



Churchwardens' Training 2024

Saving the planet, saving buildings, doing mission



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

ely2025

Saving the Planet

In February 2020, General Synod resolved

That this Synod, recognising that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation, and a fundamental injustice, and following the call of the Anglican Communion in ACC Resolutions A17.05 and A17.06;

(a) call upon all parts of the Church of England, including parishes, BMOs [Bishop Mission Orders], education institutions, dioceses, cathedrals, and the NCIs [National Church Institutions], to work to achieve year-on-year reductions in emissions and urgently examine what would be required to reach net zero emissions by 2030 in order that a plan of action can be drawn up to achieve that target;

Timeline

- Scope of 2030 target (what rather than when) Summer of 2020
- Draught Routemap put out for consultation October 2021
- July 2022, Routemap approved by General Synod in York
- Capacity Grant applications 2023



The Church of England Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030

June 2022



St Michael All Angels Withington
The Church of England's first net zero carbon church in the modern era

Scope

- Church buildings, including cathedrals
- Schools
- Clergy housing
- Offices
- Land holdings and property
- Investments

Our collective approach to net zero is underpinned by six principles:

A Practical Path to Net Zero

In this order:

- Maintenance
- Buy green
- Waste less
- Ditch fossil fuel
- Generate
- Offset



Well maintained

Reduce heat loss by keeping on top of basic maintenance and ensuring the building is wind and watertight. Maintain the roof and gutters, to prevent water from entering the building and warm air escaping. Fix any broken window panes and make sure opening windows shut tightly.



Buy renewable

Switch to 100% renewable electricity, for example through Parish Buying's energy basket, and 'green' gas. Whilst this does not reduce the energy you use, it means it comes from a cleaner source. It is the simplest thing you can do to cut your net carbon footprint.



Waste less

Waste less electricity, waste less gas/oil, tackle any food waste, reduce leaks and wasting water, and avoid unnecessary purchases. Read the 'Practical Path to Net Zero' and 'Energy Efficiency Guidance' for a wide range of ideas.



Electric not gas/oil

Burning oil and gas to heat our churches is contributing greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere. We need to 'decarbonise' our heating. Where possible, move to electric heating, using electricity that comes from 100% renewable sources. There are many options such as heat pumps, pew heaters, and infra-red panel heaters and chandeliers.



Generate more

For some churches, there are opportunities to generate electricity onsite from solar PV panels, or very occasionally wind turbines or small-scale hydro.



Offset the rest

Once you have made real reductions in your energy use, you can offset the small remaining amount through Climate Stewards or other reputable schemes to become 'net zero'. Churches with grounds can also consider if there is an area where they could let vegetation or a tree grow, as a natural way to capture carbon from the air.

Maintenance

- Damp walls absorb more heat – gutters, drains, drips
- Draughts, gaps in windows and round doors (noting bats)
- Plant needs to be maintained – radiators bled, boilers serviced, more efficient use

Buy green

- 26% of churches in this diocese are already signed up to a green tariff
- “Green” gas, lpg and oil will not help us meet the 2030 target
- Parish buying energy basket
 - 100% renewable electricity



ENERGY BASKET

Waste less

- Do you/can you zone your heating and lighting?
- Can you use smaller spaces in the winter?
- Can you swap existing bulbs for LEDs?
- Can you cut down on floodlighting?

Ditch fossil fuel

- Move towards electricity for heating
- Likely to be a bigger cost – therefore further down the pathway
- Heatpumps (can heat water or air)
- Infrared heating
- Pew heaters, heated cushions

