

# Church Buildings Team Bulletin

## April 2023



DIOCESE OF LINCOLN  
faithful • confident • joyful

Belchford, St Peter and St Paul



# Welcome

Welcome to the April edition of the Church Buildings Team Bulletin. It's been a whole year since the first edition was published and we are so grateful for the positive comments we have had so far. The purpose of the Bulletin is to keep those who tirelessly (or tiredly) look after our buildings informed of best practice and the most up-to-date information. The primary purpose of our churches is for the worship of Almighty God, but they also fulfil an important part in the life of the whole community and I hope that the content reflects both aspects of this.

This edition contains our usual Good News story which this time is about the work of the good people of Skillington and the replacement of their stolen lead roof, we continue the Focus On – The DAC with an introduction to Dr Ian Marshman, the DAC's archaeological adviser, and there is the usual Training and Resources section which this time looks forward to the Coronation and the Churches Count on Nature event. With Spring certainly in the air (see the daffodils on the front cover), we look at the strivings of the spring clean, the dangers of dry rot and Professor Pinnacle investigates the scars of medieval scaffolding. Throw in some ideas on fundraising and you have something of a bumper edition.

As ever, we would like to hear your thoughts and feedback – and we'd be really glad to hear of any quirky fundraising ideas which you may have had that have proven successful.

## Energy Footprint Tool

Have you submitted yours yet? This tool helps you understand what energy is being used and how to reduce the carbon footprint. It would be great if as many as possible could be submitted as this helps the national church and your parish support team support you in our joint aim to be Net Zero Carbon by 2030. The form has been simplified and can be found on the Online Parish Returns System. Further information can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/policy-and-thinking/our-views/environment-and-climate-change/about-our-environment/energy-footprint-tool#na> A recent webinar about it, including a live demonstration of the form, can be found here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OR\\_epHDGgN0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OR_epHDGgN0). A short leaflet about it is also available.

## Heritage Open Days - Creativity Unwrapped

Heritage Open Days will run from Friday 8th to Sunday 17th September. Although the print brochure deadline has passed, you can still register to take part and have your event advertised online. The theme for 2023 is 'The Arts of Lincolnshire - Creativity Unwrapped', which gives lots of scope for interpretation and creativity! Register your event online here: <https://www.heritagelincnshire.org/heritage-open-days/register-an-event> Let us know what you're planning!



## Quinquennial Inspections

A further reminder to make sure that your quinquennial inspection is up to date. In the ever changing funding landscape, one of the constants is funders requirement to see an up to date Quinquennial Inspection. We wouldn't want you to miss out on funding whilst you wait for your architect to carry out your next inspection. If you are not sure when your next QI is due, contact the team to find out.

# Good News

## Skillington, St James - Roof repair lessons learnt

Rob Ducksbury writes:

The lead roof from much of Grade I listed, St James Church, Skillington was stolen on two successive nights in April 2019.

Skillington PCC had no experience of the consents, permissions and grants needed for major repairs to a listed church building prior to the theft. Below is a summary of how the PCC set about getting the roof replaced and the lessons learnt on this steep learning curve. When the project scope had been determined, the approximate sequence of steps were as follows.

### First Steps

- Appoint a Project Manager (this can be someone on the PCC or in your community).
- Consult with the local residents to determine community support and develop a mechanism for fund raising. A successful grant application will need to show community support.



*South Aisle roof repair: Condition following lead theft and the completed roof repair*

### Requirements

- At an early stage, engage with your Church Buildings Team including the DAC officers to understand the requirements and the permissions needed. It is important to determine if a Faculty is required.
- Consider carefully the scope to be included in a Faculty and local authority application. The process can take several months and having to make multiple applications could delay the project.



### Professional Support

- Appoint an architect to review and finalise the project scope. Grant providers may stipulate that a conservation-accredited architect is used. Commission design specifications and drawings and agree contracting terms.

### Permissions and Consents

- Submit applications for planning permission (if required) and Faculty. This will require copies of the project design specification and drawings.
- Commission a bat survey. The results may have significant impact when the site work can be carried out.



*North Aisle roof repair: Condition following lead theft and the completed roof repair*

## Tenders

- Together with guidance from your architect and using the NCT Trade Directory identify suitable local contractors. In order to demonstrate value for money, grant providers will require at least two competitive tenders. Request that contractors provide a compliant tender response with a full cost breakdown.
- Review project scope and delivery options. Consider staging the project against fund raising and cash flow projections. Consider your strategy carefully as grant awards can take up to nine months to finalise. In consultation with the project architect agree a strategy and select the preferred bidder.



*Gutters and Downpipes Repaired or Replaced and Gable and Clerestory pointed*

## Grant Applications

- Identify potential grant providers by internet research and the Church Buildings Team will also provide guidance. Not all grant applications will be successful, so select carefully and engage with the grant providers representative before applying. Fully understand eligibility and award criteria. Grant providers may require a defined contribution from PCC funds.
- Major grant providers may require up to 50% of project funding in place before a grant application will be considered. Dependant on project size, this may require securing a number of smaller grant awards before applying so plan accordingly.
- Maintain contact with all grant providers including providing progress updates. Additional funding may become available and a good relationship may be beneficial.
- Register with major grant providers in order to receive regular news of potential future grants. Specific and sizeable grants may become available and early notification may prove to be of benefit.

