



**Church
Buildings
Team Bulletin
March 2024**

Welcome

With daffodils and crocus aplenty, our churchyards point towards the coming of spring. So too this latest edition of the Church Buildings Team's Bulletin looks to the future. In particular it looks at the new grant programme from the National Heritage Lottery Fund - Our Heritage 2033 – and how that could be beneficial to church buildings. We look forward to Heritage Open Days and the West Lindsey Open Churches Festival later in the year and look at how the timeless drawings of John Claude Nattes demonstrates the ever-changing faces of our church buildings and we focus on the work of the DAC's stained glass adviser who has also written about the cleaning of stained glass. With our feet firmly on the ground in the present we look at carpeting in churches and give our usual rundown of training, dates and useful information which we hope will be useful to all of those who care for our built heritage.

As ever, if you have a question or query then please do get in touch.

Cost of electricity supply upgrades

For parishes looking to connect to an electricity supply, or upgrade from single phase to three phase, the cost changes brought into force on 1st April 2023 through Ofgem's Significant Code Review can make a huge difference. The changes mean that whilst you will still pay to connect to the electricity network, you will no longer pay for improvements to the network (e.g. upgrading substations). The details are explained on the National Grid's [significant code review webpage](#). If a quote for connection looks extremely high, it is a good idea to check if the quote was obtained since 1 April 2023 – the difference could be tens of thousands of pounds.

Faculty Fees

The Faculty Fee increased from 1st January 2024 to £327.40. This nationally set fee is to pay for the legal work of the Registry and Chancellor and does not come to the DAC. The advice of the DAC and its members and advisers remains free of charge to parishes.

However, remember that not all work will require a faculty fee. If the works come under List A or List B, then no fee is payable.

If you have any queries, do get in touch with the team churchbuildings.team@lincoln.anglican.org

How to find your IMD (Index of Multiple Deprivation) score

For both the Minor Repairs and Improvement Grant and for Marshall's Charity Grant applications, you will need your parish IMD score. The best way to find this (as well as all sorts of other information) is to use the [Church of England ArcGIS map](#). Put your place name in the search box. Make sure you click on the right place (we have ended up in all sorts of non-Lincolnshire places by not concentrating). Zoom in and then click into the parish. If you click on the little coloured dot, it will also take you to information about that church. The white dots are different schools and places of education.

John Claude Nattes

Antiquarian drawings, paintings and very early photographs are an interesting way to trace back to see how your parish church may have looked in the past. These early sources may show that the church was once larger, smaller, completely different in appearance and also show its condition at the time the drawing was completed. One of the most prolific of these artists was John Claude Nattes (1765-1839) who is often described of Anglo-French descent. As well as being an accomplished painter he also produced some of the earliest water colour paintings in Britain. Between 1789 and 1797 he was commissioned by Sir Joseph Banks to record churches and other interesting buildings and in Banks' words "mark precisely the state in which these magnificent remains of religious buildings erected by voluntary zeal of our previous ancestors".

In total Nattes completed around 700 drawings, roughly half of which were churches. Most of these drawings and water colours are now carefully preserved in four large volumes at the Lincolnshire Archives. The date of these drawings is the key to understanding them and what gives them their importance when researching church buildings. They represent churches as they were before many of the Victorian period restorations and rebuilds that took place across the county from the 1840s onwards. At times they show a motley bunch of buildings, some clearly in a very poor condition which were ripe for restoration and barely recognisable today. In contrast others look in a much better condition and still look more or less the same as they did in the 1790s. Two of the most striking examples of the former are Horsington All Saints and Haugham All Saints, now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

Horsington can only be described as 'rustic' especially with its freestanding bell tower in the back ground. General Loft describing the church in June 1832 commented that it was a very poor structure composed of 'stud and mud'.



Horsington All Saints, Nattes drawing. Image: Lincolnshire Archives



Horsington All Saints as it is now rebuilt in 1858-60 by the architect David Brandon. Image Ron Cole

The Lincolnshire Architectural Society Report in 1860 mentioned that the earlier church 'something more like a barn' has now been replaced with a new building that has replaced its 'miserable predecessor'. Clearly the Victorians weren't impressed by the earlier structure either!