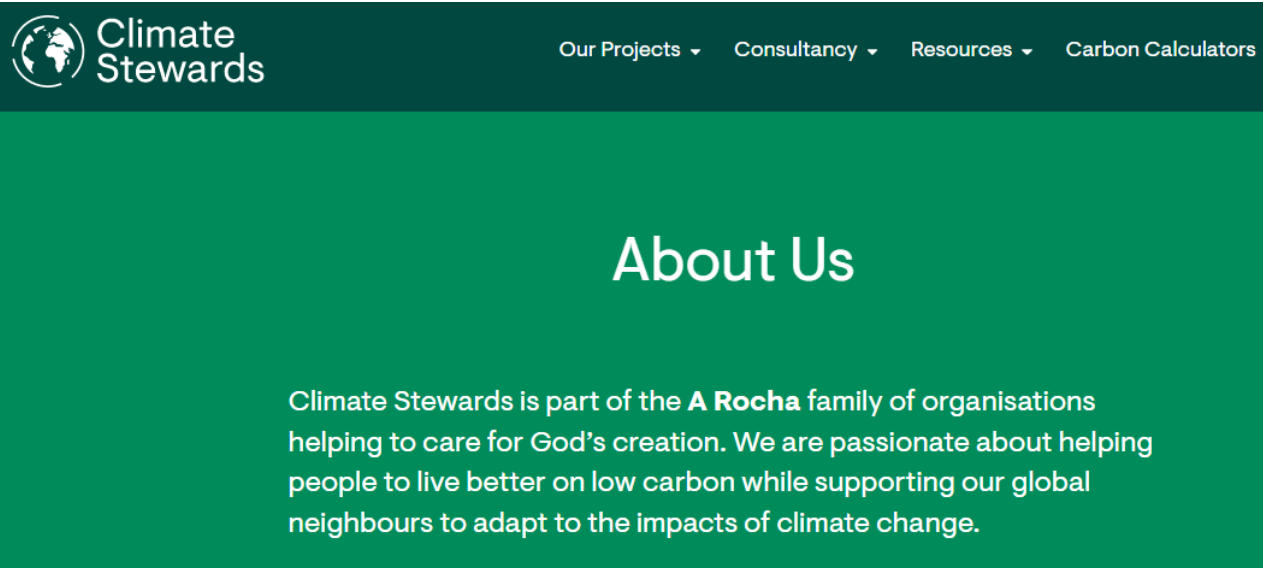
Generate

- Condition of roof – good for 30 years
- Visibility from ground or (possibly) adjacent building
- Feed-in tariffs or batteries
- If you can't use it, can the grid take it?



