

# Welcome to your 2015-16 Annual Review

I am honoured to have been appointed Chairman of The Churches Conservation Trust. Our achievements under my predecessor Loyd Grossman are impressive, and I am delighted Loyd will stay involved as a CCT Vice-President and supporter. As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2019 I am taking over at an exciting time where there are challenges but also opportunities.

This has been another year of impressive delivery at the CCT, most significantly completion of works at our largest site, St Nicholas' Chapel in King's Lynn, and the conservation and regeneration of St Mary at Quay, Ipswich.

We repaired and reopened Grade I churches at Ayston in Rutland and Ufford in Cambridgeshire, both now alive with volunteers and visitors, and welcomed St Kenelm's, Sapperton as our 350th church. We have also made significant improvements to interpretation and visitor facilities in churches across the country.

The CCT's expertise is recognised internationally, helping several non-CCT churches develop ambitious plans. Champing™ has proved remarkably popular, with diverse visitors enjoying the opportunity to stay in a CCT church.

None of this would be possible without CCT staff and volunteers. I am grateful to the Church Commissioners, DCMS, the Heritage Lottery Fund and many other funders, donors and members. I look forward to working with you all.

**Peter Ainsworth**  
Chairman

2015-16 has been another fantastic year for the CCT. St Nicholas', King's Lynn reopened in style, followed swiftly by major visitor enhancements to churches in Evesham, Cambridge, York and Sandwich, where visitors can now climb a newly installed tower staircase to admire views over the English Channel. We are also very excited by the recent completion of the regeneration and conservation work at St Mary at Quay, Ipswich.

We continue to benefit from the support and confidence of our sponsors and funders, and our DCMS grant was renewed in the 2016 Spending Review, at a fixed rate until 2020. Just as importantly, donations to the CCT rose to £459,000, an impressive 13% increase on last year. Developing our membership schemes is a priority, and in September we launched the Bulmer-Thomas Circle, a philanthropic group dedicated to conservation work and named after our founder, Ivor Bulmer-Thomas.

At the CCT we spend 95% of our income directly on frontline projects, the majority of it going to maintenance and repair work on our very special collection of 350 churches, and to community projects which support them. This simply wouldn't be possible without the extraordinary commitment of our volunteers, who now number a record 1,820 and contribute to every area of our work, from conservation and project management to archival research and fundraising.

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

Cover photo  
Centuries of inspiring craftwork at St Lawrence's Church, Evesham

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His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales

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Dr Loyd Grossman CBE FSA  
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Dr. Bettany Hughes

#### Our Trustees

Peter Ainsworth – Chairman  
Jane Weeks – Deputy Chair of Trustees  
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Beth McHattie  
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#### Conservation Committee

Humphrey Welfare

#### Chair of the Finance, Audit and

#### Resources Committee

Duncan Wilson OBE

#### The Churches Conservation Trust

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Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm  
(Calls from UK landlines will be charged at a local rate. Calls from mobiles may be higher.)

Registered Charity No: 258612



LOTTERY FUNDED

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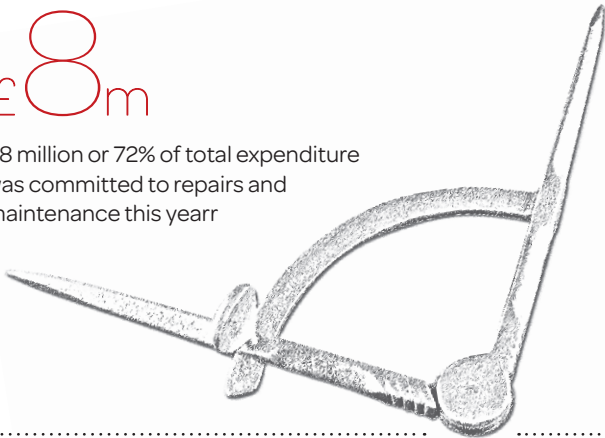


Help us keep history alive for future generations:  
join as a member at [visitchurches.org.uk/join](http://visitchurches.org.uk/join)

# Looking back... 2015-16 in facts and figures

£8m

£8 million or 72% of total expenditure was committed to repairs and maintenance this year



1,820

1,820 – a record number of regular volunteers in all regions



1,934,647

1,934,647 – visitors to our churches

£11.1m

£11.1m – CCT's turnover in 2015-16



£1.1m

£1.1m – legacy funding received

43%

43% of income came from statutory grants, with £3.2m from DCMS and £1.4m from the Church Commissioners.



