

Church Buildings Team Bulletin March 2026



Welcome

We cannot help but notice there is now a sense of Spring in the air, with brighter days and daffodils and lambs appearing. In this March issue we welcome our new member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, celebrate 30 years of the upcoming West Lindsey Churches Festival, and reflect on the benefits of completing the Energy Footprint Tool.

As always, let us know how we can help you, and we wish you all the best for Easter.

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Greetings from King's Lynn

Last week we crossed the Diocese boundary! We spent a day learning with other churches and buildings teams - here are some photographs from our trip.



Meet our Newest Member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee – Daniel Elkington



My name is Daniel Elkington and I am a Chartered Conservation Architect (AABC) and Associate at Donald Insall Associates, one of the country's leading conservation architecture practices.

I am delighted to have joined the DAC and it is a real privilege to be able to advise on some of the fantastic ecclesiastical buildings within the county. The Diocese is one of the largest in the country and blessed with a high proportion of historic churches of real historic significance and architectural value.

My background has always been in conservation architecture and in particular the conservation of historic churches; which has ranged from small rural chapels up to tall medieval spires and Major Parish Churches. More widely I have worked on large country houses, such as Wentworth Woodhouse, National Trust properties and English Heritage sites. It is incredibly rewarding to be able to utilise this range experience and knowledge to assist in the care of buildings within Lincolnshire.

My top tips for churchwardens and PCCs would be –

Try to keep on top of maintenance as much as is practically possible. Regular maintenance such as clearing gutters, repointing, redecoration of joinery and servicing of heating can ensure that minor items are attended to and avoids maintenance accumulating into needing larger and more costly repair projects. The saying “a stitch in time saves nine” is definitely applicable to historic buildings!

Consider membership of the Church Repair Society. The Society is a non-for-profit initiative within the Diocese of Lincoln to provide support with QI fees, savings schemes and advice from experienced church practitioners (church wardens, architects etc.) on all matters church building related.

Have a good working relationship with your architect/surveyor. Historic buildings are often challenging to work with, and were definitely not built with the demands of 21st century occupation in mind. They are protected by law and often must change in order to remain in use and have a sustainable future. Your professional advisor will be the best person to help manage this change, in a sensitive and appropriate way.

If you have a potential project, engage with the DAC (and your architect/surveyor) at the earliest opportunity. The DAC can provide independent advice on projects and helps to ensure they are appropriate to the building. Engaging early will help smooth the consents process, identify any issues and be a critical friend in developing a project.

News, Events, and Resources



Preparing for Easter

Last year there were more than 31 million page views on AChurchNearYou.com across Lent and Holy Week, so be sure to check your page is up to date.

Updating it just twice a year ahead of Easter and Christmas can help you to reach new people and show off what you are doing at your church or across your benefice.

Why not make the most of [the available resources](#) like these free graphics and poster templates to promote your church too?

West Lindsey Churches Festival

This year is the 30th Anniversary of the WLCF which is really something to celebrate!

Even if you aren't taking part in the festival yourself, this is a great opportunity to visit other churches and see 'how they do it'. Tourism is a huge attraction to our churches as is the wonderful hospitality you offer.

If you need a poster, banner, or leaflets for your church or any other noticeboards you know of, please get in contact with Paul Tattersfield pault@gpmgroup.com.

Training Opportunities

The following online training sessions with our colleagues in the Generosity Team may be of interest to PCC officers. Please click on the links below to register for each event.

28/4/26 7pm – 8pm The Cornerstone Grants Database

This online session gives an overview of the searchable database of sources of grant funding which is accessible free of charge through the Cornerstone platform.

6/10/26 2pm – 3pm An Introduction to Fundraising

This session is led in partnership with Ecclesiastical and will include a contribution from Heather Ford, who is their Church Support Officer covering this diocese.

12/11/26 2pm – 3pm Trusteeship and the PCC

This session provides an overview of PCC charitable status, the responsibilities of trustees and touches on PCC registration with the Charity Commission

Get Involved – Lincoln Cathedral Libraries Re-Opening Community Engagement Project

In October this year, the stunning newly refurbished Christopher Wren Library and Medieval Library will re-open at Lincoln Cathedral.

We need YOU to help create a beautiful display of artwork in advance of this to tell visitors about the Libraries and their extensive books and documents collection. From over 5,000 books in the collection there is much inspiration to be found, like these illustrations from the *Historia Animalium* and the *Children's Hieroglyphic Pocket Bible*.

Would your craft group or messy church love to get involved? Artists of any age can contribute, and we encourage you to involve all generations of your church in this project.

Please note, full guidelines and images for inspiration will be provided and you can use any media, but works must be 2D and no larger than A2. Artists have until Saturday 6th June to create their pieces.

If you would like to get involved please contact Sophie for full information.



Upcoming Events

Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology Churches Conference

Heckington Village Hall, Saturday 18th April 10.00am – 4.30pm

Learn more about our fantastic churches with a series of talks followed by a guided visit to St Andrew's church. The present building dates from around 1307 and is substantially Decorated in style. The exterior has wonderful friezes, cornices and statue niches and interior features include a rare Easter sepulchre and beautiful sedilia.

