



THE CHURCHES  
CONSERVATION TRUST

# Saving historic churches together Your Annual Review 2014-15



# Welcome to your 2014-15 Annual Review

This has been an exceptional year for CCT. Our innovative approach to tackling the needs of large and complex historic churches has been seen to pay off – most excitingly with the opening and widespread endorsement of All Souls Bolton.

Increased investment in our time-honoured conservation work has also resulted in the rescue and reopening of three wonderful rural Grade I churches. Local communities have been involved every step of the way, for example at St Botolph's in the South Downs. Our work on that project was recognised with a RIBA South East Award and demonstrates our on-going commitment to heritage conservation in rural areas.

I continue to be impressed by how much our small staff team, supported by growing numbers of CCT volunteers, are able to achieve. We couldn't do it without our partners who bring expertise, funds and people to our work.

My thanks this year in particular to the Heritage Lottery Fund who are at the heart of so many great heritage projects, Department for Culture, Media and Sport for their continued support and to the Church of England, whose grant was renewed for a further three years by a unanimous vote at Synod. My thanks also to our many local partners, members and individual donors who support us so generously.

**Dr Loyd Grossman CBE FSA**  
Chairman

2014/15 was a year in which CCT made its greatest investment yet in historic churches in England including the completion and opening of our biggest and most complex regeneration project, at All Souls Bolton. Hot on its heels are the Ipswich 'Quay Place' wellbeing project with Suffolk Mind and the conservation of King's Lynn St Nicholas, CCT's largest church, both of which were on site throughout the year.

Our income and expenditure of £12.9 million is double what it was three years ago, representing our highest ever levels of activity and major capital investment in a number of large sites. It demonstrates our success in broadening the base of funding for our work.

Of the money we raised this year, 95% went directly into repairs, practical education and tourism work and support for volunteers and local communities. This, along with other key indicators, demonstrates the value we achieve with the money we receive.

We are also absolutely thrilled to announce that the Trust won the Dedicated Service award and was declared a Grand Prix laureate at the Europa Nostra Awards 2015 in Oslo, also receiving a €10,000 prize. The Europa Nostra Awards are Europe's most prestigious prize in the heritage field. It is a fantastic honour and international recognition of the Dedicated Service of our charity over 46 years.

**Crispin Truman**  
Chief Executive

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, over 345 historic buildings might have disappeared entirely, including some irreplaceable examples of architecture, archaeology and art from 1,000 years of history.

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#### **Resources Committee:**

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#### **The Churches Conservation Trust**

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#### **Copywriter**

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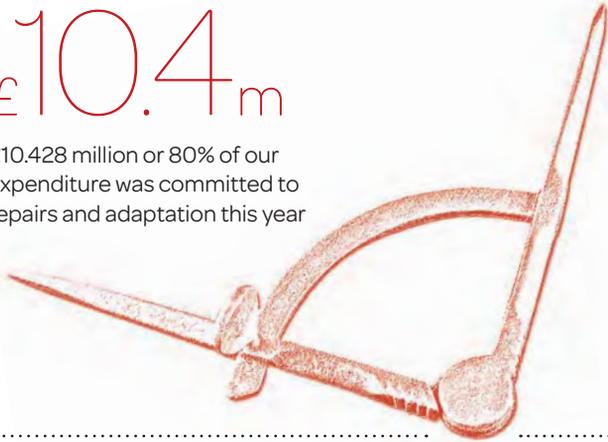
Could your company support one of our projects, helping to bring life and business back to local economies and communities? Please contact [abennett@theccct.org.uk](mailto:abennett@theccct.org.uk)

# Looking back...

## The year in facts and figures

£10.4m

£10.428 million or 80% of our expenditure was committed to repairs and adaptation this year



1,744

1,744 – a record number of regular volunteers in all regions



1,973,518

1,973,518 – the number of visitors to CCT churches – an increase of 5.5%

£12.9m

£12.9 million – a record amount of turnover for the Trust



31%

31% of income came from statutory grants with £2,674,000 from the DCMS and £1,355,000 from the Church Commissioners



