

Church Buildings Team Bulletin July 2024

Including the Net Zero Carbon Team



Welcome

Wimbledon has been won, the Euros are over and schools are about to break up for the summer holidays – but the warmer months (if we can still use that phrase) are the ideal time to be doing things in our church buildings. Welcome to the July edition of the Church Buildings Team Bulletin. In it you will find information on the first round of grants awarded from the Minor Repairs and Improvements Grants – could you apply? – a page from the Net Zero Carbon Team on what they are doing and the latest developments in the Diocesan Environmental Strategy – have you done your Energy Footprint Tool return? – and interesting information on swifts and lichens in churchyards – how much do you know about them? We also have our usual round up of news, events and resources which we hope you will find of interest. Do please get in touch with the Team (churchbuildings.team@lincoln.anglican.org) if we can be of any help on even the smallest of matters or if you have a question that you would like answering.

Contents

- 2** **Welcome
Contents
Headlines**
- 3** **Minor Repair and Improvement
Grant**
- 4** **News Events and Resources**
- 5** **Net Zero Carbon Team**
- 6** **Swifts
Lichens**
- 7** **Recommended Monthly Tasks
Risk Calendar**
- 8** **Grant Information**
- 9** **Key Dates
Contact Details
Suggestions Please
Church Photographs Request**

Headlines

Thank you

It was so good to see so many people at the Episcopal Visitation for Churchwardens in the Cathedral. If you are a new Churchwarden, receiving this bulletin for the first time welcome! Whether you are new to the role, or serving again, please know that we are happy to help with any questions around church buildings matters - just get in touch.

Quinquennial Inspections

Thank you to all of those who have submitted their latest Quinquennial Inspection lately. It is a legal requirement to have them carried out and they help you identify repair needs, both large and small. They also help this team and national bodies understand the state of our church buildings. If you are not sure when your last inspection was carried out, get in touch with the team, who will be happy to guide you.

Church Repair Society

Remember the Church Repair Society has a wealth of experience and a scheme to help you pay for your Quinquennial Inspections. For further information, including how to sign up for membership, follow this link:
<https://www.lincoln.anglican.org/parish-support/church-buildings/building-projects/funding/>

First Minor Repair and Improvement Grants Agreed! What could you apply for?

Six churches have been offered a grant following an application to the Minor Repair and Improvement Grant fund. These grants will help with a variety of works, from roof and stonework, to drainage improvement and even mending a weathervane.

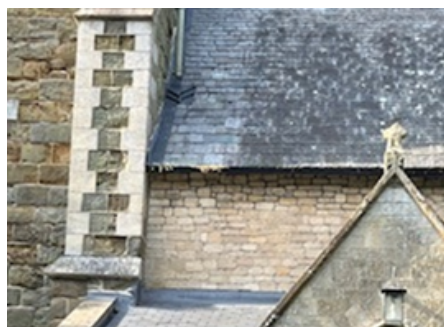


Belchford, St Peter and St Paul will be able to carry out roof work that was identified in the Quinquennial Inspection. This will enable the roof to remain wind and water tight, helping keep the rest of the building dry.

Croft, All Saints will have strengthening work carried out as the structural issues are monitored. This work will allow time to fully investigate what has happened and to plan for future intervention.



Great Carlton, St John the Baptist will have work to the roof, which will also allow the rainwater goods to be cleared whilst the scaffolding is in place.

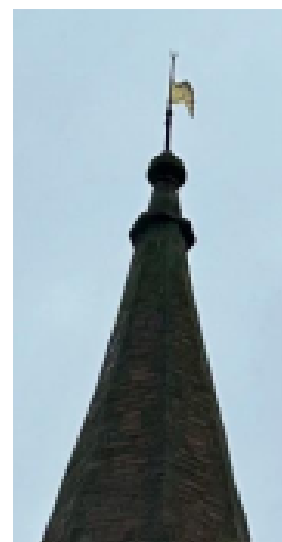


Great Coates, St Nicolas will have a series of minor works to the roof and stonework, including some repointing of washed out joints. This will help keep the building in good order.



Halton Hologate, St Andrew will have the underground drainage improved. This work will help get rainwater away from the building, which is key to maintaining a dry building.

Horsington, All Saints will be able to put back the half of the weathervane that fell off (thankfully not damaging anything as it fell). While the steeplejacks are there, they will carry out high level maintenance.



