

Your Annual Review 2013–14

Saving historic churches together

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

Welcome



Bringing new people and life to our beautiful churches

This has been an exciting year for our ambitious plans to secure the future of our collection. Our latest flagship conservation and regeneration project, All Souls, Bolton is on site, on budget and on track to open this autumn. It will be a beautiful, self-financing centre of activity and confidence for the local community and the public (there is more about this project on page 7).

I am very, very proud of this and of our even bigger regeneration of St Mary at the Quay, Ipswich in partnership with Suffolk Mind, where archaeology and construction work also began in this year. These projects demonstrate through practical action the relevance and importance of religious heritage to 21st-century society.

Of course, regeneration at CCT is not just about dramatic changes to large, urban churches. It is also about bringing life and business back to local economies and communities in rural areas and small towns across England, through a number of innovative conservation, learning and tourism projects led by volunteers and strengthened by community groups. Many of the churches we look after are remote and remain under-used. You can read about two rural churches that came into our care this year on page 4.

Every year we open more doors, recruit more volunteers, improve information and conserve more sites so that our collection becomes increasingly accessible and well-presented. This Annual Review shows how important the help we receive from so many people is and what fantastic things happen in CCT churches as a result. It is wonderful to be part of something so very special.

Loyd Grossman OBE FSA
Chairman



An important time for so many projects, large and small

This has been a significant year on many levels at the CCT. Our turnover has increased by 44% as a result of major capital investment in regeneration, steady growth in visitor and donated income, and a range of smaller match-funded tourism, volunteering, learning and community projects taking place. Particular thanks this year go to the Heritage Lottery Fund, whose investment in All Souls, Bolton and St Mary at the Quay, Ipswich makes up a major part of this picture. Meanwhile, we are also continuing to diversify income sources so we can continue our vital work in the long term.

Tourism and income generation have been big focuses for the year and we have made great strides towards our vision of providing a high quality visitor experience in churches. Improvements at the flagship churches of St Mary the Virgin, Shrewsbury and St Lawrence, Evesham (see article on page 4) are well advanced.

Our challenges this year have included a repairs backlog in the North West and the heartbreaking loss through fire of St George, Goltho (see article on page 6), for which we now urgently need to raise funds. There was also the shocking theft of 15th-century panels from Holy Trinity, Torbryan, Devon (see August news item on page 8).

In carrying out our work, we rely very much on the involvement and assistance of so many people and organisations in so many ways, and we are extremely grateful for the amazing, loyal support that makes everything described in this Review possible. From all of us, a huge thank you.

Crispin Truman
Chief Executive

We are very grateful to all those who gave so generously to the Trust in so many different ways this year including our 1,500 volunteers, 62 Friends Groups, and many other organisations and individuals.

Could your company support one of our projects, helping to bring life and business back to local communities? Please contact us on fundraising@theccct.org.uk

Would you like to volunteer in one of our new flagship churches? Find out how by visiting visitchurches.org.uk

Photography
Pg. 8 All Souls, Bolton – Andy Marshall
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The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk

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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)
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Snapshot...

2013-14 in facts and figures



1.9 million people have visited CCT churches (up 8.6% on last year)

Since 1969, we have played a unique role in national life. Without our work, over 340 historic buildings might have disappeared entirely, including some irreplaceable examples of architecture, archaeology and art from 1,000 years of history.

Your support is invaluable to our work. Income from our annual giving schemes helps us look after the 345 churches in our care. Did you know you can buy scheme membership as a gift for friends and family?

Call us on **0800 206 1463** to order yours.



15% increase in membership of our Supporters, Directors Club and Patron Schemes



1,500 The number of our regular volunteers (up by almost 9% on last year)



51% of the Trust's income was generated from independent sources for the first time



93% of CCT volunteers would recommend the experience to a friend

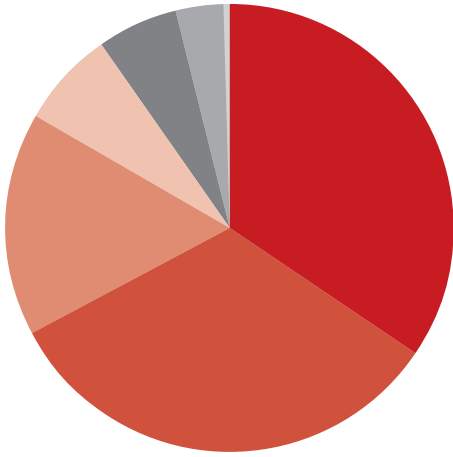


£173,000 extra available to spend on church repairs thanks to visitor donations in churches increasing by 17% nationally



