



Annual  
Review  
2021–  
2022





# Saving historic churches together

## Annual Review 2021-22

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## Welcome from Elizabeth Peace CBE

Churches Conservation Trust

Chair of Board of Trustees

It is a pleasure to be introducing the 2021/22 Annual Review of the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) for the first time as Chair of Trustees. I would like to start by thanking my fellow Trustee, Sue Wilkinson, for stepping in as Interim Chair last year after the sad death of Peter Ainsworth. Sue has provided steady leadership in what has been a challenging period.

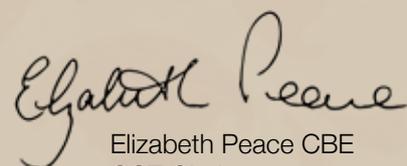
We recently said goodbye to CCT Chief Executive Peter Aiers after his move to become Master and CEO of the Charterhouse after 15 years at CCT. We all wish him the very best for his new role. Alongside departures, CCT was fortunate to welcome new Trustees in January of this year with the appointment of Dr Oliver Cox and Inayat Omarji MBE, while Sir Simon Jenkins was reappointed to the Board. I have been a Trustee since 2013, supporting and guiding CCT through periods of change and growth and I am honoured and delighted to have been appointed Chair.

A lot has changed in the past two years, most notably with the technology we use to communicate with each other. In 2020, we saw the launch of CCT's live-streamed lectures, which have attracted a whole new audience and brought churches to people 'digitally' via Zoom. I am pleased to say that the lectures have continued, and in addition to this, we have a new platform, CCTDigital.com, which hosts our new video content. All of this has contributed to our membership recruitment, which continues to rise.

The constant task of raising funds to repair and maintain churches was notably helped this year by the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Architectural Heritage Fund and the Elmley Foundation for major projects such as Sunderland, Lancaster and Worcester. We are very grateful for the donations and contributions made by Trusts, Funds, Foundations and individuals who support our work, and also for the continuing support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We are also very grateful to the Government's ongoing contribution through DCMS and to the Church of England, and in particular the Church Commissioners, who recognise the importance of the work we do to protect these wonderful historic places of worship.

It is clear that people care about heritage. Our most recent Annual Appeal highlighting the importance of heritage craft skills was our most successful appeal yet, reaching over £65,000, and I would like to thank all those who donated.

The Board is pleased to report that we have ended this year in a much better financial position than we had thought possible, thanks to the hard work of our former CEO, the Senior Management Team and our staff. We look forward to working with all our friends, volunteers and supporters to build on that success in the coming year.

  
Elizabeth Peace CBE  
CCT Chair



© Discover Lincolnshire

## Welcome from Greg Pickup Churches Conservation Trust Chief Executive

At the time that this Annual Review is published, I will have been in post for just over a month. I am delighted to be joining the Trust at such a pivotal time for historic churches, and privileged to be joining such a great organisation.

The 2021/22 Annual Review covers another extraordinary year at CCT, as it was for the rest of the world. COVID-19 restrictions were only just beginning to lift in mid-April, until most legal limits on events, travel and social contact were lifted during July. CCT's approach was akin to many individuals, cautious yet optimistic, and we were pleased once again to see the churches in our care welcome back their communities as the year progressed.

March 2022 saw the completion of a further 19 conservation projects funded by the Heritage Stimulus Fund and match funded by CCT and generous donations from our supporters. In total, 45 churches have benefited from this funding since its initial announcement in October 2020 – 12% of 356 churches in CCT's care. We continue to be extremely grateful to DCMS and Historic England for administering the fund, which has helped to secure the future of historic and cultural venues across the country. In addition to this, in November 2021, CCT was granted planning permission and listed building consent to reopen the Grade II-listed Old Black Lion in Northampton as a community-based pub. The plans propose the regeneration of the building, with restored bar spaces for eating and drinking, and a new dining room overlooking the courtyard beer garden.

The support and enthusiasm from volunteers has remained during this difficult time, ensuring that our collection of historic church buildings can be used and loved into the future. Thank you to all who have been a part of this support. I am grateful to the countless communities and supporters, as well as our dedicated staff team, who have made our mission to keep historic churches used and loved possible.

Greg Pickup  
CCT Chief Executive

# A Year in the Life of CCT, 2021–22



Conservation works at St Lawrence's in Evesham, Worcestershire  
© CCT/George Reynolds

## April 2021

CCT receives a grant award of £120,800 from the Culture Recovery Fund to support a number of activities which need to be undertaken to ensure that our sites are safe and welcoming for visitors.



St Oswald's in Kirk Sandall, South Yorkshire, featured on the virtual Trustees' Tour © Graham White

## May 2021

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we take our annual Trustees' Tour online and host it via Zoom. Trustees are treated to pre-recorded films and live content from churches in our north region. Also included is a 'taste of the north' mini hamper which is sent out in advance and includes local treats such as rhubarb gin and Kendal mint cakes.