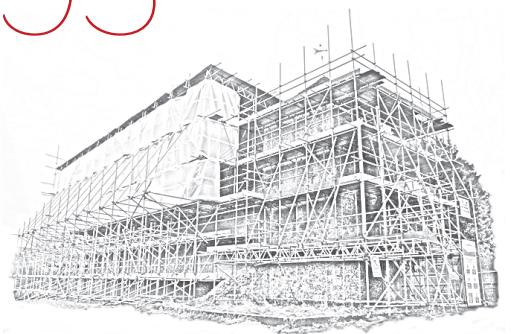
3,600 + 950

3,600 young people plus 950 adults have engaged in CCT's learning activities, including Explorer Church school partnerships and family activity days



95%

95% of expenditure was spent on frontline projects



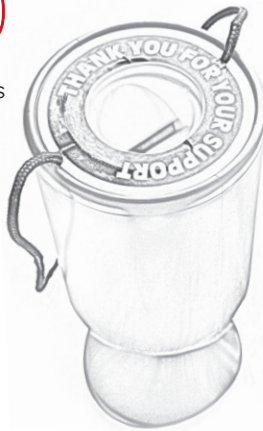


1,708

1,708 – members as at 31 March 2016

£459,000

£459,000 – the total value of donations to CCT, a 13% increase on last year



£50,000

£50,000 – the consultancy income generated by our Regeneration team



94%

94% of the churches we have saved from closure are Grade I or Grade II\* listed

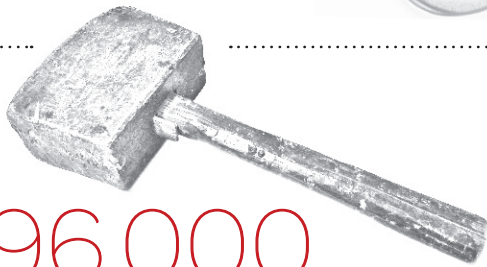


23%

23.4% – of our volunteers spend more than 12 hours a month volunteering with us

£942,480

£942,480 – we estimate that this is at least the value of the time volunteers commit to CCT



£396,000

£396,000 – the value of grants received from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund, to repair roofs at Warminghurst, Hove, Portland, Haugham and Stainburn

£11,148,260 Income

£11,132,921 expenditure

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

## Our strategic aims for 2015–19

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

- Inspire People
- Protect Our History
- Create Value

### To be delivered by our 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 Churches Conservation Trust in 2015-16.

## Our sponsors

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

## Trusts, Foundations and Organisations

Beeding and Bramber with  
Botolphs Trust  
Christ Church (Macclesfield) Trust  
David and Claudia Harding Foundation  
Donald Insall Associates  
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Europa Nostra  
Friends of Old Christ Church, Waterloo  
Friends of St George's Church, Esher  
Friends of St John the Baptist, Yarburgh  
Friends of St Martin's Church  
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Friends of St Mary's Church, Bungay  
Friends of St Mary's Church, Higham  
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John Jarrold Trust  
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Listed Places of Worship:  
Roof Repair Fund

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Charitable Trust  
Loveday Charitable Trust  
McCorquodale Charitable Trust  
Michael Guest Charitable  
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PFB Construction Management  
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Ricepuds Charitable Trust  
Scottish Power Green Energy Trust  
Severn Waste Environmental Fund  
Stansted Airport Community Trust  
Suffolk Historic Churches Trust  
Swire Charitable Trust  
Trustees of St Mary's Chilton  
Viridor Credits  
VZW Kempens Landscap  
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Bulmer-Thomas Circle  
Professor Victor Bulmer-Thomas  
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Peter Hirschmann  
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Mark Kirby  
Peter Mansfield  
John Newman  
Dr Mike Nussbaum  
Michael Rimmer  
Michael Robinson  
Colin and Brenda Soden  
Michael and Judith Walker  
Miranda Wilson

## Chancel Club

Ralph Aldwinckle  
Dr David Booth  
Adrian Clark  
Denis Dunstone  
Michael Fowle  
Dr Loyd Grossman CBE FSA  
Gina Goldhammer  
Christopher Knight  
Rupert Lycett Green  
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Professor Andrew Spicer  
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Mr and Mrs Alec Walters,  
Whitcombe

Thank you, too, to those of our generous  
donors who choose to remain anonymous.