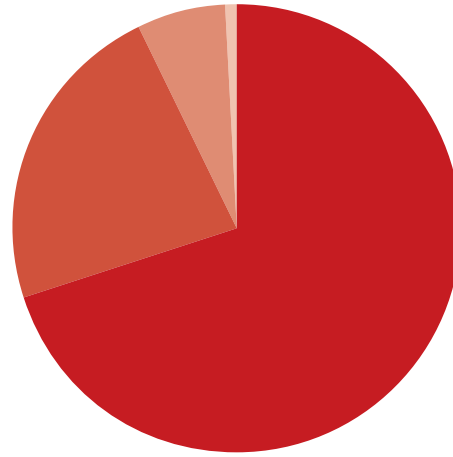
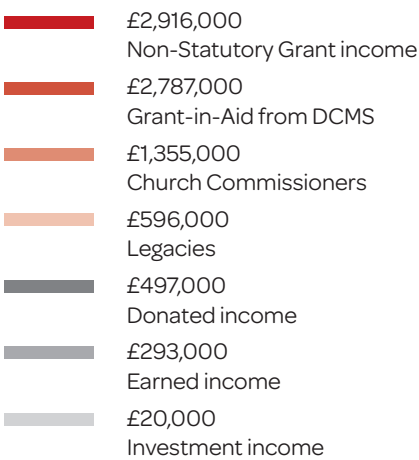
£1.96 The amount of expenditure on work to support volunteers to keep churches open, which grew by 6%

*All comparisons are to 2012-13 figures



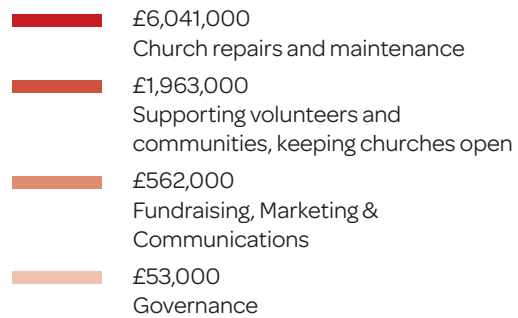
Total income this year

£8.46m



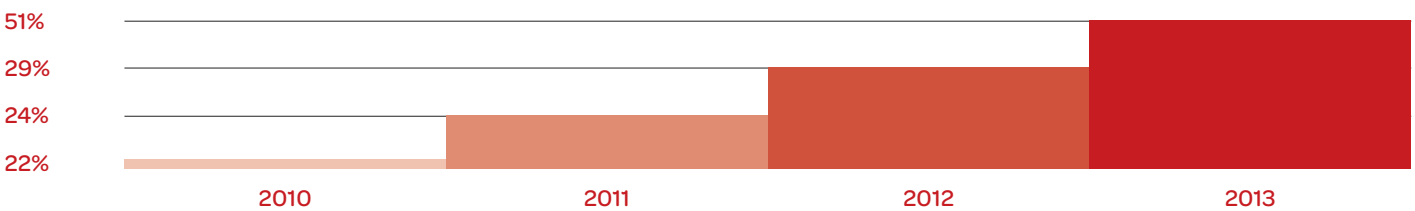
Total expenditure this year

£8.62m



Percentage of independently generated income

Non-Grant in aid income increase over the last four years



To read a copy of our statutory accounts, please go to:
visitchurches.org.uk/accounts

Historic churches that are benefitting from your help



Walk this way to a very special church

1 St Botolph's Church
Annington Road, Botolphs
West Sussex BN44 3WB

The wonderfully atmospheric St Botolph's, Botolphs is often ranked among Britain's holiest places. St Botolph is the patron saint of wayfarers and, lying within the South Downs National Park in Sussex, this aptly named church is often visited by walkers on the South Downs Way.

Our detailed analysis of the church in 2012 quickly established the scale and urgency of work needed, including complete re-roofing, masonry repairs, re-wiring and new drainage. With buildings of such delicacy, our conservation team takes great care in appointing carefully selected specialists to deal with the repairs.

For re-roofing, we also needed to source rare Horsham roof slates to augment those we managed to save and reuse, while repair of the flint-work and examples of very early Norman and Anglo Saxon masonry demanded deep knowledge and sensitivity.

At the time of printing, the estimated cost of work on this beautiful Grade I listed church is £380,000. We expect the building to reopen in late autumn 2014.

