



Final Evaluation Report April 2026



A massive “thank you” to our amazing community and volunteers!



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Executive Summary and samples of evaluation by others

Project background

Before the start of the Discover Christ Church! (DCC!) project, this grade 2* Listed Building was in need of renovation and new life. Although open to the public each day, the building lay unused for much of the time. People had told us that the historic fabric and features of the church were in need of conservation and restoration, and that there was a need and desire for community activities here - at the top of the hill in Bradford on Avon and at the centre of surrounding residential areas where there was relatively little provision.

Digital monitoring of the numbers of people coming into the churchyard and church throughout the project, gave us an idea of the scale of our potential 'in person' audience – 12-14,000 pedestrian movements and around 600 non-church related monthly movements through the main West Door.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund(ed) (TNLHF) DCC! project was intended to run in parallel with the Future for Christ Church project that would deliver essential on-site amenities (including a kitchen and toilets) for the first time in its 180+ year history. Unfortunately due to difficulties in securing grants for the latter, these improvements were delivered much later than expected. DCC! responded by improvising and making do so that our project program could continue as planned.

Across the lifetime of the project we have delivered:

- **Staff capacity in the form of a Project Coordinator to oversee the project and a Community Outreach Project Officer to co-design, develop and deliver a programme of community heritage activities.**

Both posts were successfully filled at the start of the project, providing dedicated capacity for delivery and evaluation. Extensions to the project made in response to challenges and opportunities enabled increased delivery on our agreed purposes and outcomes. We were

fortunate that both incumbents were able to stay for the entire duration of the project. We soon became aware that working patterns needed to change to ensure a better fit with term times for a key target audience: young people.

- **Conservation works that ensure that Christ Church's heritage is in better condition**

DCC! has delivered a range of conservation and repair works to key heritage features that are important to Christ Church's Grade 2* listing, including conservation and cleaning of the large south, west and north nave walls with their late C19th Burlisson and Grylls wall paintings, stained glass windows and associated stonework, and restoration and repair of its landmark spire clock and stonework as well as damaged woodwork inside the tower.

As a result Christ Church's nave has been completely transformed, from a cavernous, dingy, poorly lit space with an air of neglect, to a light bright welcoming space with magnificent wall paintings restored to their former glory that is now home to significantly increased community use. Artefacts discovered have been saved, conserved and displayed add visual and visitor interest to the nave. Outside the gleaming gold spire clock tells the right time and the churchyard bursts with wildflowers for much of the year – giving a clear indication to the outside world of new life within the building.

- **Archaeological investigations and an archaeological workshop for young people**

Our delivery of a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation and Report for the digging of a service trench provided an opportunity to not only fulfil a condition of a Faculty consent, but also to find out and publish for the first time information on the archaeological context of Christ Church. Along with this a 'Meet the Archaeologist' workshop held jointly with BoA Youth and repeated again at our Heritage Celebration 2025, enabling people of all ages to explore and handle Christ Church's (insignificant) finds as well as artefacts from other sites.

- **Enhancements to support the sustainability of the site**

The sustainability of the site has been significantly improved as a result of installing a new energy efficient and adjustable lighting system, as well as biodiversity enhancements across the churchyard. We also required contractors to explain how they would contribute to sustainability during the course of their work and secured a social contribution from each that added to our program of community activities. We sought to appoint local contractors and minimise the use of disposables in our catering for events.

Working with Christ Church students we developed and agreed a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan that has reduced mowing, resulting in many more wildflowers and better habitat.

- **Co-design with our target audiences and intergenerational activities bringing together a class of young people and Dementia Action Alliance members, carers and friends**

Co-design with young people and other stakeholders contributed significantly to our project, extending across the planning of our program of community activities, and visioning, planning, design, budgeting and prioritising as well as the implementation of biodiversity enhancements, plus graphic design and content for our logo and full colour 24 page Exploring Christ Church visitor guide.

Our delivery of 24 inclusive and intergenerational 'Conversation & Craft' café style sessions that explored and/or were inspired by a range of different heritage and biodiversity features at Christ Church went well beyond the target we had set ourselves, and attracted 1234 attendances, with an upward trend per session. These sessions will continue into the future, forming a key legacy of DCC!

- **A program of activities engaging target audiences in traditional craft skills, ecology, restoration work, Duke of Edinburgh volunteering and more**

A diverse program of community activities engaging target audienc-

es and others in traditional craft skills, ecology and restoration were delivered during the 35 months of delivery, attracting 10,000+ participations compared with a target of 7686 in c.150 events, and well over 3700 hours of volunteer support. Crafts ranged from table top including stencilling, painting and embroidery, to hands on activities including stone carving and archaeology to interactive displays on stained glass windows, wood carving and blacksmithing – all techniques that can be seen in the historic fabric of Christ Church.

Our 80+ strong team of volunteers were of all ages and from a variety of different walks of life. They were a highly valued part of our project and absolutely vital to its successful governance and delivery, as well as to our extensive program of community events and activities.

- **A program of practitioner/mentor facilitated workshops to support primary and secondary age young people in need of well-being support**

The well-being workshops were delivered as planned and the use of the peace, safety and heritage features of Christ Church were found by the practitioners to be helpful in successful delivery. The target number for engagement with young people of 80 was exceeded with 84 benefiting from these sessions. A well-being pack for wider use in the secondary school was also well received.

The sessions for the Primary School cohorts were delivered as planned and contributed significantly to positive well-being outcomes for participants as reported by the young people themselves, carers and teachers. However due to circumstances beyond our control, while the secondary cohorts were delivered as planned, the final detailed evaluation report could not be delivered, and a shorter summary was provided instead.

- **Together Discover Christ Church!’s program of activities has engaged with a wider range of people both physically and digitally, and in contributing to people’s greater well-being**

Compared with our starting point of attendance at church services and the Ark toddler group, we achieved substantially greater diversity of involvement including with our target audiences, engaging with c.1600 young people in our program of intergenerational and school activities, including c.350 with additional needs and 84 young people in need of well-being support (target was 80.) We engaged at least 20 people with memory or learning difficulties and c.60 organisations (compared with a target of 18), ranging from Dementia Action Alliance and Bluebird Care, to traditional craftspeople, The Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust and Climate Friendly Bradford. The ages of our fabulous and generous volunteer team ranged from 10 – 90+.

We significantly exceeded the digital reach envisaged in the project proposal, running across our new DCC! web presence with extensive heritage related resources, local radio and news outlets, plus reaching Historic England, BBC Wiltshire Radio and News, Explore Wiltshire App. and having had many more articles than we had thought possible. The proactive use of social media has been a very useful tool in promoting and celebrating Christ Church’s heritage, crafts and restoration as well as our project, its events, achievements and discoveries.

That the Discover Christ Church! project has had a positive impact on people’s mental health and well-being is demonstrated in some cases by direct evidence from practitioners, young people, parents/carers and teaching staff as well as by the observed laughter, smiles and chatter seen at our regular Conversation & Craft and BoA Youth events, and comments given via our surveys.

- **Christ Church’s heritage is identified and better explained by a range of means**

As proposed, Christ Church is now ‘on the map’ – both on paper and digitally, and we have created and published a series of up to date resources to tell Christ Church’s story in words and pictures up to the

present day - including highlighting our project’s achievements and better explaining its heritage features.

New lighting that better reveals Christ Church’s magnificent wall paintings, and we have discovered and displayed a number of heritage assets that were previously hidden from view or not known about or understood, including stained glass, embroidery and 222 tapestry kneelers each depicting a different heritage feature or detail of the church building.

Community and celebratory events and displays throughout the project enabled exploration of its heritage and heritage crafts that created and restored the church building, as well as the biodiversity enhancements across the churchyard. We have used many media including film, timelapse, photography and written word to identify and better explain Christ Church’s heritage and history including a revised, updated and now fully illustrated ‘History of Christ Church’ book, and a 24 page full colour ‘Exploring Christ Church’ illustrated guide, along with heritage quizzes, as well as resource packs for future heritage related events.

A dedicated web presence to identify and explain the history and heritage of Christ Church has been developed, and aspects of its heritage further disseminated to at least 7000 readers through the online reach of others, as well as multiple articles in local papers and interviews on local radio, and a top featuring article on BBC Wiltshire News reaching unknown numbers of people.

- **As a result of the community and conservation dimensions of our project, the local area is a better place to live, work or visit**

With its delivery of a wide range of inclusive community activities for people of all ages, restoration and the plans for continuation after the conclusion of our project, and very positive participant feedback from all ages it is clear that Discover Christ Church! project has contributed significantly to enhancing the local area as a place to live, work and visit both now and into the future. The project has resulted in a legacy of community activities planned to continue into the future, as well

as a beautifully restored community space that is already attracting a diversity of new uses. By bringing the Benefice office into the church, mutual benefits accrue: improved working conditions for the administrator and giving the benefit of informal oversight of the newly restored and enhanced spaces.

Outside the landmark spire clock gleams and flowers and fine grasses bloom for most months of the year, enhancing the environment for people and habitat value for slow-worms, hedgehog, newt, frog, butterflies and other insects – all of which have been found here. All giving an outward indication of new life within the building itself.

• **Legacy**

The legacy of our project spans across a restored and enhanced building, displays of heritage assets discovered during our project, enhanced biodiversity across the churchyard, vastly extended and improved multimedia information and explanation of Christ Church’s heritage, as well as a range of community initiatives continuing into the future as well as a fabulous team of volunteers with a wide range of skills and interests.

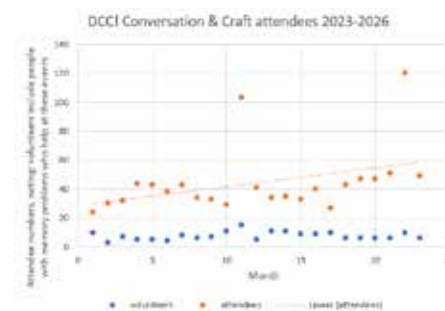
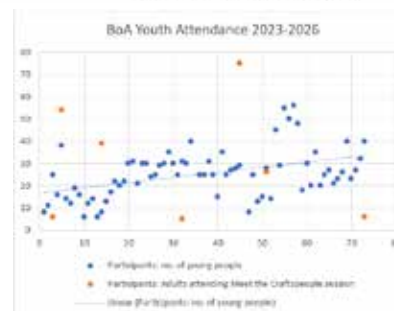
In addition condition reports and recommendations for the future repair, conservation and restoration of other of Christ Church’s important assets have been produced, to help guide the future custodianship of this fine building. We have also harvested the views and ideas of people of all ages involved in our project, covering not only for the physical fabric but also community uses, opportunities and biodiversity connections in the future.

Just as Christ Church has changed over its nearly 180 years, people of all ages have told us that they see opportunities this building to continue to change and adapt, long into the future.

• **Our Governance arrangements ensured that the project stayed on track and met the requirements of funding bodies.**

Having well-defined and agreed governance and decision making arrangements including for ongoing budget monitoring and management, a clear community engagement and communications plan, risk management and evaluation of success (or otherwise) on an ongoing basis throughout the project ensured efficiency of working and clarity of decision making, as well as ensuring the project’s successful evolution and delivery on our agreed TNLHF agreed purposes and outcomes.

We would like to conclude this Executive Summary with a few graphs showing the growth in visits and participations, which give a positive picture for the future. These are followed by quotes comprising evaluation of our project by others. This has given us confidence that our evaluation of success is shared by people of all ages, from participants to observers:



The Rector and Chair of Christ Church's Parochial Church Council, who arrived at Christ Church part way through the Discover Christ Church! project:

'The DCC! Project has been transformational. Not only do we now have a church building that looks welcoming, light and loved, and a churchyard that embraces the natural world, we also have forged new and lasting links with our community. It feels like this project has brought church and community together enabling mutual blessings.'

RHS South West in Bloom: it's your neighbourhood:

'Discover Christ Church!'s biodiversity enhancements co-designed with Christ Church School students judged as Outstanding in both 2024 and 2025.'

Parent:

'it's lovely to have a safe community space to use'

BoA Town Councillor & Chair Environment Committee:

'I think Discover Christchurch has been a brilliant project, not only seeing the transformation of the building to a beautiful, welcoming space but also all the projects promoting environmental, creative and ethical values for all ages. You should feel great pride. I bring others to see what's been achieved – its on my tour of Bradford on Avon'

An orchid expert and summer-time visitor to the churchyard:

'Congratulations on the care of the orchids – am so pleased to see them preserved.'

Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust Trustee:

'We should be proud to have helped fund such an impressive project'

Survey comment:

'Just continue doing what you're doing - hosting events that draw in a range of different people from all different walks of life.'

BoA Youth comment:

'Its an amazing place with very nice friendly people.'

Assistant Head, St Laurence Secondary School:

'Thank you so much. We have loved this project. Some of our most vulnerable students have attended, enjoyed themselves and had an afternoon out of school peacefully chatting (with older people) and being happy within this (Christ Church) setting. Its brilliant!'

A volunteer helping at the Fair Trade Conversation & Craft session:

'... a most enjoyable, well organised and useful event. I was most impressed by the four youngsters who were on my table. Feel more hopeful about the future of the world after meeting them.'

Music Director of Bradford on Avon Choral Society:

'We are delighted to be singing in this newly restored building which is clearly a jewel in the crown of Bradford on Avon. The building is transformed and we look forward to returning here in the future.'

Facebook post from new follower at conclusion of project:

'You all have done an amazing job on this Church. So happy to see that you are enjoying the fruits of your creativity.'

Caroline Kay, Committee Member for England, London & South following attendance at our Sip Sip Hooray celebration event:

'A pleasure to be there and see how your project has engaged the community from babies to centenarians.'

Year 6 Teacher and School Lead for Discover Christ Church!:

'This project has been a brilliantly rewarding experience. To be part of something so special with such dedicated and passionate volunteers has been a privilege. The vision of creating a community space that celebrates the best of the local community has undoubtedly and wholeheartedly been realised. The union of different generations, engaging in activities to improve and enhance the provision in this parish and also promote and secure a lasting legacy is just reward for all involved.'

Various visitor book entries – along lines such as this:

'Wow! What a transformation. Beautifully done... Congratulations to all involved.'

Year 6 students:

'we have both had a really great time and have been lucky enough to be involved with the Discover Christ Church Project. The good things for us are the really fun activities that we have done, like making Christmas crafts and spending time designing planters for the entrance to the church. We have even had a chance to design the inside of the church! We hope you like what you see, as our ideas may well have been some part of the final decision. One of the most important aspects of the whole projects for us is the opportunity to be involved with the members of our local community, like the generous and caring volunteers in the church and the members of the Dementia Society and their helpers. Most of all, however, we have loved the chance to learn about the church, its History and how important it is as a social place in the local community. We would like to thank the church and the leaders of the project for all the fun, love and support that has been shown to us. Thank you!'

Quotes from Bishop Andrew of Ramsbury:

'The projects to discover and renew Christ Church, Bradford-on-Avon are outstanding examples of what can be done when community service and involvement, generous charity and great local leadership combine. I was thrilled to dedicate the newly restored Christ Church recently and see additional facilities provided of such quality and sympathy with the historic fabric.

A beacon project that will inspire many others: Congratulations, team!'

This project has connected community and place with such creativity

Mental health practitioner: working with primary school students

'This project demonstrates the power of integrating wellbeing provision within heritage spaces, offering a model of best practice for future delivery.'

Also that 'the church (building) environment played a central role in the program's success. It provided more than a venue; it became an active partner in delivery, offering symbolism calm, safety and a sense of community identity.'

DCC! End of Project Evaluation

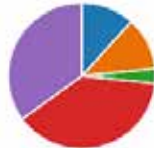
61 Responses 25:27 Average time to complete Active Status

1. First Name

57 Responses

Latest Responses
"John"
"Zach"

2. Your Age



3. What event did you attend recently?

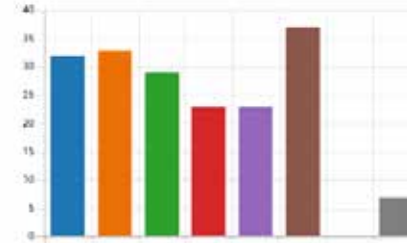
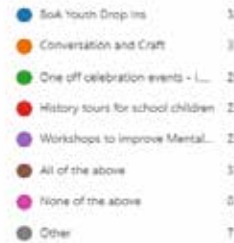


4. How would you rate the community events at Christ Church?

61 Responses



5. Which community events linked to the Discover Christ Church! Project would you like to continue?



6. How would you rate the conservation of the internal heritage features at Christ Church? (new lighting and wall paintings)

61 Responses



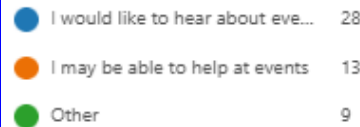
7. How would you rate the conservation of the external features at Christ Church? (biodiversity in the churchyard, clock and spire)

61 Responses



8. How would you rate the new facilities at Christ Church? (toilet, kitchen, office, storage, community space)

61 Responses





1. Introduction

Introduction

Christ Church is a Grade 2* Listed Building – putting it in the top 9% of all Listed Buildings in the country. It is visually very prominent and highly accessible to its surrounding mainly residential neighbourhoods in the northern half of Bradford on Avon, and is located in an area that is relatively under-provided for compared to the town centre that is located down a steep hill.

Pre-project consultation undertaken with people of all ages clearly showed that the local community highly value Christ Church and its heritage, and that they were very concerned about the poor state of key heritage features of the building, including its landmark spire clock, the nave walls and wall paintings and the broken lighting system inside.

Despite coinciding with the Covid pandemic, consultation also revealed keen community interest across all age groups in the heritage of this building and an appetite for community engagement and involvement and for Christ Church to become a community hub fit for the 21st.

Harvesting this input the proposal for Discover Christ Church! project was developed over a two year period, and applied for and secured:

- Grants from the Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust, Bradford on Avon Town Council and the Pilgrim Trust/ ChurchCare
- Faculty consents for the conservation works and the new lighting

Through consultation, community engagement and fundraising activities significant community contributions were also secured.

The Discover Christ Church! project was seen as a huge opportunity to deliver a program of conservation works intertwined with inclusive community involvement, involving key target audiences including young people and people with dementia in a process that would co-design a program of heritage based community activities.

Running alongside Discover Christ Church! was the complementary Future for Christ Church! project that would create flexible use spaces in the nave, and provide for the first time on-site toilets and a kitchen, an office and storage. Despite being essential to the viability of this historic building and its wider use for community activities, securing funding for these essential amenities proved a huge and arduous challenge – taking 38 grant applications, and 9 successes to meet the funding target. Finally in the last months of the DCC! project, community spaces, toilets and a kitchen were delivered – transforming the life and potential of this special place.

Purpose of this report

This report is intended not only to satisfy the Final Evaluation Report(ing) requirements of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, but also to provide a resource for other people considering undertaking projects of a similar ilk and who would like to find out how a successful project was planned and delivered. They should note however that grant criteria and requirements will have changed since the application for this project, along with its purposes and outcomes were approved and agreed.

We set out our the journey of our project, from where we started to its success (or otherwise) in delivering on the Purposes and Outcomes of the Discover Christ Church! (DCC!) project as agreed with The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Commentary

We consider that the report is probably overly long and detailed, however we felt it important to capture the breadth and depth of our work and achievements. We acknowledge that there is duplication, but we felt that this is to a degree unavoidable given the overlap of subject matter between our agreed purposes and outcomes. We also felt it important to assess the success of our work through both of these lenses.

We have pulled out into its own section an evaluation of the success of our governance and management arrangements, as is legacy which was a key objective of our work.

Given our project's name 'Discover Christ Church!', we also wanted to include a section to highlight key discoveries made rather than leave them buried in other aspects of our evaluation.





2. Our Starting Point

2.1 Christ Church Parochial Church Council has responsibility for this Grade 2* Listed Building, and they recognised that they are:

- Custodians of a large beautiful but underutilised church building that had huge potential for wider community use, but also
- That the church building and key heritage features were in many respects in poor shape and in need of investment to secure a viable future.
- Also, pre-application consultation had told us that there was a keen desire across all age groups to see the restoration of key spaces and heritage features of the church, improved amenities and wider community uses of this building.

They therefore embarked on an ambitious program of work to address, not only its:

- Lack of basic amenities (toilets, kitchen and flexible use spaces), but also
- Dark and dingy appearance resulting from a broken lighting system, and
- Poor state of key heritage features

The National Lottery Heritage Fund grant scheme was seen as a huge potential opportunity to harvest the community interest and engagement in the future of Christ Church and its heritage, and propose a program of works that intertwined conservation and biodiversity enhancement and community co-design and engagement, with young people and others with particular needs at its very heart.

2.2 People involved in the heritage at Christ Church prior to the start of our project:

There was little hard data available beyond attendance at services, school services and the Toddler Group and a few entries each month in the Visitor Book. We estimated before the start of the project there were:

- c. 8500 visits annually to Christ Church, mainly services, school services and Toddler Group
- c. 676 people annually engaging directly or indirectly with Christ Church's heritage, comprising visitors signing visitor book, Year 6 students and staff: Local History Project, an occasional community event (e.g. fundraising Teddy Zip Wire 2022), one historian, one botanist.
- The CC Green Team of c.5 people age 65-80 met on Friday mornings to tend to the churchyard, supplementing the routine maintenance (mainly mowing) undertaken by the Town Council's Wardens (c. 3 no.)
- There was no formal engagement with St Laurence School.
- As a Voluntary Controlled school Christ Church Primary already had well established links, but these were mainly confined to services and church related activities. The links to St Laurence school were largely absent.