# Some recent achievements

## Helping regenerate communities across England

Our Regeneration Team has had a busy year helping groups to develop new uses for their historic churches.

This year phase two of our major regeneration project at Ipswich, St Mary at Quay, took place through a ground-breaking partnership with Suffolk Mind. The new heritage and wellbeing centre, 'Quay Place', opened to the public in autumn 2016 and is the result of a £5.1m scheme that has been eight years in the making.

We are also supporting 18 'at risk' churches in the Dioceses of Newcastle and Durham as part of a project recently awarded HLF funding. Additionally as part of our international consultancy work we have recently been working with several Swedish churches to extend the use of some much loved, but underutilised, historic churches.

## Sharing heritage craft skills

This year we ring-fenced 2% of our repairs spending to promote traditional building skills and invested £15,000 in craft skills workshops in order to meet the demand for training in these skills across the UK.

We also support the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) William Morris Fellowships, which broaden the skills and experience of craftspeople employed in the repair of historic buildings. Our first CCT SPAB Fellow is Lizzy Hippisley-Cox, a stained-glass conservator who has worked on various historic buildings, including churches and cathedrals.

## Bringing children and young people into churches

We're pleased to announce that our Heritage Schools programme, supported by the Department for Education through Historic England, received a further year's funding, enabling our three regional Heritage Learning Officers (HLOs) to continue their work with schools and families across England.

[2015-16 Stats on separate page: 3,600 young people + 950 adults have engaged in CCT's learning activities, including Explorer Church school partnerships and family activity days]

### Images below

**Top:** Regeneration repairs at Quay Place

**Middle:** Papier-maché pigeons made by schoolchildren as part of the Heritage Schools programme

**Bottom:** Visitors from Sweden with CCT's regeneration team



A detail from All Saints, Benington





Old Christ Church, Waterloo, a landmark for sailors (R. Morrison)

**Congratulations to our  
Volunteers of the Year!**

The enormous contribution made by our volunteers was recognised at our annual Volunteer of the Year awards ceremony, held in January at the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden. The winners were:

**Neil Skelton BEM**

**West Regional Volunteer of the Year**

Neil motivates a dedicated team of volunteers at St Giles', Imber and has seen visitor numbers rising year on year at the open days he organises. The church is situated on Salisbury plains in Wiltshire within a 100 square mile military training area.

**Richard Haynes**

**South East Regional Volunteer of the Year**

Richard is always ready to share his wealth of knowledge and experience of old buildings from his years working as a surveyor. Deeply committed to our churches on the Suffolk borders, Richard has been particularly supportive of the Friends Group of St Peter's, Sudbury.

**James Hickingbotham**

**North Regional Volunteer of the Year**

James has enthusiastically supported a group of CCT churches in the West Lindsey area of the East Midlands, culminated in acting as a volunteer steward and tour guide or the Trust's Lincolnshire Historic Church Tour in 2015.

**Harriet Tupper**

**National Fundraiser of the Year**

The excellent 'pop up opera' Harriet organises at St Margaret of Antioch's, Leigh Delamere has become a social highlight in the local calendar, raising £1,000 for the CCT over the past two years.

**William Sheffield**

**Young Volunteer of the Year**

William spent his 2015 summer holidays researching and developing a walking route between a cluster of our churches in South Oxfordshire.

**The volunteers at St John on the Wall, Bristol**

**Volunteer Team of the Year**

The team increased church opening hours dramatically, from one afternoon a week to an average of 5 days. They have also been driving the development of the church as a visitor attraction and an event space by training more volunteers, carrying out research and taking over the day to day running of the church and administrative duties.

**The volunteers of Herefordshire**

**County Volunteer Team of the Year**

Many of these volunteers have been committed to caring for their local church for decades, some for as long as 60 years! They ensure the CCT's 9 beautiful churches in Herefordshire are kept clean, presentable and welcoming to visitors.