If you are planning a visit to experience the wonderful ambience there for yourself, please do check our website first at visitchurches.org.uk/ourchurches.



It's almost like being back in medieval times

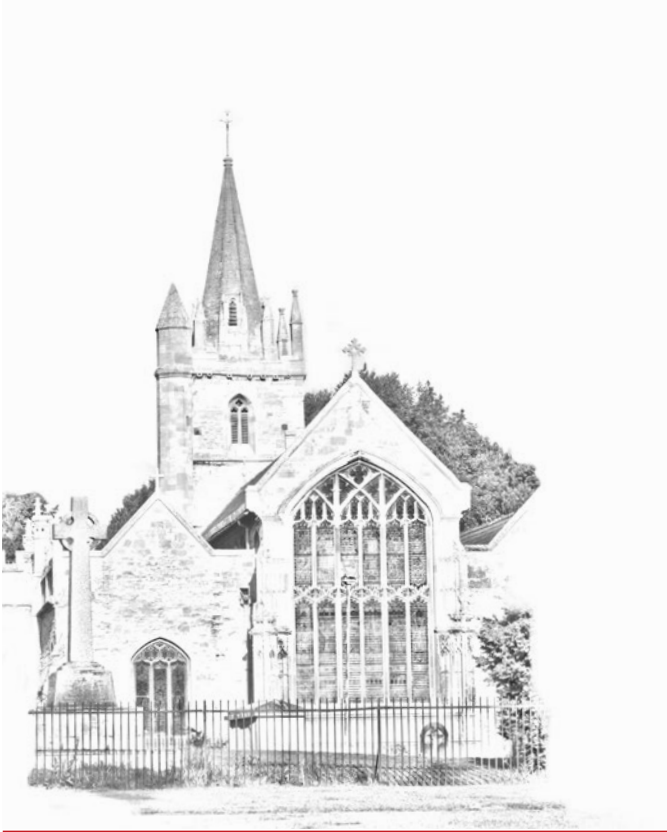
2 St Leonard's Church
Linley, Barrow
Shropshire TF12 5JU

Another stunning rural church now in our care is St Leonard's, Linley. This Grade II* listed example of a near complete 12th-century church, sensitively restored in 1858 by Blomfield, is tucked away along a narrow, densely wooded track at the heart of ancient lime woodland.

Its delightful interior speaks of the church's medieval beginnings. One of the highlights is the fabulous Green Man carved on the tympanum above a former doorway in the north wall.

Of course, saving extraordinary buildings like this is not without cost – in this case £210,000 for repair and conservation work. This included re-roofing the entire church, stabilising the tower roof structure, re-pointing in lime mortar, and undertaking specialist glazing conservation, plasterwork and redecoration, rewiring, and much more.

The Rector of the Broseley Group of Parishes, The Revd Sue Beverly, commented: "It's been a pleasure to work with the Trust and I look forward to an on-going relationship. The church of St Leonard's, Linley is a gem and it is wonderful to see it restored. I hope visitors will appreciate the peace and tranquility to be found in this holy place."



One of Britain's best-kept secrets

3 St Lawrence's Church
Market Place, Evesham
Worcestershire WR11 4BG

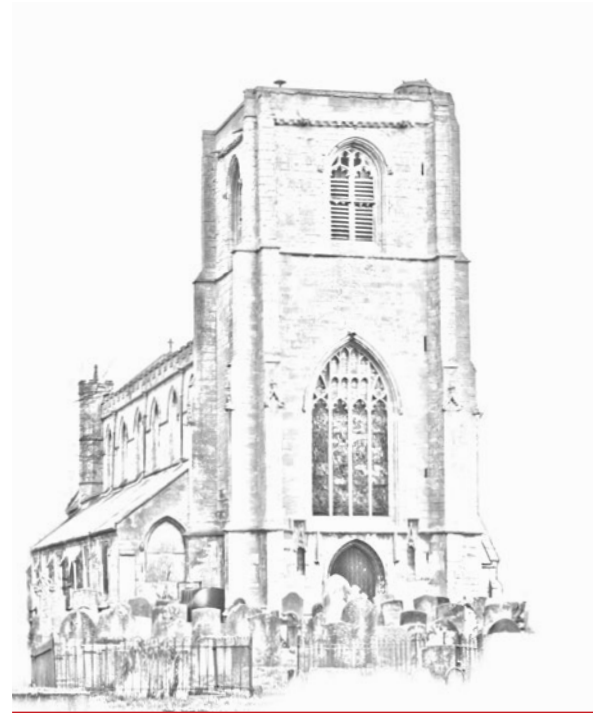
We are keen for more and more people to recognise historic churches as interesting places to visit. With this in mind, we have developed specific plans for 15 particularly popular buildings, through which we hope to reach many thousands of visitors and inspire them to go on to explore our more rural gems or support our work in other ways.

