

# Church Buildings Team Bulletin October 2023

# Welcome

Welcome to the October edition of the Church Buildings Team Bulletin. As the nights draw in and the trees gain their autumn colours there is still much to think about in terms of church buildings. This edition highlights the importance of legacies in the care of our built heritage and also looks at why it is so important to keep a good inventory – and to keep it up to date. Last time we looked at windows in helping you date your building and this time we concentrate on doors and there is the usual digest of dates and training opportunities. If there is a particular matter regarding church buildings that you have always wanted to know more about then do let us know and we will be happy to try and provide more information

## ***RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete)***

The term RAAC has been in the headlines recently due to a number of schools having to be closed, or partially closed, due to the presence of RAAC within the building fabric. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete that was used in roof, floor, wall and wall cladding construction in the UK from the mid-1950s through to about the mid-1980s. It has a bubbly appearance on the inside and looks a little bit like an Aero chocolate bar and unlike traditional concrete it does not contain aggregate and thus has a smooth appearance on the outside.

In terms of our church buildings the presence of RAAC is of little concern as most of our church buildings are considerably older than the 1950s. However, there are a few churches and church halls which were constructed in the post-war period and could contain it within a flat roof or occasionally a pitch roofed construction. The Government has produced a useful guide to identifying it which can be found [here](#). The Church Buildings Council has also issued a guidance note which can be found [here](#).

A simple identification guide is repeated here for where you can see the structure with no finishes on it such as within a ceiling void:

- RAAC panels are usually 600mm wide
- They have distinctive V-shaped grooves at regular spacing normally about 600mm
- Where the panels haven't been painted they will be white or light grey in colour
- If you still have the original drawings or specification of works for the church look for the mention of RAAC or any of the following suppliers Siporex, Durox, Celcon, Hebel and Ytong

If you follow the guidance and find anything that potentially could be RAAC especially in a flat roof or pitched roof structure please contact your inspecting architect or surveyor for further advice and please do let the Church Buildings Team know on [churchbuildings.team@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:churchbuildings.team@lincoln.anglican.org)

## ***Autumn pictures required***

We have many lovely photographs of churches, but not many with autumn colour. If you have photographs of your churches in this season, please could we have a copy. Your photograph might be used as a cover photograph on a future edition, suitably credited of course.

# Good News - Legacy makes repairs possible at Lincoln, All Saints

A generous legacy has made major repairs possible at All Saints Church in Lincoln. The congregation has worked hard over the years to maintain the building but high-level repointing and gutter work have become essential. A very generous legacy has made these repairs possible – as well as the generous support of Marshall's Charity and the Benefact Trust. The Vicar, the Revd Canon Paul Noble said 'We are so grateful to the donor who has made this work possible. The church which nurtured them in faith during life will be able to continue in good repair to care for the people of Monks Road for many years to come.'

According to a survey of two thousand Church of England members in 2021, 31% of Anglicans have not made a Will, with 60% of those giving the reason for this as 'not getting around to doing it'. The Anglican Giving Survey also revealed that Anglicans are three times more likely to leave a legacy to another charity than they are to their church, but only 15% of Anglicans have ever been asked to support their church by leaving a legacy. Further information on encouraging legacies can be found at <https://www.lincoln.anglican.org/stewardship-advice>





# Medieval Doors

The very first thing we go through as we enter any church of course is the door. You may notice the type of arch and the arch stone surround, some of you may even know the type of architecture that is evident. However, how often do you stop and look at the actual timber door and ponder how old it is, how it was constructed and the decorative ironwork on it? Lincolnshire has a number of surviving medieval church doors which are of great interest but often overlooked.

