

Church Buildings Team Bulletin September 2025



Welcome

After our record-breaking warm summer, we cannot help but feel the turn of the seasons in the air and the approach of autumn. This edition of the Church Buildings Team Bulletin too looks forward to the coming months. In the immediate future we look at Heritage Open Days and Ride and Stride and the welcome we give to visitors for both events. With Remembrance Sunday on the horizon there is an article on war memorials and their importance in our communities. There is support with heating available from George Davies, our Net Zero Carbon Enabler, and grant news includes the most up to date information on the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme plus a number of events where you can meet the funders.

As ever, let us know if you have any thoughts and comments and do be in contact if we can help you with faculty applications or advice on projects and funding – contact details at the end.

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Headlines

Spotlight on War Memorials

As we head towards Remembrance Day in this VE / VJ 80th Anniversary Year, caring for our War Memorials and sharing their stories is all the more important.

Find resources and information on page 3.

Open Church Success Stories

Answer our callout to share your success stories from September's open churches events. What would you say to churches wondering whether to take part?

Advent & Christmas

Explore resources for planning your Advent & Christmas this year on the theme of 'Joy'. Find graphics, poster templates, and even a new children's book following the Nativity through the eyes of a 'grumpy owl'!

Meet The Funders

There are both in-person and online meet the funder events coming up, giving you opportunity to ask questions and discuss how your project can be funded.

Take a look at the list of our churches who have received funding from the Benefact Trust and share in our congratulations on their success.

Find out more on page 6.

Spotlight on War Memorials

War Memorials Trust

The War Memorials Trust website offers a wealth of support in looking after your memorial(s) as we head towards Remembrance Day in this VE / VJ 80th Anniversary year.

Read their FAQs [here](#) to find out how to research, record, and enhance remembrance at your memorial. You can also contact them directly for advice on conserving memorials at conservation@warmemorials.org.

Researching

If your church was involved in the building of the memorial your own archives may be the best source of information. Alongside this, local newspapers often covered unveiling of these monuments or include the obituaries of mentioned servicemen.

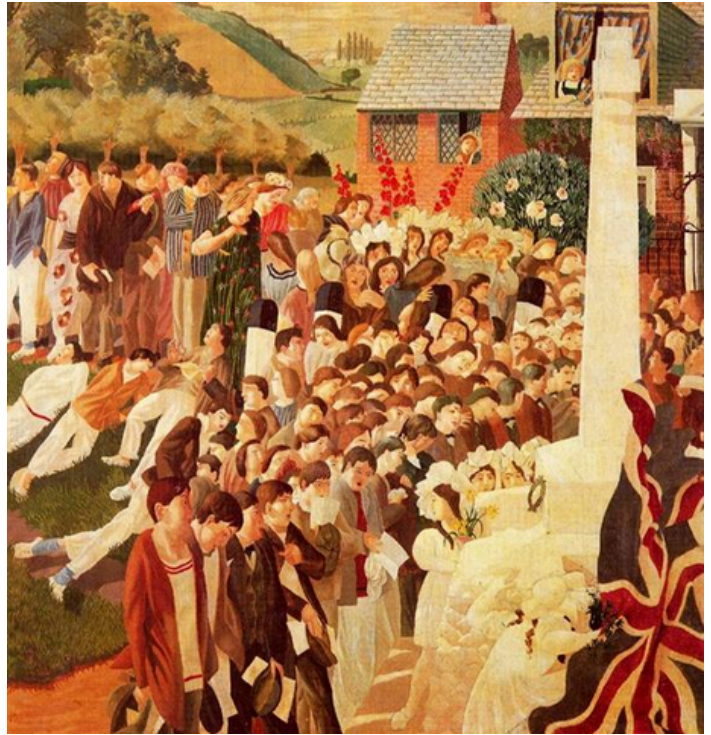
Most memorials were built by public subscription and not all were officially handed over to church or local council authority. If you intend to do any work to your war memorial, check first whether it is listed or in the custody of another organisation.

Recording

Do you know if your war memorial is included on war memorials online? As well as being a useful way for people to find out if their ancestor is recorded on a memorial, this tool helps the War Memorials Trust keep an eye on the condition of our war memorials and provide support for those most in need. Find out more and register yours [here](#).

Remembrance

Identifying and researching those named in an act of remembrance is a powerful way to honour those who have passed. Can you set aside a space in your church where people can find more information and perhaps even put faces to those who are named?



Stanley Spencer - Unveiling Cookham War Memorial, 1922

Thankful Villages

Lincolnshire is blessed with a rare few of what are known as 'Thankful Villages' - a term coined by Arthur Mee in 1931. He found that only 32 out of 16 thousand English villages were places 'where no resident soldier was recorded as having died in the Great War'.

We are even home to a couple of extra special 'Doubly Thankful' villages, High Toynton and Minting, which welcomed back all of their servicemen after both world wars.

Could this be your church development project?

Memorials and Commonwealth War Graves are ripe with moving stories of servicemen and women who lived in or passed through our parishes. As well as honouring the sacrifices of our predecessors, sharing what we discover can draw in visitors, help family history tracers, and emphasize the contemplative spaces our churches provide.

