

# Annual Review 2022-2023

**Churches  
Conservation  
Trust**









# Saving historic churches together

## Annual Review 2022-23

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**Cover Image:** Detail from the mural of St George and the Dragon at St Lawrence's, Broughton (© Andy Marshall)

**Inside Cover:** St Mary's Church Shrewsbury, Shropshire

**Pages 2-3 Background:** Wallpaintings at All Saints' Church in Cambridge (© Joseph Casey)



## Welcome from Elizabeth Peace CBE

### Churches Conservation Trust Chair



It is my pleasure to be introducing the 2022-23 Annual Review of the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) as Chair of Trustees.

I would like to start by thanking our Deputy CEO Sarah Robinson who stepped up as Interim CEO following the departure of Peter Aiers at the beginning of the 2022 financial year. Sarah's efforts, alongside the rest of our dedicated senior management team, ensured the trust stayed on track whilst we awaited the appointment of our new CEO. We were delighted to welcome Greg Pickup to this position in September 2022.

Alongside this, we were pleased to welcome three new trustees in February of this year with the appointment of Tanvir Hasan, Dr Emma Wells and Erin Walsh. Together, they bring a vast array of experience, as well as enthusiasm, that will benefit our trust in future years. We also said farewell to outgoing trustees Edward Harley and Carol Pyrah and thank them for their commitment and contributions during their time with us.

This year we completed much-needed works to our churches that were supported by the government's Heritage Stimulus Fund, and I was pleased to see the results of some of this work during recent visits. This funding has made a huge difference to the buildings in our care and we remain enormously grateful for this support.

None of our work would be possible without the support of our volunteers and communities who have continued with fundraising initiatives and activities. They continue to keep our churches open and alive and I was delighted to hear more about their work during our recent annual volunteer awards evening. I would like to thank each of them for their efforts.

The number of those who support us continues to grow, as do our digital audiences across all our social media. We look forward to continuing to engage with those of you who joined us through the digital lectures during Covid as we continue to build our online presence.

The number of visitors to our sites remains below pre-pandemic levels; however we remain committed to working with communities to support their plans to encourage greater use of our buildings. With this in mind, we have been pressing ahead on work to a number of major projects including large capital schemes at Sudbury and Lancaster. Work has also begun on site at the Old Black Lion, our innovative project to support our neighbouring St Peter's Church with much-needed facilities for its activities, in addition to bringing a much-loved historic building back into use as a pub on the ground floor and our new national office above. For all our projects large and small we remain grateful to a range of trusts, foundations and individuals, in particular the National Lottery Heritage Fund as a major funder for our larger schemes.

The continuing care of our growing estate of churches is also made possible due to the continued support of DCMS and the Church of England, whose commissioners continue to recognise the importance of our role in keeping these historic places of worship active and of service to the communities for whom they were built. We end the year on an optimistic note, having made significant progress against our objectives but with continued challenges ahead. We look forward to working with our key partners at DCMS and the Church of England to explore how we can make use of the monies invested in us within our own estate and beyond, as well as with all of our friends, volunteers and supporters to build on our success in the year to come.



## Welcome from Greg Pickup

### Churches Conservation Trust Chief Executive



I am pleased to welcome you to the 2022-2023 Annual Review for the Churches Conservation Trust.

At the time of writing, I have just celebrated my first year as Chief Executive of the trust. Since joining CCT in September 2022, I have been fortunate to visit many of our historic churches, to meet the passionate communities around these sites and hear the stories, old and new, that connect people to these special buildings.

A particular highlight of the year for me was bringing together volunteers and supporters for our virtual Community Supporter and Volunteer Evening. None of our work would be possible without those who give their time, expertise and dedication to the care of their local church, or in some cases churches over a vast area. I am pleased that through our partnership with the Marsh Charitable Trust, we can recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of some of the individuals and groups who support our work through the Volunteer of the Year Awards. I invite you to go to page 10 of our Annual Review to read more about some of the fascinating projects and successes from this year's award winners. Of course, those recognised through these awards are only a fraction of the over 9,000 supporters that the trust relies on, and I would like to extend my thanks to each and every one of you who has supported CCT this year and in years past.

The previous financial year has also seen significant progress at many of our major projects. I was delighted to see the launch of Seventeen Nineteen at Holy Trinity Church in Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, and Sound & Art at St Swithun's in Worcester. These multi-million-pound projects were made possible through funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, with the support of national and local organisations and donations made to our 2016 and 2017 Annual Appeal. The opening of these sites, which provide their local areas with much-needed community and cultural spaces, is also the result of years of work from the trust's Regeneration Team who have diligently ensured they will be used and loved for years to come.

Regarding Annual Appeals, I am pleased to report that CCT's 2022 Appeal, 'At The Heart of Communities. Always' was one of our most successful fundraising campaigns to date. Launched in June 2022, the Appeal raised £33,090 (with an additional £4,362 from Gift Aid) through the generosity of our members, donors, volunteers, and other supporters who hold our work in the highest regard. This loyal support has allowed us to invest further in providing creative ways to deliver the school curriculum, welcoming vulnerable individuals to our safe spaces, and teaching heritage craft skills to support career development for young people. I encourage you to read more about the impact of this campaign on page 15.

I am also pleased to say that work began on site recently at the Old Black Lion in Northampton, again led by our regeneration team. This innovative project will not only support our neighbouring St Peter's Church with much-needed facilities for its activities and bring a much-loved historic building back into use as a pub on the ground floor, but once complete will provide a new national CCT office on the first floor. Our staff community is made up of around 75 talented, open-minded and above all else, dedicated, individuals across a wide number of teams that all play their part in securing the future of the 357 churches in our care. While our staff team is mostly comprised of remote or hybrid workers, it is important to recognise the importance of a central office for all teams to call home as and when they need it. I look forward to seeing what the next year holds for the Old Black Lion and welcoming members of our staff team through the doors of our new headquarters when the time comes. For now, however, I would like to express my gratitude to all the staff at CCT for another year of collaborative, passionate, and at times groundbreaking, efforts.

CCT is here to empower and support communities to care for their historic places of worship and it is through support and partnership that we can continue this work. So, finally, I would like to once again extend my heartfelt thanks to all who support their local historic church and all those who support the work of CCT. Without you, the achievements outlined in this Annual Review would not be possible.