Find full details and buy your ticket [here](#).

Why Completing the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) Matters for Your Parish

The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) can help parishes to cut energy costs, unlock grant funding, and plan confidently for the future. By collecting basic energy information about church buildings across the Diocese, the EFT helps shape diocesan strategy and enables the creation of practical, tailored Action Plans for each parish.

Put more simply, the EFT helps us understand your parish so we can support you better.

We are also keen to hear about what you are already doing well. If your parish has installed solar panels, heat pumps, LED lighting, or other green technologies, the EFT helps us capture and share these successes with the Diocese.



What Information Do You Need?

Completing the EFT is straightforward. For any buildings your parish is responsible for, please provide:

- Annual electricity use (in kWh)
- Whether you use a green tariff
- Annual gas, oil or LPG use (in kWh or litres)
- The age of your boiler
- The proportion of your lighting which is LED

Energy usage figures are more helpful than cost, but if you don't have kWh data, don't worry, submit what you have.



How to Submit

The EFT can be completed via the Parish Returns website [here](#).

If you would prefer a paper form, please email me.

Alternatively, you can simply email us your energy statistics, and we can help from there.

We're Here to Help

The Net-Zero Team is here to support you at every stage by offering technical advice, site visits, help with grant applications, and liaising with the DAC and Church Buildings Team.

**If you'd like help or want to arrange a visit for your church, please contact:
george.davies@lincoln.anglican.org**

Grant News



Parish Accessibility Fund

New funding is soon to be available to help you with accessibility projects. Sophie will be our Officer in Charge for this fund, so please get in touch with her to apply. There are two grant streams on offer as follows:

Small Grants £1,000-£5,000

Ideal for A/V equipment, training, sensory play equipment, large print or braille information points. Your total project cost must not be over £10,000 (or more than twice the grant amount requested).

Large Grants up to £50,000

Suitable for bigger reordering and facilities projects, but we only have £100,000 allocated to the Diocese in total so this fund will be much more competitive.

Please note that grant decision making does not lie with us but with the Disability Project panel.

How to Find Funding

Don't forget – we can help you to find funding and to put together applications, there is no need to pay for grant search engines or services.

In some cases consultants can be helpful and offer more hands-on support than we can manage, but please speak to us first for free advice as there is lots of misinformation around.

On the following page you will also see information about Cornerstone, the free Church of England programme developed by the National Giving Team. This can give you guidance on optimising regular giving, setting up fundraising schemes, and includes a database of grants you can search through.

The Listed Places of Worship (LPW) Grant Scheme

Important Update:

All awards within this year's £23 million budget have now been allocated to applicants, and the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme for 2025/26 has now closed to new applications.

There will be no further funding rounds. Please be advised that further applications will not be accepted.

Listed Places of Worship VAT

As you see above, the remaining budget for VAT reclaim has now been spent ahead of the deadline.

We are awaiting further information of the 'Renewal Fund' to follow, and hope to bring you news of this shortly and details on how to apply. Our impression is that this fund will have an emphasis on repairs and community need.

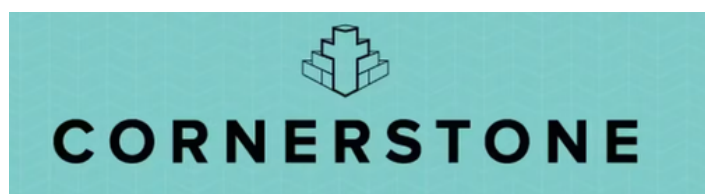


Grant Information

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

May	
1 st	Sutton Bridge Solar Farm Community Fund
July	
29 th	Ørsted Wind Farms East Coast Community Fund
20 th	SSE Fund North Lincolnshire



Monthly Tasks



SPAB's Faith in Maintenance Calendar

April

- Check the roofs for frost, snow, and wind damage. Debris on the ground from broken slates and tiles indicates that there may be a problem.
- Check for splits and cracks in all areas of flat or sloping sheet roofing.
- Inspect lead flashings and mortar fillets at chimneys for signs of decay. Problems will include holes or slits in leadwork and erosion of mortar fillets.
- Clear leaves and debris from gutters and rainwater pipes regularly. Frequent attention may be needed if the building is surrounded by trees, or perched on by pigeons. Cast iron gutters may also require repainting.

May

- 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 windows and ventilators are operable so that the building can be ventilated on dry days during the summer months. Lubricate door and window ironmongery and check security of locks.
- Shut down the heating and 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 from the drainage channels.



Ecclesiastical Insurance's Church Risk Calendar

April – Working Alone

- Working alone can present several hazards, including an increased risk of assault and/or aggression. Review situations where people complete tasks alone to check the precautions in place to protect them.

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.

June – Fire Risk Assessment

- Have you reviewed your fire risk assessment? All churches need to complete a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, which should be periodically reviewed to remain valid.

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
Tuesday 5 th May	Tuesday 21 st April
Thursday 4 th June	Thursday 21 st May
Wednesday 1 st July	Wednesday 17 th June

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

George Davies, Net Zero Carbon Officer, george.davies@lincoln.anglican.org
01522 504050

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