See a great example at [Scampton St John the Baptist](#).

News, Events and Resources



CUF Insight to Impact: Webinars to inspire faith-filled action

Join this series of three webinars with the Church Urban Fund to inspire you and your community.

People of Power: An introduction to faith-filled community organising
Wednesday 24 Sep, 11am-12pm

Project Essentials: Top tips for planning, funding and evaluating your community project
Tuesday 21st October, 11am-12pm

Stories for Change: The power of stories to help us see our communities differently and listen to our neighbours
Tuesday 18th November, 11am-12pm

Click [here](#) to find out more and book your place.



Open Church Success Stories

September is a busy month with the Heritage Open Days, Ride & Stride, and the Wolds & Coast Churches Festival. We'd love to hear your good news stories from these events or any learnings you'd like to share with churches wondering about taking part.

Visitor feedback and photographs from these events are powerful tools to make your case to funders too, so make sure to record what people have to say and how much they enjoy visiting your church.

Please email your thoughts to Sophie at sophie.clark@lincoln.anglican.org.



Advent and Christmas Resources

The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people ...' Luke 2.10-11

Joy is the theme for this years' Advent and Christmas, and there are a whole host of resources from graphics and poster templates to a wonderful new children's book telling the Nativity through the lens of a 'grumpy owl'!

Click [here](#) to find out more.

Net Zero Carbon Team

Thinking About Heating ?

As the weather cools, many of us begin to worry about our church heating — whether it's costly to run, struggling to keep up, hasn't worked properly for a while or the building has been unheated for years. Now is a good time to start planning for the sustainable heating of your church.

A **Net Zero Site Visit** can offer a fresh perspective, helping you look at your buildings with new eyes.

Having worked closely with the DAC and the church buildings team, such a visit can:

- Explore planning and funding opportunities for heating amongst other projects such as lighting and solar panels.
- Support faculty considerations for such projects.
- Offer practical advice on improving comfort and efficiency with existing systems and the building fabric.
- Help secure a sustainable future — financially, environmentally, and for the fabric of the building



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

Grant News

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme - VAT Reclaim

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme now has a [Funding Tracker](#), allowing us to see what has been spent up to now of the Government's £23 million budget for this financial year. If you're progressing through a project and planning to reclaim your VAT through this scheme, be sure to keep an eye on this tracker and discuss with us if it looks like you'll need to source top-up funding. This could include local fundraising, applying for other grants, or requesting a grant uplift from funders already committed to your project.

We expect to hear news of if and how this funding will continue next year in November's budget.



Congratulations to our churches awarded Benefact Trust grants:

Harrington St Mary
Braceborough St Margaret of Antioch
South Hykeham St Michael and All Angels
Langtoft St Michael
Harmston All Saints
East Keal St Helen
Stamford Christchurch
Whaplode St Mary
Waltham All Saints

Meet the Funders

These free events offer opportunity to make early contact with potential funders to learn about what they fund and to start getting feedback on your ideas. Early discussion and input both with our Church Buildings Team and these funding bodies will give you the best chance of project success. Remember - we are here to help!

In Person Event

Lincolnshire Community & Voluntary Partnership

Thursday 6th November 10am - 3pm
Robert Hardy Building, Lincoln Bishop University (formerly BGU)

Join us in person to meet with a host of local and national funders who could support your church development project. Be sure to register via Eventbrite (below) to attend.

Some of the confirmed funders you may like to speak to are: The National Lottery, Heritage Lottery, The Key Fund, Lincolnshire Community Foundation, Lincolnshire Coop, easyfundraising, and Barclays Bank

Find out more and get your free tickets via Eventbrite [here](#).

Online Event

Meet the Benefact Trust

Wednesday 12th November 7pm - 8:30pm
via Zoom

Join us online to meet with the Benefact Trust (the giving side of Ecclesiastical Insurance) for a short talk about the trust followed by a Q&A session on funding your church project.

Get this in your diaries now and contact churchbuildings.team@lincoln.anglican.org and we will send out the link closer to the time.

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

September	
30 th	The On Organ Fund
October	
1 st	Bicker Wind Farm Laceby Solar Farm Community Fund
10 th	East Lindsey UKSPF GRASSroots grant
31 st	War Memorials Trust
November	
10 th	Community Action Fund



Monthly Tasks



Ecclesiastical Insurance's Church Risk Calendar

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.

November - 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.

December - Christmas

- Christmas is a wonderful time of year, but special events and services, extra visitors and festive decorations in your church can increase the risk of accidents and damage. A little extra planning can help keep everyone safe.



SPAB's Faith in Maintenance Calendar

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.

November

- Check that the flagpole is secure.
- Check the roofs for damage. Debris on the ground from broken or missing slates and tiles indicates that there may be a problem.
- Clear leaves and debris from gutters and rainwater pipes regularly and check for any storm damage.
- Take part in SPAB's National Maintenance Week in November.

December

- Parapet and valley gutters need to be cleared of snow to prevent melt water rising above them and causing damp internally. Extra caution is needed in icy conditions.
- 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 discharged freely.
- Make sure fire safety equipment has been checked

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
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