## A Year in the Life of CCT 2022-2023



Wings on the the hoardings of St Peter's Church, Sudbury

April 2022

An unusual and engaging piece of public artwork was unveiled on the hoardings at St Peter's Cultural Venue, Sudbury. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and produced in collaboration with local artist and sign writer Wayne Tanswell, the artwork, representing two large angel wings and featuring a poem written by the late CCT Chair Peter Ainsworth, was designed to inspire community participation.

May 2022

We were delighted to announce that our project at Holy Trinity Church, Sunderland, won 'Restoration or Conservation Project of the Year' at the Museum and Heritage Awards 2022, the first of many awards to come. The project transformed Sunderland's first parish church and civic hub into a spectacular space for connecting people and sharing stories and heritage through conservation repair and sensitive adaptation.



Historic image of the Old Black Lion

June 2022

The Churches Conservation Trust announced plans to move its headquarters from London to one of its own sites: St Peter's Church in Northampton and the neighbouring Old Black Lion, a Grade II listed coaching inn. The pub, which closed for business in 2018, is the focus of a major National Lottery Heritage-Funded regeneration project led by CCT.

July 2022

The Churches Conservation Trust revealed the appointment of its new CEO, Greg Pickup. Greg's career in heritage began with nearly six years at the National Lottery Heritage Fund, following which he managed several projects and funding schemes, including Nottingham City Council's Carrington Street Townscape Heritage Scheme and the Other Stories LGBT History Project for the charity Derbyshire LGBT+.



Stained glass at St Mary the Virgin, Shrewsbury

August 2022

The Past, Present, and Future project at St Mary's, Shrewsbury was made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, from whom we received a grant of £246,883. Thanks to support from National Lottery players, the project will urgently stabilise, conserve, and celebrate the stained glass within Grade I listed St Mary's church, in Shrewsbury.

September 2022

Members of the Communications and Fundraising teams attended the *Charity Times Awards* ceremony in London where we received a 'Highly Commended' award in the Digital Transformation category. The award was presented for our work on CCTDigital.com, our online streaming platform, launched in 2021 as a new way to share digital content.

October 2022

Bridging the Gap was a pilot research project carried out by the CCT Regeneration Team, Historic Churches Scotland, Heritage Trust Network and Churches Trust for Cumbria. It formed part of a wider research initiative called 'Outreach to Ownership', which was a cross border pilot programme funded by Historic England exploring innovative approaches to inclusive community engagement across cultural sector organisations in England and Scotland.



## A Year in the Life of CCT 2022-2023



November 2022

Lighting Up St Johns', Lancaster

St John the Evangelist Church, Lancaster, was taken over by contemporary artist Anne Bennett, with her light installation *Butterfly Dream: Making the Invisible Visible*. The church was transformed, with thousands of glowing neon butterflies suspended from the galleries and spinning slowly in the air above the beautiful Georgian pews, creating a true spectacle and an amazing atmosphere in a church which is normally closed due to its poor condition.

December 2022

CCT and the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) were excited on 1 December 2022, to host Christmas Past, Present, and Future: The Sounds of Christmas in our Historic Churches; a unique Christmas Carol Concert hosted by Zeb Soanes, which explored the nature of traditional and modern carols and their symbolism within historic churches in a unique narrative combining words, live choral music, and participative song.



Christmas Past, Present and Future: The Sound of Christmas in our Historic Churches  
(© Joseph Casey)

January 2023

Former Chief Executive of CCT, Peter Aiers, was awarded an OBE in the King's New Year's Honours List. After 15 years of working for the trust, Peter took up the post of Master and Chief Executive Officer at the Charterhouse in London in March 2022.



Dr Emma Wells

Erin Walsh

Tanvir Hasan

February 2023

The King approved the appointments of Tanvir Hasan, Erin Walsh, and Dr Emma Wells as trustees of the Churches Conservation Trust, each for a four-year term effective from 1 February 2023



Cllr Daniel Lister and CCT CEO Greg Pickup at the Old Black Lion ground breaking ceremony

March 2023

Building work began to rescue the Old Black Lion public house in Marefair, Northampton. The milestone was marked by a small gathering of those involved in the project including the contractors – Midland Conservation Limited – the Churches Conservation Trust, the Friends of St Peter's Church, and representatives of West Northamptonshire Council, who are key funders of the project.



Key Figures for 2022-2023

**9,203**

supporters, including members, volunteers and those who donated over £5 have contributed to caring for the 357 churches in the care of CCT

**66**

members have elected to designate a portion of their membership subscription to their favourite church through our Church-Based Membership Scheme

**£32,980**

was raised by CCT's 2022-23 Annual Appeal *At the Heart of Communities, Always* (excluding Gift Aid)

**£543,472**

was raised in church-based funding

**£595,000**

was donated to support our work

**£547,000**

was raised through legacies income and 62 known members of the Legacy Giving Group who have pledged a gift in their will to CCT



# 93,360

hours contributed by volunteers in support of caring for historic churches

# £2.6m

spent on supporting volunteers and communities, keeping churches open

# 61,219

accounts follow CCT across our social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter)

# 1.59m

visitors walked through the doors of the 357 churches in our care

# 15

communities at churches outside those in the care of CCT were supported by the trust

# 15

churches will benefit from better churchyard management and wildlife training from organisations such as the Norfolk Wildlife Trust



## Our New Churches

The number of historic churches in the care of CCT continues to grow: find out about our two new vestings this year.

### A medieval church with over 700 years of history

St Torney's Church, North Hill, Cornwall



St Torney's Church, North Hill, Cornwall

The 90ft-tower of St Torney's Church in North Hill, Cornwall, rises above the surrounding landscape and has formed part of the historic skyline of North Hill for centuries. The first recording of an incumbent at St Torney's was in 1260, and since that time it has been elegantly developed upon, especially during the 15th and 17th centuries.

The church sits in the centre of the village of North Hill, the population of which stands at around 992 residents, with the local village hall only a four-minute walk away. Despite its fairly central location, the use of St Torney's for worship declined in recent years, until on 17 March 2019 the church held its final service 'to give thanks for the witness and service of St Torney's at the foot of the moors for more than a millennium'. This stunning church has also been on the Heritage At Risk register, kept by Historic England, for the last seven years. In April 2022, St Torney's Church was placed into the care of CCT and conservation and repair work to the building began in late 2022. Water ingress is a major contributor to the works that are needed, caused by inadequate drainage and gutters on the chancel, nave and aisles, including the lack of a drain at the east end of the church. This has resulted in damage and damp through parts of the building. CCT's plans include repairing or overhauling all rainwater goods, alongside redetailing the tower, vault and porch roofs using Welsh slate and carrying out associated leadwork on all roofs.

