



Welcome

Welcome to this month's edition of the Church Buildings Team Bulletin. We've got stories of encouragement and hope from a variety of churches as well as the latest news on grant aid. There is also news on events that will be of interest to many. Read on!

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Inspiring Churches

Find inside a host of churches to learn from, with creative ideas for engaging their community and drawing in new interest.

Wolds and Coast

Churches Festival

The first two weekends in September see the return of this festival celebrating our rich church heritage. To see what's on, check out [their website](#) due to be updated with all the details of this year's events in August.

Ride and Stride

The Lincolnshire Churches Trust open churches event is also coming up on Saturday 12th September. Look forward to a peaceful day enjoying our beautiful churches, stunning countryside and fresh air.

Find out more [here](#)

Both of these events crossover with the national [Heritage Open Days](#), which runs from the 11th to the 20th of September.

Registration is open until Wednesday 12th August, and will promote your open church far and wide.

Churches to be Inspired By

We were fortunate to enjoy a heartening visit to **Candlesby St Benedict** with the DAC this month to find it filled with green plants bringing life to the space. This is just one way this church welcomes visitors, with over 50 people attending its regular Bingo evenings inspiring a positive increase in its Sunday congregation too.

We also visited **Stickney St Luke** which will be hosting its 20th local history open weekend this year which has been the hard work of churchwardens Martin and Bev Gosling who have welcomed thousands of visitors over the years. Find out more on their website [here](#).

Another churchwarden is set to tackle 73 miles of the Viking Way from **Cadney All Saints** to Lincoln Cathedral. Debbie Clark is fundraising to repair the roof following lead theft, and to conserve an important medieval screen. This is on top of success in developing All Saints' church hall into a more practical space for groups like their ever popular sewing bee. She spoke to BBC Radio Humberside about her walk; listen to the clip [here](#) (from 2:17pm) and keep up with her on Facebook [here](#).

A visitor counter is heralding the success of **Old Bolingbroke St Peter & St Paul**, which recorded 800 visitors in 2020 increasing to over 12,000 this past year. Their ongoing scheme of events including concerts, history talks, a pop up pub, and even a pet service helps the church to remain central to its community. This is particularly powerful to say of a church that was once facing closure and has been brought 'back from the brink' by its dedicated supporters. Read more about them [here](#).

There is much to be learned too from a church in the Diocese of Ely which made over £3,000 last summer by offering refreshment to passers-by. Simply with a cool box in the porch which was replenished daily, this meant the church could be unmanned but still progress fundraising.



News, Events, and Resources



What have we been up to?

We've had a busy few months hosting and attending events across the country.

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at the Lincolnshire show including for the Churchwardens' swearing in and from our schools across the Diocese who came to sing hymns (complete with actions!) and to share works of art and poetry that they'd created.

We also hosted the regional DAC conference in Grantham joined by the dioceses of Chelmsford, St Albans, Norwich, and Ely. The day included a tour of Grantham St Wulfram's and its Trigge library and was a great opportunity to work with our colleagues across the Church of England.

Matthew delivered a talk at Fulstow St Lawrence, helping to develop local interest in the history of our churches, showing how it can be read through the architecture of our buildings.

We had a visit to London too for the Historic England Support Officers meeting, where we heard more about the new Renewal Fund and returned your feedback and experiences so far.

One of our churches was even featured on television – did you see Walesby All Saints on Countryfile? As part of their celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Viking Way.

Training Opportunities

Transforming Heating & Lighting in Heritage Churches

15/09/2026

Visit All Saints church Stamford for this conference reflecting on their successful heating and lighting project, looking at Net Zero, grant funding, and how to face the hurdles.

The Building is the Burden (Lightening the Load)

29/09/26 Sheffield & 15/10/26 London

This conference from the National Estate Churches Network (NECN) aims to give church leaders practical advice and support to tackle building problems using expertise from the Church of England's central Housing Project, and the Church Urban Fund.

Practical Walk Through Martyn's Law

01/10/26 12:30

Formally known as the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act it is named in memory of Martyn Hett, one of the 22 victims of the 2017 Manchester Arena attack, and it asks us to be prepared should the worst happen. It applies to any gatherings of 200 people or more, including weddings, funerals, and events.

An Introduction to Fundraising

6/10/26 14:00

This session, in partnership with Ecclesiastical, will include a contribution from Heather Ford who is their Church Support Officer covering this diocese. Delivered by our Generosity team.

Trusteeship and the PCC

12/11/26 14:00

This session provides an overview of PCC charitable status, the responsibilities of trustees and touches on PCC registration with the Charity Commission. Delivered by our Generosity team.

thank you!

Net Zero Update

Thank you for submitting your Energy Footprint Tool responses.

This data is used to help us see where support is needed across the Diocese, to ensure our church buildings are fit for the future and that PCCs are getting the help they need. If we can assist you with any aspect of church development please get in touch – contact details at the end.

New funding is now available to help churches cut carbon and improve energy efficiency.

The Church of England's new Decarbonising Churches Grant Fund (DCGF) is now open, offering funding to help churches and church halls replace failed or failing heating systems with low-carbon alternatives.

