

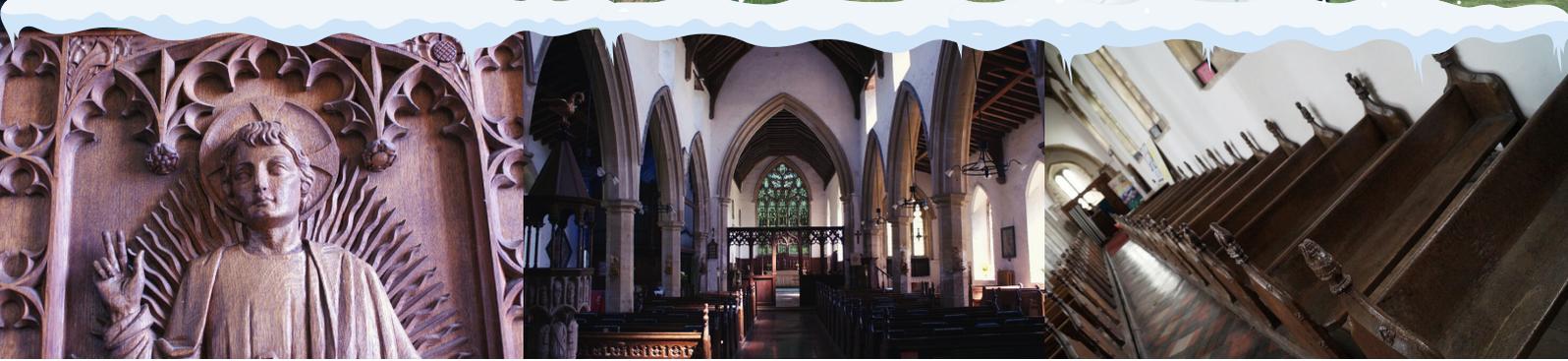


CHURCH HERITAGE

News from the
Church Buildings Team



St Mary's Whaddon



Welcome to the newsletter from the Church Buildings Team,
giving a quick overview of key information and updates.



All the information in this newsletter is correct at the time of writing.
If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the team directly.

COVID-19

The [Church of England Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) guidance page](#) continues to be revised as circumstances change.

Last month the **Opening and managing church buildings** document was updated and a new FAQ was added - *How do we keep buildings well ventilated in Winter?*



St Mary's Wisbech, Richard Humphrey

GOOD NEWS

It has been a busy few months across the Diocese, highlights include:

Window Returned to Former Glory at All Saints, Haslingfield

All Saints has been reunited with a much-loved vestry window. For two years the window was stored in a Glazier's studio due to the fragile state of the glass. Thanks to a legacy and a grant from Historic England's Covid-19 Emergency Heritage at Risk Response Fund, the window has been repaired and returned, with some surprises along the way as the Churchwarden explained:

"We knew the window was a Victorian restoration of a chancel window, containing some medieval glass, but it has proved to be more significant than we thought with very early c14 leadwork and glass."

Crumbling Castellations Rebuilt at St Clement's, Outwell

Like many parishes, St Clement's faces a mighty challenge to raise funds for urgent repairs (about £700,000). Whilst we hope and pray for significant changes to major grants, the Friends Group keep busy raising funds for smaller repair and maintenance works. The castellations project was the most recent and urgent – stonework on the north side had deteriorated to such a point that the castellations had to be rebuilt. The work cost about £20,000 and was funded by a combination of local funds and grants. [Find out more about the Friends Group here.](#)

Funding Joy for St Mary the Virgin, Gamlingay

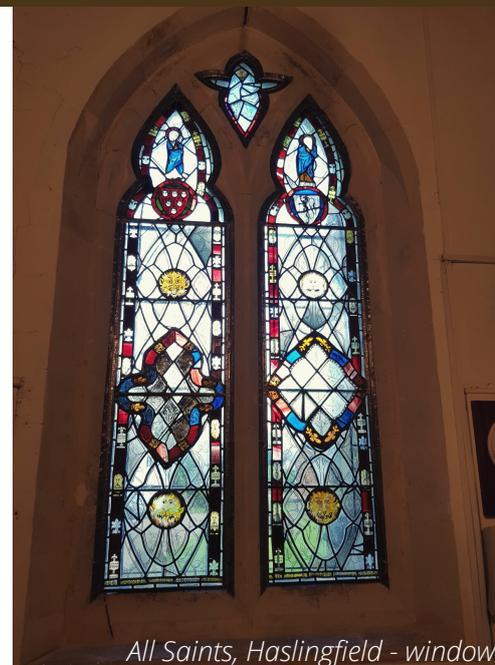
In 2018 St Mary the Virgin suffered a major lead theft which resulted in the church being placed on the 'Heritage at Risk' register. Unfortunately, plans to replace the roof, complete urgent repairs and install some much-needed facilities failed to win support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. After a short pause due to Covid, the team at St Mary's scaled down the project and began fundraising again. They were delighted to be chosen to receive a grant of £206,786 from the National Churches Trust (supported by the Cultural Recovery Fund). [Read the full story here.](#)

