

# Saving historic churches together

Your Annual Review 2017-18



THE CHURCHES  
CONSERVATION TRUST

# Saving historic churches together

## Annual Review 2017-18

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# Welcome



The Trust does important work. While the 'to do' list can seem daunting – beautiful buildings need constant care and attention (and that means money and expertise) – the skill and passion of our staff and volunteers is inspiring. Our thanks go to all our donors and members, DCMS, the Church Commissioners and – via players of the National Lottery – to the Heritage Lottery Fund for their continuing support.

Every one of our churches is unique and each faces different opportunities and challenges. In the summer, the Trustees visited several churches along the Thames Valley over two days. The contrast between St Bartholomew's, Lower Basildon, and All Saints', Shirburn, was stark. Both are superb and full of historical and artistic interest; but there the similarity ends. The former has been brought to life by a dedicated, happy and growing group of local supporters; the latter has a spooky air of sadness, and gaining access can seem difficult (awkward

neighbours) – but if you are in the area, do go; you will have a very rewarding experience.

As we look towards our 50th anniversary events next year, it is increasingly clear that our assets are not just buildings but people. It is no accident that our mission is to 'Inspire People', 'Protect Heritage' and 'Create Value'. We need to put people right at the heart of all we do. This means engaging with communities to ask them what they want from us and what we can do for them. We may own our churches, but in fact they belong to the places where they are. By inspiring people, we can better protect our heritage and create lasting social and economic value. That is the principal aim of our evolving strategy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Ainsworth'.

**Peter Ainsworth**  
CCT Chairman



In my first year as Chief Executive of the Churches Conservation Trust, I have been able to travel around the country and visit more of our ever-growing collection of historic churches. We have 353 sites at present and it is at these churches that the congregation have not been able to continue to support the building within the traditional structure of the Church of England.

When the community has a partnership with CCT, we can not only save the precious fabric of the building, but also continue to ensure the building brings people together to use it in a myriad of ways. We open to visitors and support the local community to provide events whilst ensuring these iconic buildings remain part of the landscape or streetscape.

With an increasingly secular age, I worry that the parish church building is in danger of becoming misunderstood and irrelevant. We mustn't let this happen and I believe

that all of us who care for these precious pieces of the past have a duty to tell their story, to be their voice and to encourage them to be valued and used.

We continue to adapt, innovate and evolve to tackle the challenges that face our historic places of worship; we stand ready with our experience, skills and infrastructure to support all the communities who care for these buildings.

I am really looking forward to our 50th anniversary year in 2019 and in particular to my fundraising challenge, which will see me visiting 50 of our churches in 50 hours. I do hope that you will give your support. I believe that together we can secure the future of this great collection of churches, for everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Aiers'.

**Peter Aiers**  
CCT Chief Executive

# 1969 — 2019

## Saving historic churches for 50 years

The Churches Conservation Trust was originally established in 1969 as the Redundant Churches Fund, a unique partnership of church, state and charity which was the result of tireless campaigning by a pioneering group of 1960s church heritage enthusiasts. If it hadn't been for the commitment of these local communities and campaigners, many of our most precious historic churches might have been lost forever.



1960

The mid-20th century was a challenging time for historic churches, with historic buildings sometimes seen as an impediment to progress rather than a benefit to society.

By the 1960s, many churches had fallen into disrepair and were threatened with demolition. No formal mechanism existed for caring for churches where parishes felt they could no longer afford to keep going.

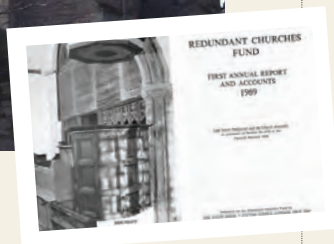
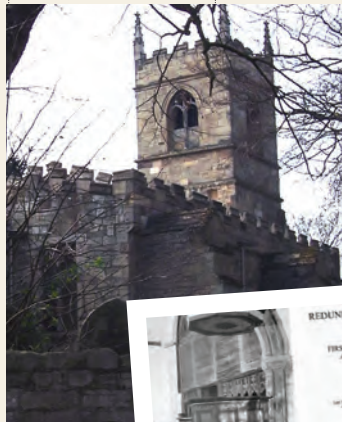


1969

A pioneering group of church heritage enthusiasts including Ivor Bulmer-Thomas, a former Member of Parliament, journalist and Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, campaigned for the protection of these priceless buildings.