We knew that:

- Christ Church is located at the top of the hill, a flat walk from surrounding residential areas to the north, west and east.
- It is in an area that is relatively under-provided for in terms of community activities and events

- Very few community events (beyond services) had been held at Christ Church in recent years. We are not aware of any events or activities engaging with the heritage of Christ Church in living memory.
- Pre-application consultation had shown us a clear demand and desire for:
 - Community activities and provision at Christ Church, including
 - Wellbeing support for young people struggling with mental health challenges and anxiety.
 - The heritage fabric of Christ Church to be conserved and restored, and the biodiversity of the churchyard enhanced
- There was no information on the diversity of people engaging with Christ Church
- In terms of access to the history of Christ Church, there was a photocopied history book and leaflet both dating from the 1990s. While providing thorough historic research (cited by Historic England in their listing) both had few illustrations and there were only a few copies left. There was also one painting in the nave showing how it would have appeared when first built as a simple Chapel of Ease
- There was no collated information on the archaeological context to Christ Church.
- All records of graves and burials were paper based in a folder in the church.
- Although a fine grade 2* listed building with a chancel designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, Christ Church did not feature on the Town Trail leaflet distributed to many visitors to the town by the Tourist Information Centre in town.
- No information was available about the 222 tapestry kneelers that each depict a different heritage feature of Christ Church, and also celebrate or commemorate lives and events of local people
- Only Year 6 at Christ Church School had access to school records and photographs dating from 1878 to the 1970s
- Very few people were aware of the hundreds of names of choir boys etched on the wall behind the organ
- The silver foundation trowel rarely if ever came out of the safe in the vestry for people to see and handle
- That earlier schemes of decoration lay hidden under the 1970s paint on the lower sections of the nave walls but there was no information on what these looked like. Their presence was unknown to all but a very few people.
- No one knew at the start of the project that the Victorian wardrobe in the corner of the nave would have an absolutely exquisite piece of embroidery to give up and that would result in wide-spread fascination, including BBC Wiltshire Radio and News coverage.
- There was no management plan (biodiversity or otherwise) for the churchyard. There was an area under one tree where recycled cyclamen were planted, and one bed of ornamental flowering plants as part of the garden of remembrance area.

2.3 The physical fabric of Christ Church prior to the start of our project:

Key features of Christ Church's fabric were in poor condition or broken:

- Christ Church's landmark spire clock had been stopped for many years the clock faces were rusting, the electronic mechanism had failed and mechanisms in poor condition.
- The spire was subject of significant water ingress via stone joints, several of the leaded windows in the clock chamber were broken/missing glass and there was damage to the gutter lining as a result of emergent vegetation.
- The wooden floor to the clock chamber, and a small area in the bell chamber as well as the door to the ringing chamber had all suffered water damage, and needed restoration to make them safe and secure.
- The wiring to the clock chamber was dated and the supply to the clock was not weatherproof. Lighting was inadequate.
- The intricately carved southwest pinnacle comprising several stones of diminishing size, not be fully inspected without scaffolding. While it was known to be in poor condition, once accessed from all sides it became apparent the internal supporting iron rod had corroded and split a major stone beyond repair, also that the tops tone was so weathered that it required replacement.
- The south, north and west walls with their late C18th friezes, paterae and huge archangel wall paintings were in a poor state having suffered from efflorescence, water ingress, smoke from candles and gas lighting and general dirt. The plain over painted lower nave walls were known to hide earlier stencilled and painted decorations (this had been discovered during consultation with the conservator during the preparation of the grant application). Unbeknown to us until the scaffolding went up, there was also a small area of damage to the ceiling and the plaster behind the central archangel was coming away.
- The 8 no. stained glass windows in the nave had a number of small holes, a hopper window required repainting and repair and the glass was dull as a result of the accumulation of 180+ years of soot and dirt.
- A parallel project to install essential amenities and create flexible use community spaces had rendered redundant, about 90 of the individually designed tapestry kneelers that had been created from 1984 – 2000. Each depicts a different heritage feature of Christ Church and also commemorate or celebrate a local person or event. They were stored on the floor under pews where they were both out of sight and at risk of dirt and damage.
- Early on in the project, two stained glass panels depicting the Tree of Life design and in memory of a member of the family that paid to build Christ Church Primary School were found leaning up against some slate roof tiles in the cellar. They were out of sight and at risk of damage due to darkness, lack of protection and the movement of stored materials.
- Late in the project, an embroidery thought to be late C19th, and being reworked c. C19th was found in an old wardrobe in the nave wrapped in a yellowing pillow case. It was both out of sight and at risk of moths and/or being thrown out.
- The inflexible (on or off) energy intensive nave lighting system was largely broken and did not illuminate the magnificent wall paintings, making some of them hard to see.
- Outside the primary objectives in the churchyard were keeping it mowed and tidy, with one relatively small area given over to a memorial bed of flowering plants and an area beneath a tree protected from mowing and planted with reused cyclamen.

2.4 Our digital starting point

Other than the Historic England grade 2* listing of Christ Church and a brief mention on the Bradford on Avon and North Villages Benefice web site, there was no web site or web pages dedicated to the heritage of Christ Church.

There was no social media presence promoting interest in the heritage or biodiversity of Christ Church

Prior to the start of the DCC! there was no information on the number of movements through the churchyard or into the church building Following commencement of the project we were surprised to find that there were over 6000 one way pedestrian movements through the churchyard (and past both the West and South doors) each month, and 562 visits into church (excluding services, the Ark Toddler Group and any school services). This indicated clear potential for engagement and growth.

2.5 Governance and staffing

- The Christ Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) had formally set up a Working Group with Terms of Reference and authority to fund raise and implement projects on behalf of the PCC.
- Christ Church had not undertaken a large scale heritage project since the Millennium, and that was a restoration project
- There was no staff capacity in the church or wider Benefice to take on a large program of conservation intertwined with community involvement as proposed by the Discover Christ Church! project
- We did however have the benefit of The National Lottery Heritage Fund guidance to inform the way we set up and ran the project, across a wide range of topics from procurement to funding acknowledgements.

2.5 Pre-application consultation and documentation

Consultation with people of all ages and with local organisations during the two years prior to the submission of a funding application to The National Lottery Heritage Fund brought in 100+ responses from individuals and organisations, who clearly told us that people highly value Christ Church, expressed overwhelming support and need for to explore and restore Christ Church's heritage and for the involvement of young people and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of the project. They also saw huge potential for diversification of uses and to open up this exceptional Grade 2* Listed building for diverse and community uses. Outputs from these consultations were summarised into a Report of Consultation that was submitted with our grant applications.

We proposed our target audiences to include young people including those with additional needs and/or wellbeing challenges, as well as older people including those with Dementia and their carers.

To help give certainty to our proposals, prior to submitting our grant application to The National Lottery Heritage Fund (TNLHF) we had also secured:

- Preliminary advice from TNLHF that informed the final form of our project proposals,
- All necessary consents to restore the landmark spire clock, clean and conserve the nave walls and magnificent wall paintings, and to install an energy efficient and adjustable new lighting system in the church.
- Grants and support from The Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust, The Bradford on Avon Town Council and the Pilgrim Trust/ChurchCare, as well as
- Letters of support from other key organisations including the primary and secondary school, Dementia Action Alliance and others with whom we proposed to work during the project.



3. What We Proposed

3. What we proposed

Following on from extensive pre-application engagement with, and support from, the local community and key stakeholders including young people, we agreed the following project purposes and outcomes with The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Later on in the project, due to budget savings we were able to deliver additional outputs that aligned with our agreed purposes and outcomes. Proposed extensions to our project program and additional works that aligned with our agreed purposes and outcomes were agreed in advance with our TNLHF Investment Manager.

In this section we include a brief summary of the approved purposes and outcomes, with further details of the works being listed in the tables in Section 4 of this report (please see the left hand 'What was proposed' column).

3.1 Approved Purposes

The approved purposes agreed for our project were as below. These were intended to deliver on the agreed outcomes set out in Section 3.2 below. These are listed in the order set out by TNLHF in their final report template:

- Recruit a Project Coordinator to oversee the project; Community Outreach Project Officer to develop a programme of community heritage activities
- Carry out a series of conservation works to the building including stonework repairs, re-pointing, window glass repair and repainting of frames, gutter repairs, replacement of water damaged, restoration of bell-chamber door
- Carry out conservation and cleaning of nave walls and wall paintings, including Burlison and Grylls wall paintings to west wall and friezes to north and south walls
- Carry out other enhancements to support the sustainability of the site, including developing a management and maintenance plan, upgrading lighting, making biodiversity enhancements
- Complete archaeological investigations of the site and an archaeological workshop for young people
- Co-design with young people a community engagement plan with local schools, Dementia Action Alliance and Ark Toddler, including bimonthly intergenerational activities bringing together a class of young people and Dementia Action Alliance members, carers, and friends
- Deliver a programme of activities engaging target audiences in traditional craft skills, ecology, restoration work, Duke of Edinburgh volunteering, and more
- Seek to amend the Town Map and Trail produced by others so it includes graphics and text to encourage visits to Christ Church, create heritage leaflets, create activity worksheets which can be used by children, create accessible digital resources and update the website, and deliver celebratory events to mark the completion of the restoration works
- Deliver a programme of practitioner/mentor facilitated workshops to support primary and secondary age young people with mental health and anxiety challenges (target of 80 young people)
- Evaluate the project

3.2 Approved Outcomes

- A wider range of people involved in the project
- People will have greater well-being
- Heritage will be identified and better explained
- Heritage will be in a better condition
- The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit

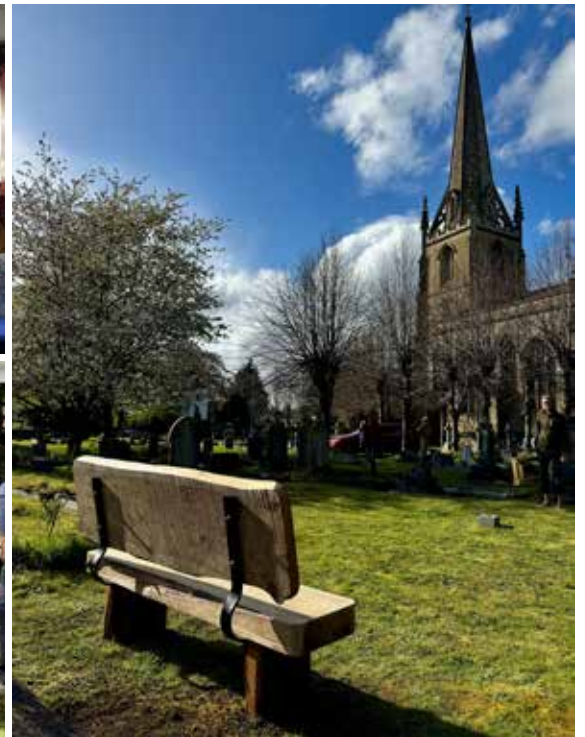
3.3 Governance including evidence collection

- We undertook to acknowledge The National Lottery Heritage Fund including on online and physical signs, posters, information boards, at events, our website and social media as well as in media and public relations.
- We proposed from the start of our project to collect evidence of progress including:
 - Photographs of community events and activities, progress of building works and screen-shots of digital work.
 - Building as we went a record of key data and information:
 - Events held, along with attendee numbers and diversity where available, and their evaluation of our events, along with
 - Volunteer tasks, numbers and hours
 - Visitor numbers and comments
 - Media coverage
 - Interesting and evaluative quotes from visitors, participants and outside speakers at events
- Procurement information including invitations to quote, responses and evaluations of submissions along with justifications for appointments.

- We managed and maintained a Risk Management Plan throughout the project, regularly reviewing and updating in response to relevant changes or developments affecting the project.
- We monitored progress against our Project Plan throughout.
- We monitored both income from grants and other sources, non cash donations, as well as spend generally on a two monthly basis throughout the project.

For some matters we already had relevant documentation in place before the project, including:

- Job Descriptions for the posts proposed
- Relevant consents for capital works
- Governance structure and arrangements



4. What Actually Happened

4. What Actually Happened

In this section we look at each of the Purposes and Outcomes that were agreed with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. We assess what happened by means of a RAGG Rating (as explained in the coloured band below) with commentary setting out what happened, completion including any program or cost implications and our evaluation of success and learning.

<i>Additional delivery and or target exceeded</i>	<i>Delivery / target achieved as proposed / substitute alternative delivered</i>	<i>Delivery / target partly achieved</i>	<i>Delivery / target not achieved</i>
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4.1 Approved DCC! project purposes

4.1.1 Recruit a Project Coordinator to oversee the project: Community Outreach Project Officer to co-design, develop and deliver a programme of community heritage activities

Both posts were advertised soon after formal approval of TNLHF grant award, with both appointees starting in April 2023. Both appointees stayed for the duration of the project.

As a result of very successful community engagement a broad pool of 80+ volunteers was developed providing the capacity needed to deliver the planned program of community events and activities. People came forward with a diverse range of people with a variety of skills to bring to the project, from hospitality and ideas for events, to stone and wood carving, to IT skills, financial planning, biodiversity and clerking services, and including people of all ages from the community including for example, the congregation, Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust, Bradford on Avon Town Council, BoA Youth, Winsley Scouts and St Laurence School Duke of Edinburgh participants as well as Climate Friendly BoA and very many others.

Starting point	Prior to award of The National Lottery Heritage Fund grant there was no paid or voluntary human resource capacity or funding to deliver the programme of activities proposed.		
What was proposed	What happened	Completion, and any programme or cost implications. (RAGG)	Evaluation & Learning
<p>Appoint Community Outreach Officer</p> <p>21-month Year-round contract, appointed to involve the community in a wide range of inclusive, intergenerational and 'hands on' activities, workshops, events and celebrations inspired by the heritage of Christ Church and its program of restoration.</p> <p>The Job Description for this post was submitted as a part of the grant application, enabling advertising as soon as possible after formal confirmation of grant award.</p>	<p>As a result of budget savings on other lines, and opportunities for increased delivery on the purposes and outcomes of the project, the initial 21-month contract was extended to 35 months.</p> <p>The requirements of the Job Description and TNLHF approved purposes and outcomes were delivered as planned and its requirements successfully met including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of extensive, inclusive and positive community engagement and co -design including specified target audiences including young people, people with Dementia and their carers, plus young people with anxiety and mental health challenges – all in line with an agreed Community Engagement and Communications Plan. • Co-design with graphics and photography students was also developed, to inform the development of a project logo and visitor guide to Christ Church. • The officer hit the ground running adding substantially to the value of an open community event very shortly after appointment. This was a huge opportunity for early and diverse engagement. • Very positive relationships were built and maintained with staff and students from both the primary and secondary schools, Dementia Action Alliance and a range of other organisations and businesses who also participated in the project, also providing future legacy. • The post holder co-designed, promoted and successfully delivered a very extensive 34-month program of c. 150 heritage related events and activities, and ensuring each had in place the necessary plans and Risk Assessments. • A proactive approach to developing volunteer capacity to enable the successful delivery of community events, heritage and biodiversity related initiatives and celebrations. Many who were involved have expressed interest in continuing into the future. 	<p>Community Heritage activities being planned, organised delivered by the DCC! Community Outreach Officer during term time, with additional time being worked then and significantly reduced hours during the school holidays.</p> <p>The salary for the post was as projected, including for inflation.</p> <p>Savings on other budget lines, in particular contingency and events (where instead of hiring in facilitators for community events, a more creative DIY approach enabled many more activities and sessions to be delivered at lesser cost), enabled a significant extension to the initial contract, and increased delivery on agreed project purposes and outcomes.</p>	<p>Given that young people comprise a key target audience for DCC!, it would have been better for the Community Outreach post to work predominantly during term time, with lesser hours during the school holidays for input of information to project monitoring, evaluation and grant claims.</p> <p>DCC! experience shows that building community relationships and engagement takes time. Although a range of organisations had expressed support and contributed ideas for the grant application, turning this into reality took time. Our initial 21 month program for delivery of both co-design and delivery of the program of community activities was over ambitious, and a 3 year proposal would have been more realistic.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The officer also led on the successful development and delivery of media relations, the use of social media and YouTube, as well as making a significant contribution to the DCC! web site and the provision of monitoring data for the evaluation strand of the project. Both posts were affected at times by unexpected and unavoidable staff absence, necessitating flexibility between officers to ensure continued successful project delivery. 	<p>Costs for this budget line therefore exceeded that projected in the grant application, but this enabled increased delivery on the project's purposes and outcomes.</p> <p>Oversight of the post was organised differently to that envisaged, with the (new) Rector taking a greater role.</p>	<p>Any future project prioritising work with young people should focus the project programme and therefore the employment contract for relevant officer/s on term times and for a longer duration.</p> <p>For any future project, staff absence should be factored into Risk Management Plans at the outset of the project, and mitigating measures considered and planned for.</p>
<p>24-month contract initially proposed for Project Coordinator as dedicated resource to oversee the delivery of the project, the work of the Community Outreach officer and to ensure ongoing monitoring and evaluation to meet the needs of the funding bodies, including budget management and selection and appointment of contractors.</p> <p>The Job Description for this post was submitted as a part of the grant application, enabling advertising as soon as possible after formal confirmation of grant award.</p>	<p>As a result of budget savings on other lines, the initial 24 month contract was extended to 36 months.</p> <p>The post holder successfully delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress reporting and evaluation in accordance with Governance arrangements proposed in the grant application proved to be successful in resulting in successful project delivery and meeting the reporting and financial requirements of TNLHF. Positive working relationships and meeting the requirements of all other funding bodies. Risk Management Planning throughout the project, including proposing and agreeing mitigations for emerging risks. Progress update reports generally bi-monthly as proposed at grant acceptance stage, In line with the procurement template agreed with TNLHF at the start of the project, quotations were sought for all spend over £2500 and some contracts under this value where it was considered that best value would be achieved, with decisions on appointment being made on the basis of cost and quality criteria. With the support of a volunteer with relevant experience who checked submissions, grant claims were successfully made, generally every 2 months as agreed at the outset of the project. 	<p>The salary for the post was as projected, including for inflation.</p> <p>Careful budget monitoring and management throughout the project led to savings on other budget lines, enabling extension of the postholder's contract to 36 months – one month longer than the Outreach Officer (to accommodate the need for final approvals of the evaluation report and grant claim by TNLHF).</p> <p>This enabled additional works to be commissioned and delivered beyond that originally anticipated in the grant application, and therefore increased delivery on agreed project purposes and outcomes.</p>	<p>Given the scope of works proposed a 24-month contract was probably over ambitious and 36 months more realistic.</p> <p>With hindsight the project Risk Management plan should have considered the potential for staff absence and what would be done should this arise.</p> <p>While the error in salary for this post did not have implications, the learning from this is to ensure that any future grant application is thoroughly checked by someone with relevant experience before the grant proposal is finalised. As it was no negative impacts arose from the project's perspective.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As this was a new work area for the organisation, the post holder set up project and budget monitoring mechanisms from scratch. Support for community events including encouraging participant feedback. <p>Post award of grant it was found that there had been an error in the salary calculation for this post, and the evaluation aspect had not been costed. The employer was fortunate that the post holder was willing to undertake this substantial work (equating it c. 1.5 days per week) on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>The project and financial monitoring spreadsheets developed for the start of the project proved to be increasingly cumbersome to use as the project extended in time.</p> <p>Line management arrangements were managed somewhat differently to those set out in the project proposals and Job Descriptions, in that the Rector had a greater role than anticipated.</p>	<p>Where a single supplier was specified, where cost increases were proposed the post holder successfully negotiated these to ensure good value.</p> <p>Formal financial procurement delegations proposed with the grant application proved effective with project delivery taking place as planned.</p> <p>The post holder as a Landscape Architect brought other skills to the project, and a flexible approach to delivery was taken with them taking a lead on the co-design and delivery of the biodiversity enhancement strand of the project.</p>	<p>With hindsight particularly for financial monitoring and management it would have been better and more easily manageable to purchase a simple finance package.</p> <p>The change to line management arrangements did not affect project delivery.</p> <p>It would be sensible to ensure that Job Descriptions for any future projects build in some flexibility as appropriate including to potentially help mitigate unavoidable staff absences.</p>
<p>Training for staff and volunteers</p>	<p>There was a significant amount of 'learning on the job' and exercise of creativity in delivery for both postholder's, but that was part of the joy of the work. Staff, volunteers and participants alike learned about the natural and built heritage of Christ Church, the traditional skills that created this grade 2* listed building and the conservation techniques involved in its restoration. Learning took place through research, sharing thereof and being involved in the project.</p>	<p>Formal and informal training was delivered during the course of the project and at modest or nil cost.</p>	<p>The training undertaken and learning opportunities enabled during project deliver, both formal and informal enabled the project and its events to run smoothly, for knowledge and information to be passed on and for any minor incidents (first aid) to be addressed appropriately.</p>

	<p>Formal Safeguarding training was provided at nil cost through the Diocese and was completed to the required standard by both DCC! post holders. The Community Outreach officer also completed safer recruitment training which supported the recruitment of volunteers. This was also through the Diocese at no cost to the project.</p> <p>Both staff and 7 volunteers completed First Aid at Work training, and given that young people were a target audience for DCC!, this included an additional section on paediatric CPR.</p> <p>Both staff plus 9 volunteers also completed 'epi-pen' or anaphylactic shock training, to supplement the First Aid training.</p> <p>Both staff plus 8 volunteers also undertook Dementia Awareness training delivered by Alzheimer's Support. This was very helpful given the target audience included people with memory problems and Dementia.</p> <p>Team building with volunteers took place through the very many activities and events run throughout the project, and with thankyou's and photos always going out shortly after the event. In addition midway through the project a skittles evening was held to celebrate the large volunteer team. 25 of the volunteers attended.</p> <p>While not formally 'training' the 'Meet the' Craftspeople events also provided diverse opportunities for people of all ages to learn about the work and skills of trades involved in the conservation and improvement of Christ Church including stone masons, steeplejack, lighting engineer, horologist, conservators and archaeologists.</p> <p>Equally hands on activities related to traditional crafts and leading tours of aspects of the natural and built heritage of Christ Church all delivered learning that volunteers then passed on to participants.</p>	<p>Much use was made of learning 'on the job' rather than formal training for staff and the wider volunteer team throughout the project. This included learning about the history and conservation of the church building, the biodiversity of the churchyard and the discoveries made as a result of the DCC! project.</p> <p>Resource packs were developed by the Community Outreach Officers on the history of the building and different craft related and community activities to enable volunteers to learn and pass on key heritage and biodiversity information. Now stored on the website this resource will be available for future events.</p>	<p>With a very outgoing and engaging approach to the organisation of events, DCC! was very rarely short of the volunteers needed to deliver the project.</p> <p>The Project Coordinator would have benefitted in terms of time and efficiency of working from the purchase of and training in a simple financial monitoring package for this project. Perhaps TNLHF might consider providing /recommending a package for the £10,000 - £250,000 category of project? This might also improve consistency of submissions by grant recipients, which could help streamline Investment Managers' work?</p>
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<p>Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks</p>	<p>DBS checks were undertaken for both staff and 4 no. additional volunteers, over and above those who already had checks due to their role within the church.</p>	<p>All checks provided by the Diocese at nil cost, therefore a saving to the project.</p>	<p>To inform budget development for any future project, check to see if the employer provides DBS checks.</p>
<p>Summary & commentary</p>	<p>The two posts proposed by the project, providing a dedicated and appropriately screened and trained resource for project coordination and evaluation as well as community outreach, supported by volunteer capacity that was attracted and developed during the project ensuring that the project plan could be successfully delivered and several key targets exceeded. Both posts were extended as a result of extensions to the project program, thereby enabling enhanced delivery on our agreed purposes and outcomes. Despite being fixed term contracts, we were very fortunate that postholders were willing and able to continue with the project through to its conclusion, thereby ensuring consistency and quality of delivery throughout the entire extended project program.</p> <p>The posts achieved co-design and development of a program of 150 heritage related activities and events across 35 months, procured conservation and community activities ensuring that value for money, quality, sustainability and social contributions were delivered, managed the budget and ensured a constant cycle of monitoring, assessment, evaluation and learning throughout project delivery.</p> <p>While formal 'training' was relatively limited but included essential elements such as Safeguarding, First Aid at Work. 'epi pen', Dementia Awareness and Safer Recruitment, much of the learning on the part of staff, volunteers and participants was achieved 'on the job' and or while participating in activities and events delivered by the project. Legacy resources in the form of information and session plans are available on the web site for future heritage and biodiversity related events and activities at Christ Church.</p>		

4.1.2 Conservation works to the building

We successfully delivered all planned conservation works, restoring the clock, stone pinnacle, nave walls and wall paintings to their former glory, and as a result of budget savings on other budget lines, we were able to undertake additional works including:

- Cleaning and minor repairs to the eight large nave wall stained glass windows,
- Improved weather proofing for the clock mechanism, and
- Investigations and minor repairs following a major storm very late on in the project program.
- Conservation reports and recommendations for further areas not addressed through this project.

