

Church Buildings Team Bulletin July 2025



Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the Church Buildings Team Bulletin. It's a big welcome to Sophie Clark as our new Church Development Officer and she introduces herself and encourages parishes to be in touch about their development projects. We have our usual article from our Net Zero Carbon Team and an introduction to the Cornerstone database which is being championed by the Generous Living Team. We also encourage you to be involved with the Heritage Open Days and the Ride and Stride event. If you have any feedback, then please do let us know – contact details for the Team are at the end of the Bulletin.

Contents

- 2 Welcome Contents Headlines**
- 3 Good News Story**
Legbourne, All Saints
- 5 News, Events and Resources**
Heritage Open Days / Ride and Stride
- 6 Net Zero Carbon Team**
A big thank you!
- 7 Grant News**
Minor Repair and Improvement Grant / Quick Wins Grant / Cornerstone
- 8 Grant Information**
- 9 Key Dates**
Contact Details
Suggestions Please
Church Photographs Request

Headlines

Welcome to the Team, Sophie!

By means of an introduction to the Diocese's new Church Development Officer, here's a little something from Sophie:

"Hello! I'm Sophie, enthusiast of all things churches and Lincolnshire. My background is diverse across museums, marketing, events, and curation, and I completed my MA in English Buildings History in 2023. We are so blessed in this Diocese with wonderful churches, and it will be a privilege to work together with you to care for them. I'm eager to get stuck in as your new Church Development Officer and look forward to hearing from you."



Good News Story

This edition's good news story comes from Legbourne, All Saints. Churchwarden and Treasurer, Hillary King, provides the details...

'The PCC started to discuss what we could do to improve the use of space in church and tackle the damp in the north aisle. It became apparent that the only way we could tackle the damp was to remove the pews.

We contacted our Architect, Lee Holmes, for advice and requested a site visit from the DAC who came and visited and we talked about our plans.



We wanted to remove the seven pews from the north aisle, tackle the damp and then put four pews back along the north aisle's north wall. As well as dealing with the damp issues, we felt this would give us a better space for activities and meetings.



Lee, our architect, drew up plans and we talked to the builder Arthur Wood & Son. We were fortunate that we were left a legacy so we did not have to apply for grants to meet the cost of this project.

We applied for a faculty which was approved in December 2024, so work began on 2nd January 2025.

After removing the pews, the old floor was taken out and we lowered the floor slightly so that it was level with the tiles in the aisle. This made the floor space bigger, but also more accessible. The heating pipes were rerouted under the floor.

After this, the walls were stripped of the old plaster and then replastered and painted.

New wooden floorboards were put in place and painted so that they didn't look quite so new and matched the other wooden flooring in the church. Also, vents were put in so heating could circulate. Tiles were replaced with matching tiles; you can't see the joints.

Electricity was put in along the wall and then it was time to put the four pews back along the wall.

30th March 2025: job done!

I would like to add that every evening the space was cleared as much as possible and made tidy by the contractors so there was no cleaning for the churchwardens or helpers to do.



Children from the village's East Wold School still visit three times a year and we are discussing plans for Christmas trees to be put within the north aisle for them to decorate. Unfortunately, we had to put a hold on Messy Church while the alterations were done but we are looking forward to having the extra space for the children to do their activities in the near future.

We recently welcomed the local ALM course to hold their meeting which went very well.



The PCC is more than pleased with the outcome of the project as are our monthly coffee morning regulars. The comment we hear the most 'This is better; no draughts from the bell tower!'



