



THE CHURCHES  
CONSERVATION TRUST

## Annual Review 2016-17



# Welcome to your 2016–17 Annual Review

In my first year as Chair of CCT, I have visited many of our churches in Norfolk, Dorset, Essex, Warwickshire and Shropshire. In every case, I have been struck by their beauty. In some, there is a sadness too: these are places, which time, economics and people have left behind. Yet they stand there still – a testament to the faith of past generations. They pose a question: what next? Part of the answer is provided by the partnership forged with Suffolk Mind at Quay Place, Ipswich. There is more about that project in this report.

The range, depth and importance of CCT's work is easily overlooked. Taking care of historic buildings isn't simply about bricks and mortar, corbels and clerestories; it is about making places live for now and for the future.

I have got to know many of the brilliant people who work at CCT; their enthusiasm and expertise is impressive. We are deeply grateful to those who support us in Government, the Church of England, through funding such as the Heritage Lottery Fund, and to those who help us simply because they care: the volunteers, Friends groups and donors who so lovingly dedicate their time and energy.

This year we bid farewell to our Chief Executive, Crispin Truman, after almost 14 years. Crispin has done an outstanding job for CCT and we owe him a great debt of gratitude.

I look forward to working with all those who love and believe in the redemptive power of our churches in the run-up to our 50th anniversary in 2019.



**Peter Ainsworth**  
Chairman

2016–17 has been another fantastic year for CCT. We launched *Pinnacle*, our new members' magazine, hosted an international conference exploring the relationship between heritage and wellbeing, and pioneered 'Church Keys', a programme of contemporary music concerts in partnership with Dave Stewart Enterprises. We also launched our latest regeneration project – Quay Place wellbeing centre – a partnership with Suffolk Mind, which saved a Grade II\* 'at risk' church.

We continue to benefit from the support and confidence of our sponsors and funders, to whom we are very grateful. Grant-in-Aid from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and the Church Commissioners provided 45% of our income in 2016–17. Since 2013, CCT has consistently generated over 50% of its income from voluntary, commercial, lottery and independent foundations. Indeed, total donations to CCT rose to £651,000 – an incredible 42% increase on last year.

This year I was honoured to be awarded an OBE for my work on behalf of CCT. This honour reflects the immense contribution and role played by every one of our staff and volunteers in making CCT such a dynamic force within the heritage sector. When I joined CCT in 2003 I could never have imagined the wonderful experiences, achievements, lessons and friendships the following 14 years would bring.

It is with some sadness and much pride that I leave CCT. However, I leave it in very capable hands and with an exciting future ahead. My thanks to you and all of the individuals and organisations who have helped us save so much incredible heritage and put many beautiful historic churches back at the heart of communities, through your support of CCT.



**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 and with them irreplaceable architecture, art and archaeology spanning over 1,000 years of history.

**Copywriters**  
Rachel Morley  
Liz Parry

**Design**  
Made In Earnest

**Cover**  
Sketch of St John on the Wall, Bristol, by Charlotte Pain, Young Volunteer of the Year

**President**  
His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales

**Vice Presidents**  
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The Rt Hon Frank Field MP DL  
Dame Liz Forgan DBE  
Dr Loyd Grossman CBE FSA  
Jools Holland OBE DL  
Dr Bettany Hughes

**Our Trustees**  
Peter Ainsworth – Chairman  
Jane Weeks – Deputy Chair of Trustees (until March 2017)  
Reverend Duncan Dormor  
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Beth McHattie  
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Humphrey Welfare

**Chair of the Finance, Audit and Resources Committee**  
Duncan Wilson OBE

**The Churches Conservation Trust**  
Society Building  
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London N1 9RL

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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.)