St Lawrence's, Evesham, which receives over 40,000 visitors a year, is among the first of these churches, and we are investing here to create a superb visitor experience.

You could say that St Lawrence's is the lasting legacy of Evesham Abbey – with the original church having been built by the Benedictine Monks in the 12th century. It lies within one of the most historically significant settings in England today.

We needed to start by tackling some essential work, including repairs to eroded stonework, re-roofing the south aisle and more, at a cost of around £200,000.

As part of our plans at the church, we are forming a partnership with the Vale of Evesham Historical Society. The Society's Chairman, John Kyte, commented: "Working with the Trust is providing the Society with another avenue to study all aspects of the church history and its architectural features, and hopefully will enable us to produce a publication about St Lawrence's...The partnership has already attracted the interest of the Town Council."



Providing help and advice on other beautiful buildings

4 All Saints' Church
Benington, Lincolnshire
PE22 0RX

Our expertise often means we are asked to assist other groups and organisations. Here are two stories from this year. When All Saints, Benington closed in 2003, the loss of this community asset was keenly felt.

In 2007, local people formed Benington Community Heritage Trust (BCHT) and have been working to convert this beautiful church into a self-sustaining community and events centre. We began assisting BCHT in 2009 and have recently supported their development of a Stage 2 bid for Heritage Lottery Fund.

Judy Crowe, BCHT Trustee, commented: "[CCT's] breadth of knowledge and experience is invaluable and without this support BCHT could never have reached the stage where optimism is high for a successful completion of our plans..."

5 Bath Abbey,
Bath BA1 1LT

Summer 2013 saw the start of a project to repair, renew and transform the collapsing floor at beautiful Bath Abbey. The first stage was to record the ledgerstones.

The team called on CCT's Dr Neil Rushton for his help. Dr Lucy Rutherford, Archivist at Bath Abbey, continues: "Our ledgerstone recording project was a highly enjoyable experience for our volunteers. One big benefit was working in partnership with CCT and the Ledgerstone Survey. Neil Rushton's expert training for our 30 volunteers was crucial to ensuring that our recording was accurate and carried out to national standards."

CCT churches at a glance

Whether you are interested in finding out where the churches in our care are or are planning a visit, please see the overview on the map (approximate locations only). To search for more precise locations of the churches using our interactive map, go to visitchurches.org.uk

- 1 St Botolph's Church, Botolph's**
– often named one of Britain's holiest places. See page 4.
- 2 St Leonard's Church, Linley**
– a delight off the beaten track. See page 4.
- 3 St Lawrence's Church, Evesham**
– how we're inspiring even more visitors. See page 4.
- 4 All Saints' Church, Benington**
– how we helped on a rural regeneration project. See page 4.
- 5 Bath Abbey**
– how we brought added expertise to the floor. See page 4.
- 6 St George's Church, Goltho**
– what does it mean to a community to lose a church? See page 6.
- 7 Church of St Michael and All Angels, Princetown**
– creative thinking and teamwork in action. See page 6.
- 8 All Souls' Church, Bolton**
– the beginning of something special. See page 7.
- 9 St Nicholas' Church, Saintbury**
– 'detective' work was only the start... See page 7.