Inside St Torney's Church are two magnificent 17th-century monuments to the Spoure family. The church is Grade I listed and sits within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, on the eastern side of Bodmin Moor. Visitors will notice the many exquisite monuments within, including the Spoure and Vincent tombs. These feature vibrantly coloured statues and macabre reliefs. In recent years, with considerable thought and care, the stonework was overpainted with several types of different paint. However, behind the paint an accumulation of damp and salts is now damaging the monument. CCT has begun to conduct an investigation to reach a full understanding and offer recommendations for the improvement of the condition and appearance of these monuments, ahead of conservation work to them.

These splendid monuments are juxtaposed with an especially beautiful, minimalist, undecorated Norman font. It is a space that is both grand, redolent with splendour, and calm: impressive rather than imposing.



## An antique gem harbouring marvellous woodwork

St Wilfrid's Church, Brougham, Cumbria



Exterior of St Wilfrid's Church, Brougham  
(© CCT/Hannah Boatfield)

The Chapel of St Wilfrid at Brougham, near Penrith in Cumbria, was vested into the care of CCT in spring 2023. St Wilfrid's is in good company, joining its historic parish church, St Ninian's, which has been in the care of CCT since 1979.

Both are of historic interest for their association with Lady Anne Clifford (1590–1676). Her fascinating story is one of a struggle to secure her rightful inheritance and determination to put her family's estate into good physical order.

St Wilfrid's was originally built as a chapel of ease for Brougham Hall; however, the existing medieval chapel was entirely rebuilt by Lady Anne Clifford in 1658. Built on the site of an earlier church, it was the passion project of Lady Anne when she inherited the Brougham estate in 1658, making it one of only four places of worship that were constructed during the Cromwellian period. It is, ostensibly, a simple building with buttresses, a nave, chancel, and bellcote. The marvels of the site lie in the medieval woodwork of continental origins, placed there by Lord Brougham in the 1840s.

These include stalls from 15th-century France, which feature carved canopies and lettering of brilliant blue and gold Latin text.

Water ingress is presently the main threat to the building. Too much of it is getting into the wall tops through aged lead-lined stone gutters and too little of it is escaping via the drains. Some alterations to the rainwater disposal systems will be necessary to ready the building for the challenges of climate change and the warmer, wetter weather it will bring. Repointing and replastering with lime mortars will allow the building to dry out. Its important collection of furniture and medieval glass will also be conserved.

Conservation and community always go hand in hand for new vestings. St Wilfrid's is part of a close and friendly local community, so we are delighted that CCT and the Parochial Church Council (PCC), which previously cared for St Wilfrid's, have forged a strong cooperative working relationship following vesting.



## Celebrating your outstanding contributions

Every year CCT recognises the incredible support and outstanding contributions of the community supporters and volunteers who help to care for our churches at the Community Supporter and Volunteer Evening. This culminates in the Community Supporter and Volunteer of the Year Awards, which is generously supported by the Marsh Charitable Trust. This year's event took place on 15 March and for the third year in a row, it was held virtually over Zoom.

Once everyone had settled in behind their screens and Judith Patrick, Head of Region, North, had covered all the necessary technological housekeeping, the evening began with a welcome speech by our Chair of the Board of Trustees, Liz Peace CBE. Attendees then heard from Greg Pickup, CCT Chief Executive. This was Greg's first time attending the event since joining as Chief Executive.

This was followed by the announcements of the Marsh Charitable Trust Community Supporter and Volunteer of the Year Awards winners for each of the seven categories

### Community Supporter and Volunteer of the Year Awards 2023 Winners:

#### Digital Initiative

The All Stars Volunteers  
All Saints', Cambridge, Cambridgeshire

The volunteers at All Saints' (aka the All Saints' All Stars) launched their project to welcome more visitors to Cambridge's Painted Church in autumn 2021. As a small team they didn't have the resources to open the church every day, so decided to organise events that would appeal to the widest possible audience.

Penny Robson undertook to find musicians, and so on 3 October 2021, Music @All Saints' was born. With no website, social media or mailing list, the volunteers advertised through posters and word of mouth. Despite this, over 50 music lovers came to that first concert, and the All Stars realised how much more they could achieve if they had a presence on social media. And so, inspired by this initial success, the volunteers quickly upped their game, developing a website and setting up accounts on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. An account was also set up with Mailchimp and regular email campaigns are now sent to the growing mailing list (now nearly 400), while advance sales are booked through Eventbrite. Recent diagnostics from Mailchimp show that the mailing list is of a very high quality 'with over 57% highly likely to purchase again'.

Since that first recital in October 2021, audience numbers have continued to grow as recent events demonstrate. The Christmas concert with Granta Chorale was oversubscribed and it was wonderful to see over 200 people participating in the Ceremony of Carols.

# MARSH

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## Charitable Trust

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#### Achieving Impact

Judith Hall  
St Mary Magdalene, Battlefield, Shropshire

Judith has long family links to the Battlefield church. Her father was one of our former longstanding volunteers who would open and close the church on a daily basis and meet and greet our many visitors. Sadly, after Judith's father passed away, the church went through a period of key access only, which saw a decline in visitor numbers and donations.

Judith took up the mantle her father left, opening and closing the church on a daily basis, which has seen a significant increase in visitors and donations. She was also instrumental in supporting a rewilding project of the churchyard, through identifying all of the current wild flowers that exist within the area, along with their locations. Alongside support from the local PCC, this has enabled the churchyard to have a cutting regime, allowing both flowers and grasses to flourish, identifying locations of orchids and reducing the maintenance costs for the PCC.

Without Judith's daily commitment to the church, the building would still only be available through key access, leading to reduced visitor numbers and donations in turn.