## Project Start

- When all permissions, consents and funding is in place negotiate a project start date with your selected contractor.
- Obtain project insurance prior to commencing work on site.

A more detailed [case study](#) is available via this [link](#).



# Focus On - The DAC

I'm Ian Marshman and I'm the DAC's Archaeological Advisor. My day job is archaeological advisor at Lincolnshire County Council, but I've been advising the DAC since 2019. Despite my surname I'm not a yellowbelly, having grown up near Portsmouth in Hampshire where I always had a fascination with ancient churches.

Most people tend to think of archaeology as digging holes and looking for treasure. But it is really about studying material remains from the past as a way to try to understand people and places. Often this does involve unearthing things from the ground, but it also means trying to unpick the stories of old buildings, and the layers of history in the landscapes around us.



*Dr Ian Marshman at the DDR Museum in Berlin*

Many of Lincolnshire's churches have been special places for their communities for a thousand years or even more. This has left us a unique and irreplaceable legacy of artefacts and architecture to help us understand the people who lived here before us.

My work on the DAC is to try to help parishes ensure that sensitive archaeological remains disturbed by new development around churches are recorded. Usually this means a 'watching brief' with an archaeologist recording any finds during excavation for new utilities. But it could also involve digging inside a church like when floors need to be lowered.

Understandably this can feel like just another burden for parishes, but if you're doing a building project I would encourage you to engage with your archaeologist. You might be focused on trying to fit a toilet, but that trench could be a once in a generation chance to discover your village's history. So ask your archaeologist questions about what they've found and what it means.

If you find something interesting why not invite the community to come and have a look, whilst of course treating any human remains with the utmost respect. You might find holding an ancient artefact or witnessing a rediscovered monument opens new doors for people. It could start them asking new questions about life and death, or what makes these places sacred. It might also encourage a few more donations towards your project!

I try to practice what I preach. Outside of work I volunteer as chairman of Horncastle History & Heritage Society, and when family life permits I try to make an appearance at St Mary's with my wife Alice and our 3 year old daughter Henrietta.

# Training, Resources, Environment and Events

## Coronation of King Charles III

The Church of England is providing a range of resources to help churches and parishes to mark this historic moment in the life of our nation. The Archbishop of Canterbury will lead the Coronation ceremony on Saturday, 6 May, which will be rooted in a longstanding tradition. It will reflect the King's role today and look towards the future. As you plan your events, do have a look at the resources available on the Church of England website which include prayers, publicity material and an information pack. <https://www.churchofengland.org/coronation/churches> A webinar recording is also available: <https://isidore.uk/cofecoronationcelebration/>



The BBC has suspended the licence fee as a one off dispensation for the King's Coronation weekend. This allows churches to screen the service free if they wish.

## Caring for God's Acre Webinars

A new series of webinars for the Spring can be found on the website including Conservation of butterflies in burial grounds and the urban environment and Love Your Burial Ground week and Churches Count on Nature 2023, where you can learn how to record details of the wonderful wildlife present in our churchyards and green spaces. Further booking information can be found here: <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/get-involved/webinars/>



## Caring for churchyards

Early Summer offers an excellent opportunity to engage with conversation and action supporting the conservation of the special habitats that are our churchyards. Churchyards are some of the most undisturbed habitats in Lincolnshire, which means they are an essential contribution to the health of our communities, flora and fauna.



## Net Zero Resources

The Net Zero Resources page has been refreshed and has details of case studies, advice and webinars. Do have a look and consider what your next steps might be to move us towards Net Zero Carbon by 2030. <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/net-zero-carbon-routemap>

# Environment and Events cont.

## New for 2023 C of E webinar series:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-land-and-nature-churches-count-nature>

Mon 5th June, noon: Practical guidance on churchyard management

Tue 6th June, noon: Examples of managing Church land for climate and nature

Wed 7th June, noon: Paying attention to nature, with Bishop Graham Usher, lead bishop on the environment

Thur 8th June, noon: Eco Church - Land

Fri 9th June, noon: From global to local - tackling the twin crises for climate and nature

Recordings of past webinars

## Love Your Burial Ground Week with Churches Count on Nature 2023

Saturday 3rd - Sunday 11th June 2023

Love your Burial Ground Week is a celebratory week which runs each year. Caring for God's Acre encourages all who help to look after churchyards and cemeteries to celebrate these fantastic places in the lovely month of June – in any way you choose. It might be a history talk, family picnic, an outdoor worship event or even a treasure hunt!

If you want to start counting wildlife NOW – visit this page to find out how to get going and how to share your records all year round.

Churches Count on Nature 2023 is part of Love Your Burial Ground Week, focusing on the brilliant wildlife to be found in churchyards and cemeteries. It is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK. Free resources available from their website: <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/get-involved/love-your-burial-ground-week/>

## Bats Challenge Badge

As part of the Bats in Churches project's ongoing engagement with church communities, a Challenge Badge for young people has been created, which will enable them to learn more about and engage with their local church and wildlife.