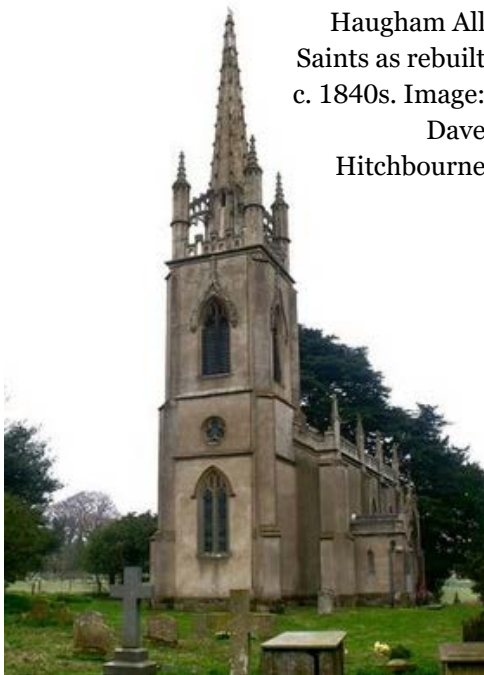
John Claude Nattes continued

Haugham All Saints is an even more extreme case. Here Nattes shows a simple rectangular building with a thatch roof constructed from a combination of brick and stone in this case the local Spilsby Sandstone (Greenstone). This watercolour shows that thatch was once a common roofing material; Markby St Peter is the only church in the diocese with thatch now. Similarly, it also shows that the exterior of churches was commonly rendered to conceal the building materials beneath and also make the building more weatherproof. This church was described by William John Monson when he visited the church to record the monuments on the 19th August 1835 as a 'mean barn-like church'.



Haugham All Saints, Nattes drawing 1790. Image: Lincolnshire Archives

Haugham All Saints as rebuilt c. 1840s. Image: Dave Hitchbourne



Needless to say, this was an early Victorian rebuild (1840-1) paid for by the incumbent at the time Rev G A Chaplin a member of a wealthy land owning family. The Louth architect was G R Willoughby probably in collaboration with the architect W A Nicholson from Lincoln. It is clear to see that nearby Louth St James was the key influence.

One final example is Lusby St Peter, a church that hasn't really changed quite as drastically as the examples above. It was restored in the early 1890s by Ewan Christian, but still retains many interesting early features. Visibly the biggest changes since Nattes' time are the western porch, bell-cote, roof coverings and some renewed window fenestration. The Victorian restoration also stripped the exterior wall of the render finish that was still intact in the 1790s.

Lusby St Peter, Nattes drawing 1790. Image Lincolnshire Archives



Lusby St Peter now following restoration by Ewan Christian 1891-93. Image: A Church Near You.



Hopefully this brief snapshot of the work of John Claude Nattes has illustrated just how much some of our church buildings have changed - or not - over the centuries. It gives a fascinating glimpse into how many of Lincolnshire's churches looked before the many Victorian rebuilds and restorations and, in many cases, you can certainly see why such drastic work was necessary.

Focus on - The DAC

Tom Küpper, Glazing Adviser to the DAC writes:

Some of you may have bumped into me, particularly during the Church Open Days with my camera at the ready to capture the beautiful windows in your churches. Once the secret is out that I am the glazing adviser for the Lincoln diocese and I get chatting to people I am always happy to give some advice about your windows.



I have worked for over 30 years with stained glass having run my own studio in Cumbria during the 1980s. I worked for Lincoln Cathedral for 25 years being the 'Head of the Stained-Glass Department' having managed the conservation of the Dean's Eye Rose Window and other stained glass conservation projects. I gained my MA in the 'Conservation of Historic Objects' from DeMontfort University, Leicester in 2005 and I have been an accredited stained-glass conservator since 2011. In my past roles I have been a stained-glass advisor and section committee member to the Church Building Council, London and a stained-glass advisor to the Southwell and Nottingham DAC.