#### Fundraising Achievement

Ivor Walker  
Elston Chapel, Elston, Nottinghamshire

In October 2022, Elston Chapel was subject to vandalism, which caused damage to the windows and the interior wall fabric of the church. The church warden, Ivor Walker, subsequently decided to host a bonfire night event on his land to help raise funds towards the costs of the repairs. This was a remarkable turnaround, as within a month of the vandalism taking place, Ivor had organised and held the event, which raised £500 towards the chapel repairs. A truly remarkable achievement in a small village! Ivor and his family have been church wardens for generations, including his father, himself and his daughter.



### Team of the Year

Volunteer Team at St George's  
St George's, Portland, Dorset

The St George's team recently held their first Flower Festival and Coronation Celebration event, partnered with Dorset Wildlife Trust and local botanists. This wonderful event ensured that their volunteer-led churchyard maintenance project was as beneficial to the biodiversity of the vast graveyard as it was pleasing to the 20,000 visitors St George's has each year. The team held yet another very successful Summer Celebration and their second annual Light-up event this Christmas. They provide guided tours of the church and regular guided tours of the churchyard.

The team have also expanded their range of merchandise to optimise fundraising opportunities for the church and have successfully taken on the challenge of piloting a contactless payment machine.

The volunteers have a remarkable wealth of skills and knowledge that they give generously to maintain the church and welcome visitors, showing them all the delights of St George's.

### Supporter of the Year – North

Adrian Argent-Cook  
St Peter's, Gamston, Nottinghamshire

Since St Peter's, Gamston, was vested into the care of CCT in 2018, Adrian has been one of the main points of contact for the trust.

As church warden, he has an extensive knowledge of the history of the church and the area as well as the people associated with St Peter's, past and present. He has put together an interesting history of the church in the form of a booklet.

During a lengthy period when conservation works were ongoing, Adrian kept an eye on the church, unlocking the doors for contractors and keeping the Gamston residents up to date with what was happening.

Whilst conservation work was taking place on the church interior, Adrian got together a group of villagers who now meet monthly to keep the churchyard in good order and improve it for visitors and wildlife. Some of the group have since gone on to be involved with the group looking after the church.

After the initial opening in December 2021, the church couldn't be fully opened to visitors because of ongoing work to the memorials. During this period, Adrian and his wife Sarah organised events that could be supervised, such as guided walks and talks as well as Foodie Fridays, where the villagers would congregate in the church, bringing their own food and getting to know each other better. When temperatures reached 40°C during the summer, Adrian opened up the church as a sanctuary for residents to escape from the heat – an initiative which was well received by many!

### Supporter of the Year – North

Bobby Johnson  
Milton Mausoleum, Milton, Nottinghamshire

Bobby has been a dedicated volunteer steward for over 10 years. Her love of this unique building, with its personal story and historic and social importance, is shared enthusiastically with its increasing numbers of visitors. A founder member of the Friends group and Treasurer, her dedication to her role and to ensuring that the Friends can finance their aims of making the Mausoleum a thriving community space drives their many and varied fundraising activities. Bobby is full of ideas; she sees things that need doing and does them. Bobby has been the driving force behind many events from launching the '100 Club' to holding 'Chocabola' at local Christmas markets. A recent initiative, 'Buy A Pane', was geared towards restoring the building's three remaining windows and turning an unused chapel and vestry into a meeting room and office. The team feel it is appropriate that her dedication and continuing hard work are recognised at this time.

### Supporter of the Year – South East

Paul Unwin  
St John the Baptist, Parson Drove, Cambridgeshire

Paul has gathered members of the neighbourhood to turn an unloved church into a community hub, hosting many unusual and creative events to raise money for the church and CCT. From a black tie dinner, to farmer's markets, Christmas buffets and sales to afternoon teas, Paul and his team have attracted many visitors to the church who now appreciate the beauty of the building, and the work of CCT. He has contributed to other projects in the LCO area which helps the volunteers and supporters of other churches as well.

### Supporter of the Year – West

Rupert Hardy  
St Andrew's, Winterborne Tomson, Dorset

Rupert Hardy is an active supporter of his local church, St Andrew's in Winterborne Tomson, as well as the wider network of CCT churches in Dorset.

Rupert organises an annual concert at St Andrew's and hosts a post-concert reception at his home, the Manor, which is opposite the church. The last concert raised an impressive £747, which is remarkable given the capacity of this tiny Norman church. Rupert and his family also host drinks and mince pies after the annual Advent Service. During lockdown, Rupert produced a delightful video about the history of St Andrew's to reach a wider audience and encourage visitors. He has also worked with the Local Community Officer, suggesting new ways to promote text and online donations inside CCT churches. Rupert helps to coordinate annual lunches where volunteers from all the Dorset CCT churches share news and best practice and receive updates from CCT staff. During the last lunch in January, seven Dorset churches were represented and a healthy discussion was generated about fundraising ideas.



## Regeneration

The Regeneration Team has had much to celebrate in the last financial year, with progress being made at our projects at the Old Black Lion, Northampton, and St John's Church in Lancaster, alongside our consultancy projects which have continued to support communities at historic places of worship across the country.

Most notably, two of the team's major regeneration projects, Sound & Art at St Swithun's and Seventeen Nineteen in Sunderland, were launched to the public in 2022, and a third major project at St Peter's Church in Sudbury has reached numerous milestones in the last 12 months. We are pleased to be putting the spotlight on the exciting year these three projects have had in the 2022-23 Annual Review.

### St Peter's Church, Sudbury

Since 2020, CCT's Regeneration Team has worked closely with project architects, engineers, surveyors and other technical professionals to refine the plans for St Peter's church, an amazing (but underused) medieval church set right in the heart of the market town of Sudbury, at the top of Market Hill. Pre-site works involved developing architectural and engineering technical designs, discharging pre-commencement planning conditions, preparing construction phase management plans and refining final specifications.

Due to complex building constraints, the works at St Peter's were split into two. During Phase 1, Maldon Structural carried out preparatory works from September to December 2022. This involved closing the main road through the heart of the town to drill through the medieval foundations into the main sewer, which meant we were able to install toilets for the first time. The diamond-tipped drill was a sight to behold and the team held their breath as the works took place.

Phase 2 was the main contract works, which were awarded to Universal Stone Limited (USL) in June 2022. The company is based in Wickford, Essex. Established in 1939, USL has extensive experience working on churches and other listed heritage buildings, making it the perfect company for the innovative £2.5m regeneration project. The aim is to regenerate St Peter's as a cultural and community centre for Sudbury, embedding it further into the heart of the town for generations to come.