Generally, doors are made of three component parts – the framing on the back, the vertical boards on the front and the ironwork which can be both nails and straps. Each of these elements could be made in a variety of ways, but for the purpose of this article we'll be sticking to some of the basics. The framing on the back of medieval doors is almost always without decoration, although the framing technique used can be quite decorative in its own right. The framing on the back can be of a diagonal lattice style which appears at the end of the 12th century, a vertical criss-cross style known as portcullis which is predominantly from the 14th century onwards, or simply horizontal planking or ledges which are used throughout the medieval period on which the vertical planks on the front of the door are secured. There are many variations in these designs. The front of the door is usually constructed of vertical planks and there have been up to ten ways recognised in which vertical boards are joined together – butt jointed, rebated or splayed being three such examples.

The main problem with doors is that they can be difficult to date precisely, but their architectural setting is the best clue providing that they have not been moved or replaced. In terms of dating a general rule of thumb up until the mid-14th century the task of decorating the door was the role of the blacksmith and after this date the decorative work becomes more the role of the carpenter.



Above: Sempringham St Andrew south door set with a late 12th century door opening.

Two of the former include Sempringham St Andrew where the south door is a marvel of medieval ironwork. The timberwork has had some restoration but, on the whole, appears to be mostly original. The doors are hung on C hinges with straps which have detailed scroll work. The lower set are damaged and incomplete. Down the centre of each door leaf are leafy clusters with either a square or rectangular middle. At the very top on the left handside (as we are looking at it) are the remains of a lion and on the right the fragments a man with raised arms – although both are quite difficult to make out. Various dates have been suggested for the ironwork 1250s through to the 1330s, although the latter seems more appropriate.



Above: Sempringham St Andrew close up of right-hand leaf showing the detail and skills of the blacksmith (image David Ross)





An example which can more easily be placed in the 14th century is nearby Pickworth St Andrew. This church is more famous for its medieval wall paintings, but has a south door of interest too. Again, we have the C shaped scrolls and strap hinges with two additional decorative straps centre and top, all of which terminate with lobes and tendrils. Additionally, too small to see on the photograph are stamped crosses on the top decorative strap. The date of this door is c. 1325-1350.

Left: Pickworth St Andrew a 14th century door (image Society of Lincolnshire History and Archaeology)

By the middle of the 14th century there is a change in the architecture from the style we now call the Decorated to the style now known as Perpendicular. This change is also apparent on the surviving doors of the period too, where the decorative ironwork is eventually replaced with decorative carved timberwork which mimics the Perpendicular style window tracery. This decorative timberwork is planted on the vertical timber planks of the door and secured with nails and other ironwork. The planted timber can be quite thick to give it strength. In rare instances the 'tracery' can be carved directly on to the door planks. Clearly the blacksmith had less involvement now, but the nails often with decorative heads still highlight the blacksmith's skills. An early example of this type of door can be found at Addlethorpe St Nicholas which is of early 15th century date.



Above: Addlethorpe St Nicholas south door with a planted early 15th century design.

Later examples can be seen at Ingoldsby St Andrew where a wicket - or smaller inner door - has been introduced which has its own frame. This has had the effect to make the applied door design asymmetrical. The purpose of the wicket is thought to have been to lessen the need to keep opening the full door and thus reduce the strain on the main hinges. The smaller wicket would have been used at times when fewer people were attending the church. A similar arrangement can be seen at Pinchbeck St Mary (not pictured) although this time the wicket is almost invisible and has been essentially just cut out of the larger door. Other examples can be found at Claypole St Peter (south door) and Tattershall Holy Trinity (north aisle) both of which are symmetrical in their design. One final example is Louth St James here the main west door of the tower is of mid-15th century date and shows off the skills of the carpenter in the decorative applied carved timberwork which is in the Perpendicular architectural style that the tower and main church are in.





Above: Ingoldsby St Andrew south door with slightly offset inner wicket door (image Bob Harvey)



Above Right: Louth St James a close up view of the Perpendicular style tracery design.