In 1968, the Church of England's Pastoral Measure established a body called the Redundant Churches Fund to care for closed churches of particular historic or architectural value, transferring responsibility from the Church Commissioners.

The 1969 Redundant Churches and Other Religious Buildings Act empowered the Secretary of State for the Environment, with the approval of the Treasury, to make grants to the new body. The Redundant Churches Trust became a unique partnership of church, state and charity.



1971

Ivor Bulmer-Thomas – who had already been instrumental in the establishment of our sister charity, The Friends of Friendless Churches in 1957, before he decided to throw his weight behind the establishment of the Redundant Churches Fund – became our first chairman.

Our first church, St Peter's at Edlington, in the coalfields of South Yorkshire, came into our care in 1971. By that time, the church had its roof and windows removed in an attempt to turn it into a ruin.

St Peter's was a Grade I listed medieval church in a disadvantaged area with few other historic or community buildings. Since it has been in our care, it has become a valued community and arts building, regularly used by local schools and colleges.



1979

By 1979, we were looking after 147 churches, rising to more than 250 by the time of our 21st birthday.

1994

In 1994, we were renamed The Churches Conservation Trust, and by 1999 we were responsible for 320 churches.

2018

Today, more than 345 churches are in our care and we continue to take on more each year.

If it hadn't been for the commitment of local communities and national campaigners back in the 1960s, many of the historic churches might have been lost forever.





Our work is vital if we are to preserve these important buildings for the use of future generations. With our help, and with your support, they are kept open and in use – living once again at the heart of their communities.

# Facts and figures 2017-2018



1.78 million  
visitors to our  
churches



1,780,000



126 free and fun family  
learning events



74 bespoke sessions for  
schools to explore their local  
church for creative learning  
outside the classroom

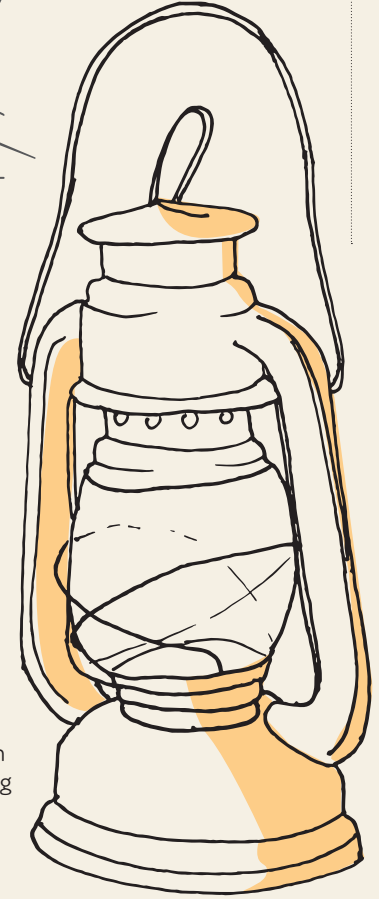


2 projects shortlisted  
for the SPAB Betjeman  
Award: the repaired altar  
rail at Leigh Chancel and the  
historic glazing at Sapperton,  
Gloucestershire

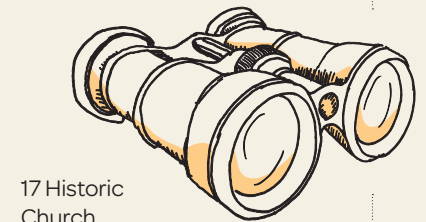


1,700

1,700 people  
went Champing™:  
a rise of 1,000 from  
last year, generating  
£80,000