**Old Christ Church, Waterloo saved**

The Grade II\* listed church in Merseyside was placed on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register last year, as its sandstone tower was severely eroded by the coastal winds. Parts of the churchyard were roped off due to the risk of falling masonry and the church was at risk of closing.

We launched a major appeal to save the church, which was built between 1891-99 by famous Lancashire architects Paley, Austin and Paley, and served as a landmark for sailors. The total cost of the project was £331,000 and thanks to the generosity of grant funders, the public, and the support of The Friends of Old Christ Church, who themselves donated £50,000, repair work is now underway.



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)



As we care for more than 350 wonderful historic churches there are always projects which are awaiting assistance. Find out where your help is needed at [visitchurches.org.uk](http://visitchurches.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, these are just some of the stories that have been making the news at the Trust.

## Church Tours going strong

Our Historic Church Tours programme is proving increasingly popular, with three overnight tours introduced for the first time in 2016 and record bookings for our Lincolnshire coastal marshes tour. We aim to expand the programme further in 2017 and to widen our appeal to attract new audiences, including international tourists.



St Lawrence's, Evesham plays host to a Historic Church Tour in Spring 2016

## New acquisitions in East Midlands

St Mary's, Freeby in Leicestershire and St Botolph's, Wardley in Rutland, both charming medieval churches in very rural locations, are the latest additions to our estate.

## Candida Lycett Green Lecture draws large audience

Renamed in honour of our former Vice President, the 2015 annual lecture was a great success. The audience of 108 gathered in the chapel of King's College London where TV presenter Dan Cruickshank spoke about Sir George Gilbert Scott and 'The Family that Built Gothic Britain'. The event raised a record sum of over £2,000.

Check out our updated website website at: [visitchurches.org.uk](http://visitchurches.org.uk)

## Enhancing the visitor experience

This year improving the facilities for, and experience of, visitors at our most-visited town centre sites has been centre-stage. The 'Gateway' programme has seen more than £700,000 of capital investment going into nine churches where there is particular potential to attract and inspire new audiences.

## Roof Repair Fund enables crucial repairs to seven CCT churches

In 2015-16 we have received a total of £583,000 in grant income from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund. This Fund was set up by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport in 2014 to enable places of worship to carry out urgent repairs to roofing and rainwater systems.

This means we can carry out vital repairs at seven churches to roofs and rainwater systems that have been damaged by lead theft, beetle infestation and the ravages of time, making these churches weathertight for future generations.

## Crowds come to discover hidden Somerset

The partially ruined Norman church of St Nicholas in Uphill hosted an enormously successful week-long community archaeology festival in September 2015, working in partnership with Wessex Archaeology with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund. A team of professional archaeologists, including Phil Harding from Channel 4's Time Team, led various interactive sessions, including a full excavation of the medieval church. More than 1,000 visitors attended over the week, learning about cutting-edge archaeological techniques and putting them into practice to uncover the secrets of the church and the surrounding area.

## New philanthropic circle launched

In September 2015 we launched a new philanthropic group; the Bulmer-Thomas Circle, named after our founder, Ivor Bulmer-Thomas, and focusing on conservation work. Members of the new circle, which is supported by Ivor's children Michael, Miranda and Victor, receive invitations to exclusive conservation-related events, and their donations will go specifically towards our conservation endowment fund and projects.

## Raising funds for the future

In 2015 we established two new roles as part of our objective to increase unrestricted income and secure the future of our historic collection. A Commercial Manager in each region focuses on developing commercial opportunities, such event and private hire. Meanwhile a Community Fundraiser in each region supports volunteers and friends' groups in raising funds to support our work, including leading on 2016's successful programme of Summer Tea Parties.

## Awards for the CCT

Investors in People Silver CCT

Civic Trust 2016 Awards AABC Conservation Commendation St Botolph's

Hudson's Heritage Awards, Special Judges Prize (Best Accommodation) Champing

John Betjeman Award (SPAB) Joinery repair work at St Nicholas', King's Lynn (shortlisted)



THE CHURCHES  
CONSERVATION TRUST

Saving historic churches together  
Your Annual Review 2015-16