News, Events and Resources



Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days is rapidly approaching and runs for just over a week plus two weekends starting on 12th and finishing on the 21st September. The theme this year is architecture, so something every church can offer. The event gives each parish the opportunity to celebrate the rich and diverse architectural heritage of their church buildings and the stories and history behind them. Take a look at the website for ideas and how to register an event: <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/get-involved/theme-architecture.html>

Key dates

14th August: Event registration closes
12th – 21st September: The Festival!
5th October: Evaluation deadline



Ride and Stride



The first Saturday of the Heritage Open Days week also corresponds with the national Ride and Stride event, so a further incentive for churches to open their doors. This event is a major fund raiser for the Lincolnshire Churches Trust who are very generous grant giver to many of our churches throughout the year. Further details about the event can be found here: <https://www.lincolnshirechurchestrust.org.uk/2024/06/12/ride-and-stride-2024/>

So if you are planning on cycling to and from churches or opening your church for Heritage Open Days the period 12th – 21st September is a good week to promote your church and open it up for visitors to enjoy.

Over 650 churches and chapels open to visit near you

**Ride and Stride...
in Lincolnshire**

Towns, Villages, Coast, Wolds, Cycle Paths -
where will you ride or walk to visit
our fabulous churches?

Saturday 13th September 2025

Net Zero Carbon Team

The Net-Zero Team would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who contributed data for this year's Energy Footprint returns. Thanks to your support, we achieved our highest returns rate since the National Church began collecting energy use data.

This year, information was submitted for an incredible 320+ churches and parish buildings. To put that in scale that's more than the total number of churches in the entire Diocese of Canterbury!

Our direct approach of getting parishes to directly submit their energy data to the team has made a real difference. It not only sped up responses but also opened the door to valuable conversations about local challenges and opportunities. In several cases, this even led to on-site visits by George Davies, the Diocese's Net Zero Carbon Enabler, offering tailored advice and support to churches working towards sustainability.

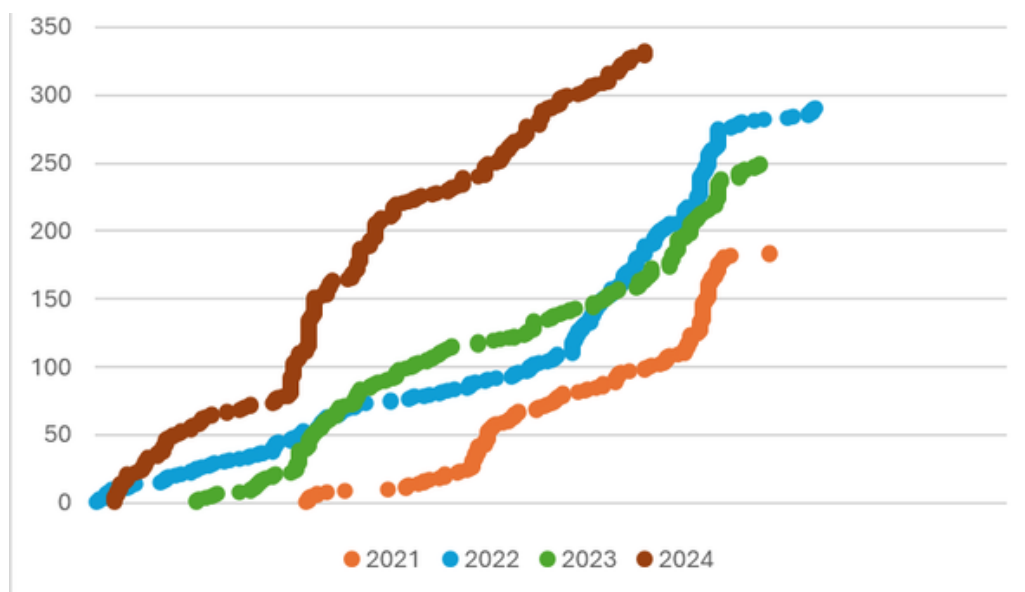
If you feel you could benefit from any help please don't hesitate to contact: george.davies@lincoln.anglican.org

Look at the chart below to see just how impressive this year's results were - especially considering the reporting window closed a full month earlier than in previous years!