Right: Louth St James west door, note the intricate tracery in the top section of the door

# Focus On - The Church Buildings Team

## Support Officers

I'm Fran Bell and I have been the Church Development Officer since 2016. I first came to Lincolnshire as a planning officer for West Lindsey in 1997 and have lived in Lincoln ever since, even if, at the time, I had to explain to my Perthshire based parents where West Lindsey was. In my BC (Before Children) life, I was also DAC Secretary for a time. My current role combines my faith with interests in people, architecture and place and means that I get to work alongside all of you working with some of the best churches in the country.



My role is varied. I work within the Church Buildings Team, particularly with Matthew Godfrey, the Historic Churches Support officer. A few years back, he summed our jobs up as he helps keep them upright and I help keep them open. Our roles are a bit more complicated than that, but it is a good summary!

I walk alongside parishes wanting to do projects such as installing new community facilities, working with other groups and finding funding. I act as a sounding board and help you to form that glimmer of an idea into a do-able project. I also promote churches being open as often as possible and advise on what a good welcome can be in each context. One of the many joys of my job is putting parishes in touch with one another who have done similar projects so that they can be inspired and learn from the other.

Outside of work, I am a second-year ordinand, studying part time at St Hild – Lincoln, so can quite often be found with various theology books at lunchtimes. I enjoy spending time with family, including extended family in Northumberland and Scotland. In quiet moments (which don't happen often), I have been known to crochet, very slowly...



My name is Matthew Godfrey and I have been the Historic Churches Support Officer since 2014. I came to Lincolnshire in 2010 to work on the Lincolnshire Heritage at Risk project at the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire. Prior to that I worked in academia at the University of Leicester after successfully completing a PhD on early churches in Norfolk – essentially church archaeology. At Leicester my work involved teaching medieval archaeology, medieval architecture and building archaeology. I also worked on a variety of archaeological projects in the UK, Greece and the Middle East. Prior to this I worked as a building surveyor in both local authority and private practice in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire.

As Fran has mentioned above, we have complementary roles and mine is primarily to support our parishes with all things related to building repair and maintenance projects. This can include project planning, project management, grant funding advice, grant funding applications and quinquennial inspection advice.



# Focus on continued

I also work alongside Historic England with the Heritage at Risk register advising on which churches need to be on it, and ones that can be removed after a successful repair project. Having had a life-long interest in church buildings being able to help parishes look after the many wonderful churches across Lincolnshire is a delight. I have also been known to have given the occasional talk about Lincolnshire churches during the course of my work as and when I get the time.

When I'm not at work or looking at church buildings I can be found cycling the highways and byways of Lincolnshire and beyond with my wife. This often includes a café stop or a pub lunch.

## Open Churches Safely and Securely

At a recent webinar, held as part of the series organised for churchwardens by the Archdeacons' team, Heather Ford of Ecclesiastical Insurance UK reminded us that an open church is a wonderful opportunity for mission and ministry and can have a positive effect on security. Legitimate visitors will deter criminals and anti-social behaviour.

Subject to some sensible, common sense risk assessments and looking at the building as if for the first time, churches can usually be open in daylight hours. Start by looking in and around your building. What might harm a visitor to the premises (such as loose paving that locals know about)? Who might be coming in? A church with various people coming and going is less attractive to criminal damage. Let your neighbours know that you are opening the church and if there are due to be works taking place. Also, let them know who to talk to if they are concerned about suspicious activity.

Heather also reminded us about the use of Smartwater or equivalent product. We have had spates of metal theft in this diocese over the years. If the roof or other metal gets stolen, insurance will only pay out the full amount if Smartwater or equivalent was in place, still fluorescing and the relevant signage was in place to say that Smartwater was in use. She advised to paint this on all metal surfaces, including painted cast iron gutters (subject to a suitable risk assessment about working at height).