The works undertaken are set out in more detail and in chronological order in the table below.

A model pro forma contractor appointment document had been submitted to TNLHF with our grant application and was approved soon after the award of grant. Competitive quotations were sought for capital works over £2500 and also where we were uncertain as to appropriate pricing for some smaller contracts. Exceptions were the clock restoration and the cleaning and conservation of the nave walls and wall paintings where prior agreement was reached with TNLHF for the appointment of a selected supplier.



Starting point	The poor state of repair and need for conservation works is set out at Section 2.3 above		
What was proposed	What happened and when	Completion, any programme or cost implications (RAGG)	Evaluation & Learning
<p>Woodwork repairs in tower</p> <p>Replace damaged floorboards to clock and bell-chamber, restore bell-chamber door, thereby enabling safe access to and security for clock chamber.</p>	<p>Local contractor invited to quote on basis of recommendations.</p> <p>Work commenced June 2023: Broken/rotted floorboards replaced with reclaimed Victorian floorboards. Bell-chamber door restored using reclaimed Victorian timber and repainted to same colour as traces of original paint.</p> <p>Inspecting architect issued completion certificates including confirming that the work was to conservation standards. Payment certificate issued.</p>	<p>Quotation came in 5% above 2022 estimate and within agreed inflation allowance.</p> <p>Completed November 2023 to conservation standards & signed off by Inspecting Architect enabling the clock restoration to proceed on time.</p>	<p>All went to plan, completed on time and in line with quotation.</p>
<p>Rewiring and lighting of clock chamber and access, plus safe electrical supply for replacement of existing (broken) electronic clock mechanism.</p>	<p>As part of pre-planned and separately commissioned rewiring of the tower, DCC! made a proportionate contribution towards upgraded lighting to the clock chamber and outdoor rated sockets to provide safe access for and a safe electrical supply for the restored electronic clock mechanism.</p>	<p>Completed 22 August 2023: Satisfactory completion with Electrical certificate provided</p>	<p>All went to plan, completed on time and in line with agreed payment contribution.</p>

<p>Stonework repairs to the SW pinnacle, spire stonework and windows, gutter repairs, lightning protection.</p>	<p>Original plans were for repointing of spire joints to address water ingress problems, plus modest stonework and gutter repairs.</p> <p>Scaffolding access resulted in the discovery of severe weather damage to the intricately carved apex stone and rusting of a Victorian rod had split a large similarly carved cruciform shape lower stone. This was a risk to the average 12-14,000 monthly pedestrian movements through the churchyard.</p> <p>Additional scaffolding to enable take down and installation was installed, and new stones were carved and installed with a stainless steel supporting rod.</p> <p>Inspecting Architect issued payment certificate retaining £500 to mitigate against further spire joint leaks being found and remedial works being required.</p> <p>Social contribution delivered in the form of intergenerational 'Meet the Steeplejack' and 'Meet the Stonemasons' event.</p>	<p>December 2023: Works completed to conservation standards signed off by Inspecting Architect,</p> <p>Additional costs of c. £13k for re-carving of failed intricately carved pinnacle stones was covered by an additional grant from the BoA Preservation Trust, savings on clock restoration costs and PCC contribution.</p> <p>30 October 2025: Following further remedial works, Inspecting Architect confirmed satisfactory completion of spire works.</p>	<p>When planning heritage restoration, expect the unexpected and plan in contingency.</p> <p>The need for additional stone carving presented an opportunity for people of all ages to see and understand the damage, touch and feel the newly and intricately carved stones before they were hoisted aloft, and participate in 'have a go' stone carving workshops at DCC! Heritage Celebration weekends. Also presented an opportunity for addition publicity and press coverage.</p>
<p>Landmark spire clock restoration: replace existing non repairable electronic clock mechanism, take down take away and restore existing connecting rods, cogs and mechanisms, take down, remove, strip back, restore and gold leaf large west and east facing clock dials.</p>	<p>Single supplier selected due to their in depth knowledge of Christ Church's clock and their mechanism being a direct like for like replacement minimised intervention in the historic fabric of the building.</p> <p>06 September 2023: clock mechanisms and dials removed and transported to Smith of Derby for restoration.</p>	<p>12 noon on 12 October 2023: Restored clock restarted.</p> <p>Works completed to conservation standards & signed off by Inspecting Architect.</p>	<p>All works completed to time and within budget, including delivery of social value included in contract, including an all ages celebration themed around the clock raising.</p>

	<p>All social contributions delivered as agreed:</p> <p>05 October 2023: Volunteer team visit to see clock restoration in action at Smith of Derby, including re-gilding numerals on the west facing dial.</p> <p>11 October 2023 Smith of Derby returned to site to raise dials and install restored mechanical parts plus replacement electronic mechanism and participate in an intergenerational clock raising celebration.</p> <p>Social contribution:</p> <p>January 2024 Smith of Derby returned to site to give a well-received illustrated and interactive talk about horology, clock restoration, including Christ Church's clock.</p> <p>January 2026: addition of rubber (EPDM) cover to clock cupboard to protect from water ingress within the spire.</p>	<p>All social value contributions delivered, including participation in filming, the clock raising event with children and adults as well as an evening talk.</p>	<p>These works also presented an opportunity for addition publicity and press coverage.</p>
<p>Internal Scaffolding:</p>	<p>Following the difficult experience with the external scaffolding 9 scaffolding companies were approached for quotations, and two quotes were received.</p> <p>Pen Mill Scaffolding's quotation was within budget, and evaluation against the selection criteria was well above the other quotation received.</p> <p>Scaffolding was erected in good time for the start of the program of cleaning & conservation of the north and west nave walls and wall paintings, and takedown and re-erection to the south wall were similarly completed.</p> <p>Additional scaffolding to meet unforeseen access requirements (plaster coming away from wall) provided at negotiated additional cost.</p>	<p>w/c 07 January 2025: Scaffolding installed, moved and checked to the satisfaction of the Inspecting Architect.</p> <p>w/c 10 March 2025: scaffolding reconfigured for next phase of wall cleaning & conservation.</p> <p>08 April 2025: Scaffolding removed promptly upon conclusion of nave wall cleaning and conservation works.</p>	<p>When appointing scaffolders we have found a need to approach far more companies than might be expected. By going to 9 companies, and taking up 3 no. references for the preferred supplier, we were able to secure one satisfactory quotation from a reputable company. Delivery ran smoothly and the company was responsive to unforeseen changes.</p> <p>Work completed to time and to revised budget to accommodate unforeseen works.</p>

	<p>All H&S inspections and reports were delivered in accordance with requirements during the entirety of the scaffolding installation.</p> <p>Social contribution:</p> <p>28 March 2025: Penn Mill delivered an interactive scaffolding workshop with Year 6 students.</p>	<p>Works delivered to agreed revised budget and to meet the access requirements of the nave walls and wall paintings conservators.</p>	
<p>Nave walls, wall paintings, friezes and stone window surrounds: conservation and cleaning</p>	<p>Contract sum negotiated with single supplier, due to the need for the conservation works and style to completely marry in with the adjacent previous conservation Millenium works by the same conservator. Further negotiations to account for inflation since the original grant pre-application quotation.</p> <p>08 January – 07 March 2025 cleaning and conservation commenced to north and west walls including huge archangel wall paintings and friezes. Window on past strip of paint removed revealing earlier schemes of painting beneath plain nave wall paint.</p> <p>11 March - 11 April 2025 cleaning and conservation of south wall including friezes.</p> <p>Crackling of the plain paint areas proved a difficult challenge to overcome. The Architect advised that there should be review of the plain paint areas after 12 months, to assess success.</p> <p>Social contributions:</p> <p>Some ideas for this had to be changed, due to impracticality. Live streaming of conservation works was not viable due to working methods as the conservators move around working on several areas at once. Instead key conservation tasks were filmed and a 50 minute video put together so that people at ground level could see conservation techniques being used. In addition, an intergenerational 'Meet the Conservator' session enabled people of all ages to talk to the conservators and learn more about their work and profession.</p>	<p>Negotiations were necessary to ensure that the conservation works with inflation came in within budget.</p> <p>03 April 2025: Works completed to time and (revised negotiated) budget, to conservation standards & signed off by Inspecting Architect</p> <p>All social value contributions delivered, albeit some were in a different form to that originally anticipated.</p>	<p>It would have been helpful to have had a more detailed discussion with the conservator about the form that filming of the works should take, so that the project team had a better understanding of what was practical/ effective. Also to ensure that the conservator could build in educational filming requirements into their work program.</p> <p>From a visitor perspective the filming achieved was probably in the end more effective in terms of learning about conservation techniques especially given that there were 3 conservators all undertaking different conservation tasks in different locations all at the same time. There were many positive comments and a request for the recorded filming to be made available into the future.</p>

	For further detail on the cleaning and conservation works completed for the nave walls, please see Peter Martindale Conservation Post Treatment Report May 2025 .		
West door restoration including repainting doors and restoring and making key for original Victorian lock	<p>The original Victorian lock was removed by an engineer in the company of several St Laurence and primary school students who then participated in taking it apart.</p> <p>The 'Warded' lock was found to be in good condition, just needed a service, but there was no key.</p> <p>Following extensive research a locksmith was found in Denbigh who could manufacture a new key to the engineers drawings. The conserved lock and key formed a focus of the DCC! final Sip, Sip Hooray Tea party – with the key being ceremonially handed over to the Rector (technically the owner of the building) by two Christ Church students.</p> <p>The West Door was repainted in its iconic red colour after all capital works had been completed – thereby avoiding the risk of damage.</p>	<p>Conserved, serviced, reoiled lock with new working key installed 05 March 2026 at a BoA Youth session – offering young people the opportunity to 'have a go' with the lock and talk about its history, how it works and why the key may have been missing (Warded lock keys were traditionally cast and when dropped they have a propensity to shatter)</p> <p>March 2026: repainting of West Door completed.</p>	<p>Lock serviced by a volunteer engineer and it proved hard to find a craftsperson who could make a new key.</p> <p>When planning work offered by volunteers it is sensible to take a precautionary approach to timetabling, as they may well have busy lives.</p> <p>Although this work strand took longer than anticipated there was plenty of time to accommodate within the overall extended DCC! timetable.</p>
Additional works delivered			
Cleaning & minor repairs to the 8 no. stained glass nave windows	<p>January 2025: As a result of budget savings on other lines, 5 invitations to quote sent to stained glass specialists recommended by others. 3 quotations received. 1 met the selection criteria for budget and quality.</p> <p>February – March 2025: Great Panes appointed to coincide with the conservation and cleaning of the nave walls, enabling use of the scaffolding while in situ. All 8 large stained glass windows were carefully cleaned and repaired.</p>	<p>March 2025: Works completed to time and budget and to the satisfaction of the Inspecting Architect.</p>	<p>Our Risk Management Plan considered the risks of overspend, but not the potential for cost savings during project delivery. It is recommended that any planning for future projects consider the implications of both, so that ideas that are consistent with the purposes and outcome of the project are costed and held 'in reserve' in case implementation becomes feasible at a later stage.</p>

	<p>For further detail on the works completed and recommendations for the future for all windows at Christ Church, please see https://www.discoverchristchurch.org.uk/s/202601-Great-Panes-Stained-Glass-report-2025-updated-202601-DRAFT.pdf</p>		<p>The cleaning of the windows has made a real difference to light levels in the nave, completing the conservation of all heritage aspects of the nave walls. The sun now shines through brightly casting coloured patterns of the new pod walls – an unanticipated benefit that has been commented on by many building users and visitors.</p>
<p>Additional works to investigate and rectify water ingress following storm very late 2025, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterproof protective cover to clock cupboard • Small lead repair to roof • Gutter/downpipe clearance • Internal and external inspection of spire following significant water ingress after storm 	<p>January 2026, following a major storm significant water ingress was found in the clock chamber, a small area in the south west corner of the nave and above Archangel Gabriel. The PCC's 'go to' local builder who always provides good value quality work was called out urgently to advise as to a solution and then to complete the recommended works were undertaken from the contingency budget line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An EPDM synthetic waterproof rubber membrane was installed over the clock cupboard to protect from any future ingress. • Missing lead was provided to a small area of the west wall flashing to prevent future ingress. • Gutters and downpipes were cleared of substantial washdown of squirrel debris (hazel nut shells etc) and plans diarised by the Church Warden to ensure twice yearly clearing, 	<p>January 2026 Clock cupboard roofing, leadwork and gutter/downpipe clearance work completed to agreed time, budget, and to the satisfaction of the Inspecting Architect.</p> <p>Work funded from contingency line.</p>	<p>This work highlights the importance of contingency budgets to cover for the unexpected.</p> <p>We were however very unlucky that the storm occurred very near the end of the project, and that it has rained almost every day for 2 months - giving little time for scheduling the re-inspection of the spire.</p>
	<p>March 2026: The steeplejack was recalled to re-inspect the previously dry spire, to establish whether the storm dislodged or washed out stonework or pointing, undertaking an internal inspection by ladder and a drone inspection, supported by a secondary school drone pilot. No evidence of washout of joints or dislodging of stonework was found.</p>	<p>March 2026 inspection completed following repeated delays due to rain and wind. Undertaken within allocated contingency budget.</p>	<p>The architect has advised that alternative preventative measures be considered: in view of the inherent permeability of Bath Stone, the pre-existing internal water capture and drainage system should be upgraded. This will be included in the April 2026 Quinquennial Inspection report.</p>

Summary & commentary

All planned conservation and repair works to key heritage features at Christ Church, including the landmark spire clock with its gold dials, stonework and woodwork repairs to the spire and tower as well as conservation and cleaning of the large south, west and north nave walls with their late C19th Burlison and Grylls wall paintings and associated stonework were completed as proposed, to time and within agreed budgets.

Additional works in the form of cleaning and minor repairs to the 8 no. large stained glass windows in the nave, minor roof and gutter repairs, rewiring and new lighting for the clock chamber, protection to the clock cupboard following a major storm were made possible by through savings on other budget lines. The unforeseen costs of re-carving the intricate pinnacle stones that were damaged beyond repair by internal corrosion were covered by a separate grant from the Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust.



4.1.3 Enhancements to support the sustainability of the site

The project successfully delivered a new energy efficient and adjustable LED lighting system that is not only more sustainable due to significantly reduced energy consumption, but also highlights key heritage features including some wall paintings that were not previously lit, as well as giving the ability to create different lighting effects and atmospheres plus adjustability to meet the needs of light sensitive building users.

Outside a changed management regime for the churchyard that was co-designed from start to finish with young people identifies areas of reduced mowing. This was agreed with and is being implemented by the Town Council and Christ Church Green Team and has transformed the prevalence of wildflowers and fine grasses, while new native bulb planting has not only provided nectar for insects across more of the seasons, but has also enhanced the character and appearance of the churchyard in spring. New native tree and flowering shrubs are diversifying habitat as they grow and adding visual interest. Areas disturbed by construction works have been re-seeded with a local calcareous seed mix.

As for the other capital works, competitive quotations were sought for a new energy efficient adjustable lighting to highlight heritage features, including backup lighting inside the church building – replacing the fixed and broken halogen based system.

Further details of the sustainability enhancements are set out in the table as follows:



<p>Starting point</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ Church’s fixed, energy hungry and harsh halogen based lighting system had largely failed and most of the nave was lit by temporary ‘security’ type lighting. • The main priority across most of the churchyard was keeping the place tidy by mowing, with one bed including flowering plants and an area under a tree roped off from mowing and planted with cyclamen • A Covid time 2020 survey when the grass was not mown had revealed that the species mix across much of the churchyard was diverse and probably reflected the (wildflower) meadow that was here on the site before the church was built in 1839, indicating the potential for enhanced biodiversity by changing the mowing regime. • The organisation did not have any policy for vetting the sustainability of potential contractors 		
<p>What was proposed</p>	<p>What happened</p>	<p>Completion, any programme or cost implications(RAGG)</p>	<p>Evaluation & Learning</p>
<p>New energy efficient and adjustable LED lighting system to replace fixed, ‘harsh’ and broken halogen based lighting system.</p>	<p>Four companies were approached for quotations prior to submitting a grant application. Despite chasing only two responded. Two quotations received. The quotation with the greatest cost certainty, good references and within budget was selected.</p> <p>The agreed lighting system was successfully installed over the course of one week in April 2024.</p> <p>18 April 2024: About 50 people of all ages attended a ‘Meet the Lighting Engineer’ event in conjunction with BoA youth, providing the opportunity to talk to the lighting engineers about their work and ‘have a go’ at controlling the lighting on an iPad – using this to highlight different features and create different moods.</p> <p>Different Lighting settings are in active use to suit the needs of different types of event, including adjusting to meet the particular needs of neurodiverse participants.</p> <p>The pre-sets guide now forms part of the information pack for building users.</p> <p>For further detail please see the Lighting Evaluation Report</p>	<p>18 April 2024 Works completed on time and to the agreed budget. A defect that arose with the control panel was quickly resolved by the contractor.</p> <p>Due to the timeframe since grant application to installation additional inflationary costs of c. 4% (check figure) were incurred, however this was considered reasonable and within the planned inflation element of TNLHF grant.</p> <p>AJ Electrics provided us built drawings and technical information along with the Electrical Installation Certificate 20 May 2024.</p>	<p>Final and payment certificates confirming satisfactory delivery issued by the Inspecting Architect 19 April 2024.</p> <p>Feedback following the installation of the new lighting was very useful and led to the production of a detailed lighting manual for those who wish to dive deeper into the workings of the system, but also a ‘pre-sets’ A4 laminated sheet that explains the different settings available at the touch of a button, and the adjustments that can be made to this.</p> <p>Youth Worker: <i>‘The lighting has transformed this space + really highlights the features of the building.’</i></p>

<p>Develop & implement Biodiversity Enhancement Plan for the churchyard, to be co-designed with young people.</p>	<p>June 2023: Community Outreach officer w/ volunteer Landscape Architect facilitated biodiversity visioning session with Year 5</p> <p>July 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional ecologist and Community Outreach Officer facilitated Year 5 biodiversity survey of churchyard, supported by Climate Friendly BoA, BoA Preservation Trust, CC Green Team and others, to inform development of Biodiversity Management Plans Year 5 budgeting and prioritising actions session <p>December 2023: Year 5 (new year group) Native Daffodil planting facilitated by Community Outreach Officer with volunteer Landscape Architect, supported by Town Council, Climate Friendly BoA, BoA Preservation Trust & CC Green Team.</p> <p>March 2024: Year 5 Snowdrop planting</p> <p>May 2024: Year 4 Native tree, shrub and English Bluebell planting</p> <p>June 2024: BoA Youth finding and taping off discovered orchid colonies to protect from trampling & mowing</p> <p>December 2024: Year 6 native daffodil planting</p> <p>March 2025: Year 6 Snowdrop planting</p> <p>June 2025: BoA Youth finding and taping off discovered orchid colonies to protect from trampling & mowing</p> <p>November 2025: Landscape Architect facilitated Year 6 Planter design workshop – metre square planters to frame main West Door</p> <p>+</p> <p>The Ark toddler group plant up planters with bulbs and perennials</p> <p>All planting sessions saw intergenerational working with Primary School students and volunteers including from the CC Green Team, BoA Preservation Trust and Climate Friendly BoA.</p> <p>Biodiversity Management Plan developed</p>	<p>Completed and delivered on budget and in accordance with programme and appropriate planting seasons to ensure successful establishment of plants and bulbs.</p> <p>Budget savings on other lines enabled additional bulb planting than originally envisaged.</p> <p>A total of over 3000 native daffodil, English Bluebell and Common Snowdrop bulbs were planted, plus 20 native trees and shrubs planted, watered, checked for health and pruned.</p> <p>Annual June time surveys proposed for future years to assess the success of the agreed Biodiversity Enhancement Plan, and inform any changes to management or additional works should form part of a successor project.</p>	<p>The initial proposals for bulb planting would not have been sufficient to create significant visual and biodiversity benefits especially in the early years. Therefore budget savings on other lines presented an opportunity for increased community engagement in this work strand and additional visual and biodiversity enhancements.</p> <p>Volunteer with the Ark Toddler Group: 'so lovely that young children and their parents/carers could join in with the biodiversity enhancements. Being by the main west door the little ones should be able to check on the progress of the wildflowers'.</p> <p>Year 4 Teacher feedback:</p> <p>Thank you so much for our wonderful session planting (native bulbs) ... and organising so fantastically</p> <p>The children so enjoyed the session, and it was lovely seeing them interacting with your helpers, getting their hands dirty and learning about all the different flowers around the church.</p>
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	<p>October 2023 – June 2025: Development of, consultation on and agreement of Biodiversity Management Plan to be implemented by BoA Town Council and to inform the volunteer CC Green Team Friday sessions.</p> <p>The plan seeks a balance between biodiversity enhancement and the need for clear access to actively maintained graves. Modifications were made during years 1 and 2 to ensure the latter. Year 1 there were several concerns, in Year 2 just one. All were addressed by modifying the plan.</p> <p>Biodiversity Management Plan now in active use by Town Wardens when mowing and strimming.</p>		<p>We look forward to seeing the fruits of our labours next year. :-)</p>
Requirement for main contractors to tell us how they will go about ensuring sustainability	<p>The pro forma invitations to quote for the main capital works included this requirement. This was included in the documentation submitted as part of our grant application, and approved by TNLHF shortly after start of the project.</p>	<p>The requirement to explain how contractors would go about ensuring sustainability was included in all invitations to quote for the capital conservation & repair works.</p>	<p>Some contractors needed advice at the quotation stage as to how they could comply with this. This was provided by the Project Coordinator.</p>
Appoint local contractors	<p>Local contractors were approached for all contracts, only going further afield when the pool of potential contractors was not sufficient.</p>	<p>Most contractors were local to Bradford on Avon and villages or Wiltshire. For the lighting and internal scaffolding it was necessary to go further afield (Yeovil and Birmingham area) to secure quotations that met the projects requirements.</p>	<p>While we sought to provide opportunities for local businesses this was not always possible, and therefore an open mind is needed to ensure the requirements of the project are met.</p>
Local plant supplies	<p>A Seed mix were sourced that closely matched the calcareous wildflower mix found at Christ Church.</p> <p>Several different native bulb suppliers were trialled until we homed in on one with the best quality stock.</p> <p>Native trees, shrubs, stakes, rabbit and strimmer guards were all sourced at competitive prices from a local nursery.</p>	<p>All objectives met.</p>	<p>It is helpful to have access to a landscape architect with knowledge of local suppliers.</p>