£2.39m

£2.39 million – the exceptional amount brought in by legacies

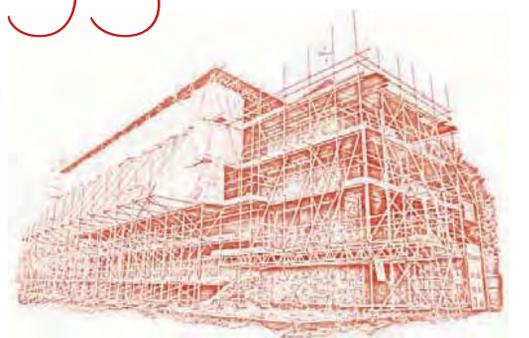
3,500 + 200

3,500 young people and 200+ adults – the numbers attracted by CCT to a range of Explorer Church partners schools and family learning days



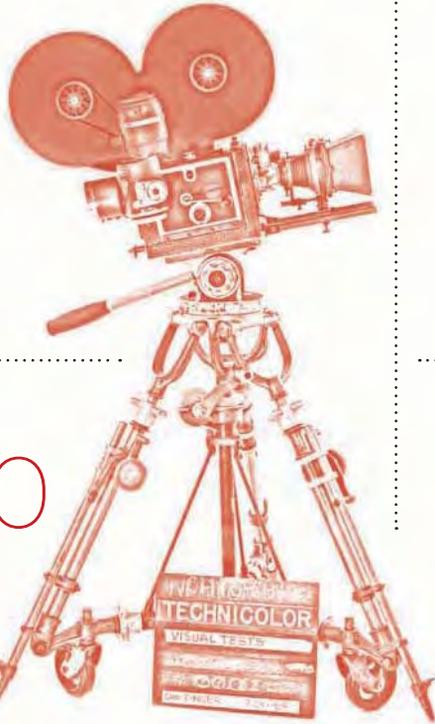
95%

95% of expenditure was spent on frontline projects



1,762

1,762 – the total number of members at March 31 – the highest to date



93%

93% would recommend volunteering with CCT to a friend

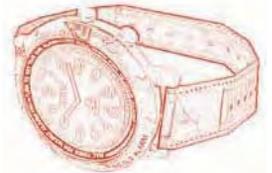


£28,000

£28,000 – the amount generated for our charitable work this year by the hire of churches for film locations

3/5

3/5ths of our churches now have support from some form of volunteer team



£751,000

£751,000 a year – we estimate that this is at least the value of the time volunteers commit to CCT

£12,900,191 Income

£12,984,124 expenditure

Total income £12,900,191 and expenditure £12,984,124. The figures are significantly higher than the previous financial year due to major projects supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

To read a full copy of our statutory accounts, go to [visitchurches.org.uk/accounts](http://visitchurches.org.uk/accounts)

## Looking forward to an exciting new period 2015-2019

During 2014-15, we consulted widely on a new strategic plan for the organisation to take us to our Jubilee Year in 2019. Trustees have now approved the new plan, which will direct all our planning and budgeting for the four years ahead.

### Our new strategic aims for 2015-19 are to:

- Inspire People
- Protect our History
- Create Value

### We will deliver them by six national strategic programmes:

- Volunteering
- Visitor Enterprise
- Conservation
- Regeneration
- Fundraising
- Learning and interpretation

# Thank you to all of our supporters

We are very grateful to our sponsors and to the trusts and foundations, friends groups and many other organisations and individuals who gave so generously to the Trust in so many different ways during 2014-15.

## Our sponsors

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport and  
the Church Commissioners of the Church of England

## Trusts and foundations and other funding

Diocese of Southwell  
Doncaster Civic Trust  
Historic England  
Ennor Trust Fund  
Graveney & Goodnestone Charitable Trust  
Harrison's Charity  
Heritage Lottery Fund  
John Martin's Charity  
King's Lynn Preservation Trust  
Kyril Charitable Trust  
Michael Guest Charitable Foundation  
St Andrew's Conservation Trust  
St Michael's Princetown Trust  
The Anne French Memorial Trust  
The Charles Dunstone Charitable Trust  
The Feoffees of St Michael's Spurriergate  
The Hills Group (via Community First)  
The Loppylugs & Barbara Morrison Charitable Trust  
The Pennycress Trust  
The PF Charitable Trust  
The Pilgrim Trust  
The Swire Charitable Trust  
The Tanner Trust  
The Thomas Freke and Lady Norton Charity  
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## Other major donors

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In memory of Neville Gerald Conrad Bocker  
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Thank you, too, to those of our generous  
donors who choose to remain anonymous.