The Challenge Badge is a great way to increase engagement with young people and get them exploring their local church. It's also a lovely activity for groups such as Sunday School or youth groups to do together. Young people complete a series of activities, including visiting their local church, hunting for bats, crafts, games and activities, then receive a special badge from Bats in Churches once they have completed their challenges. You can find all the information and resources for the Bats in Churches Challenge Badge [here](#).





# Spring Cleaning

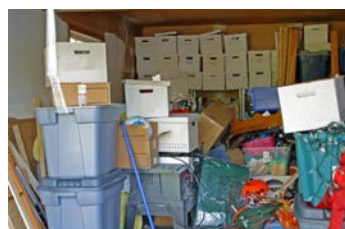


As the weather improves, we look to welcome more people, think about celebrations like Easter and the Coronation and perhaps think about having a bit of a tidy up and a spring clean. It is a common practice in world religions to clean the house before the major festival and we have lost the connection between the spring clean and Easter.

Our colleagues in the Diocese of Ely have produced a really helpful guide to cleaning churches. Many of us wouldn't question using our domestic cleaning products to clean the interior of churches, but not only could we be doing more harm than good, we might actually be cleaning far more than we need to. Sometimes less is more, particularly when it comes to caring for historic objects. Read the guide here: <https://www.elydiocese.org/church-cleaning.php>

Whilst we are having a clear out, think about all the items that accumulate in church that "might come in useful". List everything that you already do on a daily, weekly, monthly, seasonally, occasionally and seldom basis and what things you need (furniture, linen, crockery, art materials, play resources etc.) to run them. If you only need items occasionally, do you need to store them in church or could they be borrowed from somewhere else? Do a clutter audit (with sensitivity if items have been gifted). What do you need to keep and store? Think through what you do now and what you might like to see happen in one year, two years, five years, ten years and beyond. As part of this, involve all those who use the building now and your wider community to gather opinions about what they would like to see and how they feel connected to the church. Perhaps this is an exercise you could share with others in your Local Mission Partnerships. Do you all need enough Berylware to host refreshments for coachloads of people? Remember that getting rid of some items needs permission so consult the team or your Archdeacon for further advice.

Think too about how you can make your day to day operation more sustainable. One element to consider is church flowers. Floral foam is a single use plastic and harms the environment. The Sustainable Church Flowers movement has lots of advice on how to create wonderful floral displays without the need for floral foam. More information can be found here: <https://www.suschurchflowers.com/> If somewhere the size of Salisbury Cathedral can manage it, we all can try too.



## Teacups

Did you know that the green teacups and saucers are known as Beryl ware? These are often found in churches and church halls. Rarer are the blue version, known as Iris ware and the yellow version Jasmine ware.





# Ask Professor Pinnacle

## Putlog Holes

We have been asked a number of times why some churches have mysterious square holes at regular intervals in the exterior walls, most commonly on the tower. These square holes are called putlog holes and they are the remains of temporary medieval scaffolding, whereby the horizontal elements of the scaffold - the putlogs - were built into the wall as the construction work progressed in a similar way in which modern steel tubular scaffold does on construction today. In the medieval period of course scaffolding was made of wood and therefore constructed by skilled carpenters. Carpenters were also responsible for all of the formwork required to enable the stone masons to construct arches, vaults, doorways and window openings, lifting equipment including the 'wild mare', one of only three surviving treadmill hoists surviving in England in the tower of Louth St James which was used for the construction of the spire c.1500-1515. Carpenters also constructed church roofs and all manner of interior fittings and fixtures over the centuries. Simply put, carpenters were the unsung enablers of the medieval building site who we often overlook.



*Fiskerton, St Clement with clear putlog holes in tower and clerestory level*

*Putlog holes can be found in churches that are not dedicated to St Clement too!*

*Grainthorpe St Clement with filled in putlog holes - circled for ease*

Putlog's regular vertical spacing up a wall is called a lift. On a thick medieval church wall a lift represents the work that could realistically be achieved in one building season - roughly spring to autumn to avoid frosts. Lime mortar can take a considerable amount of time to dry and if the wall was constructed higher than say about one metre the lime mortar at the bottom of that lift would be squashed out by the weight of the walling above - which is something that is not to be recommended.

Sometimes, once you get your eye in, it is possible to see putlog hole positions in church walls where the stone filling is still intact.

The reason the putlogs are still visible today is that they were filled in as the scaffolding was removed and only perhaps filled with mortar or stones much smaller than the rest of the walling material. This would enable them to be removed so that scaffolding could be put up again for maintenance or repairs. Evidence of filling putlog holes can be found in the churchwardens' accounts for Louth St James which are a detailed account of the construction of the spire. Upon completion of the spire in September 1515 the accounts record that 'the masons all departed, except Laurence Lemyng who remained to fill the putlog holes as the labourers dropped the scaffold'. Over the centuries on many churches the mortar may have weathered back and the stone filling fallen out which is why putlog holes can still be seen today.