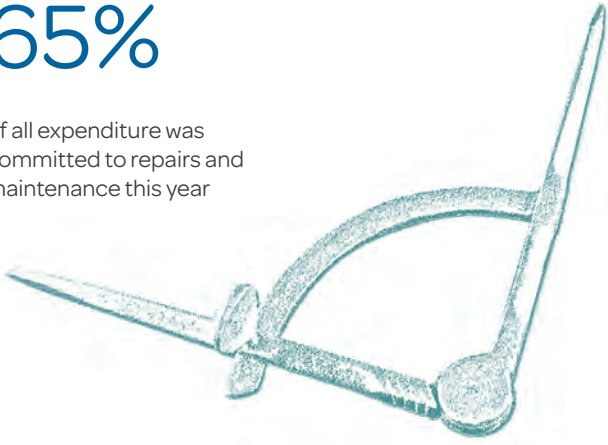
Registered Charity No. 258612



# Looking back ...

65%

of all expenditure was committed to repairs and maintenance this year



1,914

a record number of regular volunteers in all regions



1,949,350

visitors to our churches – an increase of 9,882 on 2015/16

£30,000

raised by Champing™, with 600 Changers bedding down across six sites



50%

since 2013/14, CCT has consistently generated over half of its income from non-Government and Church sources



8.9p

the average visitor donation across all sites

1.4m

people reached via social media during CCT's first ever Church Tourism Week



92%

of expenditure was spent on frontline projects



# 2016–17 in facts and figures



1,805

members as at 31 March 2016 –  
a record high

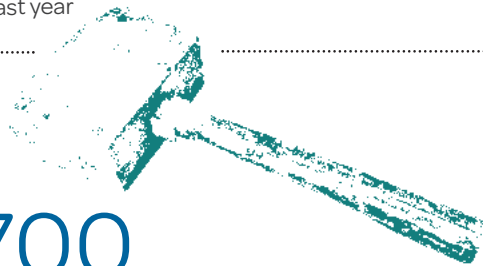
£651,000

the total value of donations to CCT –  
a 42% increase on last year



£83,000

the consultancy income generated by our  
Regeneration team – an increase of over  
25% on last year



1,700

young people and adults attended 28  
learning events across the country



94%

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

9

Historic Church Tours were  
organised throughout 2016/17,  
which introduce members to  
our churches, conservation  
work and local volunteers



£10,000

profit made on our Historic Church Tours in 2016/17

£9,184,283

income

£9,189,061

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

Inspire People  
Protect History  
Create Value

To be delivered via our national strategic programmes

Volunteering  
Visitor Enterprise  
Conservation  
Regeneration  
Fundraising  
Learning and Interpretation

# Thank you to all 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 2016–17.

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## Our Sponsors

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

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## Patrons

Stephen Dawson and Tom Peers  
Debbie Dance MSc MRICS FRSA  
Christopher Knight  
Janet Townsend-Stojic

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## Donors

Ned & Neva Asplundh  
Michael Fowle  
Timothy Ingram Hill  
Richard Taylor

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## Trusts, Foundations And Organisations

Allchurches Trust Ltd  
Arts Council England  
CB and HH Taylor 1984 Trust  
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust  
Francis Coales Charitable Foundation  
Friends of Old Christ Church, Waterloo  
Friends of St Peter's, Sandwich  
Grimley Charity  
Harrison's Charity  
Heritage Lottery Fund  
Historic England  
J Paul Getty Jr General Charitable Trust  
LPH Charitable Trust  
Michael Guest Charitable Foundation  
Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust  
PF Charitable Trust  
Sandwich St Mary's Community Trust  
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council  
SUEZ Communities Trust Ltd  
Suffolk Historic Churches Trust  
The Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund  
The Hawthorne Charitable Trust  
The Ian Addison Charitable Foundation  
The Loppylugs and Barbara Morrison Charitable Trust  
The Monumental Brass Society  
The Paul Bassham Charitable Trust  
The Pettit Charity  
The Ratcliff Foundation  
The Spiller Trust  
The Swire Charitable Trust  
The Veolia Environmental Trust  
WED Charitable Trust  
WREN's FCC Heritage Action Fund

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## Bulmer-Thomas Circle

Peter Aiers  
Anthony Bennett  
Professor Victor Bulmer-Thomas, CMG, OBE  
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The Revd. Richard Coles  
Edward Harley  
Tim Harris  
Peter Hirschmann  
Simon Hood  
Charles Jenkins  
Chris Kenny  
Mark Kirby  
Peter and Pamela Mansfield  
John Newman  
Michael Nussbaum  
Professor Vincent Porter  
Michael Robinson  
Colin and Brenda Soden  
Michael Walker  
Miranda Wilson

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## Chancel Club

Ralph & Elizabeth Aldwinckle  
Michael Bartlett  
Adrian Clark  
Judith Donovan CBE  
Mr James Gilpin  
Rupert Lycett Green  
Michael Rimmer  
Professor Andrew Spicer

Thank you also to our generous donors who have chosen to remain anonymous

# Some recent achievements



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## Gateway churches

This year the number of visitors to all CCT churches increased by 0.5% and by 5% in our Gateway sites.