Alongside working with the Regeneration Team to deliver a fantastic heritage craft skills programme for local schools, heritage professionals and the local community, Universal Stone also recruited a Stonemason Apprentice, who has been training on site at St Peter's and other USL sites. We are pleased to be able to support another young person in addressing the nationally recognised shortage of traditional heritage skills through work at one of the sites in our care.

Work has progressed at a pace throughout the year and additional heating upgrades, graveyard enhancements, nave decoration, restoration of the chancel curtains and conservation of the nave floor have also been funded through additional fundraising and project contingencies.

Alongside regeneration of the site, CCT embarked on a partnership with the Bridge Project, exploring a mutually beneficial plan for the operation of the site at a local level. Originally outlined as the café operators for St Peter's in our Round 2 bid to NLHF, with a new CEO, the Bridge started conversations about taking on the full lease. We are excited to see where these conversations lead us.

We were also thrilled to learn in November that Allison Burke, former Development Officer at CCT and now Operations Manager for the Bridge at St Peter's, had been awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (FRSA). Since 1754, the RSA Fellowship has been a community of leaders in the fields of art, literature, journalism and business who have made contributions to society or the arts and are able to support the mission of the RSA.

As of 2022, the RSA welcomes to the Fellowship all those who are aligned with the organisation's values and share its vision. Its Fellows are an integral part of the RSA in creating a better future. Thanks to her outstanding dedication to St Peter's, Alli is now one of these Fellows.



© CCT/Jake Millar



## Award winning launch for Seventeen Nineteen

We are delighted to report that on 16 April 2022 Holy Trinity Church in Sunderland opened its doors as Seventeen Nineteen, following the completion of a £5.1m transformation. This was made possible by support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Sunderland City Council, Allchurches Trust, Garfield Weston, and other funders, individuals, supporters and donors, including many CCT members who donated to 2017's appeal.

In 2017, the Churches Conservation Trust's annual appeal was focused on Holy Trinity, which at the time was one of the seven most endangered buildings in Europe according to Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register. The ceiling was held up in parts by scaffolding, water was penetrating the building and there was damage to masonry and plasterwork, as well as rotting timbers. Hard hats were a must for visitors, with plaster falling from the damaged ceiling, yet the beauty of Holy Trinity Church still shone through.

Historic Restoration Ltd (HPR) balanced the preservation of this historic Grade I listed building with sensitive interventions to help secure the site with a sustainable future. Works here were tricky. On opening up, despite numerous scans and reports, the nave was found to have no foundations. The Lady Chapel was literally resting on the wooden floorboards, and the 1735 addition of the apse was pulling the building to the east and damaging the stained glass. Works ranged from urgent and highly skilled fabric building repair, such as historic brickwork and masonry, plastering and joinery, to sensitively equipping the space with up-to-date facilities. Holy Trinity Church has now completed its transformation into Seventeen Nineteen, a spectacular space within the church for connecting people and sharing stories and heritage.



© Mike Veitch

On 16 April 2022, Seventeen Nineteen opened its doors to the public with a spring fair showcasing a renovation as stunning as it is sympathetic to the fabric of the building. The event was well attended and packed full of stalls selling homemade wares and baked goods, craft sessions, performances, an art exhibition and children's rides. In the evening visitors came to listen to Sunderland musicians the Lake Poets, whose song *Shipyards* is the theme music for the Netflix series *Sunderland 'Til I Die*.



© Mike Veitch

From the outset, Seventeen Nineteen was designed to be a cultural, heritage and events space and it is holding true to those ideals. The project drew on the East End's heritage as a seafaring port to hold an evening of sea shanties with live music, dancing and games. By reminding the local people of their shared heritage and culture, Seventeen Nineteen is restoring a sense of community to this historic corner of Sunderland.

We are also pleased to say that the wider heritage and conservation community has come together to recognise this very special project, as Seventeen Nineteen has received a total of nine national and regional awards including:

- Georgian Group 'Re-use of a Georgian Building' winner
- RIBA – RIBA NE Award 2023, RIBA North East building of the year 2023 and RIBA North East Conservation award 2023
- Museums+Heritage 'Conservation project of the Year' 2022
- National Brick awards (Conservation and Restoration awards) 2022 – Judges Commendation
- National Construction in Excellence awards (Conservation and Regeneration awards 2022) – Highly Commended
- G4U – Apprentice of the Year Award (Seventeen Nineteen young apprentice Tyler Moore)

Thank you to all who have supported this project from near and far.



© Mike Veitch



## Regeneration

### Launch of Sound & Art at St Swithun's, Worcester

In September 2013, over 400 people dropped in at a community fun day with a purpose at the Grade I listed St Swithun's Church in Worcester City Centre. Visitors took part in one of the first stages of consultation on how to develop new uses and create the investment needed to give this city centre building a sustainable future at the heart of its community.

Just shy of 10 years later, thanks to the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Friends of St Swithun's, the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and all those who supported CCT's 2016 Annual Appeal and beyond, Sound & Art at St Swithun's has opened its doors.



(© Andy Marshall)

While consultation and fundraising began nearly a decade ago, the physical work to regenerate this historic church did not begin in earnest until 2019. This was when St Swithun's began its exciting £2.8m transformation aimed at conserving, repairing and adapting the building to create a distinctive venue for arts, music and a cultural space in the heart of Worcester. The impact and effect of Covid-19 delayed the project, which was set to launch in 2021. But finally, with a new Arts Centre Manager and Business Administration Apprentice in role, Sound & Art at St Swithun's launched in October 2022, showcasing the best in arts and music to the Worcester community and further afield.

Prior to the launch, there were many key priorities for the team to complete to become fully operational. These included applying for a premises licence so that the venue could sell alcohol and provide entertainment, setting up a functioning

bar area, building local arts and heritage partnerships and running soft-launch events. These consisted of an organ recital given on St Swithun's Day and involvement in Worcester Music Festival, as well as various other activities that enabled us to test and learn how the building worked in an operational capacity.



(©CCT/Ollie Lloyd)

One of the team's biggest tasks was to curate a programme of events from the launch date until the end of the year. This involved booking a diverse mix of artists and performers with a big emphasis on marketing and promoting the launch.