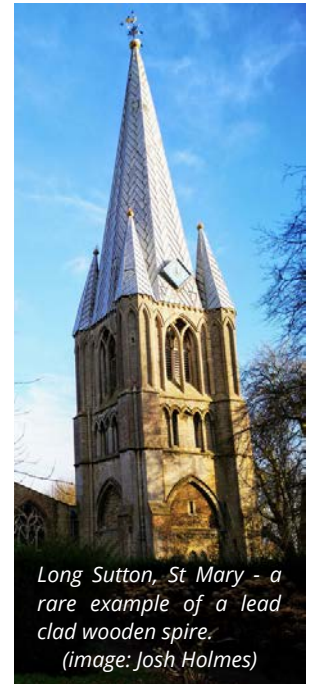


# Of Interest

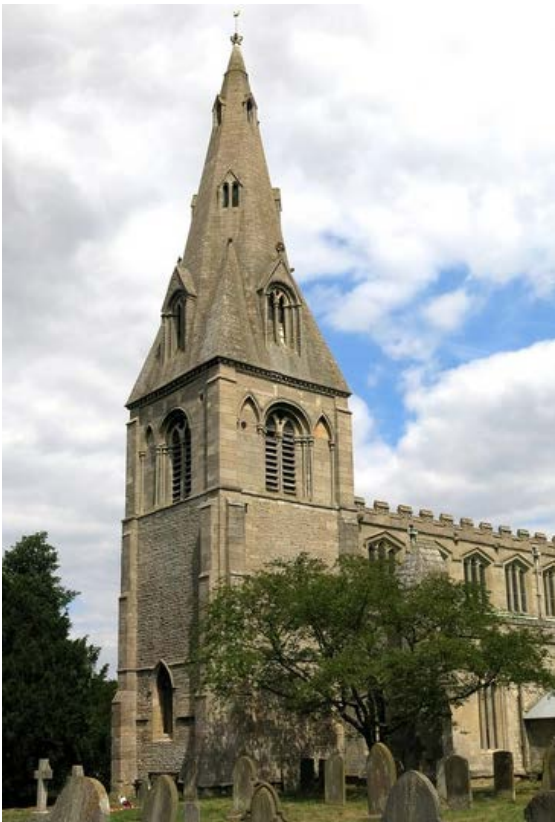
## Lincolnshire Spires

Lincolnshire is a county of many fine church buildings and also numerous fine church spires, but what many people do not realise is that these are very unevenly distributed with most found in the good limestone areas in the southern half of the county. There are, however, a few exceptions - the largest of which is Louth St James located in an area poorly served by good building stone. The finer details and chronology of these many spires is often overlooked and, in many respects, Lincolnshire has some of the best examples to be found anywhere in England.

There are essentially two types of church spire - the broach spire and the recessed spire. The former is octagonal and oversails the tower it sits on in order to throw water clear of the walls below. It is distinctive in that it has broaches at each corner which strengthen the spire and allow an octagonal spire to sit on a square tower in a satisfactory manner. The latter type - the recessed spire - sits on top of the tower behind a parapet wall with a continuous path around its base which acts as a gutter. There is a third type but this is rarer and that is a wooden spire usually clad with lead. Long Sutton St Mary is one such example with a timber spire that has proven difficult to firmly date, but may be mid-13th century. Timber spires are far less robust than stone ones and the former spire on the central tower of Lincoln cathedral at the time that it was built was the first structure higher than the Great Pyramid in Giza. Lincoln demonstrates, however, the fragility of such structures and it blew down in 1558.



*Long Sutton, St Mary - a rare example of a lead clad wooden spire.  
(image: Josh Holmes)*



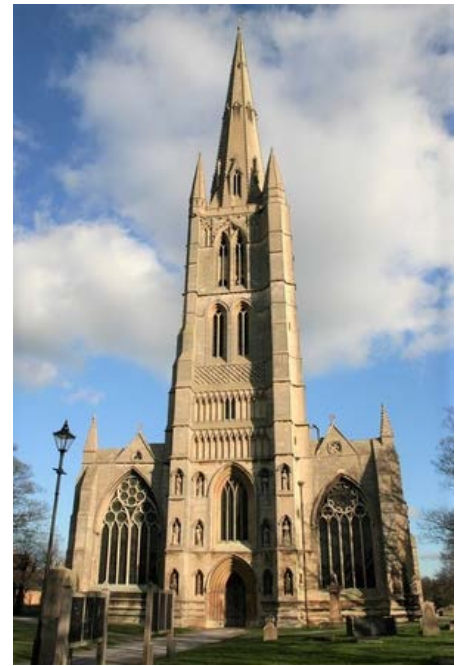
*North Rauceby St Peter has one of the earliest broach spires in the country (image Spencer Means)*

More robust are stone spires and the earliest are broach spires with the one at North Rauceby St Peter being one of the earliest examples in the country dating from the early 13th century. The key features are the high brooches, typical of this early type of spire, and the three tiers of lucarnes or spire window openings which were added for both decorative and practical purposes, the latter being to ventilate the spire. Other examples include nearby Sleaford St Denys and Frampton St Mary which are almost contemporary with Rauceby and the later examples of Ewerby St Andrew and Anwick St Edith which were built in the early to mid-14th century and mark the transition between broach and recessed spires which were also built at the same time for example, Heckington St Andrew, Silk Willoughby St Denis and Brant Broughton St Helen.