## June 2021

We launch our Annual Appeal to Save Heritage Craft Skills which raises awareness and funds to address the shortfall in traditional craft skills in the heritage sector. Our historic buildings rely on traditional skills such as flintknappers, thatchers and lead-workers and some of these are on the 'endangered list' according to the Heritage Crafts Association.



Thatching Tools

## July 2021

The Church of St Mary-at-the-Quay in Ipswich welcomes a new tenant to take over the premises. The new tenant, River Church Ipswich, is part of the Church of England in Suffolk's 'Inspiring Ipswich' initiative, and the HTB Network who have planted similar churches across the UK.



River Church Ipswich at St Mary-at-the-Quay  
© Matt Key

## September 2021

Heritage Open Days takes place, themed around Edible England. After holding digital events in 2020 due to COVID-19, we move back to being able to open up our churches again with events such as tower tours, flower festivals and musical performances.



# EDIBLE ENGLAND

## October 2021

A memorial service is held at St Margaret's Church, Westminster, to give thanks for the life and work of CCT former Chair, Peter Ainsworth, who passed away suddenly in April 2021. Peter was dedicated to securing the future for historic church buildings and last year, during the various national lockdowns, he anonymously wrote *Defeated? A Sonnet to Empty Churches*, a copy of which was placed at each of our sites.

# A Year in the Life of CCT, 2021–22

## November 2021

CCT launches CCTdigital.com, a new online streaming platform where people will be able to access films about church heritage. To launch the platform, CCT partners with Oxford University professor and world-leading expert on the History of Christianity, Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, to create Churchcrawls in Solitude.



Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch during filming of Churchcrawls in Solitude ©CCT/George Reynolds

## December 2021

Stained-glass windows, woodcarvings and churches in candlelight feature in our digital Advent calendar, which revealed a fascinating detail from a church in our care from the 1 to 25 of December.



Stained glass from St Bartholomew's in Lower Basildon, Berkshire

## January 2022

The Crown approves the appointments of Mrs Elizabeth Peace CBE as Chair of the Churches Conservation Trust, Sir Simon Jenkins' reappointment as a Trustee and Dr Oliver Cox and Mr Inayat Omarji MBE as Trustees, each for a three-year term.

## January 2022

CCT's Learning and Participation team launches an exciting new Schools Learning Programme featuring activities such as Poetry in the Pulpit and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in addition to Conservation Champions workshops.



Conservation Champions Learning Activities at St Mary's in Hemington, Somerset

## March 2022

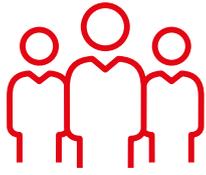
On 22 March, CCT says a fond farewell to Chief Executive, Peter Aiers, who after 15 years of working for the Trust leaves to become the Master and Chief Executive Officer at the Charterhouse in London.



Peter speaking at St Peter's Church in Sandwich, Kent

At the same time, CCT launches Church Based Membership, which allows CCT members to choose which CCT church a portion of their membership fee will help support. So whether you have fallen in love with the internationally renowned stained glass at St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury, are enthused by the community work that takes place at Holy Trinity Church, Sunderland, or enjoy the tranquil space for reflection that is provided at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Fordwich, members can now choose to support our work at any of our over 350 historic churches.

# Key Figures for 2021-22



3,827 members, with the year seeing the highest level of growth since the launch of our membership scheme



8,261 supporters, including members, volunteers and individuals who donated more than £5



£283,000 in legacies income, with over 50 known legacy pledgers at the end of the year



91% of CCT expenditure was spent on frontline projects to repair churches and support communities. At £8.3m, church repairs and maintenance continues



586 Champing™ bookings, generating £86,000 in revenue



Over £65,000 including gift aid raised by our Annual Appeal, Heritage Skills, our most successful annual appeal ever



47 Lunchtime Lectures covering topics from angel roofs and royal tombs to protection marks and religious relics. Launched CCTdigital with Churchcrawls in Solitude with Prof Diarmaid MacCulloch

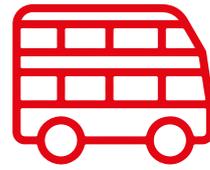


19 churches received conservation repairs costing in excess of £2.5m thanks to funding from the Heritage Stimulus Fund

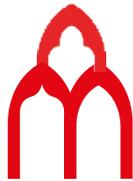
# Key Figures for 2021-22



2 placements for young people under the Government's Kickstart Scheme



8 Historic Church Tours



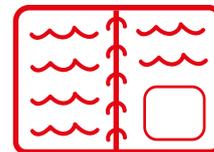
£597,000 donated to support the work of CCT



Completion of 2 major regeneration projects: Seventeen Nineteen at Holy Trinity Church in Sunderland and Sound and Art at St Swithun's Church in Worcester



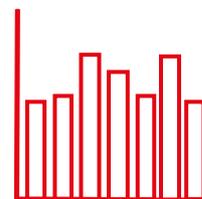
£2.1m spent on supporting volunteers and communities to keep churches open and in use