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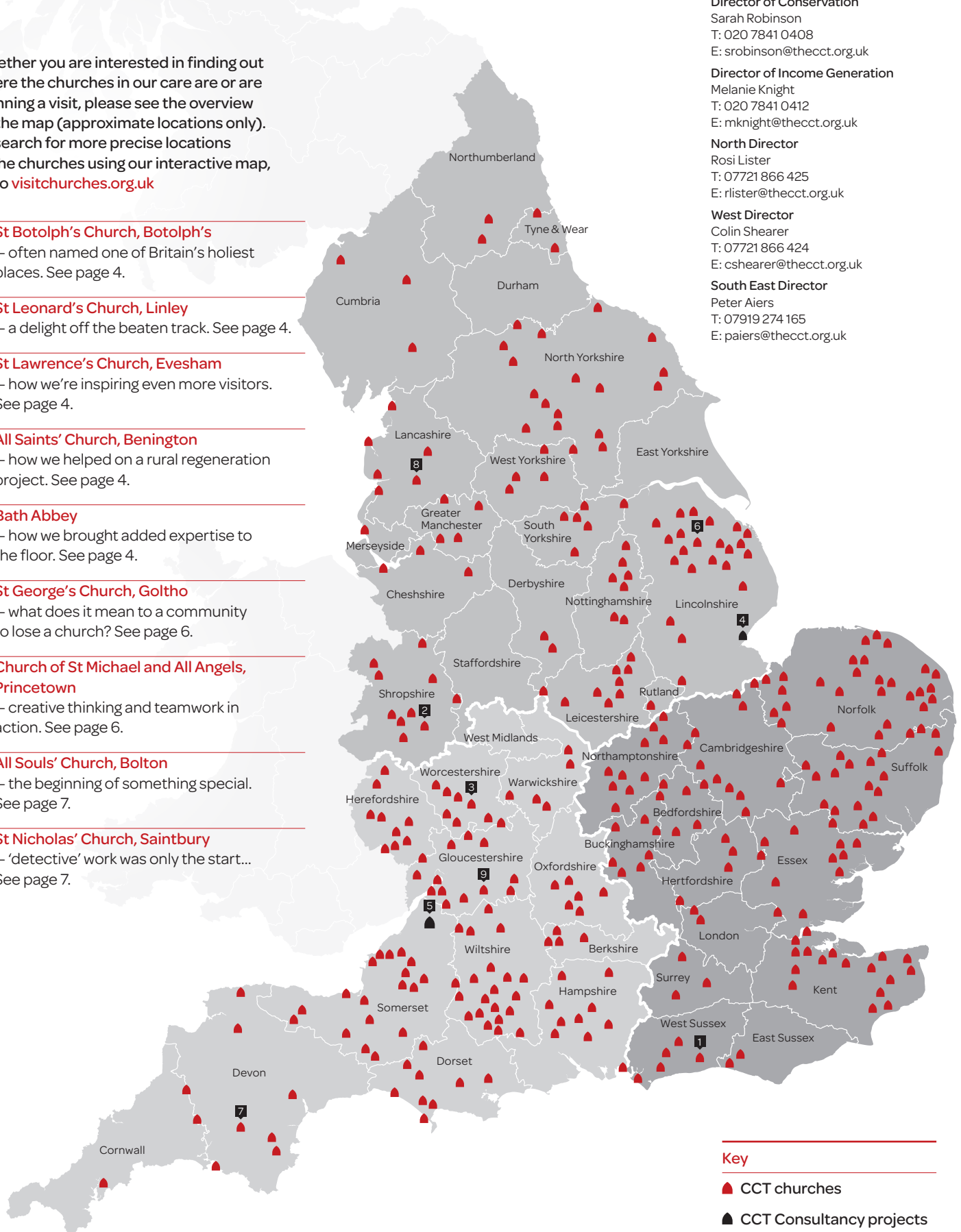
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Key

▲ CCT churches

▲ CCT Consultancy projects

(locations are approximate)

In the spotlight – the stories behind some of our churches this year



The loss of a beautiful building...and so much more

St George's Church
Goltho, Wragby, Market Rasen
Lincolnshire LN8 5JD

After the devastating fire in October 2013 that destroyed the chapel of St George, Goltho in Lincolnshire, so beloved by Sir John Betjeman, we were reminded of the impact such events can have on everyone involved. Here, we share the thoughts of Sarah Robinson, our Director of Conservation, and also the words of a visitor to the church.

Catastrophe is a strong word, but many of those who looked after that charming little church feel it is justified. Staff talk in hushed tones over coffee about how awful the loss of the church is, like the death of a remote family member, and for us it does feel a bit like that. That the fire was probably started by a lightning strike, an 'act of God', does not make it any easier.

...[This] little church, of national importance, was a precious ensemble of wonderful 15th to early 18th-century furnishings... The loss is not just about fabric and fittings, but also... to the small and disparate community around it who cared so much for this church...

Also to our social history, the church being the last remaining evidence of the wealthy and important Grantham family, who probably paid for the church to be built in the 16th century and extended in the 18th century, the families who were baptised, married and buried there, and the musical players who performed in the west gallery. So it really is a great loss.

To find out more or see how you can help please email Dawn Lancaster at dlancaster@thecct.org.uk.



We felt so privileged to be able to enter and experience the calm within. It was such a shock to hear that it had burned down... A real loss and awful for the volunteers who have cherished it so.