## Lincolnshire Spires Continued

One of the best-known recessed spires is the spectacular Grantham St Wulfram. At the time of its construction in the early 14th century it was considerably higher than any other spire yet constructed and was the tallest masonry construction in the country until it was surpassed by the spire of Salisbury cathedral. Features of this spire include the ornate carvings known as crockets on each edge of the spire and pinnacles in the corners of the tower at the base of the spire which were to become a common feature of recessed spires. Like Rauceby, Grantham has three tiers of lucarnes but on all eight faces of the spire. However, on each level four are open and four are blind to maintain structural integrity. The top of the weathercock at Grantham is 283'7" (86.4m). This height was not exceeded in Lincolnshire until our final example of Louth St James which, at 293'1" (89.3m), is the highest parish church spire in the country.



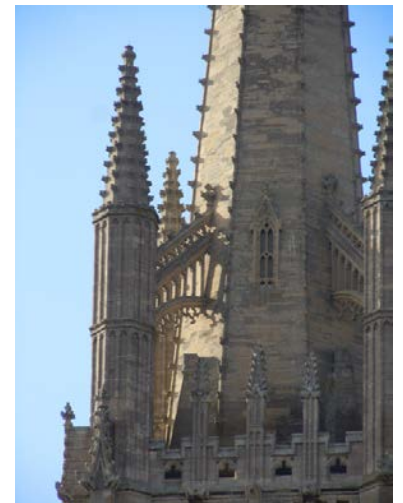
*The magnificent tower and spire of Grantham St Wulfram (image Richard Croft)*



*The majestic tower and spire of Louth St James - the tallest parish church spire in the country.*

Louth is different than the large majority of other Lincolnshire spires in that it is in the northern half of the county which is not served well by good local stone. It is also much later than the other spires mentioned and uniquely it has a surviving record of its construction from churchwardens' accounts which finish with the celebrations of its completion in September 1515 with much consumption of 'brede & ayle'. These accounts start in 1500 and detail literally thousands of transactions with individual craftsmen and masons together with all of the materials used including timber, lime, sand and lead. They also mention where the stone came from, how it was transported from the Ancaster quarries in the south of the county and how much the spire cost to build - £305,7s.5d. The date of the tower the spire sits on is not so well documented but this is thought to have been started somewhere around 1450.

Louth St James is from a different age to the other spires mentioned and there is far too much to mention in detail here, but it is a master piece of the perpendicular style of architecture. At its base are four large octagonal pinnacles connected to the spire with flying buttresses which are only for decorative effect and are not structural. The spire is estimated to weigh about 200 tons so is a surprisingly efficient structure with 10 inch thick stone work at its base and 5 inch thick stonework from about pinnacle level and is solid stone for the final 20 feet, the weight of which secures the whole structure. The edges of the spire and the tops of the pinnacles are richly embellished with crockets and unusually the spire only has one tier of lucarnes at the level of the flying buttresses.



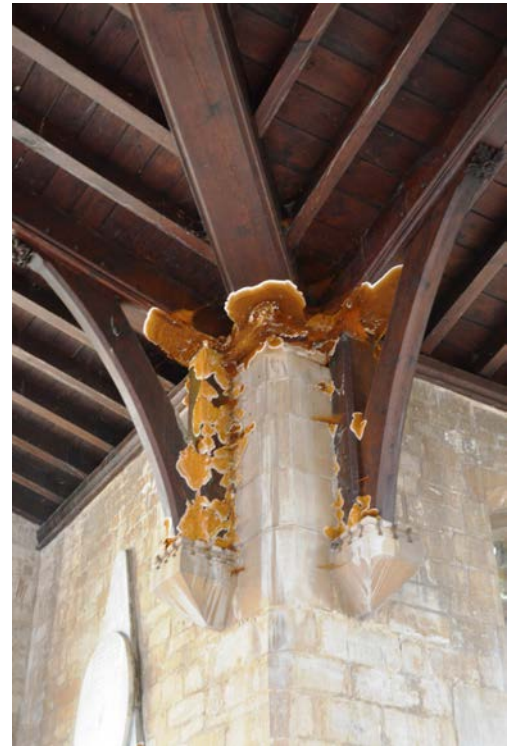
*A detail of the base of the spire illustrating the corner pinnacles, flying buttresses and the rich embellishment with crockets.*

# Church Maintenance

## Dry Rot

Many of our historic church buildings will suffer from timber decay at some point whether this is by insects including woodworm (*Anobium punctatum*) or death watch beetle (*Xestobium rufovillosum*) or fungal decay by dry rot (*Serpula lacrymans*) or one of a number of different types of wet rot. In this article we explore the causes and prevention of dry rot as it has cropped up in a few of our churches recently. We will explore the others in later editions of the bulletin.