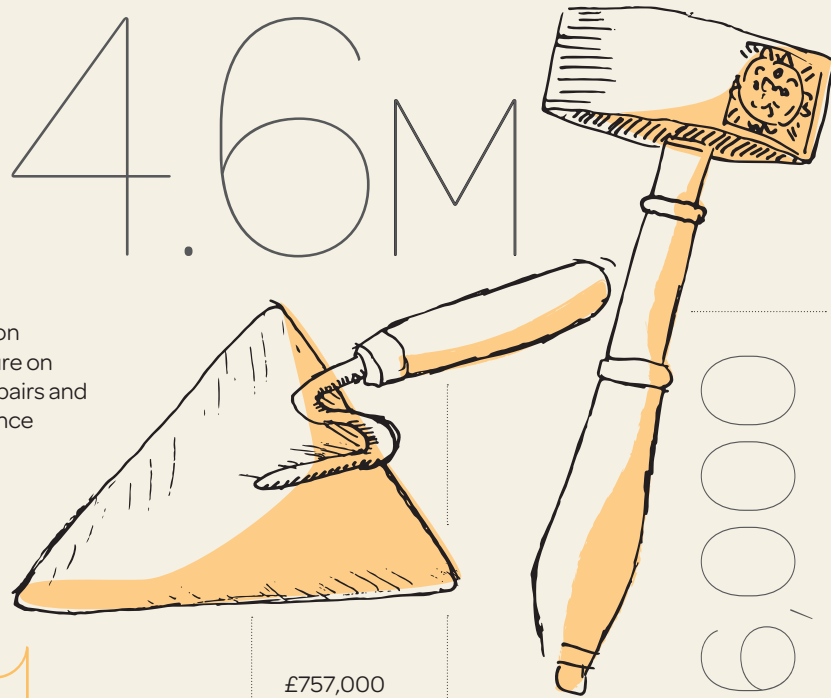
17



17 Historic  
Church  
Tours in 2017

£4.6M

£4.6 million expenditure on church repairs and maintenance



£1M

Over £1 Million\* worth of press and media coverage for Champing™\*Advertising Value Equivalent



£982,000 unrestricted donations and earned income: a rise of 20% from previous year

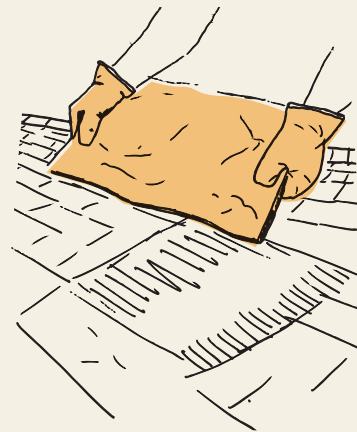
20%

£757,000 total donations to CCT, a rise of 16% from previous year

£757,000

Legacies provided £216,000 of unrestricted income

£216,000



91%

91% expenditure spent on frontline projects

3 churches saved from closure by CCT: St Peter's, Gamston, Nottinghamshire; Low Ham, Langport, Somerset and All Saints', Dodington, Somerset

3



£2.87 MILLION

£2.87 million grant secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the £4.3 million Canny Space project in Holy Trinity, Sunderland



1,800

1,800 regular volunteers in all regions

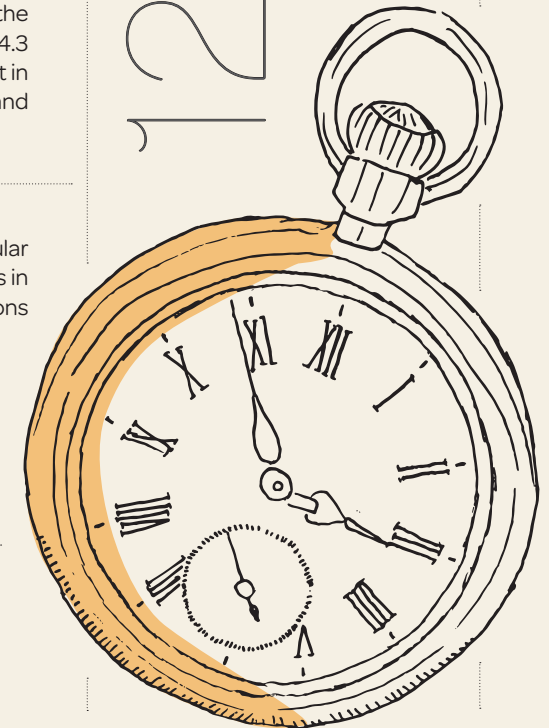
To read a full copy of our statutory accounts, go to [visitchurches.org.uk/accounts](http://visitchurches.org.uk/accounts)

40 community groups supported by our Regeneration team

40

120,330

120,330 hours estimated to have been worked by our volunteers





# Recent achievements

## Champing™ goes from strength to strength

The 2017 Champing™ season was launched in style at All Saints' Church, Aldwincle, Northamptonshire, with special celebrity guest Reverend Richard Coles. The Champing™ season, which ran from March to September saw nearly 1,700 people camp overnight in one of 12 CCT churches.

Champing™ has captured the imagination of people across the world and garnered wide-ranging media content.

'This night goes down on our list of one of the loveliest things we've ever done!'