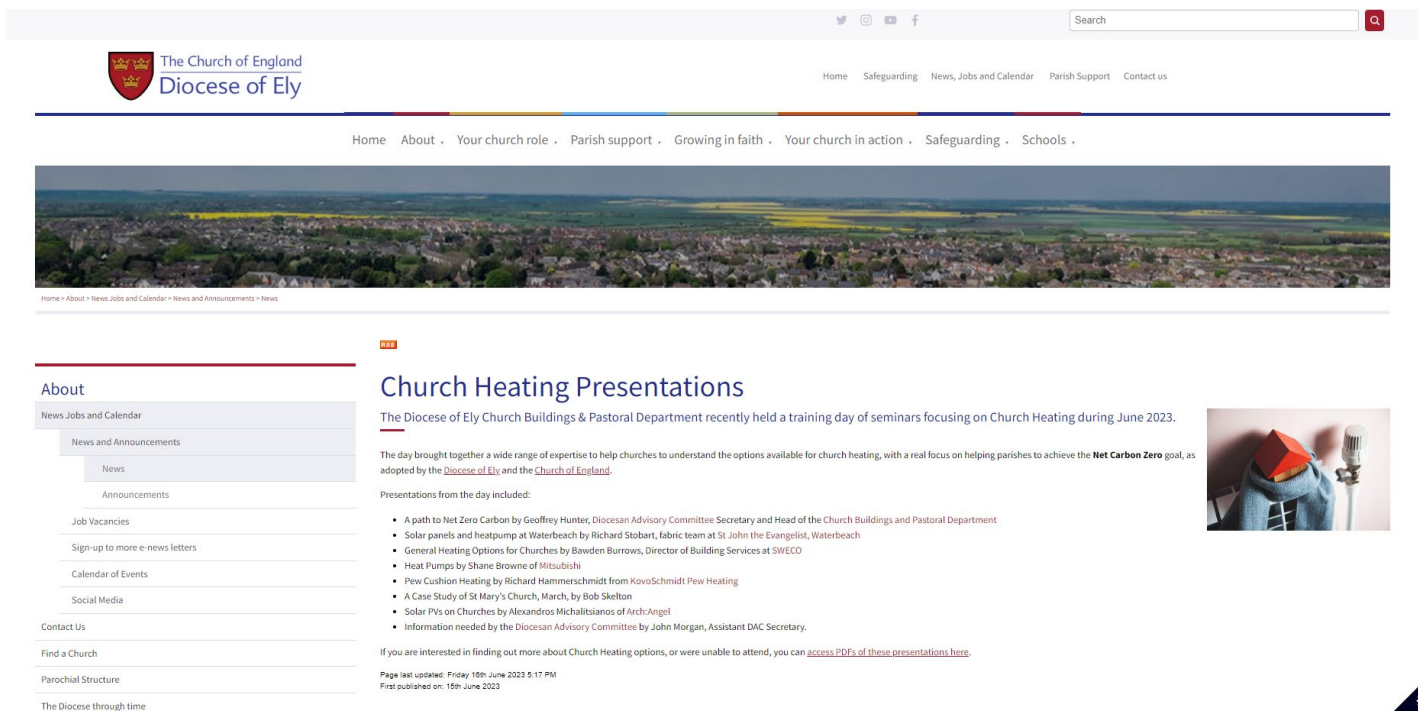
Offset

- Climate Stewards – offset by supporting their carbon sequestration projects
- Undertake your own planting scheme – where appropriate



The screenshot shows the Climate Stewards website. The header is dark green with the Climate Stewards logo (a globe icon) and the text 'Climate Stewards'. To the right of the logo are four navigation links: 'Our Projects', 'Consultancy', 'Resources', and 'Carbon Calculators', each with a downward arrow. The main content area is a solid green color. The title 'About Us' is centered in white. Below the title, there is a paragraph of white text: 'Climate Stewards is part of the **A Rocha** family of organisations helping to care for God's creation. We are passionate about helping people to live better on low carbon while supporting our global neighbours to adapt to the impacts of climate change.'

HEATING – the biggie for many churches



The screenshot shows the website for the Diocese of Ely. At the top, there is a navigation bar with social media icons (Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook) and a search box. Below this is the Diocese of Ely logo and a main navigation menu with links: Home, Safeguarding, News, Jobs and Calendar, Parish Support, and Contact us. A secondary navigation bar includes: Home, About, Your church role, Parish support, Growing in faith, Your church in action, Safeguarding, and Schools. The main content area features a large landscape image of a town and fields. Below the image is a breadcrumb trail: Home > About > News Jobs and Calendar > News and Announcements > News. On the left side, there is a sidebar menu under the heading 'About' with links: News Jobs and Calendar, News and Announcements, News, Announcements, Job Vacancies, Sign up to more e-news letters, Calendar of Events, Social Media, Contact Us, Find a Church, Parochial Structure, and The Diocese through time. The main article is titled 'Church Heating Presentations' and includes a sub-heading 'The Diocese of Ely Church Buildings & Pastoral Department recently held a training day of seminars focusing on Church Heating during June 2023.' The article text states: 'The day brought together a wide range of expertise to help churches to understand the options available for church heating, with a real focus on helping parishes to achieve the **Net Carbon Zero** goal, as adopted by the [Diocese of Ely](#) and the [Church of England](#).' It lists 'Presentations from the day included:' followed by a bulleted list of topics and speakers. A small image of a blue jacket with a red hat and a lightbulb is shown to the right of the text. At the bottom of the article, there is a note: 'If you are interested in finding out more about Church Heating options, or were unable to attend, you can [access PDFs of these presentations here](#).' Below this, it says 'Page last updated: Friday 16th June 2023 5:17 PM' and 'First published on: 15th June 2023'. A small gear icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the page.

Church Heating Presentations

The Diocese of Ely Church Buildings & Pastoral Department recently held a training day of seminars focusing on Church Heating during June 2023.

The day brought together a wide range of expertise to help churches to understand the options available for church heating, with a real focus on helping parishes to achieve the **Net Carbon Zero** goal, as adopted by the [Diocese of Ely](#) and the [Church of England](#).

Presentations from the day included:

- A path to Net Zero Carbon by Geoffrey Hunter, Diocesan Advisory Committee Secretary and Head of the Church Buildings and Pastoral Department
- Solar panels and heatpump at Waterbeach by Richard Stobart, fabric team at St. John the Evangelist, Waterbeach
- General Heating Options for Churches by Bawden Burrows, Director of Building Services at SWECO
- Heat Pumps by Shane Browne of Mitsubishi
- Pew Cushion Heating by Richard Hammerschmidt from KovoSchmidt Pew Heating
- A Case Study of St Mary's Church, March, by Bob Skelton
- Solar PVs on Churches by Alexandros Michalitsianos of ArchAngel
- Information needed by the Diocesan Advisory Committee by John Morgan, Assistant DAC Secretary.

If you are interested in finding out more about Church Heating options, or were unable to attend, you can [access PDFs of these presentations here](#).

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HEATING – the biggie for many churches

- Working out what you need before you need it – heat decarbonisation strategy – to avoid kneejerk projects and future regret
- Needs based around how the building is used
- The building needs no heating – this is about people and use
- Likely increase in the use of targeted IR heating – “heat the people” approach.