Dry rot mentioned in the context of any historic building strikes fear into the heart of the building owner or user. If left unchecked it can cause considerable damage however if it is deprived of food - i.e. wood and moisture - it cannot survive. As with all things prevention is better than a cure and in order to do this a few simple steps can be taken. Dry rot thrives in timber where the moisture content is over 20% and spore germination requires about 30% so it is crucial to keep timbers as dry as possible. This means making sure that rainwater goods, downpipes and drains are all functioning as they should and are not saturating wall fabric adjacent to roof or floor timbers. Similarly ensure that the ventilation grilles to pew platforms and timber floors are kept clear and not blocked up. Make sure that the entire church is adequately ventilated by using hopper head vents in windows that most churches seem to have and in the summer months leave the doors open if you can with the use of bird guards across the porch door. Similarly, ensure that if you need carpet on timber floors it is of a breathable type not a rubber backed variety that can mean that the timber floor gets damp beneath it.



*Dry rot illustrating orange-brown spore dust and fruiting bodies. The cause here was a leak in the valley gutter in the roof above.*



*A dry rot outbreak beneath a pew platform due to inadequate underfloor ventilation to the floor void*

In reality there may always be a small area in a section of the roof or in a floor void where despite your best efforts is poorly ventilated or has an intermittent leak and may present the perfect conditions for dry rot. Normally the first indication of its presence is a change in the look of the timber, it looks dried out and shrivelled with cracks in the timber grain. The timber also becomes very brittle and can crumble in your hand. Where visible there may be concentrated patches of orange-brown spore dust which may be accompanied with fruiting bodies similar in appearance to mushrooms. There may also be grey strands or hyphae on the timber too.

If you get any of these call your professional advisor as quickly as possible as a quick diagnosis and treatment plan can save many thousands of pounds worth of repairs.





# Maintenance continued

## **Recommended Monthly Tasks** **(From SPAB's Faith in Maintenance calendar)**

### **April**

- Check the roofs for frost, snow and wind damage. Look for signs on the ground like broken bits of slates and tiles. Check for splits and cracks in areas of flat or sloping sheet roofing.
- Inspect lead flashings and mortar fillets at chimneys for signs of decay.
- Clear leaves and debris from gutters and rainwater pipes regularly. Cast iron gutters may also require repainting.

### **May**

- Regularly clean out gulley and drains to make sure water flows freely away from the building.
- Make sure that windows and ventilators are operable so that the building can be ventilated. Lubricate door and window ironmongery and check security of locks.
- Have the boiler serviced, bleed radiators and ensure that the frost thermostat is operational.
- Clear away any plant growth from around the base of the walls and in particular from the drainage channel.

### **June**

- Inspect all windows. Check the glazing, putty, lead comes and wire ties for signs of damage.
- Check timberwork for signs of rot including less accessible areas such as floor and roof voids, under stairs and in cupboards.
- Clear any dirt from condensation drainage channels and holes at the base of windows.
- Remove any vermin from floor and roof voids.

## **Burst Pipes**

Following an increase in enquiries recently, Ecclesiastical Insurance have produced [guidance](#) on how to prevent burst pipes and what to do if the worst happens.

## **Risk Calendar**

Taken from [Ecclesiastical Insurance's Church Risk Calendar](#) , where more information can be found.

## **April - Tree Management**

Trees form a natural part of the landscape and bring many benefits. However, they can present a number of hazards as they age and careful management is needed. Remember, major works to trees need List B consent and felling may require a faculty.

## **May - Events**

Events are a great way to engage with the wider community and raise vital funds. Larger events or unusual fundraising activities can present additional risks. These may need to be properly managed to ensure everyone remains safe and your event is a success.

## **June - Fire Risk Assessment**

Have you reviewed your fire risk assessment? All churches need to complete a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 which should be periodically reviewed to remain valid.



# Fundraising Ideas

Following conversations with Andrew Alsop at Carlton le Moorland and Debbie Clark at Cadney, we thought we would start sharing some fundraising ideas that have worked elsewhere in the diocese or have been gleaned from other groups. Some events are held in churches, some in village halls, some involve the whole village.

Do let us know what events and fundraising ideas have worked for you, so between us we can share good ideas.

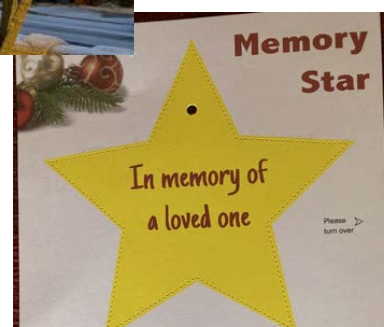
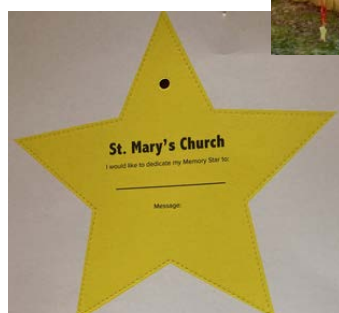
Carlton le Moorland hold various events through the year, some in the church and some in the village hall. These include different musical evenings from a Folk Evening, the Fynnius Fogg Band, the Stamford Stompers Jazz Band and the Lincoln Orpheus Male Voice Choir. They have also had Arts and Crafts Weekends, a St. Valentine Cabaret and Dinner Dance and Burns Night Supper.