Susan Payne
Visitor to St George's, Goltho



A window on the past, preserved for the future

7 Church of St Michael and All Angels
Tavistock Road, Princetown, Yelverton
Devon PL20 6RE

Work at St Michael and All Angels, Princetown marked the first time a large Trust project was completely funded through grants and donations.

This interesting church is the only one in England built by prisoners of war – men captured in the Napoleonic Wars and the War of 1812 and held at Dartmoor prison. Its intricately painted east window was donated in 1910 by the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 as a memorial to US soldiers who perished while held in the prison, and 30 members of the organisation joined us at a commemorative service in June 2013. This was also attended by representatives of the French Government, the Royal Navy, the British Legion and HMP Dartmoor.

Over the years, harsh Dartmoor weather had taken its toll on the window and surrounding stonework, and in September 2013, the window was removed to allow important conservation work to take place. We were able to secure over £90,000 for this, including a £45,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £2,500 donated by the National Society United States Daughters of 1812.

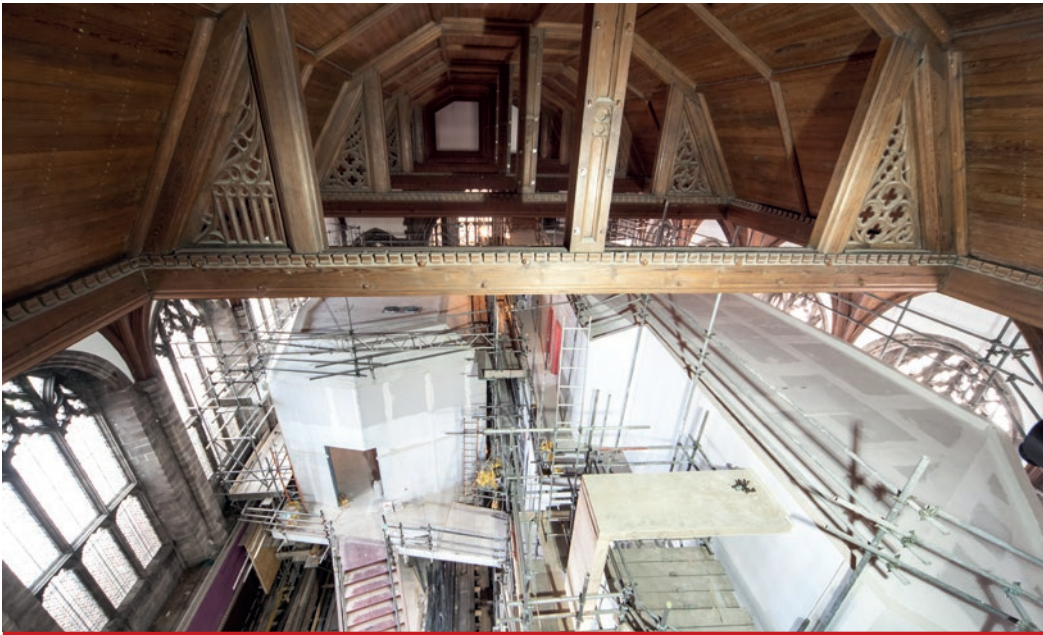
This project was about more than conservation; it was also about telling our story through new interpretation and engaging people in the relevance and importance of our work. Highlights included workshops with local schoolchildren to help them design and decorate a temporary replacement window, 'Meet the conservators' sessions and the fantastic involvement and help of the local community through the volunteer team. The beautiful east window has now been repaired and is back in place.

Do come and visit this church and discover its fascinating story. Download our Cornwall, Devon and Dorset County Guide at www.visitchurches.org.uk/countyguides.



'A Window in Time' at St Michael's church gave the children a unique opportunity to be involved in a community building in a creative, hands on way.

Sophie Shotter
Teaching Assistant
Princetown Primary School



Putting the soul back into All Souls

All Souls' Church
Astley Street, Bolton
Lancashire BL1 8EH

For 25 years, All Souls, Bolton was an empty hulk – now we are working with the community to transform this 19th-century building into a very special space.

It has received the single highest investment we have ever made and will become an inspiring, state-of-the-art facility providing training, education, meeting and workspaces, a café and heritage-themed activities for the community.

One of the most eye-catching developments has been the installation of a community centre made up of two 'pods' that sit within the church building and leave the historic fabric largely untouched. These innovative structures designed by OMI Architects showcase a new approach to adapting historic churches to modern uses.

While some wonderful new building work is being carried out by contractors Carefoot PLC, the conservation has been equally impressive.