<p>Events: Reduce resource use and Plastic free where practical</p>	<p>Early on in the project a move was made to reusable plastic cups for events with young people, as these have a long life and will form part of legacy benefits ensuring sustainability into the future. Sustainability was discussed with young people including at BoA Youth sessions, and at the intergenerational Conversation & Craft Fairtrade themed session.</p> <p>For events with very large numbers we borrowed glasses and sourced paper plates and cups as back up in case we ran out.</p>	<p>Plastic use was reduced. China plates, cups and mugs were used wherever possible, and at all times once Christ Church finally had a kitchen. Once this was in place we could abandon the use of paper plates.</p>	<p>Becoming plastic free is not always possible where young people and hard floors present a safety risk. Reusable and robust plastic cups were concluded to be a practical and long term solution that will benefit sustainability of events at Christ Church into the future.</p>
<p>Summary & commentary</p>	<p>The sustainability of the site has been significantly improved as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The installation of a low energy lighting system that can be adjusted for different uses. Therefore when the building is open to visitors (10-4 daily) relatively low level lighting is used, while higher levels are used for events and activities. Therefore energy use is proportionate to the type of use. • Biodiversity enhancements that were co-designed with over 460 young people are there for all to see, with large areas subject to an agreed reduced mowing regime that enables wildflowers and fine grasses to flower and seed before being mown, as well as over 3000 native bulbs and 20 native trees and shrubs planted, and slow worms, newts and hedgehog having been discovered. • During the course of the project, a range of other measures have also been implemented including: • Requiring contractors to explain what they will do to improve sustainability, to • Where possible appointing local contractors (supporting local businesses and reducing the need to travel) • Moving to the use of china crockery (once the kitchen was installed) where feasible and reusable long lasting plastic cups where necessary (events involving young people and hard floors), and only • Using paper cups and plates and borrowed glasses as back up where larger events necessitated. 		

4.1.4 Complete archaeological investigations of the site and an archaeological workshop for young people

Archaeological investigations of the site including both desk study and field investigations of a service trench were completed and an illustrated report of findings was produced. Integrated with this were two 'Meet the Archaeologist' events giving people the opportunity to talk to the archaeologist about their work and finds from Christ Church and elsewhere. More details are set out below:

<p>Starting point</p>	<p>A trench was proposed along the north and east side of the church to connect a new drain to serve the new kitchen and toilets. It is understood that there had previously been no community engagement on archaeology at Christ Church.</p>		
<p>What was proposed</p>	<p>What happened</p>	<p>Completion, and any programme or cost implications (RAGG)</p>	<p>Evaluation & Learning</p>
<p>Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation centred on service trench (for kitchen & toilets) to include assessment of Christ Church and its surrounding context. Including hands on workshop for young people, plus maps and text suitable for inclusion in publications and on web site.</p>	<p>Following a competitive quotation process, with selection on the basis of price and quality criteria, Context One were commissioned to produce and agree a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation for the digging of a service trench. This was agreed with the Diocesan Advisor in accordance with the relevant Faculty Consent, archaeological investigations were undertaken during summer 2025 as the service trench was progressively dug, and the final report was completed in October 2025.</p> <p>To be able to better identify and explain what came before Christ Church was built in 1839-41, we liaised with the consultants to ensure that the resultant report would address the whole archaeological context for Christ Church and its environs.</p> <p>As a social contribution it was agreed that Context One would bring resources, tools, drawings and finds that could be handled to a BoA Youth 'Meet the Archaeologist' session.</p> <p>The resulting report on the archaeological monitoring undertaken at Christ Church has been distributed to the Bradford on Avon Library, Museum and the Christ Church Primary School Year 6 Local History resources. It has also been published on the DCC! website.</p>	<p>In the event no finds of significance were turned up as part of the trench, so Context One brought a range of finds from other sites for people to handle and find out about. Although insignificant, we did also display a tray of finds (brick, slate, metal, broken glass, ash, coal and an animal bone) for people to see what had been found behind the church.</p> <p>A beautiful Report of findings was produced setting the context to Christ Church, with plenty of plans and illustrations depicting a wide variety of archaeology from across the ages – including ridge and furrow LIDAR patterns across the adjacent school grounds and WW2 earthworks nearby.</p>	<p>Having assessed the trench as low probability for finds, and having briefed the building contractor as to what to look out for and who to contact if anything was found, DCC! staff were keen to keep and display even modest finds for people to see and explore. Unfortunately the resultant (insignificant) finds tray (included ash, coal, metal, slate and a fish paste pot) was emptied one night by persons unknown and we lost the finds.</p> <p>With hindsight we should have asked the building contractor to store the finds tray in their secure cabin overnight. Although nothing significant was lost it was disappointing to lose some of the finds.</p>



Archaeological Workshop for young people

03 July 2025: A 'Meet the Archaeologist' session was held in conjunction with BoA Youth attended by 56 people age 6-90. In addition to posters this was also publicised through St Laurence Secondary School and the BoA Preservation Trust. Attendance included aspiring archaeologists from St Laurence School who wanted to talk to the archaeologist about their work, plus adults who wanted to find out what had been discovered at Christ Church.

The archaeologist brought a display of tools, drawings and artefacts that people could handle and a display of the (not very interesting!) finds from the drainage trench behind the church were also displayed.

As a part of our co-design process, hands on archaeological activities were also incorporated into our Heritage Celebration weekends July 2025 and July 2026, including both a repeat of the 'Meet the Archaeologist' hands on display as well as activities with a Victorian theme targeting families and young children. The latter involved grave rubbing, Victorian postcards, sifting through sand for archaeological finds and related activities.

Session held as planned, plus following the success of this Context One Archaeology volunteered to put on a similar display with two staff for the Heritage Celebration weekend.

Both sessions were very well received with plenty of interest evident from people of all ages.

As an integral part of our daytime activities at our Heritage Celebration weekends, a qualified archaeologist delivered 'Time Tots' activities for younger children at both Heritage Celebration weekends – each attended by over 500 people of all ages, including families.

This is an example of where success of early events led to additionality in the form of further workshops/activities.

The Heritage Celebration weekends proved to be flexible in terms of content, and as we have lots of space indoors and out we could flex and bend to add additional ideas for activities that came forward, as well as respond to adverse weather.

These activities attracted significant numbers of families and young children as seen on photographs and film clips. Engagement of young children in the archaeological activities is clear to see. Photographs show people of all ages enjoying and seeing what we had found and talking about coal burning and where most likely Christ Church's builders yard had been located.

Summary & commentary

These purposes were successfully delivered as planned, with additionality achieved in relation to archaeological activities engaging with young people from toddlers through to secondary students, as well as adults.

A Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation in relation to the digging of a service trench along the north and west sides of the church was agreed in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Faculty consent, investigations were undertaken in Summer 2025 and the report of findings issued in October 2025.

In addition to the single Meet the Archaeologist session with finds, tools, drawings etc held in conjunction with BoA Youth, two additional hands on archaeological activities that engaged with families and younger children were delivered as part of our Heritage Celebration events, and thanks to the generosity of Context One Archaeological consultants a hands repeated their archaeological display at our Heritage Celebration 2025.

As these purposes contributed to our project outcome 'engaging a wider diversity of people in our project', further details on success is included in Section 4.2.1 of this report.



4.1.5 Co-design with young people a community engagement plan with local schools, Dementia Action Alliance, Ark Toddler Group, including bi-monthly intergenerational activities bringing together a class of young people and Dementia Action Alliance members, carers and friends

Co-design with young people and other stakeholders was a key characteristic of our project. While co-design of our program of community events was concentrated in the early months, graphic design and biodiversity co-design both took place throughout the project, as did seeking the views and ideas of event participants to inform future plans. Details of our co-design initiatives are set out below.

Co-design			
Starting point:	<p>Co-design was a new initiative proposed by the Discover Christ Church! project.</p> <p>Via pre-application consultation a wide range of organisations and diversity of ages of people expressed keen interest in being involved with DCC! and contributed ideas for involvement, events and activities. These were built into the project plan submitted with the grant application.</p> <p>Our target audiences for our project included young people including those with additional needs and/or wellbeing challenges, as well as older people including those with Dementia and their carers.</p>		
What was proposed	How did we do this?	Completion, and any programme or cost implications (RAGG)	Evaluation & Learning
Co-design with young people a community engagement plan involving local schools, Dementia Action Alliance and the Ark Toddler Group delivered.	We used a range of co-design techniques throughout our project as set out below:		
	<p>Interactive workshop sessions with primary and secondary school students seeking ideas for heritage related activities and events, and attendance at the Ark to hear and test ideas.</p>	<p>Delivered as planned.</p> <p>c.504 primary and secondary age students age 8 – 12 contributed ideas for activities and events via these interactive workshops, many of which were carried forward into the events program.</p> <p>More informal chats with BoA youth attendees - mainly ages 11 – 14 also generated ideas and suggestions.</p> <p>The Community Outreach Officer also attended the Ark Toddler group to hear and test ideas for community engagement.</p>	<p>We had to adapt techniques in response to how things went and feedback, so for example offered 2 votes to be given to different aspects of heritage so that we could find out priorities beyond the organ!</p> <p>Liaison with the Ark was informal and resulted in e.g. archaeology activities for young children at our Heritage Celebrations, as well as toddlers working with their parents/carers to plant wildflower seeds and bulbs.</p>

		Voting was used to prioritise ideas on activities, but voting became focussed on finding out more about the church organ.	We learned as we went along and ideas contributed by participants informed the planning of future events, including for example a suggestion of a bar of Fairtrade chocolate as a prize for heritage related quizzes resulted in much greater engagement and focus amongst all ages.
	Invitations to event participants to contribute ideas alongside feedback pots and in survey questions	Delivered as planned. Staff invited ideas from Conversation & Craft attendees including young people and those with dementia, recorded in the events to inform future event planning.	It was beneficial to have someone chat with participants as they left each event, to encourage participation and take notes of suggestions.
Co-design also extended to co-design of key outputs of the project	We held a Year 6 Christ Church 'design a Christ Church history quiz' competition	Delivered as planned. 70 students age 10-11 worked in groups to create a series of different formats of quizzes on the history of Christ Church.	The lively and colourful quizzes produced by young people have made a great interactive addition to our DCC! displays and web site.
	We invited Year 12 students to visit Christ Church, borrow our training camera and tripod and take photos to capture atmospheres and features of and conditions of heritage features at Christ Church from their own perspective. We also offered this opportunity at BoA Youth sessions.	We received very interesting images from 7 no. Year 12 photography students as well as several BoA Youth attendees. These have been incorporated into the DCC! library for use in displays and publications.	It was very beneficial to see the building through the eyes of young people, informing both project planning as well as contributing images for our publications.

	<p>Following liaison with the Year 12 graphics teacher, we prepared project briefs for the development of a logo for the DCC! project and later on for proposals for a Visitor Guide to Christ Church. They were also provided with the 1993 History of Christ Church book.</p> <p>The students then visited and explored Christ Church, worked up and submitted design ideas to inform the development of a DCC! logo and another cohort to develop design and content ideas for a 500 run visitor guide to Christ Church. Again the training camera came into its own for those without an SLR.</p>	<p>19 no. 16-17 year olds developed and submitted logo ideas and a further 216 young people contributed their thoughts. We consulted the Working Group on the design ideas and the favoured images were taken forward and used by a professional graphic designer to finalise the logo design that has been in active use throughout the project.</p> <p>Working in groups the 10 Year 12 graphics students produced 3 very different worked up design ideas and content for a Visitor Guide for Christ Church. Working with the professional graphic designer, the final booklet drew heavily on their ideas, structure and content in producing the final copy.</p>	<p>Year 12 graphics students produced very thoughtful and high quality outputs that played a key role in the co-design of both the DCC! logo and the DCC! Visitor Guide to Christ church.</p> <p>Thanks have been sent to the Head Teacher, graphics teacher and students along with copies of the final product have been given to St Laurence so that the students can see the influence of their work.</p>
	<p>Involve young people in the co-design of a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan for the churchyard.</p>	<p>Delivered as planned but with additional cohorts participating as enabled by extending the project program:</p> <p>Around 130 Year 5 & 6 Students enthusiastically co-designed and co-budgeted and prioritised planned enhancements, and their work has formed the main input to the Biodiversity Enhancement Plan now agreed with the PCC & Town Council for implementation.</p>	<p>External evaluation of the process and outcomes of our co-design and co-implementation of a biodiversity enhancement plan for the churchyard has been judged as 'Outstanding' by Britain in Bloom South West in the 'It's your neighbourhood' category in both 2024 and 2025.</p>

		<p>Year 5 worked through spend against available budget via a facilitated session with a volunteer landscape architect who provided costings for each of the students' ideas. They then prioritised their ideas to ensure their proposals were within budget. Facilitated discussions then enabled identification of clear and agreed priorities</p>	<p>We also welcomed the running out of time relay, who were keen to include Christ Church as part of their climate change awareness relay on 28th June 2024. We were selected to be a part of this event due to our outstanding work around biodiversity in our churchyard.</p> <p>Feedback from young people expresses pride in their achievements and ownership of the improvements made.</p> <p>It was very heartening to see DCC! deliver on a 2023 student drawing of Christ Church with a gleaming working clock and two large planters framing the main West Door.</p>
<p>Bimonthly intergenerational heritage related activities with schoolchildren and people with dementia and their carers</p> <p>Targets we set ourselves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bimonthly (every 2 months) for 18 months: equating to 9 sessions total <p>Target engage with 25-30 people</p>	<p>Through our co-design process, we developed the idea intergenerational open and inclusive 'Conversation & Craft' café style sessions involving a class from Christ Church Primary and St Laurence Secondary schools. Each session one class came together with older people including those with Dementia and their carer/ supporter. Whole classes participated including students with additional needs. Sessions were enabled by a volunteer team of around 6 volunteers per session.</p>	<p>Targets exceeded</p> <p>A total of 24 Conversation and Craft sessions were held across the 35 month program of community activities, with 1234 attendances by people of all ages, each involving a whole class of either primary or secondary students – far exceeding the targets set.</p>	<p>Feedback from participants via evaluation pots and surveys has been hugely positive including a strong desire for these events to continue into the future.</p> <p>The growth in attendances is taken as an indication of the value they place on these sessions. They are seen to be 'voting with their feet'.</p>

	<p>People gathered around tables of up to 8 people with the generations freely mixing with lots of shared conversations and laughter while crafting. Flowers were always on the tables, and cakes, fruit and drinks provided.</p>	<p>With the exception of the two Christmas sessions that were held after school, all sessions were within the school day and were enthusiastically embraced by both the primary and the secondary schools.</p> <p>Attendances increased from c. 30 – 40 in the early months to 50-60 in the latter months.</p> <p>Session plans and resources for sample sessions are stored on the DCC! web pages for future use and adaption.</p>	<p>As a result, Conversation and Craft sessions have become part of community life at Christ Church, and the decision made that they will indeed continue into the future. Their organisation now forms part of the Children and Families Worker's role. The first sessions for after the conclusion of Discover Christ Church! are already in the diary.</p>
<p>Summary & commentary</p>	<p>Co-design was effectively delivered across a range of Discover Christ Church's outputs, with young people extending throughout the planning of our program of community activities, and visioning, planning, design, budgeting and prioritising as well as the implementation of biodiversity enhancements, plus graphic design and content for our logo and full colour 24 page Exploring Christ Church visitor guide. We also sought feedback and ideas throughout the project to help frame the shape and content of future activities and events.</p> <p>Our delivery of 24 inclusive and intergenerational 'Conversation & Craft' café style sessions that explored and/or were inspired by a range of different heritage and biodiversity features at Christ Church went well beyond the target we had set ourselves, and attracted 1234 attendances, with an upward trend per session.</p> <p>Conversation & Craft sessions are now part of the legacy of Discover Christ Church! as they are now built into the Job Description of the Benefice Children & Families Officer. The first post DCC! dates are already set.</p>		

As these purposes contributed to our project outcome 'engaging a wider diversity of people in our project', further details on success is included in Section 4.2.1 of this report.

4.1.6 Deliver a program of activities engaging target audiences in traditional craft skills, ecology, restoration work, Duke of Edinburgh volunteering and more

Our program of activities inclusively engaged our target audiences including young people and older people with Dementia and their carers beginning in June 2023 and continuing through to the end of our project. We would not have delivered this program without the help and support of our volunteer team. Details of activities engaging with our target audiences are given below.

<p>Starting point:</p>	<p>There were no activities engaging target audiences in traditional craft skills, ecology or restoration prior to the start of the project.</p> <p>Volunteering was limited to that associated with the services and activities of the church and the Green Team that tends the churchyard.</p>		
<p>What was proposed</p>	<p>How did we do this?</p>	<p>Completion, any programme or cost implications (RAGG)</p>	<p>Evaluation & Learning</p>
<p>Open house</p> <p>10am-4pm throughout the restoration works (originally planned for 21 months).</p>	<p>Apart from when scaffolding was being erected, moved or taken down, and when school events were taking place, Christ Church was open to welcome visitors every day 10am-4pm.</p> <p>Visitors and regulars were able to see conservation activities as they took place and progressed, and also view the regularly changing displays that explained the work taking place and the traditional techniques used.</p> <p>The display of film footage and illustrated static displays enabled close up access to the conservation work that was not possible from ground level.</p> <p>Open House is part of the life of Christ Church and continues into the future,</p>	<p>Delivered as planned for the 33 of the 36 months of the project - a significant extension over the 21 months proposed.</p> <p>The church was also closed for Health and Safety reasons while the scaffolding was erected, moved and taken down as well as while the parquet flooring was restored (via a separate project)</p> <p>Generally Open House went very well apart from:</p> <p>A 6 week break in late 2023, after some low level misuse and vandalism. The decision was taken to close the church and make contacts via appropriate channels. Following this there were no further problems.</p>	<p>People including visitors and regulars expressed their appreciation of the building remaining open throughout the project, so that they could see and watch the nave wall conservation in action both up on the scaffolding and on a screen down below.</p> <p>While this at times presented logistical challenges, including issues around health and safety and space for events and sometimes a little inconvenience to some contractors, the project organisers consider that it was well worth the effort with benefits far outweighing the additional effort required.</p> <p>Having the Benefice Office now 'in house' provides some informal oversight on most days, as well as a welcoming presence for visitors.</p>

<p>Program of activities engaging target audiences in craft skills, ecology and restoration</p> <p>Target participations: 7686</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>Celebratory events to mark the completion of the restoration works e.g.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raising the clock dials 2. Switching on the new lights 3. Revealing the newly restored wall paintings <p>Completing the project</p>	<p>Over a 25 month program of heritage related community activities, we delivered 150 heritage themed/ inspired events and activities that attracted a total of over 10,000 participations from attendees and volunteers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 ‘Conversation & Craft’ Sessions • Weekly term time Youth Drop-in sessions • ‘Clocktober’ celebrations – talk + raising the clock dials 10 & 11 October 2023 c.200 attendees • 17 January 2024 Talking Time with Smith of Derby 51 attendees • 7 no. ‘Meet the Craftsperson’ sessions in conjunction with BoA Youth, including switching on the new lights 18 April 2024 49 attendees • Revealing the newly restored wall paintings, - 117 attendees • Heritage Celebration 2024: 06 & 07 July 2024 over 552 people facilitated by 28 volunteers • Heritage Celebration 2025: 13 July 500+ attendees & 46 volunteers • 2 no. end of project open to all celebrations: A rededication and thanksgiving service led by Bishop Andrew of Ramsbury, and • A Sip Sip Hooray celebratory Tea Party with displays of DCC!’s achievements, a cake, short speeches of thanks and promotion of DCC!’s publications and photo booth. 	<p>We had not set ourselves an overall target for the number of community events, as this was to be co-designed with young people and other stakeholders.</p> <p>We considered our target for participations in events at 7686 to be a stretch target, but in the event we achieved over 10,000 (including attendees and volunteers)</p> <p>We planned an 18 month program of community activities and events, and delivered 35 months.</p> <p>We envisaged 4 celebration events prior to the start of the project, but thanks to the creativity project staff a total of 7 celebration events were held.</p>	<p>Planning the larger events was quite nerve wracking as we had no idea whatsoever what level of interest or participation there would be. In the event, our confidence grew as events were delivered and it became clear that people were interested in participating.</p> <p>At times of pressure when lots of events were going on we relied on the goodwill and flexibility of both staff and volunteers. We were however very aware of a risk of burn out or fatigue, and sought to make events fun for all and to always give personal thanks and send photographs afterwards, as well as posting on social media.</p> <p>As an example, feedback from attendees at the ‘Clocktober’ celebrations included: ‘Thank you so much for organising such a wonderful event yesterday. It must have involved a huge amount of work but what a result!’ ‘There was such a happy atmosphere and it was enjoyed by participants and helpers alike.’</p> <p>‘It was so lovely to come in and find the church being used in this way.’</p> <p>Re. Talking Time evening talk: ‘Smith of Derby clearly love what they do’ ‘a joy hearing what (they) do’ ‘just wonderful’, ‘fabulous’, ‘superb’, ‘great’, ‘well done’, ‘fantastic’, ‘excellent’,</p>
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Volunteer participation and support for DCC! initiatives

Target: 1230 hours

We encouraged project and volunteer participation from the outset of the project, including initially by asking people to fill out an online form or paper 'post card' giving contact details, interests and asking what skills people may have to offer. Local contacts were also very helpful, including via the congregation, BoA Preservation Trust, Climate Friendly Bradford, with local crafts people including stone masons, a steeplejack stained glass window conservators, a blacksmith and later on in the project with Bluebird Care.