74 school sessions delivered by CCT's Learning and Participation team



40 Heritage Open Days events attended up and down the country both in person and online



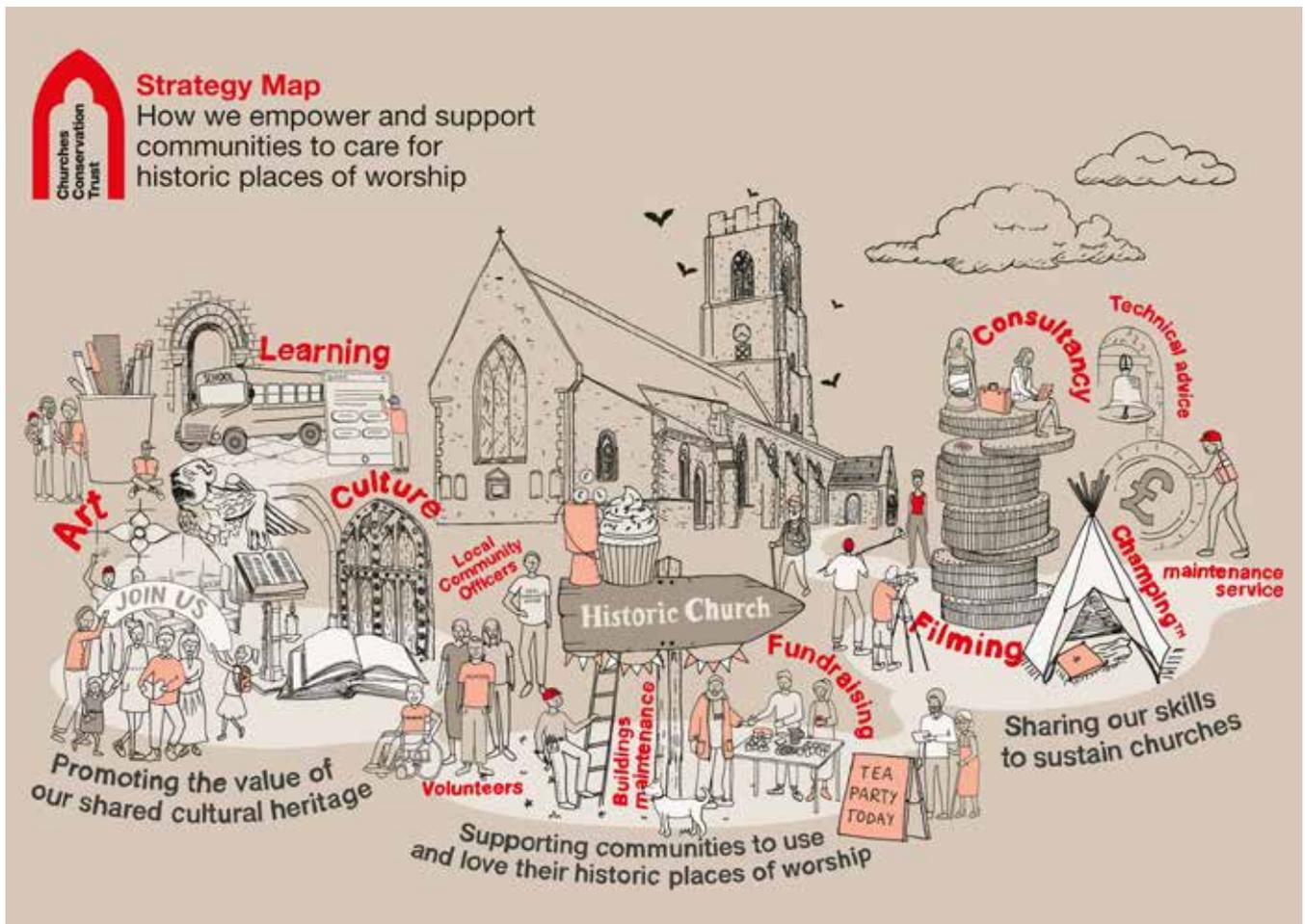
More than £70,000 of revenue brought in by consultancy teams across the organisation

# Strategy In Action: Church Plans

The central pillar of CCT's strategy for 2019–25 focuses on engagement with communities. This is in direct recognition of the fact that when a community takes a church to its heart in using and caring for it, it is recognised as an integral part of the community, placing it in the most sustainable position for this and future generations to enjoy. The wording within the strategy: 'empowering and supporting communities to care for historic places of worship', gives a clear mandate to CCT staff to identify and work with communities and volunteers to form sustainable plans for each CCT church.

A sustainable CCT church is well used by its community(ies), generates sufficient funds for the maintenance that keeps it in a good state of repair, and enables additional fundraising for specific repair and improvement projects.

To support this, we have invested in a team of Local Community Officers (LCOs) whose role is to build key relationships with communities and volunteers. Our aim is for the LCOs to work with volunteers and community members at each CCT church to co-create, maintain and develop a Church Plan. A Church Plan is a living document which sets out the agreed short, medium and long-term goals to support the sustainable use and care of the CCT church.