The recent Snowdrop Weekend and Tea was very popular, with poems, reflections and prayers being printed out, laminated and attached to canes to put in the churchyard, set out in a walk around the churchyard with tea and cake available from the servery in the church.



Each Advent, a memory star is delivered to every house in the village. These are returned to church with a message on them and a donation. The team then laminate them and hang them on the Christmas Tree outside the church over the festive season. All donations go towards the Church Improvement Appeal.



The Christmas Flower Workshop, where people gathered to learn how to make a floral centrepiece, was so popular that another one is being run at Easter. Other events planned for this year include visits from the Ukulele Band, the Hey Dude Tribute Band and the University of Lincoln String Quartet.



## Fundraising Ideas Continued

Debbie told me of various fundraising ideas she had gleaned from a Churchwarden's Facebook group:

*Soupy Saturday.* Instead of a coffee morning have soup and a roll then cake at lunchtime. Offers of soup were made from various people including not regular church attenders. It brought the community together.



*Open Gardens Weekend.* Not quick or easy, but a village in rural west Somerset raised £8000 with half going to the church and half to other charities. Much of the money is raised from full-on refreshments (coffee and cake, proper lunches, afternoon teas) with some stalls and involves 150 volunteers (from a population of 450) doing anything from washing up to car parking. You can start small and build up. Gardens don't have to be exceptional. Of the 15 that open here, five open for the National Garden's Scheme. Remember people are coming for a nice day out. Experience has shown that the second weekend in June rarely has two consecutive wet days!



*Community focus.* One village has moved away from having fundraising as the primary objective. Instead they have focussed on events that bring the church and community together, putting the church back in the heart of the village. The money follows in donations for food, drinks and at service collection. Around 200 people came into church over the Christmas period (the regular congregation is between 5 and 20).

*Themed Beetle Drives.* We have regular beetle drive nights. At Easter we complete a rabbit, with many people wearing headdresses and all raffle prizes are Easter themed. For Christmas, we have a reindeer drive, with people wearing Christmas jumpers and reindeer antlers. It raises money but it also means we have a jolly good laugh and get to know one another better.



*Pew Top Sale.* We poshed up a Jumble Sale asking for good condition items to be donated and had homemade cakes and teas. These attract people from neighbouring villages and towns. We now hold them three times a year. It has proved a stepping stone into church life for some in the community.



*Clock Fundraiser.* We sold 'minutes of time' at £2 each. An old fashioned watch/clock is wound up and sealed away. The winner is the one who bought the minute closest to the time the clock stopped at. 12 hours x 60 minutes @ £2 = £1,440 if all minutes sold.

# Grant Information

## Where to start

Please get in touch with the team, to discuss which grants to apply for and when. We can help you come up with a funding plan for repairs and new facilities.

You can register with this website for free to search for grant funding:

Charity Excellence Framework:

<https://www.charityexcellence.co.uk/>

The Voluntary Centre Services and Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service host a free web-based funding information service. For further information visit their webpage:

<https://lincolnshirevolunteering.org.uk/find-funding/>

Organisations can sign up to a regular funding newsletter here: <http://eepurl.com/hWu2Vn>

## Any other funding sources out there?

If you know of any other funding that we have not mentioned, please share the information with us, so we can share it with others.

### Grants with no deadlines

ASDA Foundation: Green Tokens    Benefact Trust    The Barron Bell Trust    The Beatrice Laing Trust    The Bernard Sunley Foundation  
Church Buildings Council Conservation Reports    The Clothworkers' Foundation  
The Co-op Local Community Fund    The Foyle Foundation Small Grants    Garfield Weston  
Henry Smith Charity    The Hobson Charity Ltd    John Warren Foundation    The Kochan Trust    Lincolnshire Churches Trust  
National Lottery Community Fund: Awards for All    National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities Fund    National Lottery Heritage Fund: Grants for Heritage (up to £250,000)    The Rank Foundation  
Pebble Grants    Tesco Bags of Help    The Tudor Trust

## Upcoming Grant Deadlines

April	
12	Sleaford REP Community Power
30	The ON Organ Fund
May	
5	Congregational & General Charitable Trust
22	Churchcare Organs
26	Marshall's Charity
31	Augean Landfill Fund (Stamford Area)
June	
1	Grange Wind Farm (nr Tydd St Mary)
1	The Joseph Rank Trust
2	Churches Conservation Foundation
5	Churchcare: Books and Manuscripts Churchyard Structures Monumental Brasses and Decorative Metalwork Monuments Plate Textiles Wooden Objects
7	FCC Communities Fund (formerly Wren)
30	War Memorials Trust



# All Change! Benefact Trust, National Churches Trust and National Lottery Heritage Fund have new funding strategies.

This Spring, all three of the above grant making bodies have made changes to their grant applications and the strategies behind them. Whilst it is too early to tell what impact this will have on the amount of grant funding available to our churches, we have produced a summary of all three grant programmes. Remember, if you need any help with putting together a funding strategy, just contact the team and we'll be happy to point you in the right direction and review applications before you submit them.



**Benefact Trust** has five grant programmes, of which the two key ones will be Community Impact Grants and Building Improvement Grants. Under any of the grant programmes, an online application form has to be filled in along with the relevant grant project budget template. No application will be accepted until 30% of the costs are in place.