## Focus on heritage: making a difference

There are many different sides to our heritage work. Here you will find a brief overview of some of the aspects in which our teams and volunteers are involved.



Above: Working with heritage schools

### Heritage schools

We are grateful that our Heritage Learning Officers (HLOs) programme, supported by the Department for Education through Historic England, received a further year's funding.

Much of our HLOs' work is focused on partnerships with primary schools near our churches and has resulted in a wonderful range of imaginative activities bringing many young people into our historic buildings and allowing them to understand and enjoy them. The HLOs designed some delightful resources to help schools with a number of subject areas including religious education, history, art and maths. Between November 2012 and July 2015, three HLOs worked with 59 schools, 8,680 students and 1,028 adults.



Above: Our Volunteers of the Year (left to right – Jessica Martin, Andrew Nicholson, Pat Prosser, Andy White & Roger Green)



As we care for more than 345 wonderful historic churches there are always projects which are awaiting assistance. Find out where your help is needed at [www.visitchurches.org.uk](http://www.visitchurches.org.uk)



Left:  
Our award-winning  
All Souls Bolton project

### Heritage crafts skills: keeping the traditions going

Construction training today is dominated by new build techniques and materials, while heritage craft skills training tends to sit outside mainstream courses. So we are working hard to sustain the national heritage skills base with a number of exciting initiatives.

### Here are some of our success stories this year:



For such a vast project (£4.6m) as All Souls, Bolton (see map), we wanted to do something substantial, so as well as a number of technical days, and taster days on traditional repair techniques, we included the need for the contract to provide six-month bursary placements for local people: three for the masonry work, two for carpentry and one for glazing.

The places were oversubscribed almost ten-fold. After six months, four of these people were kept on for the rest of the contract and three young people who undertook stone masonry placements were offered apprenticeships by historic building conservation and restoration company Lambert Walker.

There were also very popular technical days at St Mary at the Quay, Ipswich, which is being regenerated into a Wellbeing Heritage Centre, Quay Place. As part of the construction phase, the Trust and project contractors, Bakers of Danbury, hosted a series of free technical events exploring different elements of working on a historic building.

For many years, a wall painting conservator has been conserving layers of wall paintings from early 13th century masonry pattern to 19th century texts at the delightful St John's Church in Inglesham, Wiltshire. More recently, she has been joined by several students from Bournemouth who, under her great care and direction, have gained very valuable experience in wall painting conservation, one of whom was eventually taken on as an apprentice.

We have been successful recently in securing match funding from the HLF's Catalyst programme. Our History for the Future Fund project will be used to protect historic artefacts and features that have been identified by the Trust as a priority. A part of the project includes training volunteers on why such important pieces need to be conserved and the importance of having a person with the right skills to undertake the work.

### Congratulations to our Volunteers of the Year

The outstanding work of our volunteers was recognised through the 2015 Volunteer of the Year Awards, supported by the Marsh Christian Trust and Transport for London. The winners were:

**Andrew Nicholson – North Volunteer of the Year.** Working at Holy Trinity Goodramgate in York, Andrew commits hundreds of hours a year, welcoming visitors and explaining the history of the church, as well as cleaning and conducting visitor surveys.

**Roger Green – South East Volunteer of the Year.** At St Peter's in Sudbury, Suffolk, Roger chairs the Friends' Group which facilitates markets, festivals, concerts and theatre productions, attracting 57,000 visitors a year.

**Pat Prosser – West Volunteer of the Year.** Over 25 years, Pat has cared for Old Bartholomew's Church at Lower Sapey in, Worcestershire, ensuring it is conserved and loved by the community.

**Jessica Martin – Young Volunteer of the Year.** As part of a project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Jessica visited 62 churches to study Commonwealth War graves, including St John at Stamford in Lincolnshire and helped develop a database to record the memorials.

**Andy White – Fundraising Volunteer of the Year.** Fundraising in East Anglia, and particularly at St Peter in Claydon, Suffolk, Andy has undertaken numerous sponsored cycle rides for the CCT.



Above: Our Chief Executive Crispin Truman at our 'Revealing the Past' conference.

**Praise from attendees for our heritage conference**

'Revealing the Past, Securing the Future' took place at the award winning All Souls Bolton in March 2015. Our heritage conference saw Dr Loyd Grossman CBE FSA joined by Heritage Lottery Fund Chief Executive Carole Souter, Collections Trust CEO Nick Poole and Chief Executive of The Prince's Regeneration Trust, Ros Kerslake, alongside workshops and panel discussions with industry experts.