One of the ongoing challenges has been retrieving data from lower-use churches, many of which have never used the Energy Footprint Tool. This remains a consistent hurdle each year. However, on average, around 100 churches submit data for the first time each year, including this one - an encouraging sign that awareness and engagement are steadily growing.

A special mention goes to the over 120 churches that have submitted their data for three consecutive years. These parishes deserve particular praise. Their consistent reporting means they can clearly see the impact of any steps they take to improve the energy efficiency and sustainability of their buildings.

Thank you once again for helping us and we look forward to continuing working with you.



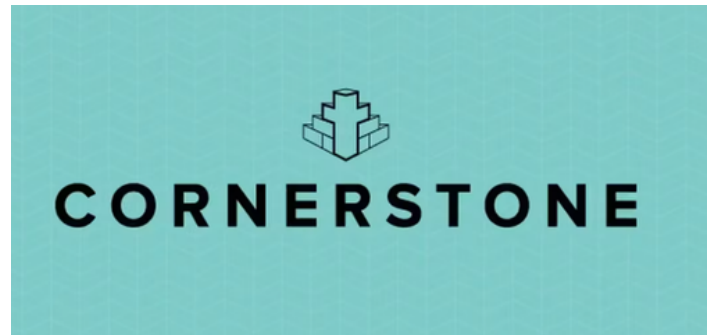
Grant News

Minor Repairs and Improvements Grant Scheme now closed

Many of you will be aware of or benefitted from the above grant scheme funded by the Church of England under the 'Buildings for Mission' initiative. The diocese was very fortunate to receive £207,000 to distribute through the scheme. It has been a great success, and all of the money has now been allocated. The scheme has helped 43 churches undertake minor repairs and improvements with the average grant being £4,780.00.

Quick Wins grants

Under the same Buildings for Mission initiative the diocese also received £68,750.00 to distribute as Quick Wins grants to help with net zero carbon schemes. So far, this scheme has assisted 20 churches with an average grant of £2,600.00. This scheme hasn't yet been fully allocated so we encourage you to get in touch with us for an application form or discuss an idea: matthew.godfrey@lincoln.anglican.org. The next and final deadline is the 1st September with the grant money needing to be spent by the end of December 2025.



Guided support for churches

Cornerstone is a new and exciting programme developed by the Church's National Giving Team. It helps parishes to develop generosity and giving by looking at data and analysing feedback:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/generosity-resources/cornerstone>

The Diocese of Lincoln has been at the forefront of its ongoing development. Cornerstone is a guided process working with a small team from each parish. Available free of charge to all Church of England churches, it 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. Cornerstone also includes a searchable database of sources of grant funding. If your church would like access to this tool, please contact the team, Hugo Cobham and Andy Wright, here: generosity@lincoln.anglican.org

A Introduction to Cornerstone Tuesday 12th August 2025

2pm – 3pm

Discover how this online generosity tool can help change the trajectory of church finances and the culture of giving and generosity in your church. This online session is an introduction to what Cornerstone is, what it can do to help your church and parish, and how to get involved.

[Register here](#)

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 ☐ Garfield Weston Regular Grant ☐ 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

August	
1 st	Tritton Knoll Offshore Windfarm
9 th	Sleaford REP Community Power
11 th	Churchcare Stained Glass
12 th	National Churches Trust medium grant National Churches Trust small grant Wolfson
20 th	FCC Communities Foundation
29 th	Marshalls Mick George Community Fund (southern part of diocese)
31 st	William and Jane Morris Fund
September	
1 st	The Georgian Group – Cleary Fund
1 st	The Leche Trust
30 th	The On Organ Fund
October	
1 st	Bicker Wind Farm Laceby Solar Farm Community Fund
31 st	War Memorials Trust

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 4 th September	Thursday 21 st August
Thursday 2 nd October	Thursday 18 th September
Wednesday 5 th November	Wednesday 22 nd October
Wednesday 10 th December	Wednesday 26 th November



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

Sophie Clark, Church Development Officer, sophie.clark@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