Look at existing risk assessments and consider whether they need updating. A fire risk assessment has to be in place. Make sure that you are not storing newspapers, straw (how many of you have the same straw for the crib scene stored under the altar...?) or petrol in church. In a church in this diocese, that shall remain nameless, our Historic Churches Support Officer has witnessed the petrol lawnmower and associated fuel cannister being stored in the tower. A tower can be like a big chimney if a fire was to start. Candles are a part of worship and prayer but make sure candlestands are stable and on a non-flammable surface (for example a stone floor not carpet). A battery operated candle lighter attached to the candle stand is less of a risk than a box of matches.

In case something is stolen or damaged, remember to keep your inventory up to date (see the next page for more details) and include clear photographs (don't forget the back of objects as well as the front). Immobalise lets you store secure lists of valuables, that you can update if something is missing, which alerts the police nationally.

Heather concluded by saying:

- Be confident
- Use the resources available
- Review security and safety
- Revise procedures
- Record valuable
- Seek guidance if needed



# Church Inventories

It is important that you record the fixtures and fittings of your church, as well as other objects in its care. You should do this in the form of an inventory. Your inventory will not only act as a record in the event of loss or damage, it will also provide an invaluable resource for future generations and researchers.

Creating an inventory should not be a daunting prospect or arduous task. You only need to take a photograph of and record basic information about each object. Print out and photocopy the template [here](#) and make a single record for each object in your church; but group objects together when appropriate, i.e. altar candlesticks, chairs, pews etc. If you are able to do so, it is advisable to enter the information you gather, including photographs, onto an electronic database or at least record it on an Excel spreadsheet. You should also keep your hard-copy records safe. As your church acquires new objects, remember to add them to your inventory. Review your inventory every year; it should be one of the reports that goes to your Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Please refer to the [Guidance Notes](#) before beginning your own inventory, some of which are produced below.

For further assistance or advice, please contact [Steven Sleight](#) or [Matthew Godfrey](#), who would be happy to help you. We also have Word documents of both the blank Inventory Record sheet and the Guidance Notes which we can send you. We will also make them available on the website in due course.

## *Using the Inventory Template*

Each field in the **Object Record** should be completed as accurately as possible. The following guidelines should help you:

**Parish Church:** The name of your parish and its church.

**Inventory Number:** The number assigned to each object in your inventory. This should be unique for each object. Some inventories start at 00001, others use letters and numbers e.g. SJ0041; in this case the letters stand for St John; or the parish church of St John.

**Object:** The name of the object. Candlestick; painting of St Joseph; paten.

**Location in Church:** Where is it located? Vestry, Nave, South Aisle etc.


**Date of Object:** Be as accurate as you can. If you don't know the exact date, you could write something like 'first half of the 20C'. But don't guess. If you don't know, write 'unknown'.

**Object Category:** Church plate; Vestments; monuments; furniture etc.

**Measurements:** Height x Width x Depth / Diameter. If you are recording an object such as a candlestick, you should record the Height x Diameter of the base.

**Materials:** What is the object made of? If the object is made of oak, write 'oak'; if you know it's made of wood, but are not sure what kind, write 'wood'. Again, don't guess; if you don't know, write 'unknown'. If the object is made of multiple materials, record each one.

**Maker:** Who made the object? If you are unsure, but think the object could have been made by a particular maker, you could write 'in the style of...' Again, if you don't know, write 'unknown'.



# Inventories continued

**Maker's Marks / Hallmarks / Signature:** Is there an identifiable maker's mark on the object? Has the maker signed their work? If so, how have they signed it? For silver and gold you will almost certainly see a set of Hallmarks. Hallmarks are used by Assay Offices to validate work in precious metals. If, for example, your object is made of British silver, it will probably carry a Maker's Mark, .925 Sterling Silver Standard Mark (usually but not always, Lion Passant), City Mark (e.g. Birmingham is an Anchor, London is a Leopard), and a Date Mark (a letter in a shaped surround); you may also see a Duty Mark (Monarch's Head) on silver assayed between 1784 and 1890. Continental silver carries different marks, and some British silver, particularly medieval silver, will carry slightly different marks; on rare occasions, silver objects won't carry marks at all.