Community Impact Grants will support direct capital and / or revenue costs for the following areas:

- 1) Growing congregations and Christian communities
- 2) Addressing social challenges facing communities
- 3) Enabling wider community use of church buildings
- 4) Empowering Christian Education

Building Improvement Grants are able to support direct capital costs relating to the following types of work:

- Essential, one-off repairs or other capital works to ensure the continued use or viability of a building (capital work must be considered urgent or necessary within 12 months)
- Minor capital works or equipment purchases to meet operational or accessibility requirements (e.g. essential operational equipment, AV equipment, hearing loops, ramps, etc)
- Conservation or restoration of historic features (e.g. stained glass, carvings, interior furnishings, clocks, tower bells, organs etc) which contribute to preservation and appreciation of a building's heritage
- Other aesthetic enhancements (e.g. interior decoration, furnishings or public realm improvements) to improve indoor or outdoor spaces for users
- Energy efficiency/renewable energy measures (e.g. heating/lighting upgrades, solar panels, etc) which improve the sustainability of church buildings/facilities and enable their continued use

**National Churches Trust** has renamed their grant programmes, so that Large, Medium and Small grants replacing Cornerstone, Gateway and Foundation grants. There is a new application form and they have moved to a cloud based system, which will allow you to track applications in one place. As before, it is still necessary to have 50% of the funding in place before you apply, for the works to be overseen by a conservation accredited architect, for the church to be open at least 100 days a year and for faculties to be in place before you apply. Our grants | National Churches Trust





## All Change continued

Small grants support small but urgent maintenance and repair issues or help fund small investigative works. These will continue to provide funding of up to £5,000 but the maximum project costs will increase from £10,000 to £20,000 making it possible for more projects to be eligible for funding and quicker decisions.

This grant programme has just opened and decisions will be considered on a bi-monthly rolling basis i.e. decisions will be made in April, June, August and in October.

Medium grants will fund small repair work or the development of projects such as preparing for a major project, or preparing to approach a major grant funder. These will continue to provide grants of up to £10,000, but the project costs will change to between £20,000 and £80,000. Projects of under £20,000 are eligible for Small grants and those above £80,000 for Large grants.

This grant programme is now open with a deadline in May, and with decisions on funding announced in July 2023. There will be another decision round in December. In 2024 they expect to have three application rounds.

Large grants will fund toilet and kitchen projects costing more than £30,000 and repair projects costing more than £80,000. The first round has now closed but there is expected to be a further funding round in November with three funding rounds in 2024. To allow you to know as early as possible if your application for a Large grant will or will not be considered by their Grants Committee, they plan to introduce a two-stage application process later this year.

**National Lottery Heritage Fund** has released its new strategy for the next decade. The vision statement is "We want heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone's future."



This is backed up with four investment principles:

### *Saving heritage*

- Improved condition and understanding of heritage
- Reduced amount of 'heritage at risk'
- Delivered transformational long-term projects
- Made digital heritage more accessible

### *Organisational sustainability*

- Increased organisations' commercial and governance capabilities
- Developed skills and capacity across heritage
- Embedded resilience in projects we fund
- Strengthened heritage's contribution to local economies

### *Protecting the environment*

- Put landscapes and habitats into recovery
- Increased understanding of and connection to nature
- Reduced the negative environmental impact of our funding portfolio
- Improved heritage's ability to adapt to climate change

### *Inclusion, access and participation*

- Increased diversity of heritage workforces and audiences
- Reduced barriers for people under-served by heritage
- Enabled more people's heritage to be recognised
- Championed digital technology to improve access

Part of their approach to enable this to happen includes having open programmes for all types of heritage projects with the majority of decisions made at local level and focussing on place, landscape and nature, heritage in need and responding to opportunities and emergencies.

Your support officers will report back from further briefings on this new strategy in due course.





## Key Dates

The DAC agenda dates and meeting dates for the next four meetings can be found below. Please get in touch with Steven or Peter for further information.

Meeting Date	Agenda Closes
Thursday 4th May	Thursday 20th April
Wednesday 7th June	Wednesday 24th May
Wednesday 5th July	Wednesday 21st June
Wednesday 6th September	Wednesday 23rd August



## Contact Details

Please contact the team if we can help with any church building related query.

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01522 504045

**Matthew Godfrey**, Historic Churches Support Officer, [matthew.godfrey@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:matthew.godfrey@lincoln.anglican.org)  
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## Contributions and Suggestions Please

Have you got a good news story about your church building, carried out a project, found grant funding or have something you'd like to share? We would like to include your contributions in future editions. If there is a subject you would like us to cover, let us know and we will see what we can do. Email the team via [churchbuildings.team@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:churchbuildings.team@lincoln.anglican.org)

## Church Photographs

It would be really helpful if you could share your photographs of churches with the Church Buildings Team. Whilst we have an archive, they are not as up to date as they could be. Clear pictures through the seasons of the exterior as well as key items and facilities in the interior are always useful. Get in touch with the team via [churchbuildings.team@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:churchbuildings.team@lincoln.anglican.org)