'Where else can you spend the night in such an ancient building? The whole experience was truly magical.'

Image © Joseph Casey

# Our new churches

CCT's collection of historic churches continues to grow: find out about our three new churches below.



**Fine medieval church with a hidden secret**  
**All Saints' Church,**  
**Dodington, Somerset**

Grade I listed All Saints' Church in Dodington is likely to have been constructed in the 12th century. The building serves as a memorial to Admiral Sir Edward Codrington (1770-1851), Commander of HMS Orion in the Battle of Trafalgar. Inside, the church features a Jacobean-style altar, a wooden Victorian pulpit and Gothic-style lectern, and a perpendicular-style

octagonal font beneath a fine moulded timber roof structure with traces of a medieval paint scheme. In January 2018, CCT's conservators discovered historic paint schemes that have been hidden for hundreds of years. CCT has a strict policy against uncovering wall paintings and other features if the process could be damaging to them, which would help us to understand how old they are and how extensive the schemes might be. The fantastic colour schemes of our medieval forebears will therefore remain hidden for now, for another generation to explore.



**A beautiful and isolated church with no dedication**  
**Low Ham Church,**  
**Langport, Somerset**

Known locally as the 'Church in the Field', this Grade I listed building was constructed around 1620 by Sir Edward Hext, Lord of the Manor. Unusually it has no dedication and features a Gothic style, which was very rare in the 17th century. Inside, visitors can see 17th-century fabric, fine floors, pews and glass. Writings

by the rector of High Ham in the 16th century suggest two earlier churches existed on the same site. A wall found during recent repair works – which will need further research – may also suggest the possibility of a prior church. There is evidence of Roman occupation in the area; the remains of a Roman villa were excavated nearby in 1946. The church is currently undergoing repair and conservation and is expected to reopen in late spring/early summer 2019.



**A medieval treasure saved by Sir George Gilbert Scott**  
**St Peter's Church,**  
**Gamston, Nottinghamshire**

The earliest surviving elements of this beautiful stone-built church date from the 13th century, but the site is believed to have been in ecclesiastical use since Saxon times. The 14th century tower boasts a complete ring of six bells of exceptional significance. Five

are dated 1721, and the sixth is a war memorial dated 1918-24. St Peter's was extensively restored by Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1855. The unusual rood stair turret projecting above the roofline on the north-east corner of the nave is often attributed to this restoration, but it seems likely that Scott only repaired (or perhaps altered) it because a turret is clearly indicated on a 1773 sketch held in the British Library.

# Heritage skills for the future

Worcester city-centre church awarded £23,000

St Swithun's, a Grade I listed historic church in the heart of Worcester, received a £23,000 award by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation in November 2017 to develop its skills training programme. The foundation, which gives grants to support aspiring actors, musicians and craftspeople, has given the award to support a 12-month paid heritage skills apprenticeship, as part of a wider arts and culture project at the city centre church. In particular, the foundation aims to

break down barriers to engagement in the arts and heritage. Many of the organisations rewarded will use their grant to specifically engage young people and those from hard-to-reach and minority backgrounds.

This generous grant followed funding of £1.6 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable St Swithun's to be repaired, conserved and transformed into a cutting edge space that creatively uses sound and art to engage, enthuse

and inspire a greater connection between local people and their cultural heritage and history.

Significant repair works are needed to the roof and external masonry as well as original 18th-century internal features including the wooden fixtures and plaster ceiling. The apprentices will have the chance to learn a new trade during a 12-month placement. They will work on the project to transform this Grade I listed historic church into a contemporary arts centre.





'Capturing mega-pixel photographs of medieval wall paintings in Broughton' © Google Arts and Culture.

## Inspiring a future generation through digital channels

At CCT we know we must engage new audiences, such as children and young people, in our work and the exceptional history and heritage that we care for. Our Learning and Participation team are central to our effort to achieve this. The Heritage Schools programme, in partnership with Historic England and part-funded by The Department for Education, has allowed us to work with over 16,500 children at our sites over the past five years.

Our expert Heritage Learning Officers have developed engaging activities and learning resources, tailored to a surprising range of topics, closely integrated with almost all the core curriculum subjects. It has allowed us to develop partnerships with schools, increase visitor numbers and understand a great deal about the opportunities, needs and interests of children and young people using these historic spaces.

