



With grateful thanks to our funders



# Hear first hand: the story of our grants

**Gillian Ellis-King:** DCC! Project Coordinator  
**Becky Strke:** DCC! Community Outreach  
**Stephen Pike:** Chair Future 4 Christ Church Working Group

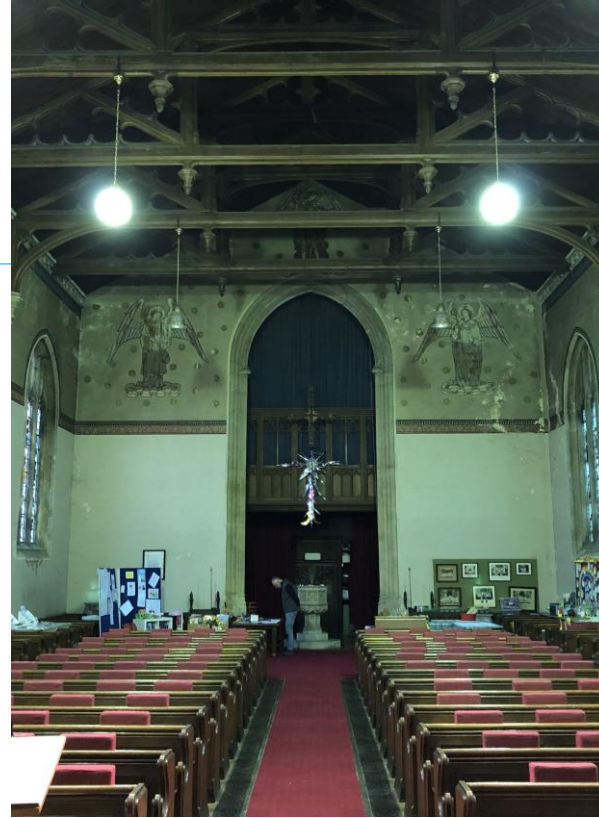




A short film about our project  
With very grateful thanks to Chris Booth, film maker.

<https://youtu.be/1uxPiJ4rVJA>

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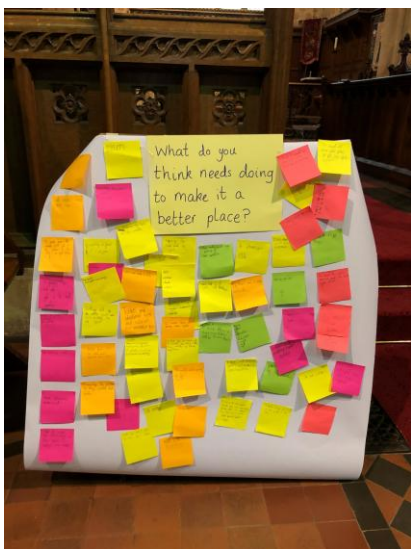


## OUR STARTING POINT

- Grade 2\* listed, exceptionally complete late C18th decorations with Sir George Gilbert Scott designs
- 6-7000 monthly pedestrian movements right past our door

## BUT

- 185 years with no toilets, no kitchen,
- Wall to wall pews
- Dull, dark, dingy
- Underused much of the time
- 'Tidy' churchyard with mown grass



## 2020-2022 Community Consultation

**Initial proposals:** toilets, kitchen, flexible use spaces

### Consultation

Neighbours, congregation, schools, community groups, other organisations

People told us loud and clear:

- Yes, we need these facilities

But we also need:

- Restoration of this historic building
- Spaces for flexible worship **and opening up for** community uses, and
- There is keen interest in finding out more about our heritage

### Vision

The PCC saw Christ Church restored and enhanced as:

'a thriving & sustainable community hub fit for C21st'  
serving the needs of the church + wider community.



# Our grant application journey....



2020-2022: 2 years + but did span Covid

National Lottery Heritage Fund 'Project Enquiries'

Applications to other funding bodies + community fundraising

De-risk: get consents, quotations, letters of support, governance etc in place

Note: Social contribution sought from all main contractors e.g. workshop/talk

TNLHF success at the first go - £239, 761 awarded

# What was Discover Christ Church! ?

Discover Christ Church! was a National Lottery Heritage Funded community project to explore, restore and celebrate Christ Church's rich Victorian heritage.