During 2018/19 I was part of the 'Taylor Pilot Scheme' working as a 'Fabric Support Officer' in Suffolk together with the Ipswich and St. Edmundsbury DAC providing advice and helping parish churches with their maintenance programs and sourcing grant funding.

I am a 'Trust Committee' member of the 'Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass' advising on stained glass and of course I am delighted to say that I have been the glazing adviser to the Lincoln DAC since 2013.

Working full time, I am the Estates and Facilities Manager at Peterborough Cathedral and I am part of their executive team. I am also a member of the Birmingham Cathedral Fabric Advisory Committee, currently advising on the conservation of their fabulous stained-glass windows by Sir Edward Burne Jones and William Morris. I have written articles and presented a number of papers discussing the conservation of stained glass at national and international conferences and at the time of writing, I am completing my PhD researching 'Amateur Stained Glass in Anglican Churches between 1830 and 1880'.

So, if you see me wandering about in your church on one of the Open Days taking photographs of your windows, just say hello and if you have any amateur windows in your church, please let me know and my camera is ready and good to go.

For further advice from Tom, see the next article on the cleaning of stained glass.

Should stained glass windows be cleaned?

Lincolnshire churches have a rich heritage of stained glass and visit any church in the county and you are sure to find windows by one of the large Victorian studios. It takes an expert to identify the studio which manufactured the windows and it also takes an expert to inspect the state of repair of the windows and to give some professional advice.

Most church wardens are eager to find out how to clean their stained-glass windows and a standard reply of any conservator should be; 'very carefully!' Particular medieval glass, which is extremely delicate and the advice here is; 'Do not attempt to clean and if in doubt call an accredited conservator!'

Some Victorian and early twentieth-century stained glass can look dirty, particularly on the outside. This is debatable, and what you may think is dirt could actually be a build-up of a natural patination with the glass being constantly exposed to the elements and pollutants. Over many decades this has affected the external surface of the glass and the pollutants and dirt will have built up to a thin, but tenacious layer which has almost etched itself into the glass substrate. Actually, this layer is quite beneficial and it enables the glass to hold the light. Some stained-glass studios have intentionally painted a thin wash on the exterior surface of the glass as part of the design in order to create an artificial patination of age so that the light is held there. Once this layer has been removed, there is no going back. So, the advice is; leave well alone and call a conservator to give you that professional advice if you think your glass is dirty on the outside.



Fig. 1. Messingham, Holy Trinity, e. window, 14th Century. Do not attempt to clean.



Fig. 2. above: Caistor, St. Peter & St. Paul, by Kempe & Tower, c. 1879-80. This studio produced windows with very stable paint.

Fig. 3. below: Bardney, St. Lawrence. s. chancel, c. 1925 by Edward Woore. Is it dirt or just heavy matting and stipple?



Stained glass windows continued

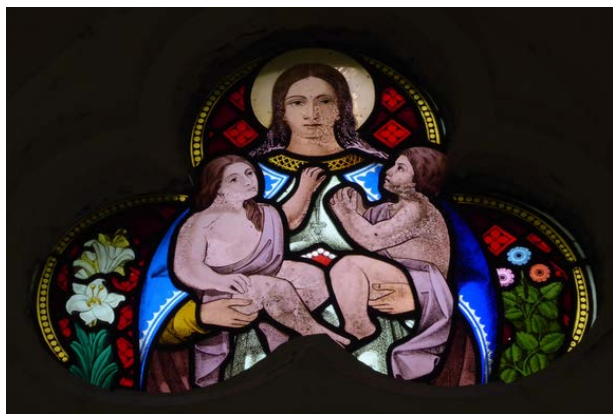


Fig. 4. Fillingham, St Andrew, tracery, unknown, ca. 1860. Dirt on the small figures with some paint loss on the main figure.

In combination with excessive moisture/condensation inside the church and overzealous cleaning, this can have a detrimental effect. The issue of paint-loss is well understood by stained-glass conservators and again if there are any signs of thinning paint or paint loss on your painted stained glass and you are intending to clean the window; DON'T! Call a conservator who will give some professional advice.