Looking forward, it is clear that we must embrace new ways of engaging our audiences. Digital platforms are increasingly embedded into our everyday lives and data collected by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport shows that the number of adults engaging with heritage online increases year on year (26% of UK adults in 2016/17)

As a result, CCT has embarked on a programme of work to bring our digital learning into the present day and make it fit for the future. Our first phase is to launch a partnership with Google. This is a platform which

hosts digital content drawn from permanent collections from over 90 British cultural institutions including Tate and the National Gallery. We will provide access to hundreds of images from our collection and street views which allow people across the globe to explore and move around our churches from the comfort of their own home. We've also curated a few virtual exhibitions on specific themes to begin to tell those captivating stories of our churches to new audiences.

Producing our own digital content to showcase our collection of buildings helps us challenge perceptions and sets the wheels in motion to inspire more people to visit historic churches. We work on the basis that our churches are open to all and soon we will be truly able to reach those who cannot access, or would not normally consider visiting, our churches.



Above: All Saints' Church, Benington, under construction

## Regeneration consultancy service

Building a future for historic places of worship

Our Regeneration Team works in partnership with all kinds of community groups, charities, social enterprises, businesses and entrepreneurs, to breathe new life into under-used places of worship. With experience across a range of sectors including community regeneration, planning and social enterprise, historic conservation, site interpretation and project management, the team work with local people to deliver award winning projects.

Since 2013 we've been providing our regeneration consultancy service direct to other groups, parishes and dioceses around the country and abroad to develop community-led regeneration schemes.

One group we've been supporting is Benington Community Heritage Trust (BCHT). A local charity based in South Lincolnshire, we were initially appointed to manage the development of their successful £1.8M Heritage Lottery Funded bid and latterly to manage the construction programme which will transform the medieval church of All Saints' into a vibrant community hub.

The village of Benington, like so many rural communities, has suffered a complete loss of local services. Gone are the shop, post office, school and butchers.

The Beonna at All Saints' will revive the fortunes of this rural

community, creating new jobs, learning opportunities and attract investment into the area. A new social space for local people to use and hire will be provided, helping to foster a greater sense of pride and inclusion in an area suffering from increased social fragmentation. The Beonna will be launching in 2019.

## Successful campaigning

A bright future for Holy Trinity Church, Sunderland

In October 2017, CCT launched a campaign to save the nationally important Holy Trinity Church in Sunderland and to give it a sustainable future. Our ambitious project was to repair and adapt the church into a multi-use centre for community events, music, performance, crafts and storytelling with support from local partners and volunteers from the local community.

Holy Trinity was once located at the heart of Sunderland. Built in 1719 near the town's busy docks, the building housed the city's first public library, civic rooms, Magistrates' Court and even the local fire engine as well as serving as the parish church. It was used and loved by countless people. But gradually the city centre shifted and Holy Trinity fell out of use.

Several years of consultation have led to this plan. This includes building feasibility, building investigation and costings, community consultation, stakeholder and partners consultation. We have also undertaken extensive consultation and investigation work to inform project development.

We had a tremendous response to our online campaign, and in March 2018, we received a £2.8 million National Lottery grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The new project will give the historic building a new life. It will provide a space for local people to meet, collaborate, create and develop life-changing skills. There

will be an on-going programme of community events and professional performances and visitors to the site will also be able to see and hear stories of Sunderland's past. We are delighted that Sunderland-born Dave Stewart from the Eurythmics has joined the Canny Space project as Creative Director. Dave recently recorded some tracks for a forthcoming album at the church and believes this building could be a real asset to the local community and young people of Sunderland.

Work will start on-site in April 2019 and the new centre will be due to open in June 2020.

**Thank you to all our supporters who have helped to make this exciting project happen!**

Below: Dave Stewart at the Canny Space © Jonny Elliott



# Thank you to all of our supporters

We are immensely 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 throughout 2017-18.

## Our Sponsors

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport  
The Church Commissioners of the Church of England

## Trusts, Foundations and Organisations

Allchurches Trust Ltd  
Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Awareness Fund  
BW Eddershaw Charitable Trust  
The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport  
Department for Communities and Local Government (Coastal Revival Fund)  
Fitzwilliam Wentworth Amenity Trust  
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Stephen Dawson and Tom Peers  
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Michael Rimmer  
Professor Andrew Spicer  
Dave Stewart

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Anthony Bennett  
Professor Victor Bulmer-Thomas CMG, OBE  
The Revd. Richard Coles  
Edward Harley OBE, DL  
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## Corporate Partners

Dave Stewart Entertainment  
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## 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  
Paul Mollard

## In Memoriam

CCT would like to record its gratitude for the support of the late Rosalyn Hamer

# Volunteers of the year

Volunteers are CCT's greatest asset, and without their dedicated support we would not be able to fulfil our mission to care for historic churches and bring them back into the heart of their communities.