## How Do we Create a Church Plan?

Current Report: We recognise that the perceptions of and aspirations for any given CCT church will be diverse among its community(ies) and volunteers. Developing a Church Plan together provides an opportunity for all viewpoints to be considered. That's why the starting point for LCOs in supporting the creation of a Church Plan is to bring together what CCT already knows about the history, significance, maintenance, repair needs and current use of the church into a Current Report for the CCT church.

## Community Audit

Community Audit: Alongside the Current Report, the LCO will also undertake a Community Audit. A Community Audit simply identifies anyone who might wish to be involved in using and caring for the CCT church. A non-exhaustive list of people and groups we might identify during this stage is:

- Existing volunteers, community members and groups, and users of the CCT church
- Local residents
- Vicars/priests of the Church of England benefice in which the CCT church is located
- Parochial Church Councils of the local Church of England benefice/parishes
- Representatives from all levels of local government
- Local fundraising organisations such as Rotary, Lions and Round Table
- Local businesses and agencies
- Non-local people with family connections to the CCT church
- Professional and non-professional special interest individuals and groups



© Ian Tustin



© Ian Tustin

## Community Consultation

Once the Community Audit has gathered a list of interested/potentially interested stakeholders, the LCO will share the Current Report with them and find out what they think about the current and future use of the church, the maintenance and repair needs and how much they might wish to be involved in its care. This exercise is called a Community Consultation and can involve digital and/or paper questionnaires, community meetings and individual meetings with key stakeholders.

## Community Recommendations

Talking to people through questionnaires and meetings involves gathering lots of points of view and data! The LCO will work through all of this and pull it together into a summarised report of Community Recommendations. These will highlight different viewpoints, ideas, suggestions and offers of skills and resources. The Community Recommendations will be shared with those who participated and, where appropriate, through local social and printed media with those who didn't.

## Action Plan

The Community Recommendations will form the basis of an ongoing conversation with the community(ies) and volunteers, which will be shaped into agreed short, medium and long-term goals with associated actions to support the sustainable use and care of the CCT church. The Action Plan will be worked through by the community(ies), volunteers and the LCO and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis, so that it remains a living document.

# Outstanding Contributions

Every year CCT recognises the incredible support and outstanding contributions of the volunteers who help to care for our churches at the National Volunteer and Community Event culminating in the Volunteer of the Year Awards. Generously supported by the Marsh Charitable Trust, the event took place on 9 March over Zoom.

Annie McCarthy, Trust Manager for the Marsh Charitable Trust, presented the Marsh Charitable Trust Volunteer of the Year Awards winners for each of the seven categories.

## South-East Volunteer of the Year

*Stuart and Kester Potter*

*St Andrew's Church, Walpole, Norfolk*

Stuart and Kester Potter moved to Norfolk in 2019 with their young children and got in touch with Local Community Officer Kate Roma, after seeing a request for local support. Stuart had been a church warden at his last church, so he and Kester had some very relevant transferrable skills! They have worked consistently at St Andrew's, Walpole, to get the church clean – not an easy task due to the stone erosion issue in the building. They open the church to the public on a regular basis and have galvanised more local support to turn St Andrew's into a community asset. The clock is now working and the quarterly chimes can be heard across this fenland village once more. They have plans for a community exhibition for local people to come and share memories of the church. Although there is not a formal Friends Group at St Andrew's, the support Stuart and Kester have given CCT and their ability to drum up more local support means that the future of St Andrew's is more secure.

## West Volunteer of the Year

*Peter Simper*

*Church of St Mary the Virgin in Hemington, Somerset*

Peter is a volunteer at one of our newest vestings, the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Hemington, Somerset. Peter is always friendly, positive and bursting with enthusiasm about the church and its history. He is a mine of information about the fabric, fixtures and details of St Mary's, having carried out a huge amount of independent research to compile a vast amount of information about the church. Peter was previously the church warden at the church and has dedicated many years to the care of the building, which he continues to do now. Peter organised the Harvest Service to celebrate the reopening of the church after the vesting repairs. He has provided tours of the building to visitors and at CCT events and he organises access for contractors and bellringers when needed. He also helps with arrangements for services, keeps the church looking at its best and facilitates much appreciated support from local donors.

## North Volunteer of the Year

*Chris Audsley*

*Seventeen Nineteen*

Chris has been volunteering with Seventeen Nineteen since July 2019. Chris is a keen photographer with a love for historic buildings and a huge sense of pride in her city. Chris volunteers through the Allchurches Trust Craft Skills programme which is running during the construction phase of the Seventeen Nineteen project. Throughout construction, Chris has been there with her camera in the dust and dirt capturing photos of the conservation work as it happens and images of the skilled craftspeople and apprentices carrying out their tasks. In addition to creating a huge portfolio of images for CCT use, Chris is a fantastic asset to the project team: she has been reliable, committed and has acted as an advocate for the project within the community.