There are several websites that can help you to read British Hallmarks, including: [www.925-1000.com/british\\_marks.html](http://www.925-1000.com/british_marks.html) , [www.silvercollection.it/englishsilverhallmarks](http://www.silvercollection.it/englishsilverhallmarks.html) and <http://www.silvermakersmarks.co.uk/>

**Condition:** Assess the general condition of each object. Is it poor, good, very good, fine?

**Distinguishing Features:** Is there anything about the object that would make it stand out? Are there any imperfections? Is it damaged in any way?

**Inscription:** Record any inscriptions on the object.

**Description:** Rather technical language is used to describe many objects. If you are unfamiliar with such language a basic description is fine; simply describe what you see as accurately as you can.

**Photographs:** It is important to take a photograph of each object. Your digital camera will assign a number to each photograph it takes; record this number. Take multiple photographs if you think it appropriate.

**Record Compiled by:** Who compiled the record?

**Date of Record:** What date was the record compiled?

## Church of England Webinars Programme

Don't forget that there is a whole series of [past webinars](#) to watch again if you missed them the first time. These will particularly help you with your journey to net zero carbon.

Two further webinars that will run in November are:

FUNDRAISING FROM FAITH-BASED GRANT MAKERS

Thursday 9th November, two options

- 12 noon-1:30pm (slanted towards larger churches/cathedrals, likely to have staff) [book here](#)
- 7-8:30pm (slanted towards small/medium churches with volunteer fundraisers) [book here](#)

FUNDRAISING FROM STATUTORY FUNDERS

Tuesday 21 November, two options

- 12 noon - 1.30pm (slanted towards larger churches/cathedrals, likely to have staff) [book here](#)
- Tuesday 21 November, 7pm - 8.30pm (slanted towards small/medium churches with volunteer fundraisers) [book here](#)



# News, Events and Resources

## ***Energy Footprint Tool still open for submissions***

Has your parish submitted the Energy Footprint Tool data yet? Regardless of how big or small your church building is or how often it is used, it is important that you submit the data. This helps in many ways. It will give you an understanding of your energy consumption year on year and make some changes, however small they may seem. It will help the national church understand what is going on across the country. And, having a completed Energy Footprint Tool submission is one of the criteria for some Net Zero grant funding emerging from the national church. So please check if this has been completed and if you think you have fully completed the entry, do check. Many of the submissions received so far are only partially complete. Go to the [Parish Returns site](#) for access.

## ***Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership survey***

The GLNP would like to hear your thoughts on nature in Greater Lincolnshire to help shape a new Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the area. This [survey](#) will help them find out what's most important to you about nature in Greater Lincolnshire, so that they can identify priorities for protecting and enhancing it in the future.



England is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. To help combat this, the Government introduced Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) which will look for opportunities to help recover nature and increase the benefits it provides, bringing together local partners to shape and deliver the strategy.

Further information about the Local Nature Recovery Strategy can be found [here](#). The [survey](#), which will take no more than 10 minutes to complete, is open now and will run until 15th December.



## ***NEW Caring for God's Acre Webinar series***

Yet again, there is a fascinating series of webinars being delivered by the Caring for God's Acre team this autumn. Topics include ancient yews, burial ground mapping and conserving amphibians and reptiles as well as how to plan, publicise and run guided walks in a burial ground.

Further information including how to book can be found [here](#). Webinars are available for two weeks after the event, if you email for the playback link.

## ***Church Urban Fund Resources***

The Church Urban Fund website has a vast array of resources to help you with your social action projects and find ways to get to know your context, including the Know your Church, Know your Neighbourhood course, Places of Welcome guidance and a series of past webinars.



# News, Events and Resources continued



## ***National Churches Trust Training Events***

The NCT are giving two workshops, one on making publicity work for your church and one exploring the impact of visitors. More [here](#).