Below: Lynda Dale, volunteer of the year, South East © Graham White



On Friday 26 January, we celebrated the outstanding contributions of our volunteers at a special event at St Pancras Renaissance Hotel in London. The award winners were:

**Volunteer of the year, North: Ruth Bertenshaw, St Mary's, Shrewsbury**

Ruth is our first CCT Learning Ambassador and is passionate that children should feel welcomed, inspired, and proud of our churches. She has used her talent for illustration to create a beautiful (and very popular!) trail around St Mary's called the Jesse Trail.

**Volunteer of the year, South East: Lynda Dale, St Mary's, Stansted Mountfitchet**

Lynda is committed to making sure the church that she lives next door to is cared for and loved. She has developed a circle of good friends and neighbours who are keen to host events in and around the church to raise funds. Thanks to Lynda's leadership, the group has developed a number of ideas to improve the church, which has led to greater visitor numbers and increased donations.

**Volunteer of the year, West: Will Scott, St Swithun's, Worcester**

Over the last 10 years, and under Will's leadership, the Friends group has flourished and succeeded in opening up this almost forgotten city centre



Above: Philip Box, young volunteer of the year © Graham White

church. Highlights include restoring the superb organ, organising the St Swithun's festival and securing £2.4 million in funding to conserve and adapt the church for future use. Will's conservation expertise, good humour and determination to care for the church have been key to this success.

**Young volunteers of the year: Wouter Van Hest, National Office, London, and Philip Box, West Regional Office**

Wouter came to the UK specifically to gain experience with CCT and spent six months as a full-time volunteer. He was the main coordinator of our international conference, bringing 100 professionals from 12 countries together and was also instrumental in delivering the National Volunteering Day in 2017.

Philip was a great support during Director of Regions Colin Shearer's fundraising epic bicycle ride in summer 2017, helping with the planning and social media campaign. Ultimately the cycle ride raised over £3,000 for CCT. Philip has also contributed to the very successful Church Tourism Week Twitter campaign.

**National fundraising volunteer of the year: Barbara Townsend and Jennie Hart, All Saints', Idmiston**  
Jennie and Barbara have organised

a plethora of creative fundraising events for CCT, including a superb wedding dress exhibition and a Bygone Bourne Valley local history exhibition. The latter of these was attended and opened by former DCMS Parliamentary Under Secretary John Glen. The dynamic duo also never fail to support CCT's seasonal campaigns including Summer Tea Parties and Christmas Memory Tree events.

**Volunteer team of the year: friends of St Mary's Old Church, West Bergholt**

The Friends group at St Mary's took on a challenging project to raise £10,000 to meet the target for restoring the church. Within six months, the target had been reached, from a variety of events and activities and persistent support from friends, neighbours and villagers. Thanks to their hard endeavours, the project is now underway.

**Champing™ volunteer of the year, North: Alan Staniforth, Fylingdales**

Alan has been wonderfully supportive to the CCT North team during what has been a difficult time for all involved with St Stephen's Church, Fylingdales. Alan continues to open St Stephen's every day and has supported Champing™ throughout the past year, even offering his own accommodation for the cause. He has been an

incredible advocate for everything CCT stands for.

**Champing™ volunteer of the year, South East: Philip Lewis, Fordwich**

Philip inspires his team to promote the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Fordwich, and raise funds. This includes finding sponsors for the Christmas Memory Tree, hosting Historic Church Tours and being a Champing™ champion. Philip's beamy smile and positive attitude always give his team a great boost.

**Champing™ volunteer of the year, West: Stephen Dawson, Chiselhampton**

Stephen was proactive in persuading the CCT Champing™ Team to run the initiative at St Katherine's Church, Chiselhampton. He has played an integral role in rallying community support, organising drop-in days and photo shoots of the church. In 2017 Chiselhampton has had 70 bookings, just over 200 guests and raised over £9,000.