- There has been 1169m² of lime re-pointing
- There are 12,348 new hand-made bricks in the walls
- The roof has 20 tonnes of new Westmorland green slates (just over 50% have been reused from the original roof)
- There is 125m² of new lime plastering internally
- There are 11,800 new plain glass pieces in the windows.

An extremely important part of this project has been to encourage and develop traditional craft skills, not only for interest but also to build skills sets for this kind of work.

Six placements undertook training in conservation and repair, under the mentoring of heritage sub-contractor Lambert Walker, and Pendle Stained Glass. Four have gone on to longer-term contracts and one has been offered a full-time apprenticeship. See the November news item on page 8 for more, including about funding.

Another success story has been the heritage conservation technical days, led by Alan Gardner, historic building surveyor, and Lambert Walker. These have focused on topics such as lime mortar and working with old buildings and have all sold out.

This has been a truly exciting project and we cannot wait for the building to open to the community in autumn 2014. We will be looking to develop new community regeneration projects like All Souls, learning from our experiences here.

visitchurches.org.uk/allsouls

We are developing regeneration projects in Sunderland, Gloucester and Macclesfield. Interested in getting involved? Email us on fundraising@thecct.org.uk



Trust experts in a race against time

St Nicholas' Church
Broadway, Saintbury
Gloucestershire WR12 7PX

Sometimes we can plan our conservation work in advance but sometimes we have to act fast – which was the case at the medieval church of St Nicholas, Saintbury on the Cotswold Way when our tests revealed that 17th-century wall paintings were in danger of long-term damage.

In the 19th century, these beautiful works of art had been covered with white paint – a common practice in England during the Victorian period. We knew about them as they had been partially uncovered in the 1990s, so when the wall became damp because of a leaking external downpipe, we realised this might be potentially disastrous – and it became a race against time to protect the paintings.

We took the plaster off and called in specialists to work on the flaking 17th-century paint with lime and grout work. Trust Conservation Projects Manager, Dr Neil Rushton, had led the quick-thinking response when he carried out the inspection in early 2013 that discovered the extent of the damage to the wall paintings. By August 2013, the wall paintings had been conserved to secure their long-term future.

Neil commented: “The expertise within the Trust enables us to identify issues like this – and act fast on them. If we hadn’t worked quickly here, we may well have lost a portion of a 17th-century wall painting.”

We have wonderful, historic features and artefacts in our churches. Help us protect them by donating to our History for the Future fund at [visitchurches.org.uk/historyforthefuture](https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/historyforthefuture). Every £1 you donate is matched by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



Before starting, I was unemployed...I’m now learning something new and I’m working again, which I haven’t done for a while. Hopefully, this is going to lead to something in the future.

Stephen Barlow
Glazier Placement on the All Souls project working with Pendle Stained Glass Ltd

A year in the life of the Trust

From exciting adaptations to heartbreaking disasters, it's been quite a year. These are just some of the stories that have been making the news at the Trust. You can read even more at visitchurches.org.uk/latestnews

April 2013

Award for a 'Canny Space'

The LankellyChase Foundation awarded us a grant of £45,000 to support proposals for The Canny Space – an inspiring project at Holy Trinity church in Sunderland that will provide a high quality space for local people.

Angels swoop to the rescue

Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund awarding just over £2.3 million, and the 'Calling All Angels' campaign raising over £210,000, urgent repair and conservation work at the medieval Grade I listed St Nicholas' Chapel, Kings Lynn in Norfolk got the green light.

May

Hearing the latest in Norfolk and Suffolk

Our Chairman, Loyd Grossman, and the Board of Trustees caught up with developments at nine of our historic churches in the South East of England. During a two-day visit, they met local Friends Groups and volunteers who have been working tirelessly to support the churches.

June

Nationwide appeal gets underway

We launched a major nationwide appeal for our History for the Future programme, designed to safeguard the future of important features and artefacts in our churches. We want to raise £500,000 to secure match funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

visitchurches.org.uk/historyforthefuture

Heritage Minister visits Sandwich churches

We welcomed Heritage Minister, Ed Vaizey to St Mary's and St Peter's churches in Sandwich, Kent. Both are important examples of how we sustain heritage through volunteering, tourism and community use.

July

Two CCT buildings named in top 60 favourite churches

In a list announced by grant-giving body the National Churches Trust, 60 well-known people nominated their favourite UK churches – and two chose churches in our care. St Margaret's, Abbotsley, Cambridge was named by comedian, actor, writer and broadcaster Michael Palin who was married in the church, while yachtsman Sir Robin Knox-Johnston CBE RD nominated Holy Trinity, Torbryan (see August).