There are some occasions where a light cleaning of your plain and stained glass is part of the church warden's good housekeeping regime. Using a soft long-haired brush, like a painters brush to dust off any loose dirt and cobwebs on the outside of the window is acceptable. We all know the mess pigeons can leave behind and with Marigolds at the ready and using some warm water together with a drop of mild detergent and a soft sponge it does no harm to remove the guano but avoid cleaning the whole window.



Fig. 6. Appleby, St. Bartholomew, plain leaded north window, no date. Internal loose dirt and accretions, centre pane being dry cleaned with a soft brush.

On a number of occasions, the question is asked by church wardens how to clean the inside of a stained-glass window. It is understanding the medium and the intention of the designer and the glass painters and having that prior knowledge helps to determine what is paint, what is loose dirt and what is tenacious grime. A number of Victorian studios are well known to have unintentionally produced windows where the vitreous paint is highly unstable.



Fig. 5. Belton, St. Peter & St. Paul, Angel window, unknown studio, ca. 1865. Severe paint loss and internal surface dirt.

Cleaning the inside of a painted window is a little more delicate and using a long handled soft feather duster removing cobwebs and loose dirt is mostly acceptable. It gives the church wardens also the opportunity to get close to their windows, looking out for any cracks or holes and monitor the general condition of the windows. Most windows are located at height and whatever you do, please consider Health & Safety particularly going up step-ladders, and please take someone with you to help and assist. If you are unsure about the stability of the vitreous paint or the glass, don't clean it and get in touch with a professional accredited conservator and of course your architect, who plays a critical role in understanding and maintaining the fabric of your church. You can also contact the DAC and ask advice which can be specifically tailored to your windows.

News, Events and Resources

Heritage Open Days - Register events before 31st March

Running from Friday 6th to Sunday 15th September 2024, this years theme is Routes - Networks - Connections, which gives our churches huge scope as ever to be creative and put on events. For your event to be included in the brochure, you need to register before 31st March with Heritage Lincolnshire. The Organiser area can be found [here](#) where you will find the registration documents, FAQs and some theme ideas and further help.



The Wonderful World of Roof Angels

On Saturday 27th April at 2.30 pm in Grimoldby St Edith, this talk by Geoff Wheatley (Angelic Researcher!) will be a unique opportunity to see and hear about Lincolnshire's historic angels.

Tickets are £5 per person on the door (cash please as there is no internet) with under 12's getting in for free.

Arts and Crafts stalls and displays along with light refreshments will be available. The proceeds will support the further work to the roof angels.

Address: St Edith Church, Tinkle Street, Grimoldby, LN11 8SW



West Lindsey Open Churches Festival

Keep an eye on the [website](#) for further details of this years festival which will run over two weekends, 11th and 12th May and 18th and 19th May.



Video and written resources still available on website

You can still access the resources to help you understand your church building, how to run a church buildings project, grant funding, working with the DAC and church maintenance on our section of the website. As ever, if you have a question, do not hesitate to ask the team.

Church Repair Society AGM

The Church Repair Society AGM will be held on 1st May at 1030am at Dunholme Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Carpeting in Churches

Something that is frequently mentioned in quinquennial survey reports is carpeting within churches. To some they provide a warm friendly atmosphere, but to others they can look like a domestic or hotel interior. Aesthetic arguments aside there are many reasons why a historic church building is better off without a carpet unless that carpet is of the correct type.

In all types of modern buildings, the floor will almost certainly have a damp-proof membrane beneath it which means no moisture can come up through the floor into the building. The opposite is true in historic church buildings where there is no damp-proof membrane and consequently moisture can come up through the floor. In some cases this can account for up to 50% of the moisture found in church buildings. This moisture relies on the draughty nature of the building and open window vents and doors to carry this moisture away.

If a carpet, especially a rubber backed one, is installed on such a floor it can form an impenetrable barrier to the moisture and effectively stops the floor being able to breathe. The moisture retained by the carpet can then damage flagstones, tiles and even worse monuments and ledger stones beneath it. Furthermore, it can cause timber floors to rot and concentrates the dampness around the edge of the carpet which if touching a wooden pew platform can eventually cause decay. This dampness can also provide a habitat for harmful insects that can damage historic elements within the church.