All Saint's, Croydon Receives Bronze Award

Volunteers at All Saint's have had a lot to celebrate recently. The Chancel has been reopened after months of repair work, whilst work in the churchyard has received a Bronze Award from the Wildlife Trusts' Churchyard Conservation Scheme. For more information about the scheme visit the website for the [Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust](#). Read more about the Chancel project in the [local press](#)

Project Blog Launched for St Peter and St Paul's Church , Wisbech

You can now follow the progress of the major repairs and heritage activities project at [St Peter and St Paul's via a regular blog](#). It is also a good example of how to keep people informed. The project is support by the National Lottery Heritage Fund with some recent additional repairs receiving support from the Allchurches Trust and Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust.



All Saints, Haslingfield - window



St Clement, Outwell - castellations before



St Clement, Outwell - castellations after

REMINDERS

Quinquennial Inspections

Please ensure that your Quinquennial Inspection (QI) is up-to-date, as well as your maintenance plan and logbook. If you are not sure when your QI is due, please contact Poppy (poppy.crooks@elydiocese.org or dac@elydiocese.org)

Cleaning

Please take care when cleaning historic objects, fixtures and fittings inside churches, particularly painted surfaces. Sometimes anything more than just a light dust requires specialist advice. If you are unsure, please take a look at our [Church Cleaning guide](#) or contact a member of our team directly.

There are also a selection of conservation guidance notes on the ChurchCare website, which have recently been updated and republished. Here is a full list of all recent changes:

[Conservation of books and manuscripts](#) / [Conservation of monumental brasses](#)

[Conservation of Church Plate](#) / [Conservation of Turret Clocks](#)

[Display cases in church buildings](#) / [Conservation of Easel Paintings](#)

[Conservation of Wall Paintings](#) / [Conservation of Rood Screens](#)

[Managing conservation projects](#) / [Conservation of metalwork](#)

[Conservation of monuments](#) / [Conservation of Stained Glass](#)

[Conservation of Textiles](#) / [Conservation of Timberwork](#)

[A Brief Guide to the Maintenance and Restoration of Organs](#)

For ease of reference, new pages have been created to draw some of these topics together:

[Paintings and Wall Paintings](#)

[Monuments](#)

[Textiles](#)

[Timberwork](#)

HERITAGE AT RISK UPDATE

Historic England's annual update of the [Heritage at Risk Register](#) has been published. In total there are 830 at-risk churches, which is ten less than last year, but includes 38 new entries. It has been noted that site visits and thus assessments for the register were not able to take place during much of 2020-2021. For the first time, Historic England has provided the trend in at-risk status, and 538 churches are marked as being in decline.

In the Diocese of Ely 2 churches were removed from the register – St Andrew's, Impington and St Mary's, Whaddon. 2 churches we added to the register which is formally closed for new admissions in June of each year. As soon as the list re-opened in September another church was added. This brings the total in this Diocese to 28. The current lack of major funding for most parish churches, particularly rural ones, means this number is not expected to decrease significantly in the near future. 16 churches in this Diocese have been recorded on Historic England's database as being in a 'vulnerable condition', with a further 17 highlighted by the Church Buildings Team as being vulnerable to significant deterioration without urgent repairs in the next 2-5 years.

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Recommended Monthly Tasks

From [SPAB's Faith in Maintenance Calendar](#).

December

- Clear parapet and valley gutters of snow to prevent melt water rising above them and causing damp internally. Take care 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 discharges freely.
- Make sure that fire safety equipment has been serviced.

January

- Have the electrical systems checked by a qualified person at least once every five years.
- Smoke alarms should be regularly tested and cleaned. Remember to replace the batteries too!
- Clear parapet and valley gutters of snow (see above).

February

- Clear parapet and valley gutters of snow (see above). Make sure that the tower, roofs and windows are bird-proof before nesting starts. Do not disturb bats.
- Check the condition of any ladders in the tower and ask the tower captain to ensure that the bells and bellframe are in good order.