The CCT Volunteer Awards is generously sponsored by the Marsh Christian Trust. **If you would like to find out more about volunteering with the Churches Conservation Trust, visit our website: [visitchurches.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer.html](http://visitchurches.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer.html)**

Below: Wouter Van Hest, Young volunteer of the year © Graham White





Site-specific art by Rana Begum at St Peter's Cambridge © Adrian Powter

# A year in the life of CCT

## May 2017

Quay Place received The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Building Conservation Award, East of England. The award, which honours excellent work in the conservation of historic buildings, recognised the ground-breaking project which saw a partnership between CCT and Suffolk Mind to transform the medieval St Mary's Church into a unique heritage and wellbeing centre.

## June 2017

CCT Director of Regions, Colin Shearer, undertook a 350-mile sponsored bike ride to raise funds and celebrate Church Tourism Week, visiting 20 churches and raising over £3,000.

## July 2017

The Church of The Holy Sepulchre, Warminghurst, West Sussex, reopened after a year-long project to replace the Horsham slate roof. The project was made possible through fundraising by the friends group and a grant from The Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund.

## July 2017

Our second ever Church Tourism Week saw 53 events taking place across our churches and included five partner organisations. This largely digital campaign had a

combined reach of 5 million on social media.

## September 2017

Heritage Open Days takes place across our churches, with volunteers and friends groups running events, from textiles talks in Cambridge to family activities in York.

## October 2017

Peter Aiers takes the helm as CEO, taking over from Crispin Truman, OBE. Having been with CCT for 10 years already, Peter had previously worked as Director of the South East and North regions and Head of Regeneration.

## October 2017

Filming takes place at the Church

of St Peter & St Paul, Albury, Surrey, for the film, *Mary Queen of Scots*. The scenes at the church feature the actor David Tennant, who plays John Knox, and over 100 extras. *Mary Queen of Scots* will be in cinemas January 2019.

## November 2017

We were delighted to host acclaimed broadcaster, historian and CCT Vice President Dr Bettany Hughes to deliver our Annual Lecture, which took place in London. The 2017 lecture was a sell-out and guests were delighted to hear

**Below:** Extras wait for their cue whilst filming a scene for the film, *Mary Queen of Scots* at the Church of St Peter & St Paul, Albury © Rachel Morley



Bettany's illustrated lecture, *The Tale of Three Spiritual Cities*.

#### December 2017

Party-goers enjoyed a three-course meal and then danced the night away under the medieval roof angels at St Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn. This is the first year in a series of Christmas parties held at the chapel as part of CCT's commercial venture.

#### December 2017

A number of CCT churches were host to Christmas Memory Trees, with each being carefully decorated by friends and volunteers and some were even sponsored by a local business. Visitors were encouraged to write messages to hang on the tree to remember loved ones, with extra donations in the wall safe also being gratefully received.

#### January 2018

CCT launched a new season of Champing™, with an additional 16 churches. New sites included the remote St Peter's, Wolfhamcote, on the site of a deserted medieval village and St James', Cooling, which

provided Charles Dickens with the inspiration for the churchyard in the opening of *Great Expectations*.

#### January 2018

CCT volunteers came together at the CCT Annual Volunteers Day at the magnificent St Pancras Hotel in London.

#### February 2018

Holy Trinity Church, York, hosted an independent, artisan market offering the finest in Viking-era crafts as part of the annual JORVIK Viking Festival.

#### February 2018

Hundreds of families came to Cambridge to experience Twilight at the Museums – a national event encouraging new audiences to engage with heritage. At All Saints' Cambridge, families took UV torches and went in search of hidden glowing monsters in an activity called Neon Navigation.

#### February 2018

Clubbing in the Crypt, an intergenerational family activity, was held at St John on the Wall, Bristol, as part of Bristol Family

Arts and Age Friendly. Nearly 400 'clubbers' queued up to get in and a variety of music was played from the 1950s onwards.

#### March 2018

In partnership with the newly reopened Kettle's Yard in Cambridge, St Peter's, Cambridge, hosted a new piece of site-specific art by Rana Begum. Begum's work invites contemplation and quiet, and received very positive feedback from visitors.

#### March 2018

The newly-vested church of St Peter's, Gamston, Nottinghamshire, saw local primary school children using maths and science in real-life situations. This included a simplified site inspection, measuring using trundle wheels and long tape measures, and taking readings of temperature and humidity and comparing them. This activity is now available to other schools and is intended to become part of a new 'vesting package', based on STEM learning, for schools in the future.