The Gateway programme is the main focus for our work in increasing visitors and their donations. To achieve this we have worked on upgrading our town centre sites to a high standard of 'visitor experience' – on a par with other heritage attractions.

This year we completed a major DCMS-funded project to improve presentation and information at Holy Trinity, York; St John's, Bristol; St Peter's, Northampton; All Saints', Cambridge and St Peter's, Sandwich. These churches are now operated as visitor attractions. Following the DCMS investment, an evaluation of the Gateway sites has been carried out and learning will inform the next phase of development in 2017/18.

Above: Interpretation at All Saints', Cambridge © J. Casey

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## Pinnacle launched

In October 2016, we launched *Pinnacle*, our exciting new members' magazine. Filled with news, features and interviews covering the whole range of our work, *Pinnacle* is unmissable reading for all lovers of historic church buildings, conservation, history, traditional craft skills, innovative outreach projects and beautiful spiritual spaces.

The publication, which is the result of a highly successful collaboration with the Civil Service Fast Stream secondment, will be issued to members three times a year. As well as a membership benefit, *Pinnacle* is used to engage and inform visitors and volunteers about the working life of the Trust. The revenue generated from advertising income makes the production of the magazine sustainable.

Volunteers, lapsed members and suppliers, in addition to current supporters, all received the first three issues, which has resulted in an increase in members.

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## Bats in Churches

The UK has internationally significant populations of bats and collections of historic churches. With their woodland habitats threatened, bats have been taking sanctuary in our churches. The relationship is not always harmonious, however. Bats can cause serious problems as their droppings can restrict activities, damage historic artefacts and put a strain on the volunteers who look after the buildings.

In late January, we received exciting news that our partnership project Stage 1 application to the HLF had been successful. This has resulted in a five-year Bats in Churches partnership between Natural England, the Church of England, the Bat Conservation Trust, Historic England and the Churches Conservation Trust, which will trial new techniques to discover and enable harmonious relationships between bats, buildings and congregations.

Above right: Volunteering in action at All Saints', East Horndon



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

The Churches Conservation Trust could not function without its hard-working volunteers. It is always difficult to single people out, but seven individuals and one team have been awarded for their exceptional efforts and commitment over the past 12 months.

The winners of the awards, which are sponsored by the Marsh Christian Trust, were announced at a ceremony hosted by the St Pancras Renaissance Hotel and attended by CCT supporters.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to every single volunteer at CCT. Your contribution is vital to keeping these ancient buildings open, looked after and in use. We would not be able to undertake our work without your diligence and dedication.

The winners are:

#### **Beverley Turner Regional Volunteer of the Year (West)**

Beverly was recognised for building up support and visitor numbers at our churches in Oxfordshire. She has breathed new life into the Oxfordshire Volunteer Group by identifying churches that need support as well as setting up events that bring the local community together. Her imaginative and innovative use of media has helped to assemble a diverse group of potential supporters/volunteers.

#### **Astrid Gillespie and Mickey Etches Regional Volunteers of the Year (South East)**

By organising regular open days and engaging the local police and Council, Astrid and Mickey have been proactive in tackling the anti-social behaviour in the access lane, enabling visitors to enjoy All Saints', East Horndon, once again. Most notably, they arranged for 85 employees from a local company to spend a day volunteering to clear the churchyard and clean the church.

#### **Beryl Venables Regional Volunteer of the Year (North)**

Beryl was instrumental in the setting up of the Friends of Milton Mausoleum in 2015, an organisation that has gone from strength to strength in terms of membership and fundraising since its foundation.

Beryl is CCT's main representative in Nottinghamshire and ensures that the nine churches in the county are regularly inspected in terms of conservation issues and visitor presentation.

#### **Alan Redmond Fundraising Volunteer of the Year**

Alan opens and locks Holy Trinity, Halstead, on a daily basis. Beyond this already considerable commitment, he organises teas to fundraise for CCT. What makes this contribution exceptional is that Alan arranges these events independently, without the support of any wider group of volunteers or a Friends committee. This requires exceptional motivation, organisation and commitment, especially to overcome the challenges posed by the lack of running water at the church.