## Digital Volunteer of the Year

*Mackman*

*St Peter's Church, Sudbury, Suffolk*

Mackman is a local marketing agency in Sudbury which has provided, free of charge, a complete rebranding and website for St Peter's, Sudbury, at a crucial time as the church undergoes a major National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported regeneration project. Whilst Director Paul Mackman himself has been a key driver, we know that he would want to recognise his whole team at Mackman who have all played a part in supporting CCT as a team rather than an individual. As part of their drive to support charities, the team at Mackman have provided all of their services on a pro bono basis, which has been outstanding, and no doubt played a vital part in raising local, regional and national awareness of the project and of CCT. Mackman also actively encourages its own staff members to volunteer for local charities, and St Peter's has benefitted from this too by way of events stewards, musicians and social media gurus!

### Achieving Impact Through Innovation

*Heritage Volunteers, All Saints', Cambridge  
All Saints' Church, Cambridge*

All Saints' Church is a Cambridge treasure but away from the city centre tourist trail, the visitor numbers have declined in recent years. Heritage Volunteers from the Arts Society Cambridge joined forces with CCT to attract more visitors to All Saints'. This hidden gem, with its highly ornamented, hand-painted walls and iconic stained-glass windows, was designed by George Frederick Bodley, with contributions from other luminaries of the 19th century. The volunteers decided to organise a range of events and activities to put the church back on the map. Despite delays due to COVID, one of the projects was finally launched with October Fest 2021, a series of very successful recitals held at the church every Sunday in October. These recitals reached audiences who had never visited the church before, and the outstanding quality of the music has since established All Saints' as a music venue in Cambridge.

### Fundraising Volunteer of the Year

*Peter Lankester and Neil Skelton  
St Giles Church, Imber, Wiltshire*

Neil and Peter are both long-standing volunteers for CCT, and both were previously staff members too. They have been heavily involved with St Giles' in Imber, Wiltshire, for over a decade, taking it from success to success since then. The August Open Days at St Giles' Church in 2021 attracted 4,584 visitors and raised £6,077 in donations, on top of the Imberbus tour taking in over £12,000. Peter Lankester has been working for several years on updating the interpretation in the church, project managing this process from start to finish, all funded by the Friends of St Giles and their fundraising activities. The new interpretative panels and banners were launched in August this year to glowing approval from visitors.

### Volunteer Team of the Year

*St Peter's Church, Sandwich, Volunteer Team*

Since the church reopened in April 2021 CCT's staff member at St Peter's Church, Annemarie Huigen, has built a wonderful and dedicated group of volunteers, each with their own skills and specialisms, but all with a love for their town and the church. The church currently operates as a community 'hub' with a real focus on creating a welcoming space for locals and visitors alike, as well as those interested in the history and architecture of the church. The volunteers open the church daily and support CCT with the day-to-day running of the church and any events taking place. In total there are 17 volunteers at the church, managed by Annemarie, with each of the St Peter's volunteer team having their own 'department'. The church is also supported by a wonderful gardening team, managed by a dedicated community volunteer in partnership with Sandwich in Bloom.

### Volunteer Team of the Year

*Curious Curators  
Seventeen Nineteen*

Seventeen Nineteen's team of Curious Curators (Virginia Quigley, Alex Clark, Nathan Howard, Ellie Clewlow, Jessica Hesketh, Tyesha McGann and Naim Faiz) have worked with us from September 2020 to research stories from Holy Trinity and Sunderland and find innovative ways to interpret them. The volunteers supported, inspired and challenged one another to work harder, probe deeper and think more widely about how these stories could inspire others. Working digitally and from all corners of the country, they honed their research skills and networked with industry professionals to deliver superb work.

Thank you to all who attended the evening, and to all our volunteers who support their local churches, without whom this work would not be possible.

**MARSH**  

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**Charitable Trust**

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## Regeneration Update

### Church of St John the Evangelist, Lancaster – Chamber at St John’s

The Grade II\* listed Church of St John the Evangelist in Lancaster has been closed to the public since 2015 when Storm Desmond caused flooding across Lancaster city centre. Subsequent problems have included both wet and dry rot.

A successful fundraising campaign – Stop the Rot – tackled the most urgent of these issues and CCT has recently invested £51,875 to fund vital repairs with support from the Government’s Culture Recovery Fund. Nonetheless, further investment is required to fully repair and conserve the church and to provide new facilities such as WCs, a kitchen and disabled access.

Early in 2021 we began working with the Lancaster & District Chamber of Commerce to find a sustainable new use for St John’s. Market research identified the need for high-quality co-working and event spaces to support small and medium-sized enterprises in Lancaster, helping local people to grow their businesses and the city centre to flourish. In October the Architectural Heritage Fund granted £17,355 towards a project to find a new use for St John’s and match-funding has been provided by the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and CCT.

With previous funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund, we commissioned Buttress Architects to explore how St John’s might be sensitively converted for use as a co-working and event space. The Buttress proposals are for a ‘marketplace’ in the nave at St John’s – adapting the church’s historic box pews to create individual desk spaces and space for events and networking with further meeting and workspaces provided in the upper galleries. A new coffee shop and churchyard garden would be open to members of the public and an extension in the north-eastern corner of the churchyard would provide additional facilities including WCs and a lift.