The launch was very successful, with over 300 visitors throughout the day and evening. The event started with Georgian-themed family activities provided by our West Heritage Learning Team. Children were invited to 'make their own tricorne hat', 'decorate a Georgian pocket', 'learn a new language' and 'dress like a Georgian'. From the afternoon onwards, the site had a variety of poetry, spoken word and live music performances delivered by such artists as Hannah Law, Katherine Gallagher, Luc Ralinoro, Poppy WS and a headline performance by up-and-coming singer-songwriter LionHaire. Feedback from visitors was very positive and many were in awe of the restoration of the beautiful Georgian architecture.

Since launching, the stunning Georgian church has showcased a diverse mix of artists and performers and played host to an exclusive VIP visit for representatives of key funders and stakeholders. The team have been working closely with other heritage partnerships in the city to combine forces to promote the wonderful and historic assets Worcester has to offer. They have also formed a partnership with Worcester University to give students the opportunity to take part in poetry slams and regular open mic, spoken word evenings.

Alongside a packed calendar of events, the team are building relationships with local schools and colleges to provide educational workshops revolving around heritage, music and art. Sound & Art at St Swithun's has very quickly become a popular destination and addition to the arts and music scene in Worcester. CCT is very excited to offer the community a resource to learn and engage with the building and to support emerging talent both locally and nationally in the arts and music world.



## Annual Appeal Review: 2022-23

### At the Heart of Communities. Always.

In June 2022 we launched our Annual Appeal, *At the Heart of Communities. Always*. This appeal aimed to increase the profile of our invaluable existing church communities and, importantly, raise funds to enable the Churches Conservation Trust to engage new audiences with these historic spaces which have been much more than just places of worship for many generations.

At CCT, we hold our members, donors, volunteers, and other supporters who fund our work in the highest regard. Due to their loyal support this past year our Appeal raised £33,090 (with an additional £4,362 from Gift Aid). This support has allowed us to invest further in providing creative ways to deliver the school curriculum, welcoming vulnerable individuals to our safe spaces, and teaching heritage craft skills to support career development for young people.



St Stephen's, Copley

Within this Annual Review, we are proud to report that, as a charity, we spent £2.6m on supporting volunteers and communities during the past financial year. This is an increase from the previous year, 2021-22, when we spent £2.1m on these activities. We are also proud that 2,334 individuals support our organisation's work on a voluntary basis, which is an increase from 1,800 in the previous year. It is thanks to these community supporters that we are able to keep our church doors open and free for the public to enjoy.

As is reflective of the current heritage sector, the number of visitors to our sites remains below pre-pandemic levels. However, we remain committed to working with communities to support their plans to encourage greater use of our buildings. We are optimistic that with their support the number of people enjoying these spaces will soon exceed our previous heights.



St Swithun's, Worcester  
(© Andy Marshall)



St Peter's, Sudbury  
(© Allison Burke)

As a small gesture of thanks to these church communities, each spring we host an awards evening that celebrates their achievements. This event is held in partnership with the Marsh Charitable Trust and recognises various activities, ranging from fundraising to digital innovations, to community impact. More information about the winners and their triumphs can be found on pages 10 and 11.

In June this year, 2023, we were pleased to launch our latest Annual Appeal, *Roofs at Risk*. This Appeal will raise funds to contribute to our emergency and planned roof repair and intervention projects. However, we recognise that these special spaces would be nothing without the people who love and care for them and we will always keep people at the centre of our work.

Thank you once again to all those who supported our 2022-23 Annual Appeal. With our help and with your support the 357 churches in our care remain open and in use – living once again at the heart of their communities.



St Nicholas' Chapel, Kings Lynn



## Conservation: Heritage Stimulus Fund

We are pleased to report that thanks to the funding provided by the Heritage Stimulus Fund over the last few financial years, the majority of CCT's top 15 urgent repair priorities, as set out at the start of the strategic period, have been successfully completed. This means that this financial year the team has been able to develop a new top 15 list, in consultation with regional teams, although the focus for both conservation and regional staff for the remainder of the strategic period is delivering a number of community initiatives.

This year's maintenance programme had a particular focus on meeting legal and regulatory compliance across the churches in the care of the trust, using additional funds received at the start of the strategy period from the Church Commissioners. St Torney's Church in North Hill, Cornwall, was vested into the care of the trust in 2022 and Phase I repairs are currently underway to repair external stonework, rainwater goods and roofs, as well as grout the tower. You can read more about St Torney's Church, as well as our second new vesting of the financial year, St Wilfrid's Church in Brougham, Cumbria, on pages 8 and 9.

This year has seen a wide variety of projects both begin and reach completion. Each and every one of these projects posed its own unique set of opportunities and challenges and we are delighted to share some of the highlights of the year with you below.

### Case study one:

#### Repointing, reopening and rejoicing

The Church of St Peter in Tickencote, Rutland, was welcomed into the care of the trust in December 2019. This quiet little church has been a part of the landscape since the Norman period; indeed its most striking feature is a grand, multi-layered Norman arch described by author, journalist and CCT trustee Sir Simon Jenkins as 'the great arch of Tickencote ... like a peacock's tail, comprising every motif of Norman art' in *England's Thousand Best Churches*.

At the start of the project, CCT set out three main aims for St Peter's: to make the church structurally safe and sound, repair the structural roof timber and weather-proof the church, and to ensure that the church can be open for use and enjoyed by the local community and the wider public.

The journey to get St Peter's to its much-awaited reopening date involved a number of moving parts and projects. The conservation works that were undertaken included repointing to the Norman chancel arch and recording traces of historic paint, repair and limewashing of the vaulted chancel ceiling and repairs to the slate roof, leadwork and roof timbers. Alongside this, glazing repairs were undertaken, including protective glazing for the medieval head found in the central window on the north side of the nave. Outside the church, existing drains underwent repairs and some new drains were

added to help with keeping the walls and pew platforms dry inside. Upgrades were also made to the electrics, including new energy-efficient lighting to highlight architectural features like the chancel arch and altar and installing a new lightning protection system. Last but not least, replicas of the historic keys to the church were made for local keyholders and staff.

Of course, at the time of vesting we could not know the turmoil that would come over the following years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact this would have on the future of this special church. With this in mind, we are particularly pleased to say that on 29 June 2022 St Peter's opened its doors with a special reopening ceremony. In addition to this, the project was able to deliver on all its aims at a cost of £186,000, less than the initial estimate for the works, which was set at £255,000.