As the program of activities and events grew and diversified and people could see what the project was about, more people with an interest came forward and more contacts were made and they multiplied.

We always sent emails and posted thanks on Social Media within a day or two so that people felt valued. We held a mid-project catered Thank You event Skittles Evening in the community centre next door giving us the opportunity to say thank you, and volunteers the opportunity to socialise in a relaxed setting.

Target exceeded Volunteer hours are approaching 3x the original target.

Even discounting the voluntary project coordination hours, volunteer hours of 2335 were almost double the original target.

Engagement of volunteers was key to the project's success. We could not have delivered the program of community events without the active support of the army of volunteers, from those who offered a welcome and smiling face, to moving furniture, escorting people to the toilet (before we had our own), setting up, clearing up, sharing their professional and crafts skills to chairing and note taking for meetings and providing support with budget monitoring.

People of all ages came forward including Scouts, Duke of Edinburgh, people of working age and older people.

We found that the St Laurence Duke of Edinburgh volunteering system is quite challenging as different organisations compete to attract volunteers. The result was a lower participation than we had envisaged before the start of the project, but this was offset by the diversity of participation by others including craftspeople and Scouts who freely gave of their time.

We consider that key to success with volunteering generally is that people feel valued, they consider what they are doing is worthwhile AND they have fun!

As part of keeping volunteers valued, we also learnt that it is important not to overload them with too many events. For example, whilst Conversation and Craft was a huge success, from feedback and experience we felt that the sessions should be at most once a month, rather than two weeks to avoid volunteer burnout.

	<p>Volunteers also played a key role in the governance and management of the project, from participation in the Future for Christ Church Working Group that provided oversight and approvals of activities, progress reports and grant claims, to about 50% of the Project Coordination function being provided on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>At sessions involving classes of young people, thanks were always given by the staff at the end of sessions for both the event and the helpers.</p>	<p>A key legacy of the project is contacts made with volunteers with a very diverse range of skills and who want to be involved after DCC! has concluded, telling us they want to hear about and/ help with future events. The newly established Community Outreach and Fundraising Group at Christ Church has expanded as a result. This group is planning monthly events at Christ Church including a Heritage themed pop up café in the summer.</p> <p>In addition the Children and Families worker will continue contacts with the volunteer team to enable continuation of the planned Conversation & Crafts sessions into the future.</p>	<p>The volunteer team were thrilled and felt valued when unprompted, Christ Church school children made a huge 'Thank You' card for DCC! volunteers and staff – in time for the skittles 'Thank You' evening. This also showed awareness of the value of volunteers by young people.</p> <p>Scout Leader on volunteering at a Heritage Celebration event: 'Brilliant! Loving being part of this event and would love to be part of future events here.'</p>
<p>Summary & commentary</p>	<p>A diverse program of community activities engaging target audiences and others in traditional craft skills, ecology and restoration was delivered during the 35 months of delivery, attracting over 10,000 participations in c.150 events enabled by 3700+ hours of volunteer support. Crafts ranged from table top including stencilling, painting and embroidery, to hands on activities including stone carving and archaeology to interactive displays on stained glass windows, wood carving and blacksmithing – techniques that can be seen in the historic fabric of Christ Church and featuring in its restoration and enhancement.</p> <p>Our team of 80+ volunteers were of all ages and from a variety of different walks of life and were a highly valued part of our project. They were absolutely vital to the successful governance and delivery, including our extensive program of community events and activities.</p>		

Photographs of people of all ages engaging in traditional craft and restoration related skills, biodiversity, volunteering and more are scattered throughout this report.

As these purposes contributed to our project outcome 'engaging a wider diversity of people in our project', further details on success is included in Section 4.2.1 of this report.

4.1.7 Seek to amend the Town Map produced by others so it includes graphics and text to encourage visits to Christ Church, create heritage leaflets, create activity worksheets which can be used by children, create digital resources and update the website and deliver celebratory works to mark the completion of restoration works.

A range of resources were developed during the course of the project both on paper and online, designed to engage with people of all ages, and Christ Church is now 'on the map' both digitally and on paper. A celebratory plaque is in place as planned. More detail is set out below.

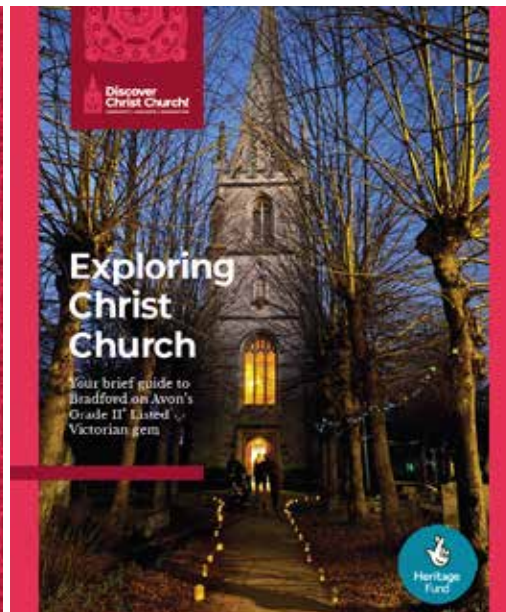
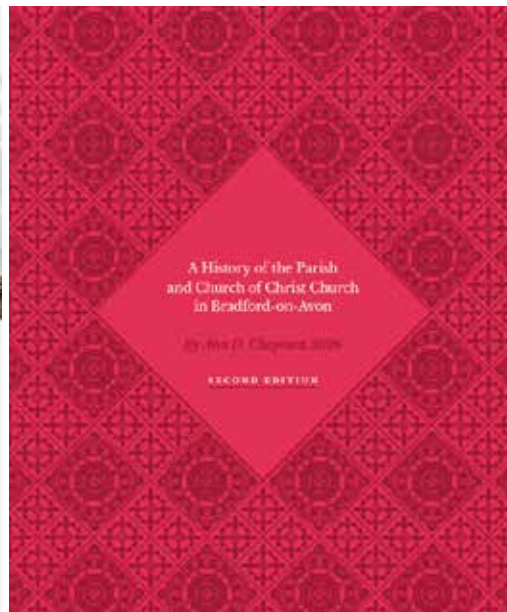
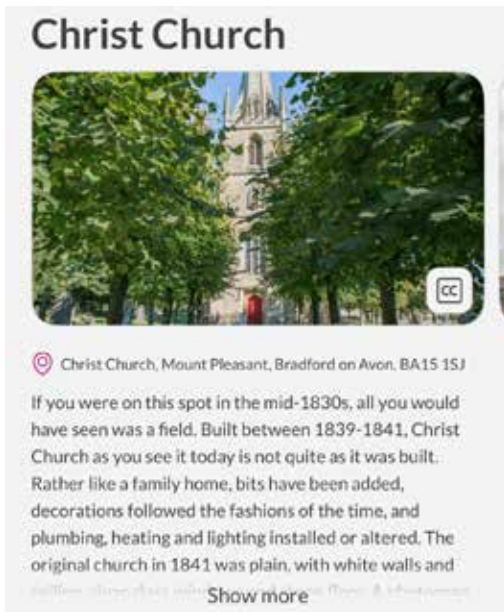
<p>Starting point:</p>	<p>As set out in greater detail in Section 2 above, Christ Church had little history, heritage or archaeological information available beyond 1990's photocopied book and booklet, and limited online information. It was not on any town map digital or paper. Within living memory there had been no heritage related events.</p> <p>Within the church there was a single painting showing how it appeared in its early years. Lighting was poor and it was hard to see some of the magnificent wall paintings and other heritage details.</p>		
<p>What was proposed</p>	<p>How did we do this?</p>	<p>Completion, any programme or cost implications (RAGG)</p>	<p>Evaluation & Learning</p>
<p>Christ Church 'on the map'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Trail (digital & paper) • Town Council Map 	<p>Christ Church is 'on the map' at two sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust Town Trail available to download on their website and handed out freely at the town centre Tourist Information Centre, at Christ Church and at other locations. This incorporates both a large CC spire on the map and a 'Christ Church extension' to their trail. • Instead, we have added Christ Church to the Explore Wiltshire App. On both their map and by creating a BoA Churches Trail. 	<p>Delivered as planned on two maps, at nil cost: one digital and paper and the other on an App.</p> <p>Explore Wiltshire welcomed and included DCC!'s contribution of explanatory and mapped information, and the Preservation Trust included Christ Church in an update to and new print run for their map.</p> <p>It has proved more difficult to get an update to include Christ Church on the Town Council's Explore BoA map, or to update the Town Trail to the current version.</p>	<p>Delivery on this purpose was potentially more challenging as delivery was outside the gift of the Discover Christ Church! project.</p> <p>Building good relationships with local organisations helped, and thanks to the interest of the BoA Preservation Trust in our project they were willing to add graphics and text to highlight and give brief information on Christ Church to their heritage focussed Town Trail.</p>

<p>Heritage leaflet</p>	<p>'Exploring Christ Church' 'Your brief guide to Bradford on Avon's grade 2* listed Victorian gem' was published in February 2026. Incorporating co-design outputs from Year 12 students and a professional graphic designer this is a full colour 24 page photograph heavy guide providing an outline of the evolution of Christ Church up to the present day and highlighting along with explanations of its key heritage features, its recent restoration and enhancements and discoveries made.</p> <p>Printed by Avon Print of Melksham,</p>	<p>500 copies delivered to time and budget and were available with many copies being distributed at the DCC! Sip Sip Hooray end of project celebration. Copies available in the church with a suggested donation of £2 to Christ Church Friends whose remit includes community outreach and building fabric.</p> <p>Copies also offered to the Tourist Information Centre in the town centre, the museum and library.</p>	<p>The services of a professional graphic designer and the addition of a wide range of images and photographs has resulted in a very attractive looking visitor guide that is likely to attract visitors and locals alike to find out about the history and heritage of Christ Church. It was however a time consuming task and steep learning curve for the DCC! staff member as they were not familiar with the conventions of printing booklets.</p> <p>Locals have wanted to take copies for themselves and for visitors. Several have commented how professional the guide looks.</p>
<p>History of Christ Church book</p>	<p>'A History of the Parish and Church of Christ Church in Bradford on Avon by Ann D Chapman 2026 was published in March 2026. This edition now incorporates lots of photographs and other images, as well as bringing the detailed history of the building and its people, as well as local connections up to date. The book includes an outline of the achievements of the DCC! project.</p> <p>Printed by Avon Print of Melksham, it is now an attractive full colour book with plenty of pictures and images</p>	<p>Delivered as planned during the life of the DCC! project. Timed late in the project plan to enable inclusion of recent history, comprising both DCC! and other improvement works.</p> <p>150 copies delivered to agreed quality and budget.</p> <p>Copies donated to the British Library, BoA Museum and Library, and available from Christ Church, with a suggested donation of £5 to Christ Church Friends who's remit includes community outreach and building fabric.</p>	<p>By combining the graphic design and content ideas provided by Year 12 students with the skills of a professional graphic designer and the addition of a wide range of images and photographs has resulted in a very attractive looking book that is likely to attract more readers to find out about the history and heritage of Christ Church. It was however a time consuming task and steep learning curve for the DCC! staff member as they were not familiar with the conventions of printing books.</p>

<p>Activity worksheets</p>	<p>Various resources have been produced during the life of the project, including a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection of 10 lively Quizzes designed by Year 6 (website and paper), - History trail designed for a holiday workshop (website) - Selection of resources and worksheets to support biodiversity and history related activities at Christ Church (website), - Session plans, quizzes and craft instructions for heritage and Fair Trade related Conversation & Craft events (website), 	<p>Delivered as planned</p>	<p>Website content development proved difficult to accommodate during the life of the project, and this resulted in pressure at the end of the project to ensure that resources that were stored on the project's system were migrated to the website for access in future.</p>
<p>Digital resources including web site</p>	<p>Following a quotation process, Brighter Side of Bradford on Avon was commissioned to build a Discover Christ Church! website on the Squarespace platform.</p> <p>The website went live in June 2024 and was in active use throughout the project, after which in March 2026 Discover Christ Church! became hosted within the North Bradford on Avon and Villages website (also Squarespace)</p> <p>It has three main sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home – outlining the main features of the project. • Heritage, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Timeline of key developments and events • Restoration and Conservation • Discoveries • Churchyard Directory • The Kneelers • Archive • Get Involved 	<p>The development of a website was completed within budget, and content was added during the course of the project.</p> <p>It is now permanently hosted and readily accessible within the Benefice website. Search engines still land here when searching for Discover Christ Church!</p> <p>In addition to our own website, we have also succeeded in extending the reach of our project to the websites of others, primarily through media coverage. More information on this is included in section 5.2 of this report.</p> <p>Web visits increased from c.50 per month at launch to 150+ in February 2026.</p>	<p>Updating and adding to the content of the website was a 'learning on the job' experience for DCC! staff, and took some getting used to. However with the support of a responsive contractor a comprehensive web site with resources relating to DCC!s themes of Discovery, Community, Conservation has been successfully produced.</p> <p>Volunteers both young and adult willingly learned new skills to assist with the development of our digital resources.</p>

	<p>The website contains still images of the church, its heritage features, social history resources, and heritage themed events, as well as a link to the Discover Christ Church! YouTube channel with lots of moving images, including films and clips. These include images of conservation work and community activities captured by DCC staff, volunteers, St Laurence students, other young people using our SLR training camera. These have also been used in printed outputs.</p> <p>Here is the address for the DCC! web pages:</p> <p>https://www.nboachurches.co.uk/dcc/discover-christ-church</p> <p>Here is the link to our YouTube channel:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/@DiscoverChristChurchBoa</p>	<p>Late on in the project, and from a standing start YouTube is proving to be of interest, with 2200 for our Steeplejack's spire top clip, c.100 for blacksmithing in the churchyard and the inside of the organ, to 62 for our DCC! introductory video and over 50 in 4 days for our professionally produced film of the story of our project.</p>	
	<p>We also utilised a range of other digital channels, and utilised these to promote, publicise and disseminate information about our project, its program of community events and the heritage and conservation of Christ Church. These include social media, a 'Slow TV' flash stick of captioned filming of key conservation activities in our nave, as well as a 'Discover Christ Church! 6 minute 'Newsnight' style film as part of a Case Study being promoted by Salisbury Diocese. This is designed to explain our project to others who may wish to proposed community heritage projects in the future.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/@DiscoverChristChurchBoa</p> <p>Media uptake on digital channels has been good and includes a number of local radio slots over the life of the project, most recently a 4 minute piece available for a year on BBC Radio Wiltshire.</p> <p>For further details of our digital engagement please see Section 4.2 of this report and pages 89 - 90.</p>	<p>We have delivered additionality in producing digital outputs and links beyond those planned.</p> <p>This has been helped by good media coverage in print and online, including by BBC Radio Wiltshire and BBC Wiltshire News.</p>	<p>In terms of media coverage, developing a rapport with reporters has been helpful, but also we have learned to include the unusual. So for example our social media posts with the most views have been a steeplejack clip from the top of our spire, a volunteer with a 20'+ feather duster on the scaffolding cleaning the rafters, and our 'mystery' discovery of a 'work in progress' embroidery complete with rusting needle found in an old wardrobe.</p>

<p>Celebratory plaque</p>	<p>A framed 3D celebratory plaque has been created and now hangs prominently just inside the main entrance to Christ Church. It incorporates 4 plaster moulds of the original paterae that line the string course at the top of the nave. They were kindly donated by the Conservator.</p> <p>The plaque includes artisan hand written calligraphic text celebrating the completion of the restoration and improvement works as well as the re-dedication of the church, and includes thanks to and the logos of all funders with the National Lottery Heritage Fund appearing first in recognition of their transformative grant award.</p>	<p>Delivered on time and ready for the service of re-dedication and thanksgiving led by Bishop Andrew of Ramsbury.</p>	<p>Creating a piece like this takes quite a lot of time and effort! We feel that the end result in drawing together heritage and traditional crafts reflects the ethos of our project, as well as forming an attractive and permanent addition to the church.</p>
<p>Summary & commentary</p>	<p>We have successfully got 'Christ Church' on the map – both on paper and digitally, and have created and published on paper and on line a series of up to date resources to tell Christ Church's story in words and pictures up to the present day, including highlighting Discover Christ Church!'s achievements and better explaining its heritage features.</p> <p>We have also delivered a celebratory plaque now hung in a prominent location just inside the main West Door that combines artisan skill and heritage details in a feature that celebrates the completion of our project and thanks our fabulous community and funders.</p>		



4.1.8 Deliver a program of practitioner/mentor facilitated workshops to support primary and secondary age young people with mental health and anxiety challenges (target 80 young people)

An extended program of practitioner facilitated well-being workshops was commissioned and delivered. Further details in the table below.

Starting point:			
What was proposed	How did we do this?	Outcome/target achieved? (RAG)	Evaluation & Learning
<p>Deliver a program of practitioner/mentor facilitated workshops to support the well-being of primary and secondary age young people.</p> <p>DCC Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 no. 6 week blocks of workshops engaging with c.80 young people. This was planned to be 40 primary and 40 secondary school students. 	<p>A total of 6 no. expert practitioner facilitated blocks of 5-6 sessions with a total of 58 Christ Church Primary School Children were delivered, plus 4 no. blocks of workshops with 26 St Laurence secondary school students.</p> <p>Sessions were generally held in the church where the practitioners were able to take advantage of the peace and safety of the space, as well as utilising the spaces, atmospheres, light and heritage features as focus for well-being activities.</p> <p>Students were selected by the school and with the consent of parents/ carers.</p> <p>A well-being pack for young people was delivered and disseminated by the secondary school.</p>	<p>A total of 10 blocks of practitioner facilitated workshops were delivered compared with 8 proposed. The number of young people engaged was 84 and slightly above our target of 80.</p> <p>The Primary school cohorts were very well documented and evaluated, providing helpful data in assessing impact on well-being from a range of different perspectives.</p> <p>While the secondary school workshops were held as planned, attendee numbers were lower than anticipated. In addition and due to circumstances beyond our or the facilitator's control the evaluation report for the secondary cohorts was not delivered as required. Following negotiation a reduced fee and a summary report were provided.</p> <p>A well-being pack for young people was well received by the secondary school.</p> <p>More detail on these sessions and the reasons behind the difference between targets and achievements may be found in Section 4.2.2 of this report.</p>	<p>Feedback from the practitioners confirmed the value of the peace and safety of Christ Church for well-being activities such as these, and the benefits of being away from the hustle and bustle of the school as had been predicted by the lead teacher at the pre-application stage.</p> <p>The practitioners also found the light and sounds of the space, and various of the heritage features in their activities, including for example the emotions shown by faces that decorate the church, and the light cast by the stained glass windows.</p> <p>Such has been the success of this initiative that the practitioner is seeking funding / grants to be able to continue into the future.</p>

Summary & commentary

The well-being workshops were delivered as planned and the use of the peace, safety and heritage features of Christ Church were found by the practitioners to be helpful in successful delivery. The target number for engagement with young people was exceeded.

The evaluation report for the Primary School cohorts were delivered as planned and contributed significantly to reporting on our Well-being outcome, however due to circumstances beyond our control while the secondary cohorts were delivered as planned, the final detailed evaluation report could not be delivered, and a shorter summary was provided instead.

As this purpose contributed to our project outcome 'people having greater wellbeing', delivery on this purpose is included in Section 4.2.2 of this report.

Secondary school practitioner:

'we received consistent verbal feedback from the young people that using Christ Church as the delivery venue was a positive aspect of the workshops... providing a calm place just 'to be' and reflect, a space to roam....a place of interest (asking questions about the building' (and as) 'a local space they can visit in the future'.

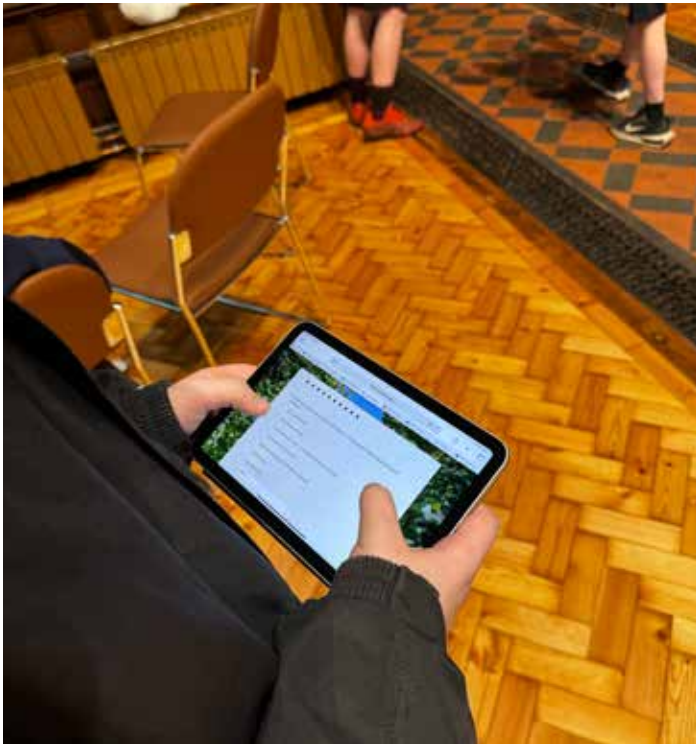
Primary school practitioner:

The church (building) was more than a venue - it was a partner in delivery, offering symbolism, calm and community identity. The heritage setting offered both continuity (familiarity) and novelty (quiet retreat) enhancing pupil engagement. The visual and architectural features inspired creative exploration and grounded discussions in real tactile imagery. Children respected and felt emotionally safe within the church.