## ***National Churches Trust Annual Review and Report published***

These detail the work that has taken place in 2022 and give a breakdown of where grants were given as well as details of the new 'For Churches' strategy which seeks to Build Up, Open Up and Speak Up for church buildings, chapels and meeting houses in all four countries of the UK.

## ***Warm Welcome Spaces***

The campaign for this winter launched on 4th October and the map will be live by 29th October. Last winter, thousands of spaces opened up in all sorts of community buildings. As well as supporting people materially, these Warm Spaces had an enormous positive impact on loneliness and isolation, as people came for the warmth but stayed for the welcome. It is really easy to sign your Warm Space up. Just register at [warmwelcome.uk](https://warmwelcome.uk)



## ***Churches' Environment Network***

All are invited to join these half-termly zooms and connect with others in your Local Mission Partnership, the Deanery Environment Champions, in the Deanery Partnership and beyond. With guest speakers from across the diocese and support from experts in their field. Bring your questions and your stories!

The next session is [Simply Live on Wednesday 15th Nov 2023 at 07:00 PM on Zoom](#) This session will be exploring together how our decisions and choices impact the climate and biodiversity crisis. Click the links to sign up for each event! Click the [link](#) to register.



## ***Other Parish Support Teams bulletins***

Just in case you missed them, here are links to the latest [Living Generously](#) newsletter from the Generosity Team and the [Training and Resources Bulletin](#) from the College of St Hugh.



## ***DAC Conference Bristol***

The annual conference was hosted by the Diocese of Bristol. A variety of the papers and the conference booklet, that includes a review of the year, can be found [here](#). Topics included a trial of heat battery, carbon reduction measures for those with oil boilers, accessibility including lifts and contested heritage.

# Vinyl Nights in Dunholme and Welton

Have you ever thought about different ways your church building could be used?

In the summer of 2021, the then incumbent of the WDS Benefice, Revd Adam Watson was often to be seen walking the dogs with his good friend Andy King. They were discussing the challenge of people finding the opportunity to find community post-Covid lockdowns. Watching or participating in sports and fitness was giving some people that chance but they considered how music could gather people together as well.



Recognising the ever increasing trend in vinyl sales (in 2022 vinyl outsold CDs for the first time since 1988), they borrowed a turntable, hooked it up to a set of speakers and advertised St Chad's first vinyl night in the local magazines and on social media. Andy had been building up his vinyl collection over the years but Adam had lost his in a house-move many years before. They assumed though, that others would have vinyl hanging around their living room or squirrelled up in the loft - and they were quite right.

There was a great show of people the first night in October 2021. The format was simple. Bring some vinyl to play, some refreshments (soft or not), and take it in turns to play a track with the option of a brief explanation to why it's the chosen track. The only rule being that nobody is allowed to be critical of anyone else's musical choice!

The first night was a great success with people bringing original vinyl from their youth in the 50s to new records that were being unwrapped. The evening developed further with many coming together to enjoy community and fellowship. It has been enjoyed by the whole village at the Platinum Jubilee celebrations when the church building was full to bursting with many sat on their rugs and chairs, listening outside.



Following the success of the Dunholme vinyl night, Revd Carol Jones and ALM Glyn Jones started another vinyl night at St Mary's Church Welton in 2022. Following the same format, Carol comperes brilliantly encouraging the sharing of joy and a great sense of fun. The Welton vinyl night sometimes known for it's dancing in the aisles and ending the evening singing along to the YMCA (with optional actions).

If you're wondering how you might help connect with the community, you could do worse than start a vinyl night. All it takes is a turntable, an amp, a set of speakers, some dusted-off vinyl and a church building to gather in!