In fact, the event brought together many sector specialists and professionals to share learning on how high quality design and expert conservation can reimagine traditional buildings, enliven communities and secure the future of heritage sites.

The event drew praise from attendees both because of the unique location – which told its own story – and also because the speakers and content set out a clear and practical vision for the future use of heritage buildings.

**Bringing our expertise to a wider world**

As well as finding innovative uses for the churches in our care, our Regeneration Taskforce also advises other organisations and groups working with churches and other historic buildings. These are two of the projects on which we have assisted.

**The Beonna at All Saints – a thriving heart for village life**



In 2003, Benington's 800-year-old church closed. In 2007, to focus their efforts on securing a new use, Benington Community Heritage Trust (BCHT), a registered Building Preservation Trust, was formed from a small group of the Friends.

In 2009, CCT was invited to form a working partnership with BCHT and we were formally appointed the Beonna Project Manager in 2013. We have been tasked with overseeing the development of a robust Stage 2 bid to the HLF. Our Regeneration Taskforce are also helping to develop 'The Beonna' – to provide a much needed community hub for Benington.



Above: Circomedia at St Paul's, Bristol

**Use it or lose it: St Michael's Church, Brampton Abbots**



In 2011, a decision was made to close Norman St Michael's in the picturesque Wye Valley. Since 2012, our Regeneration Taskforce has been working in partnership with the Brampton Abbots Regeneration Group (BARG) and Hereford Diocese to develop a new future for this delightful building. The mantra of the BARG is Use it or Lose it: without a new use and investment this community building will be lost to local people.

The project has now received a Heritage Lottery Fund Start up Grant to help us explore – with the Brampton Abbots Regeneration Group – a range of new uses, including a pop up restaurant, bakery and microbrewery.



**Tackling the challenge of replacing slates at a medieval church**



The medieval St Andrew's Church at Ufford in Cambridgeshire came into our care in October 2014, but needed half a million pounds worth of repairs to preserve its historic fabric for the future.

The replacement of traditional Collyweston stone slates for the roof of the church by contractor Messenger Construction was a particularly important part of the works, as new slates have been rare since quarrying and slates production all but stopped in the 1970s. A new method of production for the slates using a large commercial deep freezer unit has been developed, following two years of manufacturing trials with Historic England and Sheffield Hallam University, and Messenger Construction has played a key role in further development of the process.

**A partnership that is flying high**



In November 2014, we celebrated 10 years of our partnership with Bristol circus charity Circomedia at Grade II listed St Paul's in Bristol which is home to one of only two permanently rigged full-size flying trapeze rigs in the UK. For a decade since the church was converted for use in circus training with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the organisation has offered full time training for over students and adult including evening classes, a BTEC qualification and three-year full BA Hons Degree.



Would you like to volunteer in one of our churches, and help visitors discover their amazing histories? Find out how at [visitchurches.org.uk/volunteer](http://visitchurches.org.uk/volunteer)



To stay up to date on developments at these churches or find out how you can support our work, please email us at: [central@thecct.org.uk](mailto:central@thecct.org.uk)

## A year in the life of the Trust

From a year that has seen successful new initiatives, new churches coming into our care, exciting collaborations and sadness too, these are just some of the stories that have been making the news at the Trust.

### Church tours 2014 – most tickets ever sold

The 2014 season of Historic Church Tours was our most successful so far, offering people the chance to get behind the scenes at some of our cherished churches, guided by the experts who know them best.

### A Rochdale Pilgrimage

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The Rochdale Pilgrimage began at the parish church of St Chad's on 21st February 2015. From there, the 'pilgrims' made their way through Rochdale to the Golden Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre, and on to the Church of St Edmunds in Falinge, Greater Manchester. It was part of the exciting exhibition touring programme 'A Light Shines in the Darkness', which explores themes of contemplation, spirituality, illumination and shadow. It was a project by Film and Video Umbrella in partnership with CCT and curator, Paul Bayley, supported by Arts Council England.