4.1.9 Evaluate the project

Key to success in delivering effective evaluation of the project was having a dedicated human resource allocated throughout the life of the project, thereby enabling the collection, assessment and evaluation of data and feedback on an ongoing basis throughout the life of the project. That evaluation and suggestions from project participants were actively reviewed and acted upon, influencing the content and delivery of the project throughout its life, enabling a cycle of learning throughout the project.

It was very pleasing to find that qualitative external evaluation was positive throughout the project, as demonstrated by feedback given through evaluation pots, surveys and unprompted quotes from a whole range of people including Bishop of Ramsbury, to teachers, young people, the BoA Preservation Trust, a TNLHF Committee Member and volunteers.



Starting point	Although this project was a first of its kind for the organisation and there were no protocols in place for project evaluation, we did have The National Lottery Heritage Fund guidance on evaluation reporting, and our detailed grant application proposals available to steer our approach to evaluation.		
What was proposed	What happened	Completion, and any programme or cost implications. (RAG)	Evaluation & Learning
<p>Data collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian Counters • Counting attendees at events and recording/estimating diversity information • Feedback pots • Anecdotal feedback • Surveys at events including: • Practitioner collected data at wellbeing sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian Counters: monitored monthly and graphs plotted to see the trend with numbers, plus help estimate attendance at events. • Counting attendees at events and recording/estimating diversity information including age and anonymised additional needs year group data provided by the schools. • Feedback pots: at exits to events giving 3 options (excellent, OK or poor – accessible by use of corresponding emoji faces). These were well used. • Anecdotal feedback: was captured throughout by recording verbal comments and suggestions in the Events held spreadsheet and saving emails. • Surveys: bespoke feedback surveys at key events, including BoA Youth, Conversation & Craft sessions and 2 no. Heritage Celebrations, plus emailing out to project participants. • Wellbeing Workshops with young people: data was collected from participants, teachers, parents and carers. This was assessed and evaluated by the facilitating practitioner and reported in an evaluation report 	<p>All completed as planned, with the exception of data for the secondary school well-being program where circumstances beyond the control of the project intervened and a summary of findings only was provided. A reduction in cost for this key aspect of delivery was negotiated.</p> <p>Our final survey was planned as online with people at events. We attracted 61 responses, but this includes group responses by young people. A total of 80 people fed in. our final event was so busy that we did not have the capacity on the day, so followed up with email invitations.</p>	<p>We found that having a variety of ways of collecting data was helpful in gaining an overall picture of how the project was going and its effectiveness in delivery.</p> <p>Expect the unexpected, from the occasional person who with a twinkle in their eye thought it fun to tip all the counters into the ‘excellent’ pot, or put some in the poor pot, to circumstances beyond our control requiring a change of plan – to ensure delivery of some findings even if we could not fully fulfil what we’d hoped for.</p>
Community Engagement and Communications Plan.	This was prepared at the outset of the project and informed the way that we engaged and communicated throughout the project. It was subject to review midway and at the end of the project so that we could benefit from learning during the project and incorporate findings into this final project Evaluation Report.	Completed as planned.	Originally envisaged as two separate plan, it was concluded that these two interrelated topics were best covered by a single plan.
Events planning	Our table of events required assessment of what project purpose or outcome each would contribute, to ensure that we not only knew what we were doing but why we were doing it.	Completed as planned	This proved to be a useful device to ensure that we planned activities that were aligned with the high level purposes and outcomes agreed with TNLHF.

One-year reflections	Reflections on achievements and learning were captured and circulated to project participants and the governing Working Group as well as reported as part of our regular TNLHF progress updates.	Completed as planned.	This was a very useful look back at achievements in the first year, and to help inform project plans going forward.
Mid-point project review	<p>This was undertaken as planned, however rather than a focus on delivery as planned, it changes to be a more proactive response to circumstances beyond our control that resulted in delays to nave wall conservation and cleaning. This had knock on implications for project programme including e.g. planters to West Door, talks and celebration events, completion of reports, book, quizzes and guide.</p> <p>July 2024: the mid-point project review included revisions to the project program – both to the conservation and intertwined program of community activities. This was submitted as part of our regular progress reporting to TNLHF, and a formal request to extend the project was made.</p>	<p>Review completed as planned.</p> <p>Budget management and cashflow monitoring was a key part of project management throughout, enabling confidence in the feasibility of proposed changes to the project program.</p> <p>Project extension granted 02.08.2024.</p>	<p>A mid-point review and Risk Management Planning proved very useful in addressing and resolving unanticipated delays to key aspects of the project.</p> <p>The delays also presented opportunities - to extend the program of community activities and further embed involvement of target audiences including young people of all abilities, including those with cognitive impairment, dementia and learning disabilities.</p>
Evaluation by others:	<p>Interest in the project by media was monitored and captured throughout the project.</p> <p>Our feedback pots, surveys and entries in the Visitor Book all provided sources of evaluation by others.</p>	All forms and indications of evaluation were captured as planned to include unprompted evaluation of the project's success across all its dimensions: Discovery, Community and Conservation	Publication of articles and broadcast of a number of radio interviews is taken as an indicator of diverse and public interest our project.

	<p>In addition, towards the end of the project, when the DCC! delivery on both community and conservation aspects of the project was out there for all to see, we found that we were receiving unprompted compliments regarding the success of the project from a wide range of people, including e.g. the Bishop of Ramsbury, project lead for the primary school, year 6 students and Bradford on Avon Choral Society Director of Music.</p> <p>The BBC and local radio found our project and its discoveries to be of significant interest resulting in coverage on a number of radio interviews and multiple slots on BBC Radio Wiltshire Breakfast Show as well as on the BBC News Wiltshire section.</p> <p>Salisbury Diocese has identified Discover Christ Church! as a project they wish to promote for others to learn from and post conclusion of the project will be publishing us as a Case Study on their web site. This will comprise the short film Discover Christ Church: Community, Discovery, Conservation published on YouTube in March 2026, access to this Final Evaluation Report and a filmed Q&A session that will be produced by the Diocese after the conclusion of the project.</p> <p>As part of this a 'Hear first-hand: The National Lottery Heritage Fund at Discover Christ Church!' session on 28 April 2026 at Christ Church is being promoted by the Salisbury and Bristol Diocese.</p>	<p>Evidence included smiles on faces in photographs at events (not children unless express consent given), chatter and laughter, evaluation pots at events, surveys during and at the end of the project, media interest, the interest of other organisations, and unprompted comments from people of all ages and in all capacities, from participating young people, to volunteers, to teachers, to representatives and leaders of participating organisations.</p>	<p>We were thrilled to find that our project, its discoveries and our celebration events, BoA Choral Society's concert, the Sip Sip Hooray Tea Party, and Social media posts all provided vehicles that resulted in very positive evaluation of DCC! project outcomes, and that BBC channels found the project to be worthy of broadcast and publication.</p> <p>Also that the Diocese considers our project worthy of becoming a Case Study for promotion to others.</p> <p>We were thrilled to find that our project, its discoveries and our celebration events, BoA Choral Society's concert, the Sip Sip Hooray Tea Party, and Social media posts all provided vehicles that resulted in very positive evaluation of DCC! project outcomes, and that BBC channels found the project to be worthy of broadcast and publication.</p> <p>Also that the Diocese considers our project worthy of becoming a Case Study for promotion to others.</p>
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<p>Final Evaluation Report</p>	<p>To ensure that our final Evaluation Report would meet the requirements of TNLHF, a draft structure that included with sample content was submitted for comment midway through the project.</p> <p>The mid project feedback from NLHF on the content and structure of our Final Evaluation Report was generally positive. We responded to the Investment Manager’s suggestion for a greater emphasis on ‘learning and reflection’ by modifying the format of our evaluation table to include both ‘Learning’ as well as ‘Evaluation’. This feedback also informed our review of our Community Engagement and Communications Plan.</p>	<p>Completed as planned utilising the dedicated staff resources allocated to evaluation.</p>	<p>We found that too much detailed drafting at this stage led to some abortive work as we had to go back and revise reports. We concluded that the most efficient approach is to agree the direction and scope of the final evaluation report, and collect and assess data on an ongoing basis, but write up evaluation for the various strands once they were completed.</p> <p>As the activities of the project continued through to just one month before the project completion date, this resulted in considerable pressure on staff to get the final evaluation report completed.</p>
<p>Summary & commentary</p>	<p>Having a dedicated resource to undertake project evaluation on an ongoing basis throughout the project, as well as building in active monitoring, assessment, evaluation and learning are considered key to success in the project’s successful evolution and delivery on our agreed TNLHF agreed purposes and outcomes.</p> <p>Key to our understanding of success or otherwise, was actively seeking, listening and responding to all forms of feedback from project participants and others. The evaluation of our project by others has also given us confidence that it is not just our evaluation that considers Discover Christ Church! and its constituent parts a success, but that evaluation by people of all ages, from participants to observers also evaluate it as a great success.</p> <p>By agreeing the direction and scope of the Final Evaluation Report midway through the project with The National Lottery Heritage Fund also gave us certainty and confidence that we were on the right track in terms of format and content. However we did find that too much report production at this stage resulted in abortive work due to the need to rewrite to incorporate findings from later delivery.</p>		

4.2 Approved DCC! outcomes

In this section we look at each of the Purposes and Outcomes that were agreed with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. We assess what happened by means of a RAGG Rating (as explained in the coloured band below) with commentary setting out what happened, completion including any program or cost implications and our evaluation of success and learning.

As the vehicles for delivery of our project outcomes are of course the agreed purposes of our project, we are aware that there is a degree of overlap with the reporting set out in Section 4.1 of this report.

<i>Additional delivery and or target exceeded</i>	<i>Delivery / target achieved as proposed</i>	<i>Delivery / target partly achieved</i>	<i>Delivery / target not achieved</i>
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4.2.1 A wider range of people involved in the project

We have engaged with a wider range of people by a wide variety of means, both physical and digital, including events and activities, printed and online materials including film and media coverage. Involvement has ranged across all our deliverables from co-design through to biodiversity enhancements and traditional craft and other heritage related events and activities. Our inclusive approach including setting up intergenerational activities has ensured engagement with young people with additional needs and older people with memory challenges including Dementia as well as with learning difficulties. Further details are set out in the table below:



A wider range of people involved in the project			
Starting point:	<p>Prior to the Discover Christ Church! project there were estimated to be c. 8700 visits to Christ church each year, mainly for services, with c.676 people engaging in some way with the natural and built heritage of Christ Church either directly or indirectly. These were mainly visitors coming into the church (presumed to have a heritage interest) and Year 6 students as part of the annual Local History Project. There had been very few community events in recent years.</p> <p>Further details on people involved prior to the start of our project are set out in Section 2.2 of this report.</p>		
Measure of success	How did we do this?	Completion, any programme or cost implications (RAGG)	Evaluation & Learning
Co-design with young people was a key feature of our project	<p>Young people were key to our co-design initiative. IN TOTAL we estimate that over the 3-year life of the project well over 700 young people aged c.8-17 years old were involved in a wide range of capacities in the co-design of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program of community events both at the start of the project, but also to take on board ideas and suggestions throughout delivery • Biodiversity enhancements – engagement ran throughout the project from overall visioning to the design of planters delivered towards the end of the project, and • Graphic design and content of the project logo early on to ensure our outputs were appropriately ‘branded’, design ideas for a DCC! pop up banner and late on in the project to input to the design of our Visitor Guide. <p>For further details please see Section 4.1.5 of this report.</p>	<p>Achieved as planned with some additionality.</p> <p>We did not have a target for participation in co-design, but 700 taking part was well beyond our expectations both in number and age range.</p> <p>Co-design continued in various forms throughout the project and went beyond the originally planned involvement in the design and content of our program of community events and biodiversity enhancements, to include graphic design input for our project logo, banner and the design and content of our 24 page illustrated Visitor Guide.</p> <p>An example of co-design as the project progressed: A carer suggested we made memory & snap games using pictures of CC’s heritage features – so we did and they were in use frequently at our sessions.</p>	<p>We found that co-design can be messy and needs not only to adapt and respond both to the ages, availability and abilities of participants, but also to respond to unexpected input. For example when we asked primary school students to vote for which heritage feature of the church they most wanted to explore. So many voted for the organ that for the following year groups we gave them two votes to find out what else they were interested in.</p> <p>We found that there may be more flexibility in the ability of primary school involvement, whereas secondary school involvement was more likely to happen when it added to delivery on the curriculum.</p>

			Via feedback received, young people expressed pride in what they had achieved as they saw their designs become reality.
Co-design included key learning for adults from young people	During the history tours and other events that encouraged children and young people to explore the church, they saw things from a different perspective and found things and features we had not noticed before. For example the children spotted names scratched onto the organ itself as well as a hidden plaque on the pulpit and the patterns on the grates over the heating pipes.	As with our pre-application consultation events, young people both primary and secondary ages showed a very keen interest in exploring. They wanted to explore all areas, asked so many questions, shared ideas and were always keen to know more, and let us hear their views and suggestions via a range of different means, including verbally, on rolls of paper or post its.	<p>We had not fully anticipated the level of interest that young people including teenagers should show in the heritage of Christ Church.</p> <p>We learned that seeing things from different perspectives, including a different height or position really does open up further room for learning.</p>
	During the project we found that there was a need on several occasions to inspect the outside of the spire, and later to inspect the main building roof to find the cause of water ingress. Through local contacts we discovered a 15 year old St Laurence student with a drone and was pleased to support this.	<p>The architect, steeplejack and project coordinator all learned about the potential for use of a drone in these inspections.</p> <p>The student explained drone use to the professionals and supported them in identifying the cause of water ingress.</p>	<p>We found that the use of a drone can be a very cost effective way of identifying some building problems, potentially avoiding the need for expensive scaffolding and/or laddering.</p> <p>We have much to learn from young people including in areas such as IT, and it would be highly beneficial to build in opportunities such as this for other projects.</p>
	During the Meet the Lighting Engineer session, young people were completely intuitive in learning to control the lighting	Young people proactively took control of the lighting and gave live 'show and tell' explanations to older attendees at the event on how to use the system.	We have much to learn from young people in areas such as IT, and it would be highly beneficial to build in opportunities such as this for other projects.

<p>Deliver a program of community activities including:</p>			
<p>Open House</p> <p>10am-4pm throughout the restoration works (originally planned for 21 months)</p>	<p>This continued throughout the project, and continues into the future.</p> <p>From our pedestrian counters we learned that the trend for (non-service or toddler group) visitor numbers doubled from c.600 at the start of the project to 1200 at the end. Entries in the visitor book also trended up from c.5/month to c.15.</p>	<p>Delivered as planned for the 33 of the 36 months of the project - a significant extension over the 21 months proposed.</p> <p>This enabled people to see conservation works in action, as well as regularly changing displays explaining the progress of the project, techniques used and findings, as well as to see on a large screen captioned close up film footage of key conservation techniques.</p> <p>We found from casual encounters with visitors it helps to ask if they would mind adding to the visitor book.</p>	<p>We have limited information on the diversity of visitors, however from the relatively small number filling in the visitor book, it is clear that they come from different parts of the UK as well as overseas.</p> <p>Sample visitor book entries:</p> <p>'Thank you for keeping the church open'</p> <p>'Brilliant' 'Have enjoyed watching the careful (restoration) work when having my coffee'</p> <p>'The skill of the workers is lovely to see. Thanks for the TV screen!'</p>
<p>Participation in DCC! events</p> <p>Increased number and diversity of people engaged in the heritage of Christ Church</p> <p>Number engaged in heritage related activities prior to DCC!: c.60</p> <p>DCC! TARGET: 7686 participations in events</p>	<p>We delivered a wide range of inclusive and intergenerational activities and events throughout the life of the project, engaging with a diversity of participants including our target audiences of young people, including those with additional needs as well as people with dementia and memory problems and or learning difficulties. Our larger events also attracted many families.</p> <p>We estimated participation numbers by several means including using the digital counter on the West Door, clickers, plus manual clickers, diversity data provided by the schools and visual counting and estimates.</p>	<p>The number of participations in DCC! events is estimated at just over 10,000 across the life of the project.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <p>c.350 young people with additional needs including, Pupil Premium, Special Educational Needs & disabilities, English as additional language, and young people in need of well-being support participating in the program of 'Relax Kids' well-being workshops. Anonymised data was kindly provided by the schools.</p>	<p>BoA Youth has written with suggestions for further development of support for young people with mental health challenges. This could form part of a successor project.</p> <p>Inclusive approach to encouraging participation in 'Conversation and Craft' sessions has diversified to include people with learning and physical disabilities. (source of information observation only as we were fully inclusive and it was not considered appropriate to ask people)</p>

	<p>We encouraged participation by people with memory and other challenges, including those in supported living, including by publicising through Dementia Action Alliance, volunteer contacts, and direct approaches to Blue Bird Care, Wiltshire Heights Care Home and the Ordinary Living Project.</p>	<p>An estimated 20 adults with memory problems and/or Dementia as well as a few with learning difficulties participated in the Conversation & Craft sessions.</p> <p>These figures were achieved over a longer program than had been originally planned.</p> <p>There were real challenges during the first two years of the project, delivering a wide range of community events in small spaces and with no access to on-site toilets or a kitchen. It is all the more remarkable that targets were not just met but were surpassed</p>	<p>Staff shortages proved to be a barrier to the participation of people with supported living to be able to attend events. This is something that should be considered in a successor project.</p>
<p>Engage target audiences in traditional crafts, ecology, restoration, volunteering (including Duke of Edinburgh and more)</p> <p>Events and workshops to discover and explore traditional skills and restoration techniques used at Christ Church</p>	<p>Heritage celebration events that were open to all welcomed people of all ages to engage with 'hands on' and live demonstrations of a range of traditional crafts, including stone and wood carving, stained glass window techniques and blacksmithing, as well as interactive archaeological activities.</p> <p>For the second event the mobile blacksmith forged a large bird feeder stand demonstrating 7 different techniques with inspiration taken from shapes found around the church, This has been installed in a very prominent location in the churchyard. He continued to forge throughout the community BBQ providing interest,</p>	<p>The Heritage Celebration weekends in total attracted about 1200 participants including people of all ages and lots of families with children. It is estimated that 30% or so of attendees were young people. It was also observed that events were also attended by a number of older people with their carers.</p> <p>Key to the success of these events was a volunteer team of c.80 people who gave their time in many different ways</p>	<p>Our first Heritage Celebration event was spread over a whole Saturday and Sunday. We found significantly better attendance on the Sunday so future celebration events were held on a Sunday. The program included a short very well attended family friendly service at the end ensuring inclusivity of the congregation.</p> <p>We learned that by offering a wide range of heritage focussed activities, and actively inviting entire year groups or classes with their teachers and support staff, we could actively engage</p>

	<p>enjoyment and chatter about his work throughout the entire event.</p> <p>In total across the project, and based on data provided by the schools, we estimate that c.350 young people with additional needs (Special Educational Needs, Pupil Premium and English as an additional language) participated in DCC! heritage related events.</p>	<p>This included Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) students and Winsley Scouts plus many adults from the congregation, Preservation Trust, Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon and the wider community. However the competitive DoE process, with many other organisations seeking support, did not engage with as many students as anticipated prior to the start of the project. The two students that did engage provided very valuable contributions over a number of months. However other partnerships far exceeded expectations.</p> <p>Volunteers stone and woodcarvers and the stained glass window studio that provided materials and facilitated the 'have a go' sessions and live demonstrations did so on a voluntary basis, as did the archaeologists who put on an interactive display at the 2025 Heritage Celebration event.</p>	<p>with a wide age range and including those with additional needs.</p> <p>Community BBQ's as part of these events attracted 70-100 people, were very positively received and gave opportunity for people to share stories and for the project to ensure that volunteers enjoyed hospitality after all their hard work.</p> <p>We are hugely grateful to the volunteers of all ages who gave of their time so freely to enable these events to take place</p> <p>A Parent Carer told us 'how thrilled they were to see their child so engaged for so long carving stone. They often struggle at school and it was so lovely to see them so interested, engaged and enjoying the craft'.</p>
Biodiversity	<p>Young people were also key to the co-planning, design, and implementation of biodiversity enhancements in the churchyard, including wildflower seeding, bulb, shrub and tree planting, as well as planting of two metre square planters that now frame the main West Door.</p>	<p>Over 400 young people ages 9-11 took part in the delivery of biodiversity improvements across the churchyard.</p> <p>A total of c. 25 BoA Youth participants helped to make, install and the following year renew a bug box totem in an alcove beside the main West Door to the project. They also planted and watered trees as well as helping to find and set up protection for the orchid colonies discovered during the project.</p>	<p>Britain in Bloom South West 'Its your neighbourhood' judges assessed Discover Christ Church!'s biodiversity enhancement initiative as 'Outstanding' in both years 2024 and 2025.</p>