We are now working with Lancaster Chamber of Commerce to complete a full business plan, survey the condition of the building, assess the full costs of repair, explore fundraising opportunities, and consider ways in which the regenerated building might mitigate the effects of climate change and achieve net-zero. This will allow CCT to unlock support pledged by Lancaster City Council who have offered to fund 20% of the capital costs (up to £500,000) towards conservation repair work, provided that a sustainable new use for the building can be found.



© Andy Marshall

## The Old Black Lion, Northampton

The Old Black Lion is a historic public house in the centre of Northampton that closed in 2018. Its heyday was in the second half of the 19th century when it provided lavish dinners for Northampton societies, clubs and businesses as well as stabling for horses. The pub sits next door to CCT's St Peter's Church, which is widely regarded as one of the most outstanding examples of Norman architecture in the country.

In November 2021, CCT was granted planning permission and listed building consent to reopen the Grade II listed Old Black Lion as a community-based pub. The plans propose the regeneration of the building, with restored bar spaces for eating and drinking, and a new dining room overlooking the courtyard beer garden.

The historic carriage passage from Marefair into the Old Black Lion's courtyard will be reinstated and the pub, which dates to at least the 16th century, will be repaired to the highest conservation standards. A new path and gate will connect the pub's courtyard entrance on St Peter's Street to St Peter's churchyard next door. The plans have been drawn by Manchester-based OMI Architects, with conservation architects Crosby Granger.

The pub is owned by West Northamptonshire Council who will lease it to the Churches Conservation Trust; the Trust is managing the project and has been awarded £1.8m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Trust is currently in the process of selecting a hospitality operator to run the pub, with a portion of the profits going to the repair and conservation of St Peter's Church, which the Trust has cared for since 1998.

We have recently obtained planning permission to convert the upper floor of the pub to be our new national head office and will report further on this in the next Annual Review.



© M V Photography

## Apprentice Award at Seventeen Nineteen, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear

We were delighted when apprentice Tyler Wallace received recognition for his hard work and dedication in learning how to care for historic buildings at an awards ceremony in October 2021. Here, he was announced as the Constructing Excellence NE G4C Trade Apprentice of the Year.

Tyler joined Historic Property Restoration Ltd in 2019 on an apprenticeship run in partnership with CCT, working on the conservation and repair of Grade I listed Holy Trinity Church, Sunderland's original parish church in the East End of the city.

From the outset he had a spark and a can-do attitude, earning the nickname 'Tyler the Tank' for his phenomenal work ethic. Initially working across a range of mainstream and specialist heritage trades, he discovered a passion and flair for stonemasonry, a traditional craft practised for many hundreds of years and vital to the continuing care and conservation of our region's historic places of worship and other buildings.

Tyler's apprenticeship was generously funded by the Allchurches Trust as part of the Seventeen Nineteen Craft Skills programme, a programme of training and engagement activities linked with the repair of Holy Trinity, which offered opportunities for all to learn, develop skills and gain qualifications.

As a result of his drive, commitment and growing skills, Tyler has taken up permanent employment with HPR Ltd. He has recently begun specialist stonemasonry training at York College and is now working on the stonework at Alnwick Castle. We can't wait to see the amazing work he will do in future years!

# Learning Update

## Art and Sanctuary

In 2007, Norwich became the UK's first official City of Refuge and is today known as a City of Sanctuary. Inside our Church of St John, Maddermarket, is a monument to the Sothertons, a local political family with significant influence who helped bring refugee Flemish and French Huguenot weavers to Norwich several centuries ago. With support from the Norfolk Arts Fund, CCT was able to begin work with refugees living in Norwich using the 15th-century flint church of St John as a creative stimulus and place to connect with others.

In a recent workshop, 12 adults participated in Sketching St John's with support from Norfolk Arts Fund. This heritage and art workshop was held inside St John's and focused on the many art works and architectural features as a starting point to learn about local history. The group were from English+, a local charity helping people new to Norwich to learn English and connect with the community and culture.

After a brief orientation and introduction to St John's, participants set about exploring the church, looking for different symbols, objects and texts. Armed with a tailored pack of materials for the workshop, they began by sketching what they could see in the building and developing ideas. They then used these sketches as inspiration, first for a monochrome design on a ceramic tile, and then for their clay work. None of the participants had visited St John's, Maddermarket, before but they all expressed a keenness to return and further explore the space.

We look forward to continuing the long tradition of offering refuge and building community by developing this work and running further sessions in future.

Our learning programme is made possible through the Heritage Schools partnership with Historic England, funded by the Department for Education.