The fund is available to churches and halls with:

- Failed or failing gas or oil heating systems.
- Failed electric heating systems where running costs have become unsustainable (subject to other eligibility conditions).

Available funding includes:

- Up to £15,000 for project development, including energy audits, feasibility studies and professional advice.
- Up to £45,000 towards the **differential cost** of replacing failed fossil fuel heating systems with low-carbon alternatives, with funding levels based on **local deprivation** on project costs above £25,000.

Alongside the DCGF, churches can also access:

- Quick Wins grants of between £3,000 and £6,000 for smaller energy-saving improvements such as LED lighting, insulation and other building improvements (available directly through the diocese).
- Give to Go Green match funding of up to £20,000 for decarbonisation projects in churches and church halls.

Churches interested in applying should speak to George Davies, the Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Officer as an initial step before beginning an application.



Grant News

Minor Repairs & Improvements Grants are on the Horizon

Although we have not yet been released to open applications, we can confirm that the Diocese has received its share of this fund.

We know how valuable this has been to you (see the feedback word cloud below) and are considering carefully how to award this round to do the greatest good across the Diocese.



Parish Accessibility Fund

Demand for Large Grants across the Southern Province has been high, meaning that 6-week application windows are now being introduced for each panel deliberation.

These panels are expected to be easily filled for the rest of this year, and we anticipate that the Diocese's allowance of £100,000 will shortly be allocated.

However, the Small Grants scheme remains open to applications of between £1,000 and £5,000. Read more about this fund [here](#) and for the latest information and to apply please contact Sophie.

Places of Worship Renewal Fund – First Round

The first round of this new fund is now underway, with some applicants having responses to their Expressions of Interest (EoI) already. Rest assured we are here to support you whatever the result may be.

Due to demand, Historic England have had to restrict the applications taken forward in this round to churches within Indices of Multiple Deprivation levels 1-3. This is not to say that you will not feel deprivation and its challenges in your parish outside of this ranking, but that inevitably with over 1100 applications in this round a line has to be drawn to narrow down awards.

If HE accepted every application from this round there would be just approximately £20,000 per applicant and that would spend up the entire budget for this year.

Please note that importantly, toilet and servery works alone are not eligible with this fund, but may be considered as part of a majority-repair project.

If we can help you develop a project for the next EoI round in September, please get in touch.

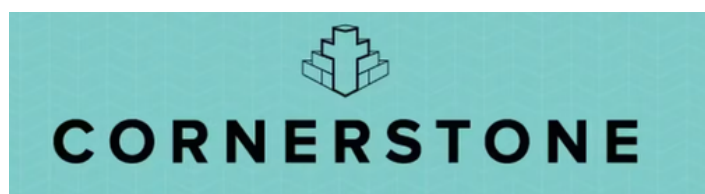


Grant Information

Where to Start

Please get in touch with us to help you with a funding plan to know what to apply for and when. We keep in contact with many grant providers so have the latest information and can offer feedback to give you the best chance of success.

You can also browse available grants through the [Charity Excellence Framework](#), [Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service](#) or use [Cornerstone](#).



Cornerstone is a new programme developed by the National Giving Team which offers three distinct functions: Insights, Pathways, and a comprehensive Grants database. If you are interested in being involved, please contact the Generous Living Team for more information generosity@lincoln.anglican.org

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 ☐ Garfield Weston Regular Grant ☐ The Hobson Charity Ltd ☐ John Warren Foundation ☐ The Kochan Trust ☐ Lincolnshire Churches Trust ☐ National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities Fund ☐ National Lottery Heritage Fund: £10,000 to £250,000 ☐ Tesco Community Grants

Share your Grant News

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

August	
1 st	The Joseph Rank Trust
6 th	Parish Accessibility Fund Large Grants
18 th	National Churches Trust Medium Grants for Churches
21 st	Marshall's Charity Church Restoration Grants
31 st	William and Jane Morris Fund
September	
3 rd	Parish Accessibility Fund Small Grants
October	
6 th	Parish Accessibility Fund Large Grants
15 th	Parish Accessibility Fund Small Grants



This piece of stone work is a portion of a 14th century cross discovered in 1887 under the foundations of the tower. The coat of arms also appeared on a 17th century house which once stood in the churchyard.

Monthly Tasks



SPAB's Faith in Maintenance Calendar



Ecclesiastical Insurance's Church Risk Calendar

August – Security

- From theft to arson and vandalism, security is key. As every place of worship and its location is unique, a tailored assessment and response, reflecting the individual risks faced, should be undertaken.

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.

October – Water pipes and heating

- An escape of water can cause extensive and lasting damage. Check that your water pipes are lagged, the stopcock is clearly labelled, and your heating system has been serviced by a registered engineer.

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
- Make sure that any airbricks or under floor ventilators are free from obstruction and clean if necessary.

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.

Key Dates

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

Meeting Date	Agenda Close
Wednesday 2 nd September	Wednesday 19 th August
Thursday 1 st October	Thursday 17 th September
Thursday 5 th November	Thursday 22 nd October

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

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01522 504045

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

Sophie Clark, Church Development Officer, sophie.clark@lincoln.anglican.org
01522 504018

George Davies, Net Zero Carbon Officer, george.davies@lincoln.anglican.org

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