The church is now open and can be enjoyed by all. It is cared for greatly by the local community in the village of Tickencote and hosts a small library inside the church. St Peter's attracts, and will continue to attract, visitors from all over because of its rare and beautiful Norman architecture. It is a favourite for groups to visit, including Leicester Cathedral walking group.



The Church of St Peter, Tickencote, Rutland  
(© CCT/George Reynolds)

Culture  
Recovery Fund  
for Heritage

The  
National Lottery  
Heritage Fund

Historic  
England



Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport



## Case study two: Saving a Suffolk Gem

Stonham Parva, also known as Little Stonham, is a small village in the heart of Suffolk. It boasts the beautiful Church of St Mary the Virgin. However, for the last few years, the churchyard was as close as most could get to this rural church due to health and safety concerns caused by the movement of roof trusses. Fortunately, thanks to funding from the Culture Recovery Fund, the urgent works needed to make this church safe have been able to take place in 2022.

The double hammerbeam roof came to be at severe risk of being lost without urgent intervention. Following the sudden fall of a roof timber element, St Mary's had to be closed to the public for health and safety reasons. Investigations and high-level surveys took place, and a programme of structural repairs was identified, but due to limited funding the project had to be put on hold.

However, CCT was delighted to learn that we had been awarded a further grant of £1.6m towards the delivery of urgent repair projects by the Heritage Stimulus Fund. CCT was one of 445 heritage organisations across the country to receive funding from the first round of funding from the Culture Recovery Fund in 2020, with a total of £1.57bn provided by the Government. The Culture Recovery Fund is delivered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England, using funds provided by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport.

This second round granted funding to an additional 19 projects, including St Mary's Church in Stonham Parva. St Mary's was awarded £371,000 and required 20% of match-funding to fund the £464,000 total project cost, the largest single grant out of any of the churches to have benefited from the fund since 2020. FA Valiant & Son Ltd was appointed to undertake the project which included repairs to the nave roof structure, recovering of the south east chapel roof, repairs to the chancel roof and interior decoration of the nave and south east chapel.

This urgent conservation work has not only saved this historic church for future generations but has revealed details of the hammerbeam roof that likely have not been seen for centuries, such as the high level of detailed carving on the beams. CCT is delighted that St Mary's Church is once again safe to be open to the public, for the local community to use and enjoy for events and services.



Stonham Parva during HSF works  
(© CCT/FA Valiant & Son Ltd)

## Case study three: World-class stained-glass

Thanks to support from National Lottery players, we were delighted to announce in August 2022 that a project was going ahead to stabilise, conserve and celebrate the stained glass within the Grade I listed St Mary's Church in Shrewsbury.

The grant for £246,883 was awarded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The stained glass within St Mary's is a remarkable collection, which is internationally renowned. It includes acclaimed English and important continental glass spanning the 14th to the 19th centuries. In total, 12 windows are undergoing conservation, including stained glass within the Trinity Chapel. This glass is unique in Britain and represents very fine work of a particular period, of which there are few surviving examples worldwide.

Work on the windows will help to restore delicate paint pigments, stabilise existing paintwork and repair lead work which has become distorted or deteriorated. This work is needed due to the age of the windows and the effects of weathering. The grant will allow CCT to repair some windows which have unfortunately been the target of heritage crime.

As well as support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, project costs of £353,000 were met with the generous support of individual donors and through events at St Mary's, for which the Churches Conservation Trust is truly grateful.



King in Majesty at St Mary the Virgin, Shrewsbury  
(© CCT/Churches Conservation Trust)



## Learning and Participation

Through match-funding from the Department for Education via Historic England, our Learning Team has continued to support the equivalent of three full-time Heritage Learning Officers who work with schools to bring young people into our church buildings. The programme has now been going since 2012, allowing us to build relationships with schools, teachers and learning networks. The team also devises and runs popular family learning programmes and resources across the country.

### Celebrating 10 years of Heritage Schools

Both Historic England and CCT believe that every child should have the opportunity to be inspired by their local heritage, and take pride in it and that every teacher should have brilliant resources to help explore the local historic environment in and outside the classroom.

For over ten years, CCT has delivered the Heritage Schools Programme in partnership with Historic England to help achieve this aim. This has involved delivering sessions in churches and schools, offering a wide range of free online learning resources, including films, for teachers and supporting more than 400 schools across England to engage with their local heritage.

Over the past decade, CCT's Heritage Learning Team has engaged over 24,000 school pupils in curriculum-based sessions inside historic churches and in classrooms local to many of the churches in the trust's care. These draw on aspects of a particular church building and its history through tailored sessions which have been expertly developed to support cultural learning for different ages and abilities. We also work with teachers and other education professionals to expand awareness of how to teach a broad range of subjects, using a local historic church and the rich inspiration it provides as a stimulus for learning. We offer a wide range of engaging workshops exploring topics on a variety of curriculum subjects from Art and History to Science and Maths.

Thanks to this programme, the last decade has created unique opportunities for children to experience their local heritage as part of their education, establishing a deeper connection to where they live and discovering their local historic CCT church.

### Foliage, fruit and fabulation: inspiring the next generation

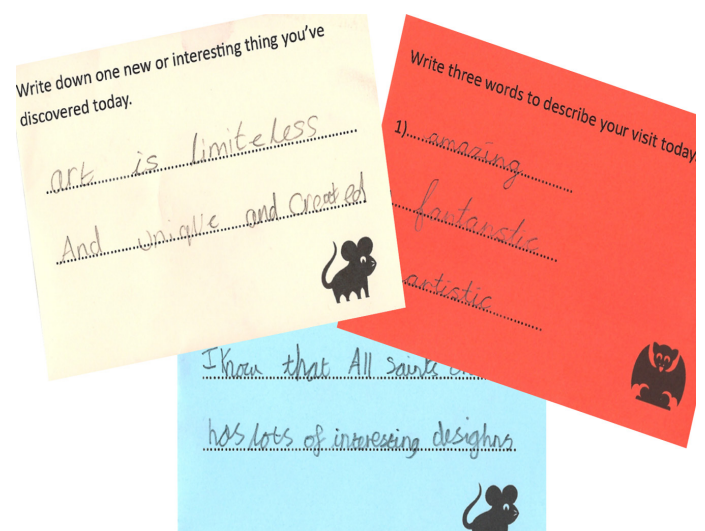
Inside All Saints' Church in Cambridge, patterns cover almost every surface with the walls and ceilings decorated in rich, dark, red, green, and gold patterns. Many of the stencilled designs are based on foliage and fruit, such as the pomegranate, bursting with seeds and symbolising the new life of the Resurrection. The stunning Pre-Raphaelite east window, along with the stained glass in the nave, allows sunlight to pour into the building. The church was created by the architect George Frederick Bodley, and features work designed by Edward Burne-Jones, Ford Madox Brown, William Morris, and Charles Eamer Kempe. It is perhaps unsurprising then that Cambridge's painted church would find itself as the inspiration for four newly commissioned works by four artists, each with a connection to

the city. *Fabulation*, a responsive exhibition featuring works from local artists, was supported by funding from the Arts Society and the works, created in a variety of media, were a response to the elaborately decorated Victorian church.