Funding Net Zero 2030

- £190m over nine years
- Focus on the top 20%
- “Quick wins”
- “Demonstrators”
- Expecting much more from 2026

Church of England's net-zero plan in peril due to high costs

In February 2020 the General Synod voted in favour of setting a target for the institution to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030

By Gabriella Swerling, SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS EDITOR

10 October 2022 • 6:52pm



Diocese of Ely project

- £180k NZC Grant
- Working in tandem with other Eastern Region dioceses
- Investment in research auditing – schools, parsonages and churches
- DEO – Nigel Cooper nigel.cooper@elydiocese.org
- NZC officer – Sacha Watson sacha.watson@elydiocese.org

Embedding Bio-diversity

Diocese of Ely Churchyards Training Day

The Diocese of Ely Church Buildings & Pastoral Department held a Churchyards training Day on 20th November 2021.

The day brings together a wide range of expertise to help churches to understand the rules governing the management of churchyards, and also the increasingly important roles churchyards play in environmental sustainability.

The Programme included:

- Churchyard Regulations and Grave Reservations
- Managing Churchyard Trees
- The Cambridgeshire Churchyard Conservation Awards
- Churchyard History and Archaeology
- Churchyard Closure and the Role of Local Authorities
- Using Churchyards for Green 'Kit'
- The National Burial Grounds Survey
- Churchyards as an Opportunity for Mission

Embedding Bio-diversity

- Churchyards are very rare survivors of lowland grassland habitat (94%)
- Planting trees may not be the right approach for offsetting
- Bio-diversity Net Gain becoming increasingly important for consents and funding (see slide on Lottery later on)
- Churchyards can be a great interface between church and local community

Embedding Bio-diversity

- Cambridgeshire Churchyards Awards
Diana.Cook@wildlifebcn.org
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust
<https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/churchyard-conservation-scheme>
- Caring for God's Acre <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/>



Saving Heritage and Using Buildings for Mission

A spectrum, not a dichotomy...

Quinquennial inspector and inspection

- Architect or surveyor appointed by PCC
- 1955 Inspection of Churches Measure
- Individual appointment (not firm)
- Diocese legally obliged to establish a fund to pay for inspections
- Diocese holds a list of known people
- Accreditation (AABC, RIBA)
- Inspection report prioritises works
- Inspector retained only for inspection, but many churches find their input helpful in other projects – fees vary.



Heritage at Risk

- National Register compiled and maintained by Historic England
- HARR status was tied to Lottery funding 2012-17
- Don't think of it as a criticism, but rather highlighting how deserving your church is!
- Recent changes in funding programmes benefit HAR churches
- Holly.Robinson@elydiocese.org



Maintenance – gutters, drains and high level care

- Old buildings do not need to be “damp”
- Damp buildings feel colder
- Any visible moisture in walls and floors will have a curable cause
- Clearing of gutters and drains, and the removal of past inappropriate repairs will sort most problems
- DIY vs professional maintenance
<https://www.spab.org.uk/campaigning/fait-h-maintenance>
- Call for evidence on the impact of (lack of) maintenance



Funding



THE HERITAGE FUNDING DIRECTORY

[DIRECTORY](#) [INTERNATIONAL FUNDING](#) [APPLYING FOR FUNDING](#) [GIVING TO HERITAGE](#) [CONTACT](#)