August

Theft of irreplaceable painted panels

We were shocked to discover the damage to and theft of panels from a 15th-century oak screen at the remote Holy Trinity, Torbryan in Devon. The screen is one of the most important examples of its kind in the country. Two of the panels, of St Victor of Marseilles and St Margaret of Antioch, were taken and the third, of a female saint, was damaged. It was a devastating blow.

September

Well-attended 200th Anniversary celebration for Georgian Chapel

St John the Evangelist, Chichester is a rare surviving example of a Georgian evangelical preaching house. The chapel is arranged rather like a theatre, and it was dedicated and opened by the Bishop of Chichester in late September 1813. Two hundred years on, The Friends of St John the Evangelist Chapel organised a special Anniversary Address by The Right Revd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester.

October

Boost for a 12th-century church and 17th-century inn

A project to conserve and develop St Peter's, Northampton and the adjacent 'Old Black Lion' became one of the first to receive a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Heritage Enterprise scheme.

Another sell-out Annual Lecture

Ptolemy Dean is Surveyor of the Fabric of Westminster Abbey and was part of the BBC series 'Restoration'. We are most grateful to him for delivering our sell-out 2013 Annual Lecture – 'The Joy of Church Repair'.

October

Congratulations to our 'volunteers of the year'

The ceremony for the Marsh Volunteer of the Year Awards 2013 took place at our Annual Lecture in October and included the addition of two new awards, the Young Volunteer and the National Impact prize. Lorraine Ryan of the Marsh Christian Trust – which sponsors the awards, joined Loyd Grossman for the awarding of the prizes. Congratulations to our winners – and a huge thank you to all our volunteers.

The winners were:

North

Friends of Old Christ Church, Waterloo
led by their Chairman, John Bramham

South East

Friends of St Mary's Church, Bungay
led by their Chairman, Martin Evans

West

Rowena Tulloch – a Conservation Intern

National Impact Volunteer

Dr Janet Townsend-Stojic

Young Volunteer of the Year

Gemma Eddleston, Lincolnshire

November

Heritage skills at work in Bolton

This month saw the start of six paid training placements on the flagship project at All Souls, Bolton, funded by the National Heritage Training Groups 'Building Traditional Skills' – a Heritage Lottery Funded programme. The placements were in Heritage Glazing, Heritage Masonry and Heritage Roofing. Read more about this project on page 7.

December

Wellbeing and heritage in Ipswich

The beautiful medieval church of St Mary at the Quay, Ipswich is becoming a centre for relaxation and calm, with a modern extension to house complementary therapies, and performance and business spaces. We are working in partnership with Suffolk Mind, and this month saw the preparatory archaeological work, with help from a £3.6m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

All these projects were made possible by your generous support. Please help us to achieve even more by encouraging friends and family to join the CCT.

visitchurches.org.uk/howtohelp

January 2014

Wifi comes to Swaffham Prior

An event at St Cyriac & St Julitta, Swaffham Prior, Cambridgeshire celebrated a new addition to the building: radio equipment to improve broadband speed for villagers. Being one of the highest points in the village, the church tower was the perfect location for the equipment. Reach and Swaffham Prior (RaSP) community broadband, a voluntary and strictly not-for-profit group was behind the new development.

February

Getting ready for Gloucestershire craft skills courses

This month, we were busy planning new craft skills courses to run at All Saints, Shorncliffe in April. They encompassed traditional craft building skills such as pointing, flashing, masonry repairs, lime washing and leadwork, and were led by specialist craftspeople and conservationists.

March

European visitors keen to find out more about our work

We hosted a seminar for 20 European delegates that included a site visit to All Souls, Bolton and a day at Manchester Cathedral. It was part of the ALTERheritage programme. Read more this about at www.frh-europe.org/alterheritage

Volunteers rewarded with free getaway

Fellow heritage conservation charity the Landmark Trust awarded 50 charities, including CCT, a free weekend stay to offer to volunteers. Deciding whom to award it to was really tough. We settled on The Friends of St Thomas á Becket tower, Pensford in Somerset to thank them for their hard work this year.

Congratulations Neil and Donna!

Dr Neil Rushton, our Conservation Projects Manager in the West region, has won a Cultural Heritage Champion Award at The Charity Staff Volunteer Awards 2014. Donna Heenan, Major Donor Manager for CCT, was also shortlisted for the Professional Fundraiser of the Year Award.