If you feel that your church does need a carpet to reduce trip hazards on an uneven floor or cover cast iron floor grates for instance, make sure that it is a breathable type. If an underlay is needed this needs to be breathable too. Coconut, sisal or rush matting are best and a good quality wool carpet can also be used. The coarse open nature of these materials allows the floor to breathe. If these are installed, make sure that they can be lifted so that dirt and grit that works its way through them can be removed every now and again, as dirt which is left beneath a carpet can be very abrasive if left too long.

If you wish to install or indeed remove a carpet, please contact the Church Buildings Team for further advice.



Impermeable plastic sheeting beneath a carpet is not to be recommended



Note how the base of the column has salt damage and the wall beyond is growing mould - all because the moisture cannot escape through the carpet.



Black mould has grown because moisture has been trapped without adequate ventilation. Note too the beginnings of rot in the pew platform.

Environment

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!

All sessions are on Zoom and start at 7pm. The next two sessions can be booked [here](#):

Outdoor Worship (8th May)

Connecting Community (3rd July)

Recordings of previous sessions are available, including the one from January with Matt Fulford on [Church Buildings](#), particularly on heating. There is also a set of [FAQ's](#) that accompany this session.

Caring for God's Acre Poster Resource for Churchyards

A series of signs have been produced by Caring for God's Acre, that you can adapt and use in your churchyard, particularly for areas that are being left to grow as meadow for a season. By filling in this [form](#), they will send you the link so you can download and print the signs

Don't forget that there are lots of other resources available on the [Caring for God's Acre website](#) to help you make the most of your churchyards.

Planting for Pollinators

Given that Spring is here, you may be considering planting and sowing seeds to encourage pollinators. Just a reminder that you need to know where your plant material is from and whether the variety is suitable for your soil type. Don't just use mixed wildflower seed from anywhere as you may introduce species that will change the biodiversity balance for the worse.



Eco Church



Almost 10% of churches in the Diocese have signed up to be part of the Eco Church network. We encourage you to sign up if you haven't yet. A criteria of future grants and energy audit assistance will be that your church is signed up. Further information [here](#).

Small changes save urban church thousands of pounds in energy bills

[Read](#) and [watch](#) how St Denys, Southampton made subtle changes to reduce the church's energy consumption and as a result have saved £5,000 off their annual £20,000 utilities bill. The changes in the large Victorian building have included switching halogen lightbulbs for LED lighting; replacing kettles for triple-insulated urns; insulating pipes; monitoring electricity use through smart meters and buying heated seat pads for office chairs.

[Sign up](#) for the [Church of England Environment Programme newsletter](#) to get more inspirational stories about other churches around the country.

Energy Footprint Tool open for 2023 data

The Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool is now open for churches to enter fuel and power use from 2023.

The data collected from the tool will help your church understand its carbon footprint and will mean you may be eligible for grants to help kickstart your net zero projects.

This work is an essential part of caring for God's Creation, by helping to combat global heating and climate change.

The easy-to-use online tool will tell your church what your carbon footprint is, based on the energy you use to heat and light your buildings.



What do I have to do?

Simply enter your church's energy figures from the year before. Once you have entered all the data, you will immediately receive a report and results on your computer or smartphone. This includes:

- The church's carbon footprint in CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent)
- A simple assessment of your buildings' efficiency, in graphical form

What do I need to get started?

You will need your utility bills for the year before: electricity, gas, oil, or whichever other fuel you use. For example, if you are completing it in 2024, you need your 2023 bills. If you have solar panels, find information on their generation over the preceding year.

If you have a separate church hall you will need to add this building, and enter the bills for this too. If you want to exclude an area which is permanently rented out to tenants and sub-metered, you will want this information to hand.

For most churches, the floor area is already known. If this is not known, you will need a sensible estimate of the m² floor area of the church, and any other associated buildings you are inputting, such as the church hall.

You will also need a sensible estimate of the number of person-hours that the church is used throughout the year. Please remember when entering this data that a good estimate is fine – these numbers do not need to be 100% accurate, as long as they are in a relevant ballpark.