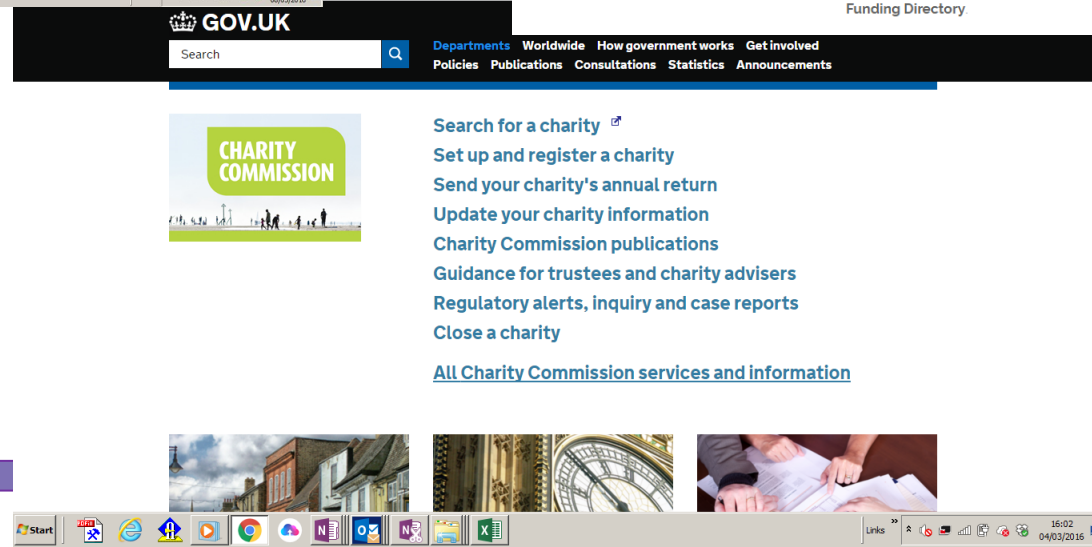


Managed by The Heritage Alliance and the Architectural Heritage Fund, the Heritage Funding Directory is a free, easy-to-use guide to financial and other support for anyone undertaking UK related heritage projects.

Thanks to support from the Historic Houses Foundation, The Heritage Alliance and The Architectural Heritage Fund combined their funding directories to provide nearly 500 updated listings detailing sources of grants from trusts and foundations, as well as organisations offering loan finance, awards, scholarships and other 'in kind' resources.

The Directory's entries cover historic buildings, landscapes, parks and gardens, churchyards and cemeteries, industrial heritage, archives, historic churches, museums, archaeology, environmental, heritage skills and conservation and more.

We have also created a new list of grants and funding sources that are available for heritage projects outside of the UK. Please [click here](#) to see our new **International Funding Directory**.

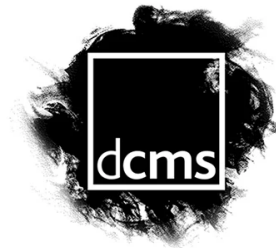


Funding

- www.heritagefundingdirectoryuk.org/
- <https://www.elydiocese.org/xdb/churchbuildingsandchurchyards-guidance/show/grants>
- Lottery – Community Fund (not interested in heritage on its own)
- Lottery – Heritage Fund – a developing story, see slide infra
- National Churches Trust
- Landfill Tax money (won't fund “religion”)
- Allchurches Trust (mission-focused)
- Church Buildings Council – for “objects”
- Local churches trusts, small but influential
- Charity Commission search for local/specialist trusts

Parish Council Funding


- A ten-year spat
- An excuse
- A load of nonsense
- All sorted now, without any mention of the word “church” in the legislation
- Parish Councils **can** fund works to parish churches and churchyards, but they don't **have** to (except closed churchyard, which is a separate presentation!)



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (VAT)

- Government scheme first set up by the Blair Government to repay (EU) VAT on church repairs
- Extended in 2012 to include alterations as well as repairs (website appears to deny this, but persevere)
- Under review currently and may be cancelled at the end of March 2025, depending on current Government's decision.

 Home Eligible buildings Repair work covered Submitting invoices

**The Listed Places of
Worship (LPW) Grant
Scheme**

National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)

- The Good Old Days appear to be back:
 - 2012-2017 GPOW gave £30m pa to parish churches
 - Cancelled 2017 and churches told to bid with everyone else, resulting in 80% decline in awards.
 - From January 2024, once again c. £30m pa is budgeted to go to churches
 - Eligibility criteria have been amended to make it easier for small rural places.
 - £10k-250k single stage; above £250k 2-stage

NLHF new funding priorities

- **Saving Heritage** – HAR status a bonus but not a requirement
- **Protecting the Environment** – bats are our friends! And churchyard biodiversity
- **Inclusion, access, participation** – making it easier for more people to be involved with your church
- **Organisational Sustainability** – friends groups, partnerships, etc

The “Friends Group”



The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields

home [give online](#) | [shopping basket](#) | [sign in](#)

‘A call to restore this jewel in the crown of London’ Prof Kerry Downes, Hawksmoor Scholar

Home
Christ Church
Organ appeal
The Friends
Support us
Give online
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Monuments
Newsletter
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The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields is the charity leading the restoration of Hawksmoor’s masterpiece. Starting in 1976, the Friends have raised and spent £10 million on an award-winning restoration.

Please explore this website for the history of the church and its restoration, events organised by the Friends and how you can support the work of the Friends.