# Insurance Feedback

Thank you to Colin Blagrove, Treasurer at West Deeping, St. Andrew, who provided the following feedback:


"I read with interest your article titled 'Time to Share Together'. The point regarding church insurance renewal caught my eye. I have recently renegotiated a long-term insurance policy for our church with Ecclesiastical and I thought you may be interested in my experience.

Like many rural villages, our PCC is finding it an increasing challenge to make ends meet. Insurance cover is one of our largest commitments ... second only to parish share. As part of our drive to minimising overall costs, the PCC sought to try to reduce our insurance premiums to as low as we could and still maintain a level of cover that we are comfortable with. The main points about the renewal process were:

1. The premium quoted for 100% cover (full rebuilding costs and replacement of contents) was £2,442/annum (£500 excess). The premium quoted for the lowest level of cover (making the building safe in the event of a major disaster) was £2,180/annum (£500 excess). We were surprised at the small difference in premium given the significant differences in level of cover.
2. The contents cover for our church was based on a standard figure of £150,000. We asked for a lower level of cover to more closely match the value of our church contents which could 'realistically' be replaced. Ecclesiastical could provide a quote for the lower level of contents cover but, because this was a bespoke quote, the premium was significantly higher.
3. I asked Ecclesiastical about a reduction in premium if we could insure multiple churches across our benefice. This suggestion was mentioned in your Bulletin. It may be of interest to note that Ecclesiastical will only consider policies for multiple churches if they are covered by a single PCC (sometimes called a Unitary PCC); however, even for Unitary PCCs, I understand that Ecclesiastical 'rarely' reduce the premium to less than it would be if each church is insured separately. The reason is that, from an insurance perspective, each church has its own unique risk and there is no 'economy of scale'. So, there is unlikely to be any cost saving in negotiating to insure multiple churches under a single policy.
4. Our church had a roof alarm fitted some years ago. This increased our level of insurance cover to an unlimited amount and provided a discount in premium of around 10%. For the increased level of cover to remain valid, the roof alarm must be serviced annually and there must be an approved call out/alert response system in place. This year, the annual servicing cost + Alarm Receiving Centre fee is £700. When renewing our policy, this cost significantly outweighed the saving in insurance premium. We would save almost £500 a year by not renewing our roof alarm insurance.
5. I sought quotes from two other insurers: you may want to know that one quote was significantly more expensive than Ecclesiastical and the other would not quote because they used the same underwriters as Ecclesiastical."

## Reminder - Have funds in place before starting

Just a reminder that it is necessary to have all the funds in place before starting a project. We have had a few parishes contact us for help in finding further grant funding once a project has started on site. Unfortunately, most grant funders will not give money to projects that have already started and it is then down to local fundraising to find the balance. This can mean that works on site stop until the money is in place. In these straightened times with rising costs, we also recommend having a healthy contingency in the budget!





## ***Recommended Monthly Tasks***

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

#### ***October***

- Check masonry for signs of damage. Report any deeply eroded mortar joints or cracks or signs of movement.
- Check that snowboards and access walkways are in a good state of repair.
- Clear leaves and debris from gutters and rainwater pipes regularly and check for any storm damage. Frequent attention may be needed if the building is surrounded by trees, or perched on by pigeons.

#### ***November***

- Check that the flagpole is secure.
- Check the roofs for damage. Debris on the ground from broken or missing slates and tiles indicates that there may be a problem.
- Clear leaves and debris from gutters and rainwater pipes regularly and check for any storm damage.
- Take part in SPAB's National Maintenance Week in November.

#### ***December***

- Clear parapet and valley gutters of snow to prevent melt water rising above them and causing damp internally.
- Take care in icy conditions.
- Gulleys beneath rainwater pipes should be cleaned out regularly and drains should be rodded out if they overflow during wet weather. Remove silt and debris and ensure water discharges freely.
- Make sure that fire safety equipment has been serviced.

## ***Risk Calendar***

Taken from *Ecclesiastical Insurance's Church Risk Calendar*, where more information can be found.