Designs on the ceramic tiles were inspired by the architecture of the 15th-century church of St John's in Maddermarket, Norwich



The group first started by sketching what they could see in the building and developing ideas for a monochrome design on a ceramic tile, and then for clay work

## Schools Learning Programme

Churches offer totally unique opportunities for students to expand their learning on a range of topics. They are wonderful sources of inspiration and every one of the 350+ historic churches in our care has a meaningful story to tell. They are fantastic spaces to deliver all aspects of the curriculum in a local and practical setting.

In January our Heritage Learning Team launched an exciting new Schools Learning Programme featuring activities such as Poetry from the Pulpit, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and Conservation Champions workshops. Other sessions included Medieval Mementos, engaging students in research about the building, finding out how people's lives today are similar or different from those in the past and making their own pilgrim badge or memento of their visit.



'Map Your Visit' is a workshop which links into geography, maths, R.E. and art & design. Here, students explore a church and gather evidence to show how it has changed over time and by using a compass they will learn why cardinal points are important in a church. Students then create their own maps of their visit and use them for further work back at school.

Teachers on recent visits have commented that: 'The variety of activities meant that children had many different experiences,' and that they liked the 'awe and wonder, learning new vocabulary, questions and discovery' they witnessed in children.

The full learning programme can be seen on our website: [visitchurches.org.uk/what-we-do/learning/schools](http://visitchurches.org.uk/what-we-do/learning/schools)



A contemporary craftsperson was commissioned to make bags using fabric printed with original Arts and Crafts designs

## Interpretation at Sapperton

Presenting and interpreting our buildings has always been an important part of how we speak to visitors. Recently, some unusual interpretation has been delighting and engaging visitors at St Kenelm's Church in Sapperton, Gloucestershire. St Kenelm's Church was vested to the Churches Conservation Trust in 2016 and has a rich history of traditional crafts and links to the 'Sapperton Craftsmen': Ernest Gimson and Sidney and Ernest Barnsley. These three talented figures of the Arts and Crafts movement and their families moved to the area at the end of the 19th century.

The aim of the interpretation was to combine these histories and stories from the past with the community today, reflecting the significant tradition of craft skills in the area, without encroaching on the existing quiet, well-loved and elegant space. The plan was to draw from old traditions to create new ideas to engage visitors and reveal the area's important heritage.

The new interpretation included a beautifully handcrafted oak noticeboard, designed to look like a community noticeboard, complete with cleverly recreated drawing pins, local information posters and images to introduce historical themes. We commissioned a contemporary craftsperson to make bags using fabric printed with original Arts and Crafts designs. The new bags are full of objects for visitors of all ages to explore; each of the bags is themed with a different topic relating to the church and the local area. In addition, postcards designed by local pupils showcase their village and these drawings are used to present information about the themed pew-end bags to visitors.

There are numerous trails and footpaths close to the church, and walkers still frequently visit it, often using natural walking sticks which, to this day, are commonly seen propped up against the church wall. This important tradition is reflected with different styles of walking sticks incorporated into the signage, burnished with the names of prominent figures linked to the area. Finally, there are two traveller journals, with annotations full of anecdotes and observations about the area, history and people for visitors to pick up and help them explore this rich historical space.

## Conservation: Heritage Stimulus Fund

CCT has been fortunate to receive funding from both rounds of the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage and the Heritage Stimulus Fund, in 2020 and 2021. In total, 45 churches have benefited from this funding since its initial announcement in October 2020 – 12% of 356 churches in CCT's care.

In the second round of funding from the Heritage Stimulus Fund, we were delighted to have been awarded a further grant of £1.6m towards the delivery of a £2m+ programme of urgent repair projects, once again mostly focused on roofing and masonry works. The terms of the grant required that all projects needed to be substantially completed by the end of March 2022.

The 13 successful projects, including seven Grade I and six Grade II\* listed churches, were spread across 11 counties throughout England. The largest project is over £500,000 at Stonham Parva in Suffolk, towards structural repairs and reroofing. The projects were selected and prioritised not only for their urgent nature, with further delays causing irreparable damage and loss of historic fabric, but also taking into account their readiness and our ability to deliver them within the tight timescale.

The programme was not without its risks. Reasonable protection measures were included within the scope of each individual project to allow work to continue during all but the most severe weather conditions, and we hoped that any unexpected COVID-19 restrictions, to which the sector and the country has become accustomed, did not materialise. Contractors and consultants were busy – much busier than last year when there was a real fear that some would go out of business. Twelve months on, the materials supply chain was fragile – a result of both Brexit and the pandemic – which was driving up construction costs significantly. However, with 356 highly significant churches to look after, this was an opportunity that we could not ignore.

In November 2021, CCT was informed of an opportunity to submit a grant increase using unspent funds from the first round of the Culture Recovery Fund funding. Early this year we were pleased to learn that CCT's request to use these funds had been approved, resulting in an additional £410,000 of grant funding for projects at seven churches in our care in need of vital conservation works.