		<p>A total of c. 10 toddlers with their parents/ carers reseeded an area disturbed by the clock scaffolding, and planted spring flowering bulbs in the meter square planters designed by Year 6 that sit either side of the main West Door.</p>	<p>In particular they highlighted the impressive display explaining the project, and the work of volunteers throughout the year, the role of primary school students throughout the biodiversity enhancement process, the protection of orchid colonies, and the future plans with the school.</p>
<p>Traditional crafts found in Christ Church</p>	<p>Our Conversation & Craft sessions held jointly with Christ Church Primary and St Laurence secondary schools with Dementia Action Alliance provided an opportunity to explore and have a go at a range of skills related to Christ Church and its heritage features including stencilling, painting, stained glass, embroidery, and the making of bug houses planting of native bulb and wildflower pots to spread aspects of our biodiversity out into the community.</p>	<p>Delivered as planned with a variety of traditional crafts and biodiversity related projects being completed by participants during these sessions. Please see below for more details on numbers and attendances.</p> <p>Engagement with young people was extended as St Laurence Secondary School, having heard about this initiative asked to join. We incorporated additional sessions to accommodate all 206 students in the Year 7 year group.</p>	<p>We found that many of the Victorian heritage features of Christ Church, including the painted and stencilled wall paintings, the patterns of the tiled floors, the stained glass windows as well as the wildflower meadow mix of the churchyard, and newly planted native daffodils and snow drops lent themselves very well to shared tabletop craft activities that could be enjoyed by people.</p> <p>We learned that running twice monthly sessions put significant pressure on staff and volunteers, and risked volunteer fatigue. We therefore took the difficult decision not to continue with this.</p>

<p>Bimonthly intergenerational heritage related activities with schoolchildren and people with dementia and their carers</p> <p>Target 15 – 20 people with memory challenges</p>	<p>The sessions were open to all whether or not people have memory difficulties, or dementia. A number of such people regularly attended with their carers/ family in support, while others came occasionally, or just at Christmas.</p> <p>School involvement was open welcoming to all with whole classes participating including young people with additional needs and all were welcome to participate in our Conversation & Craft sessions regardless of ability or disability.</p> <p>Following relationship building early in the project, Bluebird Care is now a partner in this initiative, providing two carers for all sessions and, in partnership with Wiltshire Farm Foods, they also provide cakes. Bluebird also extended their involvement to include our Heritage Celebration events by providing bespoke displays, Directors and staff.</p> <p>An example of co-design as the project progressed: A carer suggested we made memory and snap games using pictures of Christ Church’s heritage features - we did this and the cards were in frequent use at subsequent sessions.</p> <p>For further details please see Section 4.1 of this report.</p>	<p>A more diverse range of people has been involved in the project as a result of this initiative, beyond the originally proposed involvement of Dementia Action Alliance and primary school students. In addition Year 7, Bluebird Care, Wiltshire Heights Care Home and the Ordinary Living Project joined this initiative.</p> <p>We met our target with about 20 people with carers attending these events over the life time of the project, with some becoming regular attendees. While some are open about their memory challenges, e did not feel it appropriate to ask people to tell us about any health problems they have and as these events are open to all the number may be higher.</p> <p>We estimate that 65 young people with Pupil Premium, 83 with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) and 18 with English as an additional language participated in the intergenerational Conversation & Craft sessions.</p> <p>Feedback from participants and volunteers included:</p> <p>An older person: 'great to chat to the children',</p> <p>Year 6: " I loved talking to the older people. The person on our table was really kind"</p> <p>Volunteer: “my mum and her carer absolutely loved this event. Felt so at home talking to young people. Future dates are on my calendar”</p>	<p>We had a good support from Dementia Action Alliance albeit at a distance throughout the project, mainly due to their volunteer numbers. However members attended several events and gave very positive feedback, and are looking at how they can use the restored and improved Christ Church in the future.</p> <p>These activities encouraged all to have a go, including one person with Dementia who told us they were ‘no good at crafts’, but along with the children were very proud of the crafts they produced.</p> <p>Our inclusive approach agreed with the schools ensured that all could participate in these sessions regardless of ability or need.</p> <p>The relationship with Bluebird Care developed through our project is thriving, and they are keen for this to continue into the future. They not only provide additional help for the sessions, but the children also have the opportunity to meet and chat with Carers and understand more about this invaluable profession.</p>
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<p>Additionality delivered</p>	<p>BoA Youth</p> <p>We developed a partnership with the BoA Town Council BoA Youth initiative, offering hospitality and the opportunity to explore the heritage and biodiversity of Christ Church. They are held Thursdays after school. The Town Council now advertise and provide a Youth Worker for these drop in sessions that are held within our new community activity space within the beautifully restored nave.</p>	<p>The sessions have proved to be popular with young people, with attendances increasing from zero to 10 – 20 in the early months to 30 – 40 at the end of the project, with participants varying in age from about 8 (fewer) to about age 14. Most participants are from secondary school.</p> <p>Due to the success of this initiative, BoA Youth sessions are advertised and scheduled into the future, with the continuing support of a volunteer Youth Worker, the Children and Families Officer and a Town Council Youth Worker.</p>	<p>Christ Church is fortunate to be located on a major pedestrian route to and from both the primary and secondary schools and it is the same distance to walk through the church as along the path through the churchyard. This gives significant potential for engagement with young people outside a school setting.</p> <p>We did find a peak in numbers when construction work closed off one entrance to the church for a couple of months or so, and greater participation by older students.</p>
	<p>Meet the craftspeople sessions</p> <p>We came up with an idea for 'Meet the' craftspeople and related professions events to be held jointly with BoA Youth. Following the success of early events, these continued throughout the project's conservation work.</p>	<p>Target more than achieved.</p> <p>We found that by including a social contribution ask in our contract documentation this encouraged contractors to think about what they could offer and strengthened our position in encouraging participation in these events.</p>	<p>We found that bringing traditional craftspeople to BoA Youth sessions in the church was a very successful approach. Some young people e.g. aspiring archaeologists and conservators came specially to talk to the professionals. At the Meet the Stone carver event there was a great rapport between the young stonemason, a former pupil of both the local primary and secondary schools, and young people currently at these schools.</p>

	<p>These events provided opportunities for people of all ages to talk to a variety of traditional craftspeople and associated professions including the steeplejack, lighting engineer, conservator, architect, stone masons, archaeologist.</p> <p>As their social contribution to the project, the archaeologies put on a display that included tools of the trade, drawings showing how digs are recorded and a wide range of finds for people to handle and find out about, and kindly repeated this at the Heritage Celebration weekend.</p> <p>The steeplejack was asked by a BoA Youth member what happens if he drops his phone – leading to a conversation about working at height, safety, spires climbed, the importance of team work, tools and safety.</p> <p>The scaffolders gave an illustrated talk and ran a scaffolding challenge workshop with the 84 Year 6 children and staff held in front of the scaffolding inside the nave wall.</p> <p>These events were promoted in the schools, via posters and direct emails to the Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust, resulting truly intergenerational attendance.</p> <p>The volunteer instruments engineer restoring the original West Door lock also attended BoA youth, inviting young people to help remove the lock, have a look inside and then have a go with the new giant key once it had been made.</p>	<p>The 'Meet the' crafts people events were intergenerational, engaging with over 350 people of all ages in talking about the work of various craftspeople and in the case of the stonemasons people were also able to see, touch, feel and find out about the intricate stone carvings for the pinnacle before they were hoist aloft to the top of the tower. We estimate at least 30% - 50% (depending on the event) of those engaging with these sessions were young people.</p> <p>Evidence of success with the scaffolding workshop was the huge number of questions asked by the children and the enthusiasm and gusto with which all groups approached the challenge.</p> <p>About 10 young people engaged with the Victorian lock dismantling and having a go once restored, with comments such as 'that's awesome' and leading to discussions about having to go to an older locksmith in North Wales to get a key made – and how this reflects a shortage of this traditional skill.</p> <p>That 94 people attended the 'Meet the Stonemasons' event was quite remarkable as uncertainties of delivery dates for the carved stone, gave us only a few days to publicise the event to potentially interested organisations including as the secondary school and BoA Preservation Trust.</p>	<p>Photographs clearly show people of all ages enjoying chatting to the stonemasons and being able to see touch and feel the intricately carved before and after stones (before they were hoisted aloft). The benefits of a pro-active approach to press releases was realised as the Wiltshire Times, BoA Preservation Trust newsletter and Diocesan Grapevine newsletter all published articles on the re-carving of the top stone by a former pupil of both the adjacent Christ Church Primary and St Laurence Secondary Schools.</p> <p>The scaffolding workshop was very well received by not only the staff and students, but also much enjoyed by the scaffolder who facilitated the session. He told us he'd never done anything like this before but afterwards said he'd be happy to offer it to other schools. Photos of the scaffolding in front of prestigious buildings such as Big Ben probably helped engagement!</p> <p>Sometimes as with the lock, just a few young people engaged, but those that did expressed keen interest to get involved as well as wanting to find out about the lock restoration and who made the key.</p>
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<p>Volunteer visit to Smith of Derby to see clock restoration in action including young people</p>	<p>Instead a team of key volunteers attended and were fascinated to learn about horology, clock making and to apply gold leaf to Christ Church's west facing clock face. Ages of participants varied from 30's to 70's, and was much enjoyed by all. Great pride was expressed by participants when they were told that their gilding did not need any more work and the numerals would be reinstated on the spire just as they had completed them.</p>	<p>Partly achieved.</p> <p>This was planned to be a joint St Laurence Secondary School visit with project volunteers, however although discussed with key people well in advance, in the end the school was not able to facilitate this long distance site visit.</p> <p>The school felt that they could not get the required consent forms completed in time and ultimately they did not have the capacity to support the trip.</p>	<p>Organising a distant site visit is a difficult thing to achieve especially given that it takes a lot of additional administration on the part of the school. It was disappointing that we could not achieve this, however we were able to involve an entire group of primary school students in the celebration event to raise the re-gilded clock faces aloft to the spire instead.</p>
<p>Celebratory events to mark the completion of the restoration works e.g.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raising the clock dials 2. Switching on the new lights 3. Revealing the newly restored wall paintings 4. Completing the project 	<p>Celebratory events held attracted a diversity of participants of all ages including target audiences and more</p> <p>Numbers attending are set out at Section 5.1.6 of this report.</p> <p>These events took different formats and included a combination of hands on activities and demonstrations relating to traditional crafts found at Christ Church, film, static displays including of historic artefacts and co-design outputs of students, as well as the opportunity to talk to traditional craftspeople about their work,</p>	<p>Target exceeded.</p> <p>We sought to ensure diversity of engagement by promoting events via the schools, BoA Youth, posters, fliers, newsletters, town council explore BoA, on social media. Several were also trailed and or reported in the local press and/or on BBC Radio Wiltshire.</p> <p>We were amazed to find that during the course of the project a total of c.2100 of all ages attended our DCC! celebration events! Representing fantastic and broad engagement with the conservation and enhancement works delivered by Discover Christ Church!</p>	<p>All events were well attended and keen interest was shown by people of all ages in not only what has been achieved but also the traditional and restoration skills and crafts that were required for delivery.</p> <p>The success in part is also due to co-designing these events with the community, as we established the sorts of events people would be interested in attending.</p> <p>BBC Radio Wiltshire interviewed and broadcast a number of attendees (some quite emotional) at the clock raising, including several Breakfast Show slots with the Community Outreach officer on both the clock and the wider project.</p>

		<p>As was observed by a The National Lottery Heritage Fund Committee Member for England, London and South who attended the final project Sip Sip Hooray celebratory Tea Party:</p> <p><i>'A pleasure to be there and see how your project has engaged the community from babies to centenarians'.</i></p>	<p>For the Sip Sip Hooray attendance was far above what we ever thought, visitors became volunteers to keep up and we had to raid (and reimburse!) the Church's supplies of tea, coffee and cakes to meet demand!! We were going to survey attendees but we simply did not have the capacity or time.</p>
<p>Participation in biodiversity implementation:</p> <p>More people of all ages and abilities involved in visioning, planning, implementing and monitoring biodiversity enhancements.</p>	<p>Prior to the start of the project, no young people were involved in enhancing the biodiversity of the churchyard at Christ Church.</p> <p>We facilitated a number of co-design workshops and implementation sessions involving whole classes of children, as well as involving members of BoA Youth and the Ark toddlers. All worked in partnership with older people, including volunteers from CC's Green Team, the congregation, the Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust, the Town Council and Climate Friendly BoA.</p> <p>The process of co-design and delivery of the enhancements benefitted from the facilitating skills and knowledge of a professional ecologist and Chartered Landscape Architect.</p>	<p>Between January 2023 and November 2025, over 450 young people participated in the co-design and implementation of biodiversity enhancements in the churchyard at Christ Church.</p> <p>A further 200 plus planted up pots with native wildflower seed or native daffodils and snowdrops to outreach biodiversity into the wider community.</p> <p>All classes in Christ Church Primary also planted up a pot with native bulbs to watch them grow in the classroom.</p> <p>As a result of savings on other budget lines we were able to run additional planting sessions, engage with more young people and plant a total of over 3000 native daffodils snowdrops and English Bluebells.</p>	<p>Students at the July 2023 session were heard to comment that 'we didn't know there are jobs doing stuff (biodiversity surveys) like this that people get paid for!'</p> <p>Sometimes when working with older age groups planting was achieved quickly and it was useful to have other related activities 'up our sleeve' so that their energy and enthusiasm could be directed to other tasks such as checking the wellbeing of the trees, learning about pruning or hunting for particular plants.</p> <p>Volunteer feedback:</p> <p>"Several Year 5 children brought their families to show them what they've been doing to help biodiversity"</p> <p>Annual surveys planned with future Year 6 groups to review effectiveness of enhancements.</p>

Volunteer participation and support for DCC! initiatives

Target: 1230 hours

We encouraged project participation from the outset of the project, including initially by asking people to fill out an online form or paper 'post card' giving contact details, interests and asking what skills people may have to offer. Local contacts were also very helpful, including via the congregation, BoA Preservation Trust, Climate Friendly Bradford and later on in the project via Bluebird Care.

We also ran a poster and FaceBook campaign to seek to attract more volunteers.

As the program of activities and events grew and diversified and people could see what the project was about, more people with an interest came forward and more contacts were made and they multiplied.

We always sent emails and posted thanks on Social Media within a day or two so that people felt valued. We held a mid-project catered Thank You event Skittles Evening in the community centre next door giving us the opportunity to say thank you, and volunteers the opportunity to socialise in a relaxed setting.

Target exceeded Volunteer hours are approaching 3x the original target at over 3600 hours.

Even discounting the voluntary project coordination hours, volunteer hours of 2335 were almost double the original target.

We could not have delivered the program of community events without the active support of the army of volunteers, from those who offered a welcome and smiling face, to moving furniture, escorting people to the toilet (before we had our own), setting up, clearing up, sharing their professional and crafts skills to chairing and note taking for meetings and providing support with budget monitoring.

People of all ages came forward including Scouts, Duke of Edinburgh, people of working age and older people, as well as a few known to have Dementia who offer to clear up at the end of sessions.

We were thrilled and people felt valued that, completely unprompted, Christ Church school children made a huge 'Thank You' card for DCC! volunteers and staff – in time for the skittles 'Thank You' evening.

The Children and Families worker will continue contacts with the volunteer team to enable the planned Conversation & Crafts sessions into the future.

We consider that key to success is with volunteering generally is that all feel valued, they consider what they are doing is worthwhile AND they have fun!

As part of keeping volunteers valued, we also learnt that it is important not to overload them with too many events. For example, whilst Conversation and Craft was a huge success, from feedback and experience we felt that the sessions should be at most once a month, rather than two weeks to avoid volunteer burnout.

A key legacy of the project is contacts made with volunteers with a very diverse range of skills and who want to be involved after DCC! has concluded. They have provided their contact details to hear about and/ help with future events, and the newly established Community Outreach and Fundraising Group at Christ Church has expanded as a result. This group is planning monthly events at Christ Church including a Heritage themed pop up café in the summer.

<p>Organisations engaged in the project</p> <p>We originally estimated that DCC! would result in engagement with 18 organisations, including new users attracted to use a restored and enhanced Christ Church</p>	<p>Our framework for engaging with organisations was set out in our Community Engagement and Communications Plan. This lists organisations originally targeted and the 60 we engaged with. This resulted in proactive relationship building throughout the project with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations partnering in DCC! delivery e.g. schools, Dementia Action Alliance, Pres Trust, BoA Town Council (BoA Youth), Climate Friendly, Bluebird, scouts, Duke of Edinburgh scheme etc Traditional craftspeople and contractors including significant voluntary contributions, wood & stone carving, stained glass, conservator, archaeology, electrical, lighting, carpentry New users BoA Choral, Mothers Union, Beautiful Gong Baths Calm Ways Yoga With Journalists and Other media outlets including local and regional radio stations, Wiltshire Times and explore Wiltshire 	<p>We engaged with over 3 times as many organisations as envisaged (60 compared with 18), across a broad range of types.</p> <p>Some were short term in connection with delivery of a project output, while others such as the schools, Bluebird Care and BoA Youth became long term partners that will outlive the project. Contractors were asked to provide a social contribution resulting in their giving time and/or experience/ and skills to enhance our program of community engagement in the heritage of Christ Church and its restoration.</p> <p>Some craftspeople not commissioned by the project kindly supported us in a voluntary capacity and coming back for repeat visits at different events.</p>	<p>We had also learnt through delivering events and workshops with our key stakeholders that some relationships take longer than others to develop, and that in reality, an 18-month programme of activities is really not long enough. Working and engaging with organisations such as secondary schools, who are already extremely busy and have limited resources has been challenging. Once the project was extended we were able to develop these relationships and deliver more.</p> <p>We found that local contacts were helpful as was a willingness to directly invite/ ask (people can always say no!)</p> <p>As with volunteers, we always fed back to ensure people understood that their contribution was valued</p>
<p>Digital access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook Instagram YouTube Web site Media <p>Starting point 0 across all</p>	<p>Social media and our web site have been used throughout the project, to promote and celebrate community events, as well as to thank volunteers and funders.</p> <p>We share posts to several groups with several thousand members, and are also followed by the Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust, the Diocese, Wiltshire Music Centre, Bluebird Care and Bradford on Avon Choral Society.</p>	<p>Our Facebook group has grown to 156 members and monthly views have grown so that they regularly range between 4-600 views.</p> <p>Instagram has 147 followers and 221 following.</p>	<p>With such a small staff we have found it relatively easy to use social media, but it has been more of a challenge to keep the web site up to date. The reality has been that social media has proved to be an invaluable and live tool for promoting community engagement in our events, while the website is a repository for information about</p>

For more detail on our Digital Reach please see below.

An analysis of web site visits shows that they have increased from c.50 to c.170 per month during its first 21 months, with peaks often coinciding with major project milestones or events.

our project, the history of Christ Church and its heritage, and as a family history resource.

Summary and commentary

The Discover Christ Church! project has encouraged, introduced and nurtured community uses of this beautiful building and interest in its heritage and conservation, several of which are planned to continue into the future. It has also inspired themes for future planned events such as a pop up café with heritage theme planned for summer 2026. Additional volunteers attracted by DCC! have joined the newly formed CC Community Outreach and Funding Group.

At over 10,000 participations, with c.1600 young people including c.350 with additional needs, c. 20 people with memory or learning difficulties, 60 organisations and over 3,500 hours contributed by a team of 80+ volunteers aged from 10 – 90+, we have certainly achieved diversity of engagement, We have exceeded targets on most fronts, including volunteering, the number of events and celebrations, the number and diversity of participations in activities and events to discover, explore and celebrate the heritage and biodiversity of Christ Church, the traditional crafts and skills that created, restored and enhanced it.

The project has delivered significantly more than had been envisaged at the start of the project and across a longer project duration. Co-design and listening was key to our success, as people of all ages generated and fed in creative ideas and suggestions throughout the project and had a say in what we were planning. Our huge and diverse volunteer team made a significant contribution, enabling delivery of the program of community activities.



4.2.1.1 Digital Reach

We have included this section along with diversity of involvement as it gives detail on our digital engagement with people, many of whom are unknown to use. We do however see both familiar and unfamiliar names - indicating a reach beyond our known contacts.

Here we outline our digital reach across Discover Christ Church's achievements in gaining a presence on the web sites of other organisations, news outlets including local radio and digital 'print', as well as social media. By these means the Discover Christ Church! project and its work has realised a digital profile and presence that was simply not there at the start of the project, and while we do not have the data to evidence this, we consider it highly likely that it helped increase physical interactions at our events.

The collage consists of four screenshots:

- Facebook Group:** 'Discover Christ Church!' is a public group with 155 members. It shows a post by 'Becky Strike' updating the group cover photo.
- Facebook Insights:** Shows data for 'Discover Christ Church!'. The 'Growth' chart shows a steady increase in members from Jan 28 to Feb 20. The 'People who viewed' chart shows a significant spike in views around Feb 20.
- BBC News:** A weather forecast for BA15, stating 'Sunny and a gentle breeze' with a temperature of 15°C. A news article titled ''Mystery' discovery during church restoration' is also visible.
- YouTube Channel:** The channel 'Discover Christ Church!' has 10 subscribers and 27 videos. A video titled 'Discover Christ Church! Community, Discovery, ...' is featured.