Other funding:

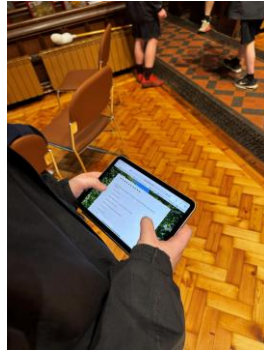
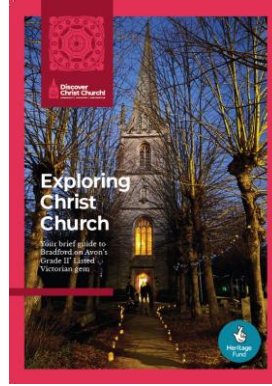


*Initially proposed as 2 year project, extended to 3 years*

A secular that project intertwined:

Conservation and restoration of Christ Church's heritage features and biodiversity enhancements with active community involvement throughout.





## TNLHF Approved our:

**Purposes e.g.** Restoration, community involvement, interpretation, 'on the map', biodiversity enhancement, evaluation

## **Outcomes e.g.**

- Greater diversity of people involved
- Heritage in better condition & better explained

## **Bi-monthly reporting & grant claims**

On purposes & outcomes  
+

All spend > & < £500

# Beauty and challenges of our TNLHF grant



The National Lottery Heritage Grant was truly transformational



Rigorous process: evidence based throughout from application to final report



Huge potential for community engagement and involvement



Co-design an opportunity: High level plan in our submission, then flesh out with target audiences



Tiny staff: Developing volunteer interest capacity essential to enable delivery



Some funding flexibility: able to seize opportunities, including savings enabling increased delivery



## Essential ingredient: a program of inclusive community activities to celebrate the ongoing restoration

Codesigned with our community, for our community

Working in partnership with:

- Christ Church Primary School
- St Laurence Secondary School
- Bradford on Avon Youth
- Bradford on Avon Dementia Action Alliance
- Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust
- Bluebird Care

Relationships forged with c.60 organisations

Open House throughout

# Restoration and engagement

Every Element of the restoration provided a creative opportunity to engage with different people:

- Meet the 'experts'
- Tours and explores
- Guide-Book and logo project
- Radio and Newspaper interviews
- **Celebration events including 2 x Heritage Celebrations** – Heritage crafts and workshops at Christ Church ending in a family service and BBQ.

Each activity is welcoming, with food and refreshments.

Where possible run in house, with volunteers to keep costs down





**BoA youth DROP-IN** Discover Christ Church!

**Christ Church**  
Bradford-on-Avon

**Every Thursday, term-time only**  
From 3pm – 4:15pm

- › Enjoy hot chocolates, snacks & games
- › Activities with a heritage twist
- › Safe, warm and welcoming
- › Space to relax and chat

*All are welcome!*

For more info, email [becky.strike@discoverchristchurch.org.uk](mailto:becky.strike@discoverchristchurch.org.uk)

With grateful thanks to our funders



# ‘Golden thread’ events

With our ‘target audiences’:

**BoA Youth Drop ins** – Every Thursday, term Time.  
Welcoming space with activities and a heritage twist

**Conversation and Craft** – Intergenerational Cafes with heritage inspired craft activities

**Biodiversity Work** – enhancements & planting co-designed with children from the school.

**Mental Health Workshops** – with Christ Church and St Laurence School – in and taking advantage of the church

‘The biscuit eaters’ example



Discover Christ Church!  
COMMUNITY | DISCOVERY | RESTORATION

**FREE EVENT**

**HERITAGE CELEBRATION**

CHRIST CHURCH, BRADFORD-ON-AVON

**SAT 12th JULY FROM 7pm**  
**SUN 13th JULY FROM 10am**

**12th JULY - FROM 7pm**  
→ Conservator talk  
→ Canapés & drinks

**13th JULY - FROM 10am**  
→ Stone & wood carving  
→ Stained glass expert  
→ Blacksmith & forge  
→ Archaeology activities  
→ Millennium embroidery  
→ Craft activities  
→ Drinks & refreshments

Search 'Discover Christ Church' on Facebook and Instagram or visit us at [www.discoverchristchurch.org.uk](http://www.discoverchristchurch.org.uk)



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
Christ Church (CC) PCC Primary School

Discover Christ Church!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
Mental Health Foundation

UPCOMING DATES FOR

**CONVERSATION & CRAFT CAFE**

Christ Church  
Bradford-on-Avon

Wednesday 6th March & Wednesday 24th April

1:15pm - 2:45pm

Join us for refreshments, crafts and conversation  
An opportunity for young and old to come together

**FREE TO ATTEND - ALL WELCOME!**

With grateful thanks to our funders

Heritage Fund, Christchurch PCC, ChurchCare, Community Donations, The People's Trust, Bradford-on-Avon Town Council