### Two medieval churches come into our care

G H

As well as St Giles' Church, Merston, West Sussex (see map), the Church of St Mary the Virgin at Ayston, Rutland also came under our wing. This delightful medieval church dates from the 12th century, though much of the present fabric is from the 13th century with some later additions. The church required substantial repair work, which included conservation of the fragmentary remains of some medieval wall paintings, reroofing of the nave, chancel and south aisle and more.

### Find Your Voice

Find Your Voice was an exciting competition that gave visitors to our churches a fun and empowering way to engage with their surroundings by climbing into the pulpit and giving a speech. The judges were our Chairman Dr Loyd Grossman CBE FSA, and Chief Executive Crispin Truman. They had a tough decision picking a winner but selected the entry by Diana Krasovska with her excellent reading from the film Labyrinth.

### Award winning!

Here's an at a glance guide to the awards that the Trust and some of our churches have won this year. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Europa Nostra Awards  
The Churches Conservation Trust  
Historic England Angel Award  
Inayat Omarji for All Souls Bolton  
Civic Voice Design Awards  
All Souls Bolton  
RIBA Awards  
Botolph's St Botolph's  
RICS Awards  
All Souls Bolton

You can read more about all these in the news section on our website.

### Obituary – Gordon Burrett

"It is with great sadness that we record here the death of Gordon Burrett, Chairman The Churches Conservation Trust from 1982 to 1995. I met him only briefly – in fact one of his last acts as Chair was to lead the Trustee panel who interviewed me for the Conservation Manager job that I was subsequently offered. Soon after he handed the Chair to his successor, Peter Brooke.

Gordon was a perceptive man, and as Chairman he engaged with an increasingly heavy handed Department for National Heritage with a steely determination and had the foresight to realise a change of name from Redundant Churches Fund to Churches Conservation Trust would be prudent. Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time." *Sarah Robinson*

### Champing™: our most popular story of the year

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Summer 2014 saw our first "champing" (in-church camping) at All Saints' Church in Aldwincle, Northamptonshire. The 'Champers' enjoyed a two-day, one-night break, with the opportunity to find peace with a night by candlelight, and explore the beauty of the surrounding countryside by day. Press coverage of Champing is estimated to have generated advertising equivalent of £35,000 this year.

### Obituary – Candida Lycett Green

In August 2014, we were saddened to hear of the death of our Vice President, Candida Lycett Green – author, journalist and conservation campaigner. Candida was a great friend of the Trust and her father Sir John Betjeman was closely involved in its creation. Candida had a great love of historic churches and delivered our Annual Lecture, 'For Love

of Churches' in 2012 to a spellbound audience. She will be greatly missed by us all.

### Official ground breaking event in King's Lynn

J

On 29 August 2014, the first sod was turned at the official ground breaking event to mark the start of conservation and adaptation work at the historic St. Nicholas' Chapel in the heart of King's Lynn. The Chapel will be a largely volunteer managed site and will demonstrate how money can be saved through green energy technologies.

The £2.7 million project has been supported by a number of key donors, including the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Garfield Weston Foundation, King's Lynn Preservation Trust and The Green Energy Trust, Scottish Power.

### A capacity audience for our seventh Annual Lecture

In October 2014, our seventh Annual Lecture was presented by Country Life Editor at Large Clive Aslet, who explored the history and meaning of war memorials. Drawing inspiration from his book 'War Memorial', which uncovers the stories of those commemorated in the memorial at Lydford on Dartmoor, Clive spoke for an entertaining hour, illustrating his talk with the stories of memorials from around Britain.

### International Fair Trade Visitor Centre & Café launch at Lancaster church

In March 2015, The Church of St John the Evangelist in Lancaster began a partnership with The FIG Tree to launch The FIG Tree @ St. John's – an International Fair Trade Visitor Centre & Café.

The FIG Tree was originally based in Garstang, the world's first Fair Trade town, before deciding to relocate to this Grade II\* listed Georgian church. It is a not for profit social enterprise, which provides information on the emergence of Fair Trade commerce to support small producers in developing nations. [www.fairtradecentre.org](http://www.fairtradecentre.org).

### Our Annual Appeal – the most successful ever

Thanks to the generosity of many supporters, patrons and friends, our Annual Appeal not only met its £25,000 target for the first time in 2014 but also far exceeded it. In total, we raised £42,670.56 (including Gift Aid) to help us continue our work.

You can read more about these stories on our website – [visitchurches.org.uk](http://visitchurches.org.uk)