St Mary's Church, Stonham Parva, Suffolk  
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Holy Trinity Church, Wensley, North Yorkshire

Culture  
Recovery Fund  
for Heritage

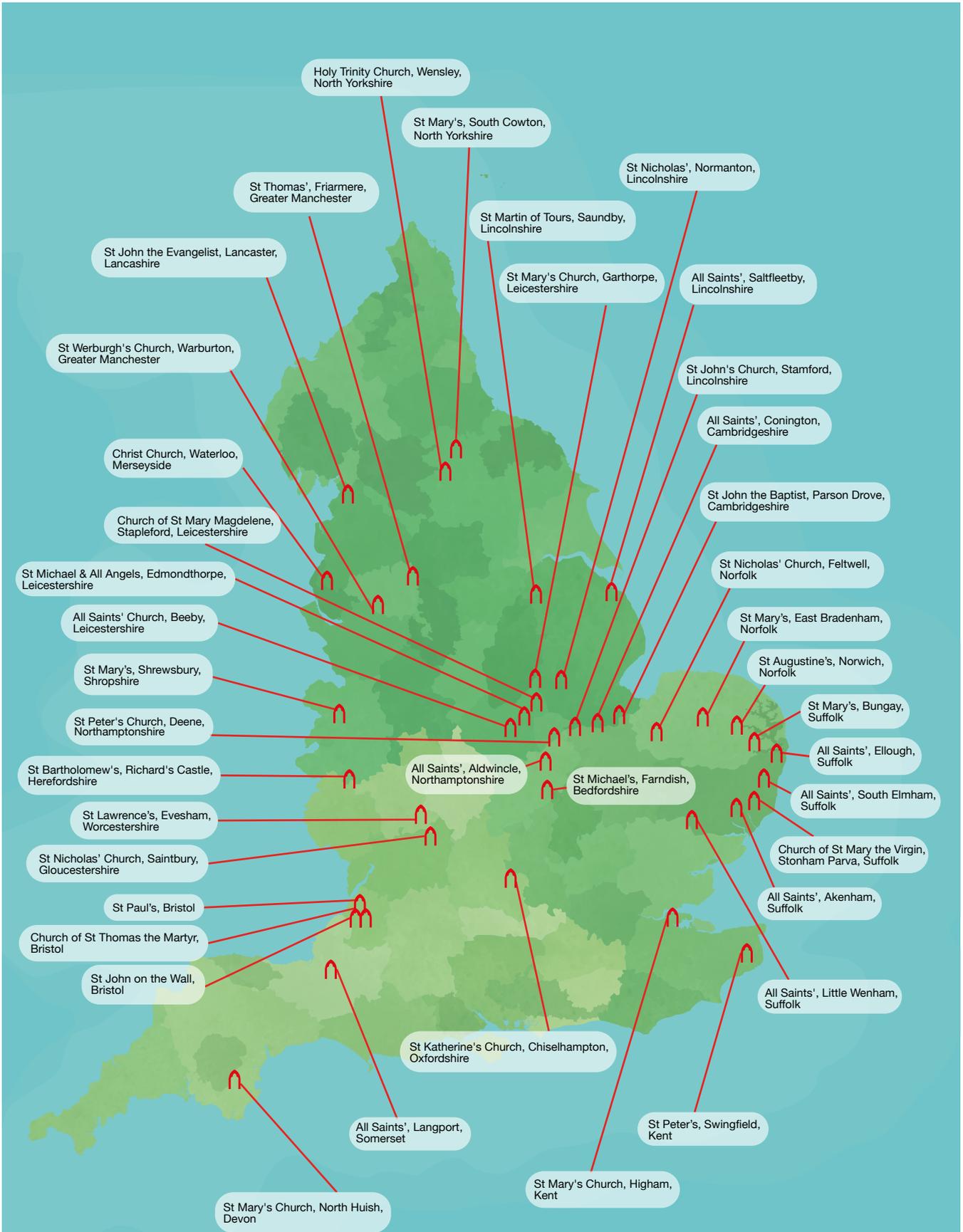
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# Map of Heritage Stimulus Fund Projects at churches in the Care of CCT



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# Thank you to our Sponsors and Donors

The Trust wishes to record its thanks for the continuing help and support it receives which enables it to do its work across its 356 churches. The list below notes the Trust's sponsors (who provide its Statutory Grant), key funders, Trusts, Foundations, Friends of Churches, other organisations and individuals that in the year gave generously to the Trust. We do our best to acknowledge all those who have supported us, but we are also grateful to those who we have not been able to list and those who would like their support to remain anonymous.

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The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport  
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Gifts in wills play an important and much valued part in supporting the work of the Trust. We would like to thank the following named donors and those who wish to remain anonymous for pledging a gift for the Trust in their wills:

Christopher Anderson  
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Robert Perrin  
Howard & John Pescott  
John Peverley

## Who We Are 2021–2022

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk. Since 1969, we have played a unique role in national life. Without our work, 356 historic churches might have disappeared entirely and, with them, irreplaceable architecture, art and archaeology spanning over 1,000 years of history.

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The logo features a white silhouette of a Gothic archway. Inside the arch, the words "Churches", "Conservation", and "Trust" are stacked vertically in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

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