GRANTS

For more advice on grants and lists of grant making organisations, please contact Sue or Holly. If you would prefer to search for grants and receive more frequent updates on funding opportunities, you can register for free with the following websites:

- [Support Cambridgeshire](#)
- [Hunts Forum](#)
- [Grants Online](#)
- [My Funding Central](#)
- [Funds Online](#)

Some organisations can also help with grant applications, for instance, Hunts Forum provide Critical Friend feedback on funding applications to its members and can also help people search for potential funding streams (see the link above for contact details).

Autumn Budget & Comprehensive Spending Review

On 27 October, the Chancellor revealed his Autumn Budget and set out the government's spending priorities for the Parliament for the next three years i.e. up to 2024 to 2025. There appeared to be 'relatively little likely to be of specific interest to religious organisations' and no reference, as yet, to the future of the **Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme** beyond March 2022. However, in previous years, we have had to wait for DCMS to set their own spending plans and news can come at the last minute. We will continue to keep you updated.



St Peter, Coton - William M Connolley

GRANTS CONTINUED

Introducing...

Empowering Norfolk Communities Fund

Grants of up to £10,000 are available to enable new ideas and innovative ways of working to stimulate sustainable services, which may include re-ordering/ re-purposing of venues and meeting spaces to optimise services. There will be several funding rounds, the next deadline will be announced in the new year. Like many, this Fund prefers to be a 'final funder':

"It is unlikely that the Fund will make a contribution to a capital project unless all other funding/ permissions etc are in place and the project can begin promptly upon receipt of a grant".

Updates

The Foyle Foundation: Major Grants

Criteria for the major grants scheme was announced just after the publication of the last newsletter. The focus is currently on Learning and the Arts. Other projects and applications from charities with a turnover of less than £150,000 per annum are asked to apply to the Small Grants Scheme.

The Prince of Wales' Charitable Fund

This Fund has re-opened and continues to support heritage conservation and restoration projects at places of worship. The small grants programme awards single or multi-year grants to a maximum value of £5,000. The average award is £1,500. Major grant applications are by invitation only.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

The current funding priorities are for the period ending in April 2022. The focus beyond this will be announced, most likely, in the new year. Applications for over £250,000 are now closed. Applications for under £250,000 continue as a rolling programme with no deadlines.

If you have an activity or project idea for funding you can make an appointment to discuss it with staff from the Fund at a **Meet the Funders event on the 7th December**. The event is organised by the CCVS and is FREE to any community group working in Cambridgeshire. You will be asked to complete a short project outline and submit it to CCVS who will then make you an online appointment. For full details and a list of other funders who will be participating in the event visit: [CCVS Meet the Funders](#).



view of octagon, Ely Cathedral

The National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) - Covid-19 Response Fund

This funding will safeguard nationally important heritage assets within England such as works of fine and decorative art, museum collections, archives, and historic buildings. Funding is available until the end of April 2023 and applications can be made at any time.

Is this fund right for you?

- Are you applying for funding to support a nationally important heritage asset in the UK (Grade I churches should be of national importance, according to the definition on [Historic England's website](#))
- Is the heritage asset at risk due to the impact of the COVID-19?
- Have you explored all other sources of funding?
- Will the heritage asset be publicly accessible if you secure NHMF funding?
- Are you a not-for-profit organisation?

The NHMF operates as a funder of last resort, but they have indicated that churches are eligible to apply to them. We are still awaiting further details regarding the eligibility criteria from the Church Buildings Council, who were due to liaise with the Fund. In the meantime, we suggest you contact the Fund directly before submitting an application to see if your project would be eligible. Please do let us know what advice or feedback you receive. For more details visit: [NHMF](#).

Suspended Grants Programmes

- Greggs Foundation – focusing on Covid-19 projects, particularly in North of England.
- The Jill Franklin Trust – closed until June 2022 for church restoration projects. The current focus is on Covid-19 related projects, especially in the North of England.

Current deadlines

December	
3rd	Amey Cespa Community Fund
3rd	John Coates Charitable Trust
January	
1st	The Prince of Wales' Charitable Fund
4th	The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust
6th	Veolia Environment Trust
13th	National Churches Trust: Gateway
13th	Wolfson Foundation
17th	Church Buildings Council (wall paintings)
28th	The Leche Trust
20th	The Steel Charitable Trust
31st	Norfolk Churches Trust
February	
1st	Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
1st	The Sharpe Trust
10th	Congregational and General Charitable Trust
14th	Screwfix Foundation
28th	Church Buildings Council (Bells)
Early March	
1st	The Joseph Rank Trust
1st	The Swire Charitable Trust - major grants
1st	The Archer Trust
2nd	FCC Communities Foundation
5th	Amey Cespa Community Fund
7th	National Churches Trust: Cornerstone
7th	Wolfson Foundation
9th	Mick George Community Fund