**Discover Christ Church!**  
COMMUNITY | DISCOVERY | RESTORATION

## Our numbers:

### We surpassed all the 'stretch' targets we set ourselves, including:

- ❑ 150 events delivered, with 10,000 + participations
- ❑ enabled by 80+ volunteer team giving 3700+ hours
- ❑ 326 young people with additional needs participating
- ❑ 84 young people benefitted from well-being workshops
- ❑ 300+ native bulbs + 20 trees & shrubs planted in churchyard
- ❑ 450-600 monthly Facebook visits
- ❑ c.95% survey ratings for DCC! Outcomes
- ❑ 2023-2026 growth:
  - ❑ visits into the church (non service)
  - ❑ BoA Youth &
  - ❑ Conversation & Craft
- ❑ We also see growth in service attendances

# Key Learning from Community Engagement



Relationships take time to build



Codesigning has been key to successful engagement



Extra events = extra pressure on volunteers



Doing what is possible – so many ideas and opportunities but being realistic



Complementing not clashing events



Not every idea or connection leads to an event



Challenges of running events with work being carried out

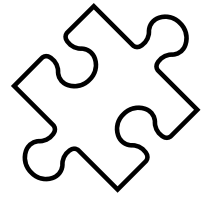
# The Future for Christ Church



## **Clear Objective: Provision of a kitchen, toilets and flexible space for worship and community uses**

**Project Management** via Working Group reporting to PCC with defined Terms of Reference

- ❑ **Identify the Funding Gap** by identifying all costs including contingency and any available funds
- ❑ **Get both church membership and the local community on board**, we raised over £87,000 from our community during the life of the project
- ❑ Fundraising proved to be a huge challenge and took 3 years – 28 applications – 9 successful



# Applying for Grants



**All funders have their own priorities & criteria, applications need to respond accordingly**

**Resources:** Does the Diocese have a list of funders? / Church Grants  
(<https://www.churchgrants.co.uk/>)

**Do Your Research:** Funders website, Charity Commission website

**Grant Criteria:** Check exactly what they will fund and what they won't

**Community:** Do they want wider community benefit? If so, make sure you include it in the objectives

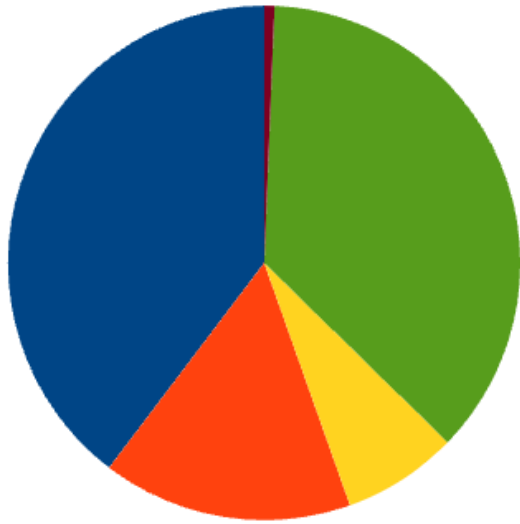
**Need:** Be clear on your need / ensure the funder's criteria is met / describe existing difficulties **AND** potential

**Evidence:** Provide evidence of your need – description, photos, quotes from existing users

**Review:** Review application before submitting



# Target achieved!



- PCC
- Private Donations
- Community Events
- Grants
- Other

Target:     £376,177

PCC:           £147,000  
Donations:   £58,497  
Events:        £26,979  
Grants:        £135,833  
Other:         £2,380



# Summarising our lessons learned



**Listen and respond: to grant givers advice & criteria, to community views & ideas**



**Fine line between secular and church uses and needs**



**Capital works & restoration are opportunities for engagement & learning – seek social contributions**



**Success breeds success: Do what is possible – so many ideas and opportunities... be realistic**



**Knowing when to start & stop! Dedicate time for project set up, relationship building and write up**



**Make sure the back-office set-up and support is there .... Check and re-check the maths at all stages!**

# Looking to the future

Funding is finite – how can we keep momentum going?

What elements can be 'self sufficient' without the project? (MH work)

Using the church for the wider community – hire out the space

Making Christ Church a youth friendly and dementia friendly space

Eco Accreditation – links with the project so this can carry on

Our Final TNLHF Evaluation Report looks back & forward: harvests people's ideas for the future of this place

**Just as Christ Church has changed over its nearly 180 years, Year 6 told us they see opportunities for it to continue to change and adapt, long into the future.**



# Want to know more?

*SEARCH*  
"DISCOVERCHRISTCHURCH!"

<https://www.nboachurches.co.uk/dcc/discover-christ-church>

<https://www.youtube.com/@DiscoverChristChurchBoa>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/discoverchristchurch/>



# Thank you

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ANY QUESTIONS?