#### **Alice and Charlotte Pain Young Volunteers of the Year**

Alice and Charlotte have used their extensive skills and experience in working with hard-to-reach communities and individuals with learning difficulties to run weekly drawing groups at St John on the Wall, Bristol. These free drop-in sessions have encouraged a broad range of people to explore and connect with the church, using the arts to revitalise and bring the community back to this sacred space.

We are delighted to have Charlotte's sketch of St John on the Wall as the cover image for this year's annual review.

#### **Volunteers at Holy Trinity, Goodramgate Volunteer Team of the Year**

This wonder team has ensured that Holy Trinity, Goodramgate, York, has been open seven days a week for more than five years. Collectively, they have worked 27,131 hours since July 2010 and welcomed over 338,684 visitors.

They manage the site on a daily basis, mentor new team members, travel to other CCT churches to exchange ideas and offer their guidance on best practice, and occasionally attend the CCT Volunteer Advisory Group.

Would you like to volunteer in one of our churches? We offer a vast range of volunteering opportunities.  
**Find out more at**  
[visitchurches.org.uk/volunteer](http://visitchurches.org.uk/volunteer)

# A year in the life of CCT

From a year that has seen successful new initiatives, more churches saved and exciting collaborations, these are just some of the stories that have been making the headlines at CCT.

## Church Tourism Week launched

In July 2016, we launched Church Tourism Week, a nationwide awareness programme to celebrate historic churches. The aim of the week was to combine all our visitor/tourist-related activity together in the first week of the school holidays and label it in a way that would appeal to our target audiences.

There were 36 events nationwide, which received good coverage in local print outlets and regional broadcasts. The events reached 1.4 million people via social media and increased social media engagement by 500% on Twitter and 140% on Facebook.

## Champing™

Our Champing™ initiative has gone from strength to strength. At the end of the 2016 season, we had welcomed 600 guests and generated an income of £30,000. We launched the updated website in January, featuring 12 sites across the CCT collection plus two franchise sites. By the beginning of the 2017 season, more bookings had been made than in the whole of 2016.

## Cyber Essentials

In 2016, CCT achieved Cyber Essentials accreditation, a government-backed scheme which demonstrates that organisations have effective policies and practices in place. A new information security policy has been published and we have undertaken an internal audit on data protection and the use of our contacts database.

## Inspired regeneration

Our Regeneration team's consultancy programme has resulted in new contracts and income, as well as providing wider support to the sector in the UK and abroad. This has included helping St Marylebone Parish Church in London to raise £3 million for its own renewal project and assisting the Church Commissioners in undertaking an options appraisal for St Luke's, Blakenhall, which is on the Victorian Society's 'most endangered' register.

The partnership project Inspired Northeast helped 12 historic churches at risk in the Newcastle Diocese.

## Health & Heritage

The newly launched Quay Place, Ipswich, was the venue for CCT's second biennial conference, Health & Heritage. Organised in partnership with Suffolk Mind and the European network, Future for Religious Heritage, it aimed to inspire action on mental health provision and access to cultural heritage as a positive force for healthy communities.

The programme included two plenary sessions, three keynote speakers and 15 workshops spread over two days, with a study tour along the Suffolk Coast on the third day.

CCT teamed up with generous sponsor OMI Architects to offer bursaries for four students or recent graduates of heritage, conservation or mental health-related degrees to attend the conference.

## Saving St Swithun's

St Swithun's, a Grade I listed Georgian gem in the centre of Worcester, was the focus of our annual appeal throughout 2016-17. The appeal sought funds not only to repair and conserve the historic fabric of the building but also provide facilities and improved access to create a sensory space, which uses sound and art to engage, enthuse and inspire.

We hosted press events and a luncheon with Sir Simon Jenkins and our Chairman, Peter Ainsworth, in the Guildhall, Worcester. At the time of writing, the appeal had raised over £30,000.

## Awards for CCT

Investors in People Silver  
CCT

John Betjeman Award (shortlisted)  
Conservation of Torbryan screen



Champing™ at All Saints',  
Aldwinckle © David Joyner