Three classes of pupils from local primary schools visited the exhibition at All Saints' to take part in CCT-led art workshops and meet one of the artists whose work featured in the exhibition. The sessions started with a game to introduce the children to the church and got them searching for the pomegranates as well as for a dog and a dragon. They heard from artist Jenny about some of the ideas and processes behind her compositions and then set off to explore the building and the exhibition in search of inspiration for their own creative work.

As the church is filled with colour, the focus for these workshops was the use of colour, so the children were not given any white paper or lead pencils. For their first piece, they worked with one or two coloured chalk pastels on a black background. This was followed by an activity using only scissors and coloured paper to create a freehand design inspired by the stencilled patterns richly decorating the interior of the building. They then chose from the available materials to create their own artwork. The children finished the session by viewing a wonderful diorama, a miniature model, kindly loaned by David Parr House, showing the amazingly patterned interior of the local Victorian decorative artist's home. David Parr worked for F R Leach & Sons, the Cambridge firm that carried out much of the painting inside All Saints'.

One of the teachers commented that they liked how 'every child could take part' and that the children could 'express themselves freely'. Teachers and pupils left filled with enthusiasm from their visit and with lots of ideas for their own artwork back in school.



Examples from the Learning and Participations Team's exercises at All Saints' Church, Cambridge  
(© CCT / Churches Conservation Trust)



## At the heart of a Buckinghamshire community

Hidden away amongst modern housing developments, and within earshot of the M1 motorway, the tiny medieval Church of St Lawrence, Broughton, is re-emerging as a cherished community asset.

Over the last three years, CCT has been working with local partnerships to introduce an increasing number of residents to this exceptional historic building. Recent housing and commercial developments near this ancient village on the outskirts of Milton Keynes have stimulated a population increase, bringing many newcomers to the area who are unfamiliar with its history. By offering the local primary schools a learning programme at St Lawrence's, we have been able to develop further activities which bring children and adults – some new to the area and some life-long residents – together. The enthusiastic response from local participants shows that there is clearly an appetite for more opportunities to come together in the church.

Children from the two local primary schools now regularly participate in a programme of learning activities devised in collaboration with teachers. St Lawrence's is full of artworks, objects and stories which provide stimulus and inspiration for learning, as well as a unique setting to explore curriculum topics. Activities predominantly focus on Local History Studies and Religious Education, though there is plenty of opportunity to cover other areas of the school curriculum too. Inside the church, children can explore the building and marvel at the amazing medieval wall paintings showing scenes of dragons and of judgement. In the classroom they might examine a series of archived maps of Broughton as they discover more about the changing local landscape and the traditional parish community with the church at its centre.

In order to build and strengthen local ties and a sense of connection in this new and growing community, local teacher Emily Garratt started offering a series of Welcome and Wellbeing Wednesday Walks for the parents of children attending Brooklands Farm Primary School. With support from Heritage Learning colleagues, notably Heritage Learning Officer Caroline Wilkins, CCT has welcomed children and adults, many of whom had never visited the church, to informal drop-in family activities during school holidays. We topped off the year with a festive Winter Walk, a wreath-making workshop and refreshments put on by local volunteers who have been involved with the life of St Lawrence's for many years. It has been wonderful to see local groups and different generations coming together and connecting both with each other and with the building.



A mural of St George and the Dragon at  
St Lawrence's, Broughton  
(© Andy Marshall)



## 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 357 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 who in the year gave generously to the trust. We are also grateful to those who would like their support to remain anonymous.

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## Pledged gifts in wills

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  
Nigel Benford  
Darrell Buttery  
Richard Digby Day  
David Flemington

Paul Mollard  
Robert Perrin  
Howard & John Pescott  
John Peverley

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## Who We Are

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, 357 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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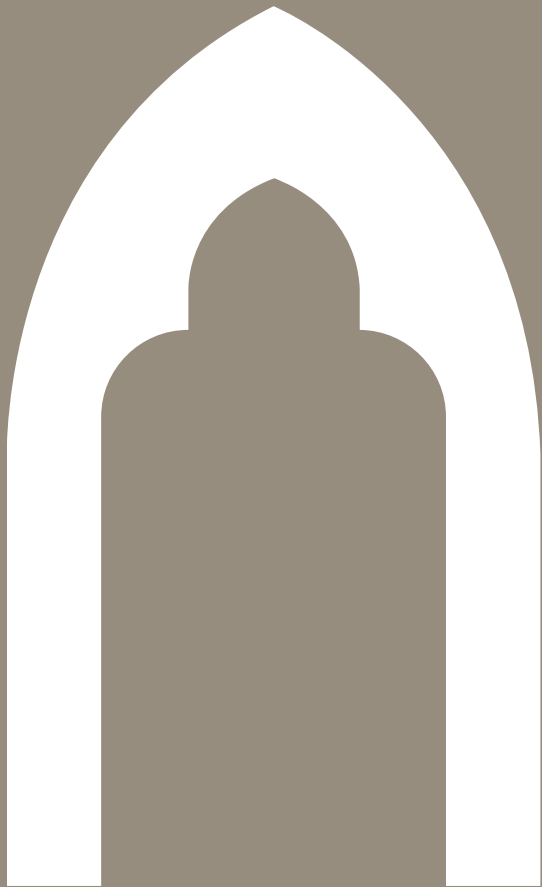
### Chair of the Conservation Committee

Carol Pyrah (to June 2022)

### Chair of the Finance, Audit and Resources Committee

Sue Wilkinson





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