This grant fund is open for applications. Projects cannot be more than £10,000 total and the amount of grant available will depend on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Score. There is a simple application form, which needs to be accompanied by quotations for the works, copies of the accounts and photographs of where the works will be carried out. For further information and an application pack, please contact the team at churchbuildings.team@lincoln.anglican.org

News, Events and Resources



Heritage Open Days 6th to 15th September

There is a wonderful selection of events taking place across Lincolnshire, including many in and around churches. A link to the brochure on the Heritage Lincolnshire website can be found here: <https://www.heritagelincs.org/wp-content/uploads/HOD24-BROCHURE-.pdf>

Historic Religious Buildings Alliance - The Big Update

This conference took place on 5th June in Pimlico, St James the Less (an explosion of Gothic Revival by G.E. Street, with events celebrating his bicentenary). Links to the programme and presentations from the day can be found here: <https://www.hrballiance.org.uk/resources/talks/>



Benefact Trust: Talking Net Zero with the Church of England: Inspiring churches to take action

The latest podcast is a conversation with Julian Atkins, Net Zero Programme Director for the Church of England about the wider climate crisis, the Church of England's ambitious plans to reach Net Zero by 2030, and how churches can make practical steps to reduce their carbon footprint. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxvMAHI4Hvk>



The Church of England Church Door Challenge

We are being invited to join in with the #ChurchDoorChallenge on social media this July and August, showcasing the hospitality, history, and diversity of churches across the country.

This is an opportunity to share your stories. For further information about how to join in see this link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/church-door-challenge-join-summer-social-media>

Support with running your church - national resources

A digest of what is available to support you from the national church, including information about free resources, free training and even free software can be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/support-running-your-church-whats-available-nationally>



The National Lottery Heritage Fund has produced a short video to talk about the four investment principles help heritage. You can find it here:

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/videos/how-do-our-investment-principles-help-heritage>

Net Zero Carbon Team

This is the first of hopefully many updates from the Net Zero Carbon Team based here in Lincoln. With George Davies joining the Team in June as the Carbon Enabler, I am pleased to say the Team is now complete as there is an awful lot of work to do.

Our overall objective is to support the Diocese in achieving the Church of England's goal to be Net Zero Carbon by 2030. This is an ambitious, but laudable ambition, an area the Church should be visibly taking a lead, and we think can be achieved by working collaboratively together.

The team's main focus to date has been in supporting the effort in getting the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) data in. The closing date this year is the 31st of July, which is not a lot of time. There's been a lot of site visits, emailing, calls and support going on to try and get as many returns in as possible. There isn't really that much data required when you get into it. The big message remains that the Team is there to help, and by completing your returns, it enables us to then look at ways of raising the funding required to deliver your own individual journeys to net zero.

Why is this data so important, and what do we do with it? Well, the simple answer is the data forms the primary input into us producing a carbon footprint for the Diocese that can also be broken down to an individual level. We then take that footprint to produce a Net Zero Carbon Action Plan for the Diocese. The Action Plan sets the objectives and targets year by year to 2030 and our Net Zero Carbon achievement. It enables us to produce costings and budgets so that the Diocese can bid for the funds it needs to deliver against the Action Plan. Our next update will go into more detail about this.

Six weeks in, and it's been a busy time, we have met some fantastic people on our travels, and some of the projects we have seen have been truly inspiring. It will be exciting working with these and others yet to be identified as we go forward.

The team is here to help, however trivial the query may be.



George Davies (l), Net Zero Carbon Enabler and Chris Lynch (r), Net Zero Carbon Programme Manager

Contact Details:

Chris Lynch

Net Zero Carbon Programme Manager
netzeromanager@lincoln.anglican.org

George Davies

Net Zero Carbon Enabler

George.Davies@lincoln.anglican.org

Useful Links:

The Church of England Routemap to Net Zero Carbon in 2030:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/net-zero-carbon-routemap>

Practical Guidance and Resources for Churches:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/the-practical-path-to-net-zero-carbon-for-churches-FINAL-April-2020.pdf>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church/practical-path-net-zero-carbon-churches>

Swifts

The Grimsby Area Swift Project (GASP) is run by the RSPB Grimsby Local Group to try and help counteract the 60% decrease in swifts in the last 25 years.

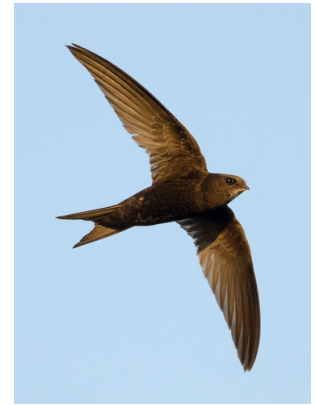
The Deanery Environment Champion for North East Lincolnshire, Stiorra Xander-Crabb has worked with the group and Immingham St Andrew, who are looking to install swift boxes at the church. They are also keen to encourage a young lad, Brody, who is enthusiastic about encouraging local wildlife.

