site for Champing
- Consider succession planning for the volunteer team, as noted in Part B.

Long term actions (to end September 2024)

- Begin investigations options for installing toilet and kitchen facilities, as noted in Part B.

Actions complete (to end January 2023)

- Agree dates for face-to-face or digital meeting to review interim church plan (September 2020 edition)
- Review CCT Cleaning Churches standard and report
- Investigate the possibility of running a cake sale / fundraising gathering in churchyard in the Autumn of 2020.

Local Community Officer Actions

Short term actions (to end September 2023)

- Share contact details for This is my Theatre
- Advise main volunteer of maintenance visits
- Send picture of broken mesh on doors to Conservation

Medium term actions (to end March 2024)

- Consider adding video directions to the church for prospective visitors' information
- Consider the suitability of the site for Champing
- Consider producing an online audio guide for the church to complement the recently printed walk around guide.

Long term actions (to end September 2024)

Actions complete (to end January 2023)

-
- Distribution Part A reports for each church to all existing correspondents, together with survey
 - Receive, anonymise and collate survey responses and add to Church Plan Part B
 - Resolve initial findings, conclusions and recommendations based on Part A & B, expressed as short, medium and long-term actions
 - Publish Part A, B & D as Interim Church Plan to colleagues by end September 2020
 - Undertake staff consultation against Interim Church Plan by end November 2020
 - By end November 2020 review colleagues' feedback regarding updates to church plan part A, to include
 - Conservation interpretations
 - Presentation improvements
 - Champing data
 - Complete community audit to identify additional survey respondents and participants in face-to-face or digital meetings by end November 2020
 - Repeat survey for additional respondents by end January 2021
 - Agree dates for face-to-face or digital community meetings by end January 2021
 - Resolve updated findings, conclusions and recommendations based on Part A, B & C expressed as short, medium and long-term actions for each site (Part D)
 - Publish Church Plan Version '2021-22'
 - Resolve roof alarm issues (multiple false alarms and unfit for purpose calling system)
 - Encourage EO and CPM with installation of wooden noticeboard.
 - Review church web page to ensure clear directions available for all visitors
 - Share CCT Cleaning Churches standard and report
 - Continue to encourage volunteers to consider leading scheduled guided tours of the church
 - Consider succession planning with and for the volunteer team, as noted by respondents in Part B.
 - Send Covid 19 event guidance and link to the champing website to those who attended meeting documented in Part C.
 - Consider holding a carol service in 2021, should Covid 19 regulations allow it.

CCT Actions Other

Short term actions (to end September 2023)

- Provide interpretation of maintenance and repair plans to further explain anticipated costs described in part A above.

Medium term actions (to end March 2024)

Long term actions (to end September 2024)

Actions complete (to end January 2023)

Appendix 1: Summer 2020 Questionnaire

1. 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!)
2. 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.
3. People are involved with our sites in so many different ways. In your own words, please describe your relationship with the church building.
4. 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.
5. 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?
6. 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?
7. 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?
8. Here are two questions together... Could increased use of the church benefit the community? How would this increased use benefit the church itself?
9. 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.

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10. 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.

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

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

 13. 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?

 14. 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.