#### March-April 2018

53 CCT churches hosted lunches to celebrate the Commonwealth, coinciding with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London. The lunches provided an opportunity for people to get together to celebrate local and global connections through food.

**Far left:** Christmas parties with a difference at St Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn © Matthew Usher

**Top Left:** Local school children at St Peter's Church, Gamston

**Bottom Left:** Families search for glowing monsters at All Saints', Cambridge © Adrian Powter

**Right:** A Commonwealth lunch taking place at St Michael's Church, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire © Adrian Powter



Commonwealth lunches provided an opportunity for people to get together to celebrate local and global connections through food.





Quay Place received The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Building Conservation Award, East of England.

©Andy Marshall

# Our strategic aims for the future

CCT's purpose is to conserve a collection of historic churches on behalf of the nation. Its current mission is to 'Inspire People', 'Protect Heritage' and 'Create Value'.

This mission has established some examples of extremely meaningful and effective community engagement, and delivered ambitious expert projects across our collection.

As we begin the next five years of our journey, change is needed to ensure that CCT addresses and meets the challenges and opportunities we see

in the communities our churches rely on – and to ensure that all staff and volunteers have access to the best possible infrastructure and support to achieve this.

Our refreshed focus for 2019-2024 is for CCT to support local communities to care for historic churches and places of worship through:

## 1

A **network** of local **community** engagement and **support**, maintaining these buildings as special and **welcoming** – open to all.

- Supporting communities, volunteers and groups to care for their historic churches (CCT churches), with greater emphasis on local liaison and partnership.



## 2

World class **conservation expertise** and specialist services.



- Offering our skills and infrastructure to other places of worship. This will include maintenance, volunteer support, fundraising support, project development and project management consultancy.
- We will also continue to develop commercial products such as Champing™, which can benefit other places of worship.
- Venue hire and filming will continue to be offered and will be more efficient.

## 3

Promoting the **value** and **understanding** of our shared **religious heritage**.



- We will create a movement of people who care for historic churches and places of worship.
- We will gather as many people as we can to the cause of historic places of worship being important to society.
- We will increase membership and participation so that we have a stronger voice to society and government and can emphasise the importance of these buildings to our culture.
- We will develop our own clear learning strategy that is focused on expressing why these buildings are important and inspire the next generation to care for them.

# The year ahead

50 for 50! We'll be holding 50 special events across our churches throughout the anniversary year – see some of the highlights below:

Over the course of the year, we will be holding a number of events, both nationally and locally, to celebrate our work and to thank our supporters and volunteers.

**12 February**  
**Volunteer conference, British Library**

Conference and awards ceremony, celebrating the contribution of our 2,000 volunteers across the country. 2019's volunteer conference will also provide an opportunity for CCT to discuss its new strategy and internally launch our 50th anniversary celebrations, in which our volunteers will be integral.

**1 April**  
**50th anniversary launch**

Our public 50th anniversary celebrations will formally launch with a celebration event at Edlington in South Yorkshire – CCT's first vesting.

**7 May**  
**King's Lynn celebration event**

A celebration event bringing together our staff, volunteers, and Trustees to launch the 50th anniversary and new organisational strategy.

**23 May**  
**Lambeth Palace Garden Party**

A summer garden party for high-level funders, volunteers and stakeholders involved directly in CCT churches across the country.

**June (various dates)**  
**Eden Communities Big Walk and Big Lunches**

CCT will be working in partnership with Eden Communities to celebrate their annual Big Lunch and Big Walk mass participation events with communities across the country.

**June**  
**Peter Aiers' fundraising challenge**

CCT's CEO takes on the challenge of visiting 50 churches in 50 hours, to raise funds and awareness.

**September**  
**Public debate, V&A**

Simon Jenkins will be joined by a panel for a public debate around the care of historic churches.

**October**  
**Exhibition launch, V&A**

The V&A will display our unique rose brass from St. Mary's, Edlesborough, for 12 months.

**October**  
**Chancel Club Lunch**

Our annual lunch for Chancel Club members will provide an update to these high-level donors on our 50th anniversary celebrations and successes.



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, 353 historic churches might have disappeared entirely and with them irreplaceable architecture, art and archaeology spanning over 1,000 years of history.

www.visitchurches.org.uk  
 Email: central@thecct.org.uk  
 Telephone: 0845 303 2760  
 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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OD&A – odanda.net

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 Carol Pyrah (from April 2018)

**Chair of the Finance and**

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