#### ***October - Working alone***

Working alone can present a number of hazards, including an increased risk of assault and/or aggression. Review situations where people complete tasks on their own to check the adequacy of precautions in place to protect them.

#### ***November - Flood safety***

Climate change is resulting in more extreme weather events. Though it's impossible to flood-proof your church properties, there are some simple actions you can take to reduce the damage caused.

#### ***December - Happy Christmas***

Christmas is a wonderful time of year, but special events and services, extra visitors and festive decorations in your church can increase the risks of accidents and damage. A little extra planning can help keep everyone safe.

Check out the proformas at [Ecclesiastical Insurance](#).



# Grant News

## Humber Gateway Grant Fund

Humber Gateway

RWE

Available to community groups within the North East Lincolnshire area, this fund seeks to provide support for projects that improve the lives of people. Grants may be from £200 to £2,500 and a shorter application form is available for bids up to £500. Closing dates are on 1 January and 1 June each year and all funds should be spent within a year of receipt unless otherwise agreed. General maintenance costs are not eligible but refurbishment for the greater benefit of the wider community is, such as the refurbishment of a kitchen in a church hall. Administered by the Lincolnshire Community Foundation, further information can be found [here](#):

## UKSPF GRASSroots Grants

Also administered by the Lincolnshire Community Foundation, this scheme is part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for communities in South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey areas. Grants may be from £500 to £24,999 and can include capital and revenue costs. The remaining closing dates are 1 December 2023, and 1 March & 1 June 2024. The types of projects that can be funded include:

- Activities/programmes and capital costs for smaller meeting places which will improve and widen the use of community buildings including village halls
- Community & neighbourhood projects/activities which bring people together and support groups of people
- Projects/events that develop new local arts, cultural, heritage activities



Renewable energy projects such as solar panels or LED lighting are not eligible. Capital projects need to have included the wider community in consultation. Requests for large capital projects where match funding has not been secured are unlikely to be successful. Further information, including a guidance note about what is and is not eligible can be found [here](#):

## National Lottery Community Fund

The National Lottery Community Fund has updated its [funding strategy](#). Their community-led programme will support communities to: 1. come together 2. be environmentally sustainable 3. help children and young people thrive and 4. enable people to live healthier lives. The maximum grant available under the Awards for All grant scheme will double to £20,000. Whilst religious activity cannot be funded, our church buildings host a wide range of activities for the whole community and can offer spaces for people to come together, build friendships and feel less isolated. Remember to emphasise the whole community ethos of any project in your applications.



## North Lincolnshire Open 4 Community Funding Portal

Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire has launched a new funding portal, sponsored by North Lincolnshire Council. This is free to use and register for. This appears to be similar to the one Lincolnshire County Council used to host.





# 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>

## 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

## Share your grant news and sources

Please do share your grant news, good and bad with us. We know that parishes starting out on a project find it really helpful to hear what others have done elsewhere. Help us to build the network across our Local Mission Partnerships.

## Upcoming Grant Deadlines

October	
31	War Memorials Trust
November	
7	National Churches Trust Large grant
7	Wolfson (via National Churches Trust)
December	
6	FCC Communities Fund (formerly WREN)
13	Sleaford REP Community Power



## National Lottery Heritage Fund – Pride in Place

The NLHF has announced its priority places, which include 6 areas in England, one of which is **North East Lincolnshire**. The Heritage Places were chosen through an evidence-based approach which combined new quantitative research with local insight to identify places with heritage needs, opportunities and potential. The presence of buildings on the Heritage at Risk register was taken into account. Further information can be found [here](#).

The Church Buildings Team are happy to work with any church or Local Mission Partnership that is looking to develop a bid.

## 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 Close
Thursday 9th November	Thursday 26th October
Thursday 7th December	Thursday 23rd November
Wednesday 31st January	Wednesday 17th January
Thursday 13th March	Thursday 29th February



## 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)