Grants without deadlines

All Churches Trust
The Archer Trust
ASDA Foundation: Green Tokens
BIFFA Award - Community Buildings
Church Buildings Council Conservation Reports
Garfield Weston
Geoffrey Watling (Norfolk only)
Henry Smith Charity
National Lottery Community Fund: Awards for All
National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities Fund
National Lottery Heritage Fund: Grants for Heritage (upto £250,000)
Paul Bassham Charitable Trust (Norfolk only)
Suez Community Fund
Tarmac Funding
Tesco Bags of Help

The Barron Bell Trust
The Beatrice Laing Trust
The Bernard Sunley Foundation
The Clothworkers' Foundation
The Co-op Local Community Fund
The Foyle Foundation Small Grants
The Hobson Charity Ltd
The Jack Patston Trust (Cambs only)
The John S Cohen Foundation
The Rank Foundation Pebble Grants
The Round Tower Churches Society
The Swire Charitable Trust - grants under £25,000
TASC Grants
The Tudor Trust
Virridor Credits Environment Co.

For more help with church finances, particularly during the current crisis, visit the [Financial Guidance and Giving pages](#) of the Diocese's website.

Easy Fundraising

Visit the Diocese's' website for information about this Fundraising website and how it could help your church raise money easily and safely.

BUILDING VOLUNTEERS

Survey of Church Building Volunteers

The [full report on this survey](#) is now available to read. Once again thank you to everyone who took part. If you have any enquiries regarding the report, please contact Holly.

Managing Volunteers Network

See the Training and Events section.



ENVIRONMENT

Guidance on Works to Trees and Planting New Trees

Two new documents are now available for churches on the Diocesan website here: [Churchyard Trees](#). The first gives a clear summary of what types of permission are needed for different categories of tree works, and also the information that needs to be submitted to the Diocese to accompany applications. The second document gives advice on the planting of new trees, choosing appropriate sites for new planting and thinking about the impact trees will have as they mature, to avoid unintended future problems.

Churchyard Training Day

On Saturday 20th November, delegates from churches around the diocese gathered at Comberton to learn more about the management and opportunities inherent in our churchyards. The day was opened with a presentation from the Diocesan Chancellor on the churchyard regulations and the new process for grave reservations. The day included further interesting talks on churchyard trees and conservation, the history and archaeology of churchyards, the use of churchyards for new technologies, local authority management of closed churchyards, and the opportunities churchyards present as sites for worship and mission. The presentations from the churchyards training day are available on the [diocesan website here](#).

NEW INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Metal Theft from Church Roofs – New Advice from Historic England

Historic England have published two new advice notes on Theft of Metal from Church Roofs, to replace the 2017 advice note on metal theft. For more information and links to the documents please visit: [Metal Theft Advice](#).

Guidance on Equal Access to Church Buildings

Updated guidance from the Church Buildings Council. [Download it on the main Accessibility page](#).

Community Businesses Inside Churches

The Plunkett Foundation wishes to understand your perspective on community businesses locating inside churches. They have created a very short survey <https://www.tfaforms.com/4947307>. It only takes a couple of minutes - please take part.

Continuing Care Retirement Community

The Vicar of Cherry Hinton, Karin Voth Harman, has a vision for how churches in the diocese can get involved in an exciting new project to transform the lives of older people in the Diocese. She has written a short article explaining the project, which can be accessed [here](#). The project is particularly interested to know of any unused areas of land which are in PCC ownership which could potentially provide a site for the project. Please get in contact with Karin if you would like to get involved with this project – whether you can suggest a potential site or not. vicar@standrews-cherryhinton.org.uk

TRAINING AND EVENTS

7th December - **Meet the Funders Online** - (free to any community group working in Cambridgeshire). See details in the Grants section.

9th December - **Managing Volunteers Online Network** - CCVS

To find out what is going on across the Diocese this month and beyond, please take a look at the [calendar on the website](#). Events include:

4th December - **A Festive Last Night of the Proms** at St Peter and St Pauls, Wisbech

10th December - **Christmas Concert** at St Peter's, Snailwell

To find out what training and events will be available in the new year (or to watch recordings of past webinars), please take a look at some of the following websites:

Cambridge CVS – training in a variety of areas for community and voluntary organisations.

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust – series of lectures.

Churches Conservation Trust – online lectures.

National Churches Trust – events.

Norfolk Churches Trust – events.