Can your church look to do similar? A further guide by the RSPB about how to help swifts can be found here:

<https://group.rspb.org.uk/southeasthertfordshire/wp-content/uploads/sites/149/2022/11/Swift-Support-Guide-Oct-2022-S-M-L-1.pdf>

Caring for God's Acre also produces guidance:

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/guidelines-for-installing-swift-nest-boxes-in-church-belfries/>



Swift (photo: RSPB)

Swift boxes fitted inside a church tower louvre

Photo: Caring for God's Acre



Photos: The British Lichen Society

Lichens are an indication of clean air and are a good environmental indicator.



Lichens are lovely - do not cause them harm!

We have heard from other support officers that some genealogists have been seen 'cleaning' gravestones in order to make the lettering clearer. There are various problems with this. One is that the lettering can be harmed by the cleaning. Another is that rare lichens can be destroyed. The British Lichen Society states, "Of the 2000 British species, over a third have been found in churchyards and more than 600 have been found growing on churchyard stone in lowland England. Many are scarce and some seldom, if ever, occur in other habitats."

Our churchyards have unique biodiversity and lichens are a key part of this. Consider having a clear policy to protect lichen and not permit harmful cleaning of gravestones and other structures.

To find out more, The British Lichen Society has a host of resources.



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

July

- Look at timber windows, doors, fascias and bargeboards. Check for cracked and rotten wood. Redecoration may be required.
- Clear away any plant growth from around the base of the walls and in particular from the drainage channel.
- Have the lightning conductor system serviced once every five years. If your building has a steeple, consider having it inspected by a steeplejack once every five years.

August

- Take a break!

September

- If your roof space has safe access and is boarded, check whether there is evidence of leaks or damage to the roof covering during heavy rain, especially below gutters.
- Clear away any plant growth from around the base of the walls and in particular from the drainage channel.
- Make sure that water tanks and exposed water and heating pipes are protected from frost. Any leaks should be repaired.
- Make sure that any airbricks or under floor ventilators are free from obstruction and clean if necessary.

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

July - Working at Height

- Falls from height can result in serious injury. Identify circumstances where tasks or access at height may be required and check the precautions you have taken are adequate.

August - Electrical Wiring

- Electricity has the potential to cause considerable damage to property and serious personal injury. Check your electrical systems have been inspected by a qualified electrician within the last five years and all portable appliances have been tested.

September - Slips and Trips

- Our claims data shows that slips and trips are the most common cause of injury in churches. To reduce the risk, review your precautions to tackle slip and trip hazards both indoors and outside.

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

Benefact Trust ☐ The Barron Bell Trust ☐ The Beatrice Laing Trust ☐ The Bernard Sunley Foundation ☐ Church Buildings Council Conservation Reports ☐ The Clothworkers' Foundation ☐ The Foyle Foundation Small Grants ☐ Garfield Weston Regular Grant ☐ 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: £10,000 to £250,000 ☐ Tesco Community Grants

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

July	
31st	East Coast Community Fund
August	
1st	Tritton Knoll Offshore Windfarm
9th	Sleaford REP Community Power
12th	Churchcare Stained Glass
13th	National Churches Trust medium grant Wolfson
30th	Marshalls
31st	William and Jane Morris Fund
September	
2nd	The Georgian Group – Cleary Fund
4th	Mick George Community Fund (southern part of diocese) FCC Communities Fund (formerly WREN)
5th	Idlewild Trust
20th	Skinners Company Lady Neville Charity
23rd	The Leche Trust
30th	The On Organ Fund The Worshipful Company of Glaziers

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
Wednesday 4th September	Wednesday 21st August
Wednesday 2nd October	Wednesday 18th September
Thursday 14th November	Thursday 31st October
Wednesday 18th December	Wednesday 4th December



Photo: Gedney, St Mary Magdalene

Contact Details

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

Steven Sleight, DAC and Pastoral Secretary, steven.sleight@lincoln.anglican.org
01522 504069

Peter Duff, Assistant DAC and Pastoral Secretary, dac.assistant@lincoln.anglican.org
01522 504045

Matthew Godfrey, Historic Churches Support Officer, matthew.godfrey@lincoln.anglican.org
01522 504048

Fran Bell, Church Development Officer, fran.bell@lincoln.anglican.org
01522 504018

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

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