‘The Spitalfields organ by Bridge, 1735, is of the greatest importance’
Gustav Leonhardt

We are grateful to all those who supported the recent Gala Opening Recital to celebrate the restoration of the 1735 Richard Bridge organ. The sublime playing of John Scott made it a splendid occasion. Proceeds will help to fund the new Travel Bursary for pipe organ builders to encourage, support and develop this specialised craft.

A booklet documenting the restoration has been published and is available via our shop. [Click here](#)

[Join us on Facebook](#)

Christ Church Spitalfields venue: tours and hiring
For information about tours or hiring the church please call Christ Church Spitalfields venue on 020 7377 6793 or visit www.spitalfieldsvenue.org

Christ Church Spitalfields parish: church services
For further information about church services and opening hours for visitors please call 020 7377 2440 or view the congregation website: www.ccsptialfields.org



1735 Richard Bridge organ
Supporters of the Friends will be pleased to know that this rare eighteenth-century instrument of international significance has been restored.

[More information](#)

[make a donation](#)

main image: View of west front of Christ Church Spitalfields from Brushfield Street.
photograph by CH Woodward

above: The restored organ case with gilded pipes.
photograph by SRB Humphreys

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Registered Charity No: 276056



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The “Friends Group”

The fundraising arm of the PCC.

Two basic models:

1. The PCC in charge

- Sub-committee
- Dependent on PCC for charitable status

2. The PCC not in charge

- Set up as a separate charity with separate board of trustees
- Objects and objectives may or may not align with those of the PCC
- Can attract assistance from more/different people



ASSOCIATION OF FESTIVAL CHURCHES



[Welcome!](#)

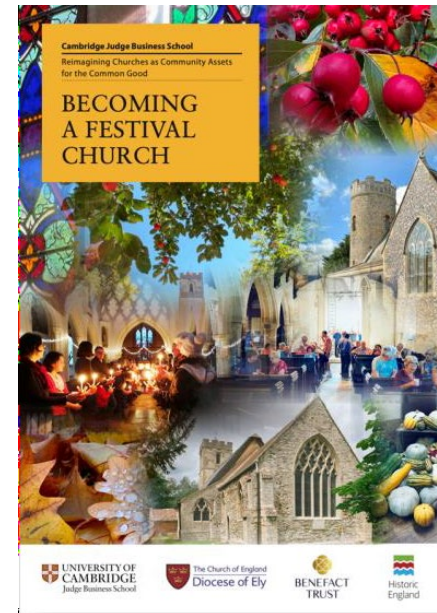
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[AFC Constitution](#)

[The Trustees](#)

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Festival Churches – the friends takeover, sort of

- In multi-parish rural benefices, PCC recruitment has become an issue in some places
- DCMS review in 2016-17 put forward the concept of “Festival Churches” as part of the solution to this.
- The church building will no longer be used for weekly services, but will instead be used for occasional “festivals”; these are both the traditional Christian festivals as well as locally-contextual fresh expressions of rural church.
- The governance of the church building will be adapted to enable community volunteers to play an active role in the management of the church building – taking over from the PCC.
- Association of Festival Churches: <https://afchurches.org/>

Festival Churches – Action Groups

- A group of local(ish) people who, for their own reasons, care about the church building
- An action group is different from a friends group, focussing on day-to-day tasks to keep the church open and in good order.
- Terms of reference has been published to support setting up of Action Groups.
- A single body can, of course, carry out Friends and Action roles (so PCC can put their feet up?).

Finding people to help with the church building

- Church members have often fallen into roles involved in caring for the church building – ie the church has made volunteers out of its disciples.
- With a diminishing and ageing disciple body we need to think about reversing that model:

How to we make disciples out of volunteers?

- That's a nice challenge to have, but first, find your volunteers...

Community Engagement and Consultation

Samuel Pedlar, Church and Community Support Adviser

Samuel.pedlar@elydiocese.org

- Advice on designing and managing a process for engagement and consultation
- Practical assistance with printing, disseminating, online hosting, analysis and reporting on findings
- Assisting with public meetings, collating feedback, initial stage of setting up a Friends/Action Group.

The full buildings for mission spectrum

- Using buildings for mission is no longer just about getting people into the building for a church service.
- Church buildings are often very important to the people who live around them. Historically the church has not done a good job of leveraging this significance.
- Friends and Action Groups enable people to express how they value the church and build a relationship with the building
- It is then up to us how we engage those people with the greater purpose that sits behind it all.

ANY QUESTIONS?



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