CONTACT DETAILS



Please contact Holly if you:

- have any problems with the links contained in this newsletter
- would like alternative contact details to be added to/removed from the mailing for the newsletter
- have a good news story or information you would like included in the next edition; cut-off date 16th February.

All initial enquiries about works to your building or churchyard and queries about the faculty process or applying for consent should please be directed to the Church Buildings office via dac@elydiocese.org

Geoffrey Hunter - DAC Secretary and Head of the Church Buildings and Pastoral Department Telephone (01353) 652737 or email geoffrey.hunter@elydiocese.org

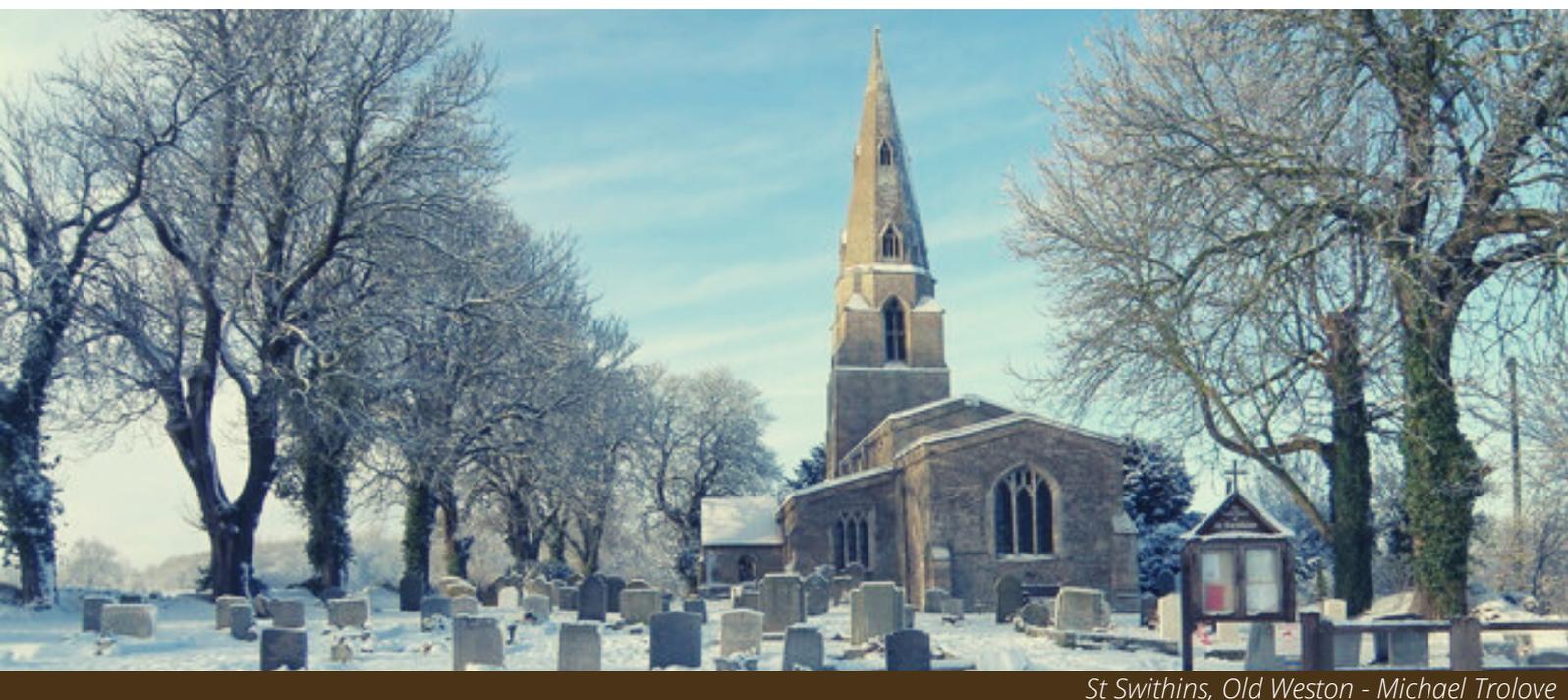
Sue Dickinson - Assistant DAC Secretary and Grants Adviser Telephone 01353 652705 Mob. 07856 307855 or email sue.dickinson@elydiocese.org

Poppy Crooks - Church Buildings Advice Assistant Telephone 01353 652729 or email poppy.crooks@elydiocese.org

Holly Isted - Historic Church Buildings Support Officer Telephone 07948 350211 or email holly.isted@elydiocese.org

Sally Gilson - Pastoral and Elections Secretary Telephone 07946 715733 or email sally.gilson@elydiocese.org

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



St Swithins, Old Weston - Michael Trolove