The system is open until 31 July 2024 and you can find it on the online Parish Returns system: <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/diocese-menu/verify-data>

Further information can be found on the updated page of the Church of England [website](#) including [video resources of FAQs](#) and a [screen by screen run through](#) of how to fill in the form.

Completing the EFT might take you an hour the first time you complete it, but if you have all your information to hand and have completed it before it take you as little as 20 to 30 minutes. If you find you don't have everything you need, you can save your progress and return to complete and submit the EFT at a later point.

Note that in order to qualify for the green energy package offered by Parish Buying, they require Parishes to have filled in the EFT, prior to a new contract starting.

National Churches Trust launch Every Church Counts campaign



National Churches Trust launches manifesto calling for urgent action to save the UK's church buildings.

Launched in the House of Lords on 24th January 2024, 'Every Church Counts', sets out six key actions needed to save the UK's church buildings which are:

- A network of professional support officers to help the heroic volunteers and clergy who look after church buildings.
- Boosting the UK's church-based 'National Help Service' by basing more community support services in church buildings.
- Additional public funding of £50 million to help save church heritage for the future; a national matched funding scheme to incentivise charitable giving is also proposed, with the value of donations doubled.
- A strategy to increase tourism to historic churches, including more UNESCO world heritage site designations, for example for the wool churches of Norfolk or Suffolk and the early Christian sites of Wales and Northern Britain.
- Regular opening of churches beyond worship times, including seven day a week opening where possible.
- Urgent action by Government, heritage organisations and denominations, including the development of a national plan.

The full document can be read [here](#) and there are other [resources](#) on their website including a video and how you might get involved with the campaign.

This might include trying to open your church building regularly and thinking of ways you can engage visitors to the county to visit your church.



EV Charging Points in Churches Webinar

This webinar, to be held on Tuesday 9th April at 2pm, is aimed at any church interested in providing EV charging services either to parishioners or the wider community. It will also cover the health and safety of this service.

EV charging provides a modest source of income for the church, and helps with your journey towards being carbon neutral. The minimum number of parking spaces to be converted to EV charging is two, and you must own (not rent) your car park. The scheme is equally open to urban and rural churches.

To register, click [here](#).

Recommended Monthly Tasks

(From SPAB's Faith in Maintenance calendar)

March

- Check that eaves, gutters and downpipes have not been damaged by frost. Look for cracks and leaks in rainwater goods.
- Clear parapet and valley gutters of snow to prevent melt water rising above them and causing damp internally. Take care in icy conditions.

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.

Risk Calendar

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

March - Ladders

- If using ladders or stepladders check that they are right for the job, free from defects and used properly, being appropriately positioned and secured.

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.

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.

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

Electrical Fires on the increase

Ecclesiastical Insurance have noticed an increase in electrical fires in churches

It is essential that you ensure the electrical installation is checked by an approved electrical contractor at least every five years. Also, you need to have a risk based portable appliance testing programme in place. These actions will significantly reduce the risk of an electrical fire occurring at your church. For further information follow this [link](#).

National Lottery Heritage Fund - new grant guidance and application forms now available



At the end of January, the NLHF issued their new guidance for grants between £10,000 and £250,000 and for grants between £250,000 and £10 million. Both grants will be subject to the same four priorities: saving heritage, protecting the environment, inclusion, access and participation and organisational sustainability. All projects will have to reflect each priority, but the balance of this will be down to each individual project.

The website explains a bit more about each priority stating what the NLHF mean, what they will do and what they are hoping to achieve within the 10 year strategy period for Heritage 2033, some of which is summarised below.

Saving heritage - Conserving and valuing heritage, for now and the future.

The NLHF want to ensure heritage remains accessible, relevant, sustainable and valued. To do this they will consider three sub categories of Heritage at Risk, Invest in Places and Revitalise and Maintain.

Protecting the environment - Supporting nature recovery and environmental sustainability.

Support will be given to natural heritage and environmentally sustainable projects that help the UK meet its nature recovery targets and mitigate the impact of climate change on heritage. The four sub categories are Landscape, Nature, Environmental footprint and Mitigation.

Inclusion, access and participation - Supporting greater inclusion, diversity, access and participation in heritage.

The NLHF want to help organisations to ensure everyone has opportunities to learn, develop new skills and explore heritage, regardless of background or personal circumstances. This will take into account the four sub categories of Involve a more diverse range of people in heritage, Enable organisations to remove barriers to access and participation, Support all communities to explore and share their heritage and Accessible digital heritage resources.

Organisational sustainability - Strengthening heritage to be adaptive and financially resilient, contributing to communities and economies.

This means supporting organisations to develop the skills and capacity to ensure a sound long-term future and encourage new heritage investment that benefits communities and economies. This will involve the four sub categories of Support financial sustainability, Support heritage skills development, Provide flexible funding and New finance and investment.

For grants in the £10,000 to £250,000 category, there are no deadlines. An optional Project Enquiry can be submitted. This lets you get feedback on your project idea before you fill in the application form. We always recommend you do this stage!

For grants in the £250,000 to £10 million category, deadlines are quarterly. You have to submit an Expression of Interest and, if you are successful, you will be invited to apply.

With either grant, always read the guidance notes at least twice, get someone not involved with your project to read through the application and remember, your Church Buildings Team is here to help!

Grant News

Minor Repair and Improvement Grant

As mentioned in the January bulletin, this diocese has received a share of the triennium funding from the Archbishops' Council to fund the Minor Repairs and Improvement Grant, which will run to December 2025. The majority of this funding will be for small-scale but urgent and necessary works of repair, that can help keep the building in good repair and save larger sums in the long term. However, some of the funding can be used for essential improvements for the ministry and mission of a church.

Total project costs must not exceed £10,000 (excluding VAT, which in most cases is reclaimable via the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme). Grants will be made on a sliding scale, dependant on your IMD score (see page 2). An application form and guidance notes are now available. For further information and to enquire whether your project is eligible, contact the team. churchbuildings.team@lincoln.anglican.org

Congregational and General Charitable

Trust

Colleagues in other dioceses have reported parishes having some success with this grant fund. This Trust awards grants ranging from a minimum of £1,000 to a maximum of £25,000. All grants are directly related to the cost of the project involved. Within the above limits, the maximum percentage is 25% of the total project cost, to the nearest £100. While their primary focus has been the United Reformed and Congregational denominations, Anglican churches have also been successful, particularly where there is wider community benefit.



Bernard Sunley Foundation

Churches can apply for a grant, but there needs to be secular activity within the church to be eligible. From looking at their annual report on the Charity Commission website, various churches have received grants for upgrades of heating, lighting and community space as well as some repairs.

ACRE village hall grants

Do you live in a settlement with less than 10,000 people and have a church hall is multi-purpose, open for the whole community and there is no alternative village hall in the vicinity? Does that hall need some physical improvements? You can apply for a grant between £2,000 and £5,000 which will be 20% of your capital project costs including the VAT. You must be able to identify where the remaining 80% is being sourced from. There is no upper limit for the total capital costs, but you can only receive a maximum grant of £5,000. Smaller projects will be prioritised.



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 £10 million 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

March	
25th	Churchcare Bells and Bellframes
April	
1	Bicker wind farm (each year) Laceby Solar Farm Community Fund (each year)
8	Churchcare Clocks
12	Sleaford REP Community Power
16	National Churches Trust medium grant Wolfson
30	The On Organ Fund
May	
2	Congregational and General Charitable Trust

List of grants for environmental projects

The Church of England produces a list of grants for environmental projects that can be found [here](#). It was last updated in June 2023. Read the grant criteria carefully, as some grants are geographically restricted and some are restricted for other criteria.

Parish Resources grant list

This [list](#) was last updated in July 2023, so does not take into account the updated NLHF grants, but is still a useful document, particular for specialist funding for bells, organs and conservation.

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 2nd May	Thursday 18th April
Wednesday 5th June	Wednesday 22nd May
Thursday 4th July	Thursday 20th June
Wednesday 4th September	Wednesday 21st August



Contact Details

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

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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

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