Starting point	The heritage of Christ Church had very little to no digital presence. There was no information on the numbers of people passing through its gate or door Please see Section 2 of this report for further detail.		
What was proposed	What happened	Completion, any programme or cost implications (RAGG)	Evaluation & Learning
Pedestrian Counters at West Door and East gate	<p>These were successfully installed at the start of the project and monitored throughout its duration.</p> <p>This showed pedestrian movements through the churchyard generally c. 4-7000+ (one-way), with the lowest figures in August c.4000, reflecting the holiday season. Observations support this – with the main path running through churchyard being well used by adults plus primary and secondary students.. The number was fairly stable across the life of the project, and showed the potential for DCC! to engage directly with local people of all ages.</p> <p>Analysis of numbers of visits into the church building through the main West Door (excluding services, toddler group and school services) shows an increasing trendline with the number doubling during the lifetime of the project – from c. 600 at the start of the project to c. 1200 at the end of the project.</p> <p>The pedestrian counters have helped us to estimate our success in attractive visitors for larger events, for example there were c. 580 visits to the July 2024 Heritage Celebration weekend, with more attending on the Sunday than the Saturday.</p> <p>As the counters are only installed on the West Door, for other events we have had to rely on manual counts as significant numbers of visitors enter through the South Porch.</p>	<p>We have a very good indication of visits through and to the churchyard and church despite battery failure and construction work leading to a lack of data for brief periods.</p> <p>The pedestrian counters have to be manually checked each month, but were relatively inexpensive compared with versions that would report on line that were available at the time.</p> <p>They have proved reliable with 6 monthly battery changes.</p> <p>Outside the project, this monitoring has also shown an increase in church service attendance during the lifetime of the project.</p>	<p>The pedestrian counters were incredibly useful in understanding existing visitor and passer by numbers that were much higher than envisaged prior to the start of the project.</p> <p>The pattern of less visits during the summer holidays, supports the DCC! approach of focussing community engagement and activities during term time.</p> <p>Diary note needed to pre-emptively change the batteries.</p> <p>The PCC would like to continue to monitor so that they can monitor visitor numbers of different types into the future.</p>

<p>Digitising historic C19th and early C20th school records</p>	<p>This was included in our project proposal, however due to the delay in delivery of the (separately funded) office with its scanner, and lack of staff capacity we were not able to deliver.</p> <p>Instead and as a result of participant interest in and concern about the tapestry kneelers, each of which commemorates or celebrates a local person or event, the kneelers were scanned and published to the website along with a spreadsheet listing the origin of their design (heritage features and details of Christ Church), the designer, date and event or person celebrated.</p>	<p>An alternative and much loved feature of Christ Church has been scanned, detailed and published to the website, providing an additional resource for those researching the heritage of the church and the people and events associated with it.</p>	<p>We learned that sometimes we needed to prioritise, and that the full program of proposals might not be deliverable.</p> <p>By listening to people and having the confidence to propose an alternative we were able to deliver a different outcome that met the purposes of our project.</p>
<p>Dedicated Discover Christ Church! website to include access to still and moving images.</p>	<p>Following a quotation process, Brighter Side of Bradford on Avon was commissioned to build a Discover Christ Church! website on the Squarespace platform.</p> <p>The website went live in June 2024 and was in active use throughout the project, after which in March 2026 Discover Christ Church! became hosted within the North Bradford on Avon and Villages website (also Squarespace)</p> <p>It has three main sections:</p> <p>Home – outlining the main features of the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Timeline of key developments and events • Restoration and Conservation • Discoveries • Churchyard Directory • The Kneelers • Archive • Get Involved <p>The website contains still images of the church, its heritage features, social history resources, and heritage themed events, as well as a link to the Discover Christ Church! YouTube channel with lots of moving images, including films and clips.</p> <p>Here is the address for the DCC! web pages:</p> <p>https://www.nboachurches.co.uk/dcc/discover-christ-church</p> <p>Here is the link to our YouTube channel:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/@DiscoverChristChurchBoa</p>	<p>The development of a website was completed within budget, and content was added during the course of the project.</p> <p>It is now permanently hosted and readily accessible within the Benefice website. Search engines still land here when searching for Discover Christ Church!</p> <p>A digital SLR training camera with tripod has been well used by DCC! staff, volunteers, St Laurence students, other young people in capturing still and moving images of conservation work and community activities that have been utilised during the project and in its printed and digital outputs, including on the website.</p>	<p>Updating and adding to the content of the website was a 'learning on the job' experience for DCC! staff, and took some getting used to. However with the support of a responsive contractor a comprehensive web site with resources relating to DCC!s themes of Discovery, Community, Conservation has been successfully produced.</p> <p>Volunteers both young and adult willingly learned new skills</p>

<p>Streaming of conservation work to display screen at ground level.</p>	<p>This was an idea developed and included in the grant application that proved not to be feasible.</p> <p>The reality was that the conservators work in several locations at once and move about between different areas as the paint dries, so setting up a camera that streamed to a screen was not possible.</p> <p>Instead filming of key aspects of the conservation works including cleaning and conservation of the nave walls, magnificent wall paintings and stonework, plus cleaning and repair of the stained glass windows were all recorded and played on a large screen at ground level. Open House was maintained throughout so that visitors could see the conservators at work up on the scaffolding and see footage of key steps in the processes (with captions) at ground level.</p> <p>An external hard drive was used to store footage and images with WeTransfer being used for sharing when needed.</p>	<p>The digital SLR, tripod and screen proved invaluable in enabling volunteers to take close up footage of key stages of the conservation work in action, and for these to be run on a continuous 50 minute loop at ground level.</p> <p>As a result of this change savings were made as the originally proposed NAS storage was not required, and instead a cheaper high capacity external hard drive was purchased. This will become the digital archive for the project, to be held by the Benefice.</p>	<p>The substitution of bespoke filmed footage with captions achieved the same objectives in explaining the conservation techniques to visitors as streaming would have done, but probably more effectively as there were not large gaps as the conservators moved to different areas or took a lunch break! The outputs proved very popular and was much appreciated by visitors, including one who commented “it’s just like on telly” and people asked for a recording that they could watch at home.</p>
<p>USB flash sticks ‘Conservation in Action’</p>	<p>In response to requests from visitors for media that they could take home to watch and share, USB flash sticks were produced combining the filming of the conservation techniques used in the nave with a soundtrack of the organist playing the 1878 Sweetland organ.</p> <p>A volunteer sound engineer offered his services to record the soundtrack and a local volunteer with an interest in IT offered to produce the flash stick and cover. The result was an initial 25 copies of a ‘Discover Christ Church! Conservation in Action’ USB stick beautifully presented in a case with information and playlist. This is going well in exchange for a suggested donation to Christ Church Friends, with copies being taken by the Primary School for use in school as well as local people.</p>	<p>This output was only possible due to the keen interest of volunteers – a sound engineer, the organist and a volunteer keen to develop his IT skills. The costs of production were very modest amounting only to a travel and material costs, and could accommodated within agreed budgets.</p>	<p>As for many aspects of the project, listening to project participants and taking forward innovative ideas can produce beneficial outputs that enhance and expand delivery on agreed outcomes, promote wider learning about conservation techniques, as well as expanding the skillset and experience of interested volunteers. Win Win!</p>

<p>We said we would aim to link our project to other websites.</p>	<p>The DCC! project has a presence on other websites mainly in the form of promotion of events and articles about the conservation works and community events. Here are some sample links:</p> <p>Christ Church is included on the Wiltshire Council sponsored Explore Wiltshire App, that includes mapped information along with explanatory text on its history including the DCC! project: https://events.wiltshire.gov.uk/mobileapp search for Bradford on Avon and Christ Church.</p> <p>BBC Radio Wiltshire ran a number of interviews on our project starting with the 'Clocktober' celebrations as the restored clock dials were raised up the tower, and finishing with an interview about the project just prior to its 'Sip Sip Hooray' celebrations: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0n2ymdv</p> <p>West Wilts Radio also featured interviews with our Community Outreach Officer talking about DCC! and promoting DCC! Heritage Celebration and Meet the Archaeologist events (July 2025) http://westwiltsradio.com/shows/talk-and-tunes-with-tim-2/</p> <p>Many of our stories were covered by the local news, Wiltshire Times. They shared information about our key events on their website including our Sip Sip Hooray celebration event https://www.wiltshiretimes.co.uk/news/25846840.christ-church-bradford-avon-celebrate-restoration/ and our Heritage Celebration ; https://www.wiltshiretimes.co.uk/news/24442712.historic-wiltshire-landmark-showcases-heritage-skills/</p> <p>Our end of project celebrations were also well trailed and then covered: https://www.wiltshiretimes.co.uk/news/25955981.bradford-avon-church-project-injected-new-life/</p> <p>One of our discoveries made it as top article on BBC News Wiltshire on 25.02.2026 https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgjzyzzjwjd0</p>	<p>All successfully delivered by DCC! staff and completed as planned, with additional digital presence being achieved over and above that anticipated (for example BBC Wiltshire News and Radio, plus Historic England).</p>	<p>The project's success in delivering a digital presence on others' web sites is down to the Community Outreach Officer's catchy way with words and engaging press releases that led to the development of a good rapport with media contacts, plus the Project Coordinator's local contacts and proactive work with Historic England.</p> <p>We have learned to expect the unexpected in terms of uptake of our outputs, from the disappointment of an extended reporter visit to one of our celebration events not resulting in a newspaper article, to the elation felt when an early interview with the Community Outreach Officer about our clock celebrations resulted in several slots on BBC Radio Wiltshire Breakfast Show and a quirky story about a mystery embroidery making it to be the top story on BBC Wiltshire News.</p> <p>Learning: keep going and try all angles.</p>
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	<p>Our BoA Youth Café at Christ Church established by DCC! and continuing into the future is promoted by BoA Town Council: https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/your-community/boa-youth/</p> <p>Historic England's Grade 2* listing page 'Comments & Photos' section was updated to include the clock and stonework restoration, new lighting and the conservation and cleaning of the nave walls and magnificent wall paintings. https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1036077?section=comments-and-photos</p> <p>Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust website includes an archive of journals with several plotting the progress of DCC!'s conservation and community activities Autumn Winter 2023 – Summer 2026: https://www.bradfordheritage.co.uk/guardian-angel Publicity for events was also sent out to their 400+ members in their e-news.</p> <p>As a result of DCC! working with the Preservation Trust Christ Church is now 'on the map' including digitally https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/2j32zc1d7v427ah42kihu/Trust-Town-Trail-Map-Web-Oct25.pdf?rlkey=9e9pvn7hs8tnouhjb79be1nbq&e=2&dl=0</p> <p>Salisbury Diocese Grapevine Newsletter (circulation 5622 and open rates over 50%) has run several Discover Christ Church! articles on its conservation and community activities, most recently on celebrations to mark the completion of the project featuring both in Grapevine and their News and Media page. https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/supportforparishes/communications/news/celebrations-at-christ-church-bradford-on-avon.php</p>		
<p>Social media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook • Instagram • YouTube 	<p>Facebook and Instagram pages were set up within a month of starting the project and have been in active use throughout. It is anticipated that the pages will continue to be used into the future.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/groups/discoverchristchurch/?locale=en_GB</p> <p>https://www.instagram.com/discoverchristchurchboa/</p>	<p>Successfully delivered as planned by DCC! staff.</p>	<p>Feeding social media has been a very important part of the day job for both staff, promoting events and activities as well as delivery of key natural and built heritage outcomes. Some of the more amusing topics have been found to garner the widest interest.</p>

	<p>Facebook is most used to publicise and celebrate the conservation and community activities of the project, as well as successes along the way. With 157 followers, DCC! regularly receives 450-600 views monthly.</p> <p>Instagram has 148 followers, 224 following.</p> <p>Our YouTube channel was a late addition to the project, and has proved to be a useful and accessible place to make our moving image resources public covering a . Views of clips and films vary from over 2000 to single figures. https://www.youtube.com/@DiscoverChristChurchBoa/videos</p> <p>At the time of writing the film had 160 views.</p>	<p>The additional presence on YouTube that was not originally planned but has been very helpful in enabling us to share many of the clips and films captured during DCC!'s journey – from early project planning to delivery of key conservation works including the carving of an intricate pinnacle stone by a local young stonemason and hearing about how the horologist arrived at his chosen career.</p>	
DCC! film	<p>An unexpected bonus for our project was a short 'Newsnight' style film piece that summarised and illustrated our project. This was kindly produced by a volunteer film maker who happened to be walking past Christ Church and was impressed by what they saw going on with the Discover Christ Church! project.</p> <p>We agreed that the intended audience for the film was others who might like to learn from what we have done, and it also serves to celebrate our achievements.</p> <p>You can view the film here:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uxPiJ4rVJA&t=27s</p> <p>The Diocese is using this as part of a case study to promote learning from the Discover Christ Church National Lottery Heritage Fund experience.</p> <p>At the time of writing our YouTube channel had over 2900 views including 188 views in a couple of weeks for our 'Discover Christ Church! Community, Discovery, Conservation' film.</p>	<p>This was an entirely volunteer effort, with the only monetary cost being travel and expenses for the young camera person.</p> <p>We worked collaboratively with the film maker to provide additional images and information to inform production.</p> <p>The film is shared on our You Tube channel and is publicised as part of the Salisbury Diocese DCC! Case Study.</p>	<p>For some of us, it was quite an experience to work with a professional film maker and learn what it takes to produce such a pieces, what it was like to be the other side of the camera in interview, and also to see how our story could be told.</p> <p>A lovely benefit of this was the involvement of an interested secondary school student who was part of the 'crew' on the day of filming. He told us he had learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.</p>

Summary & commentary

We have exceeded significantly the digital reach envisaged in the project proposal, running across our new Discover Christ Church! web presence, social media, local radio and news outlets, plus reaching Historic England, BBC Wiltshire Radio and News, Explore Wiltshire App and having had many more articles than we had thought possible.

The proactive use of social media has been a very useful tool in promoting the project and its events, as well as publicising project successes across our three themes of Community, Discovery and Conservation.

Digital monitoring of the numbers of people coming into the churchyard and church throughout the project, not only gave us an idea of the scale of our potential 'in person' audience, but also gave us data that demonstrates the growth of visitor numbers over the life of the project.

The one area that did not work out as expected was the intention to 'live stream' conservation work. Due to conservators working across a large building this was just not practical, but the alternative of filming and sharing key conservation processes and activities and displaying them on a large screen in the church proved to be effective and received many positive comments from regulars and visitors alike.

Part of the legacy of our project is the adoption of Discover Christ Church! as a Case Study for other churches thinking of embarking on heritage projects, and the opportunities this can bring for community engagement. This takes the form of a film, our final report and a recorded Q&A to be hosted on the Salisbury Diocese website after the conclusion of our project.

4.2.2 People will have greater wellbeing

This section evaluates the effects on wellbeing delivered by our project both through formal well-being workshops as well as the contribution made by the new community life and events delivered by our project at Christ Church



People will have greater wellbeing			
Starting point	School data on children with anxiety and mental health challenges Practitioner findings at start of Mental Health workshops Target for number of young people engaged		
Measure of success	How did we do this?	Completion, and any programme or cost implications. (RAGG)	Evaluation & Learning
Practitioner facilitated workshops supporting primary and secondary school students with anxiety and mental health challenges:			
Deliver a program of practitioner/mentor facilitated workshops to support the well-being of primary and secondary age young people. DCC Targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 no. 6 week blocks of workshops engaging with c.80 young people 	We appointed a local, well-respected practitioner, Gemma Howard, who had recently started a programme called Relax Kids. The programme focusses on wellbeing and mindfulness. We held a total of 6 blocks of 5-6 sessions with a total of 58 Christ Church Primary School participants Each weekly session lasted 1 hour and 30 minutes and were held during school hours in the church on a Monday afternoon. The students were accompanied by a Teaching Assistant and more recently the Headteacher,	We worked with a total of 58 pupils from Christ Church alone, exceeding the target of 40 for this age group. As is evident from the practitioner's final report, the programme demonstrated strong outcomes across all groups including : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils reported increased calm, with post-session calmness levels Self-confidence, self-awareness and emotional literacy improved in many, as seen in pupil and parent feedback. Most pupils consistently reported increased relaxation, calmness, and emotional confidence. One pupil shared "Because of Relax Kids I feel a lot better about myself." The church was described by pupils as calm, safe, and peaceful enabling the successful delivery of the programme. 	Lack of on-site toilets caused problems of disruption to sessions, taking time and volunteer to accompany. As of October 2025, on site toilets completed and open for use, making substantial difference to the practicalities of holding events at Christ Church. The size of each of the groups needed to be revised from the proposed numbers, It was felt that 20 people in each group was far too high, and would not be suitable for young people who need support with their wellbeing. Smaller, intimate groups were preferred by both the school and the practitioner.

	<p>The Relax Kids practitioner used the space in practical ways to enable mindfulness in the calm setting, she used artefacts, imagery, colours and shapes to explore feelings and emotions with the children such searching for faces in the stone and wood carvings. She also encouraged relaxation techniques in different areas of the church space including the sanctuary and lady chapel.</p> <p>The final session was an opportunity for parents and carers to attend a session to explore what the children had been up to and what they had learnt</p> <p>To evaluate the sessions the practitioner carried out short pre and post session evaluations.</p> <p>Qualitative data was also collected including quotes and comments from children, staff and parents.</p>	<p>The practitioner stated 'This project demonstrates the power of integrating wellbeing provision within heritage spaces, offering a model of best practice for future delivery'.</p> <p>Also that 'the church (building) environment played a central role in the program's success. It provided more than a venue; it became an active partner in delivery, offering symbolism calm, safety and a sense of community identity'.</p> <p>Features of the church including light, faces, paintings and other features including the 1878 Sweetland organ were used as vehicles for exercises during the workshop sessions.</p> <p>Qualitative data and feedback from school, and the desire for a greater number of students to be involved. Many parents reporting noticeable improvements to their children's wellbeing with one reporting "She hasn't had a panic attack since starting Relax Kids."</p> <p>The headteacher called the programme "instrumental in skilling-up our pupils to cope with mental health issues" and praised its Discover Christ Church! linked delivery.</p>	<p>Originally proposed as 'workshops to support young people with mental health and anxiety challenges', it was agreed with the practitioner that this was a stigmatising label, and therefore the name was changed to 'well-being workshops'.</p> <p>Some of the sessions were cancelled at short notice by the school due to staffing issues and had to be rearranged – which has not been ideal for the practitioner or the children However due to a strong relationship with the school, following a meeting with the Headteacher, the school reconfirmed their commitment to the programme and the Headteacher herself supported the pupils to attend the sessions at the church.</p> <p>One pupil decided that the programme wasn't the right fit for them, which was entirely respected—highlighting that while the programme was widely successful, it's also important to acknowledge that no single approach suits every individual, and choice is an important part of wellbeing too.</p> <p>There was huge value in holding the workshops in the church as the heritage features became a medium through which children could reflect, express themselves, and make emotional connections.</p>
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	<p>We appointed Bob Kitchin, a highly experienced mental health practitioner of BDL D to deliver a programme of workshops to up to 40 young people at St Laurence School. Working alongside the Assistant Headteacher, young people who would benefit from exploring mental health issues and techniques to improve mental health were identified.</p> <p>Sessions were planned to start with a co-production workshop where the young people would help shape the topics covered by the tailored programme and share their ideas.</p> <p>This commenced on the 8th May, 2024, and the workshops began the following week.</p> <p>Two sessions would take place per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.</p> <p>The church space was used to enable mindfulness relaxation, mindful colouring inspired by the artwork, and the calm to enable quiet and reflective conversations.</p> <p>The practitioner used the example of safety when working at a height to conserve the wall paintings to think about what we need to protect ourselves and our mental health.</p>	<p>St Laurence session – no of participants</p> <p>In total, 26 students attended the 4 blocks of workshop sessions</p> <p>As observed by the practitioner leading these workshops, most reported that they found Christ Church a good place to hold the sessions with one reporting that “it was good to have a calmer space to do these workshops”</p> <p>18 young people out of the 21 who gave feedback said they found the workshops helpful. Many stated that they found the resources helpful to use.</p> <p>A young person’s mental health pack was created and shared with the school for them to use. As part of this, information about the church, providing a welcoming and safe space to all was shared with the young people.</p> <p>Young people did seem to enjoy the sessions though, with counter pots filling up with majority of ‘good’ each session, one commented “ [I have] More confidence in looking after it [my mental health] Thank you for having us and caring for us, it was very nice”</p> <p>The teacher who stayed with them commented “I have never seen these girls engage with anything in this way before”</p>	<p>Lack of on-site toilets caused problems of disruption to some sessions, taking time and volunteer to accompany.</p> <p>The school selected the young people who would take part, however many of the attendees were identified as ‘school refusers’ so attendance and engagement was challenging from the onset.</p> <p>The cohorts selected were smaller, due to the school not being able to engage with more students to take part.</p> <p>The group dynamics for some of the cohorts was challenging due to high levels of need. In one group alone, four boys openly shared that they had ADHD and struggled to concentrate. This made it tough for the others in that cohort to have meaningful conversations and interactions.</p> <p>Working with secondary schools is very different, and the communication from them at times proved challenging. Some sessions were cancelled with no notice due to other commitments, but this was not shared with the practitioner. It is therefore essential that clearer guidelines on how to work together need to be set out with them from the onset.</p>
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	<p>A final session took place at the school in the November to get feedback from the young people and to share a mental health toolkit with them.</p> <p>Due to circumstances beyond our control, we did not received a full report from the practitioner, despite chasing multiple times. However we did receive a summary report to give us useful evaluation information</p>	<p>When holding them in the school, due to circumstances out of our control, the young people said they found it harder to talk openly about things. Conversely they identified the church building as a space where they could better engage.</p>	<p>Not everything goes to plan, and as in this case there are many things that are out of our control.</p>
<p>Volunteer feedback</p>	<p>During the project we have lots of very positive feedback from the volunteers who supported our many events.</p> <p>We made our volunteers feel appreciated as we thanked them after every event, gave them cards after larger events and also hosted a volunteer social by way of thanks. This was noted by the volunteers, for example in July 2024: Upon hand delivery of a DCC! thank you card a volunteer said, 'Thank you, you have given me back a social life'.</p> <p>Some of the volunteers were so inspired by some of the artwork we created during a session that they made a thank you card for the outreach officer, and thanked her for inspiring them.</p> <p>Anecdotal including at events e.g. as recorded in events held spreadsheet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via online surveys 	<p>Face to face feedback has been extremely positive as many of the volunteers have shared their enjoyment of being involved in the project throughout.</p> <p>During the Sip Sip Hooray celebration event, one volunteer said " This is simply wonderful my friend, what fun" – this was in response to huge crowds in the church and rushing around to wash up enough cups!</p> <p>Feedback from the final survey from one volunteer said, "These [alterations] have all enhanced the whole experience of Christchurch - its work, worship, visitors and regulars, and made it much more of a welcoming community space and a community asset."</p>	<p>Looking after volunteers and making them feel valued has been key to success. Sending thank you emails, messages, cards and appreciation has really helped retain our many volunteers.</p> <p>New opportunities through the project to reach out to the community has meant that volunteers are meeting new people, and the project has given them new enthusiasm to continue this good work into the future.</p> <p>Lasting connections with volunteers have been made. Many skilled craftspeople have enjoyed it so much that they would like to come back to volunteer at future events.</p> <p>Volunteer comment early on in the project 'Thank you for giving me a social life back'</p>

<p>Anecdotal feedback from other events</p>	<p>At all events feedback pots were put out to gather general views on the event. Alongside this, someone would stand to take verbal feedback from individuals.</p> <p>At key points during the project we set up surveys via MS forms, and asked people for their views. An iPad was used in the church and help was offered to people to complete the surveys.</p> <p>The lack of kitchen, toilet and community space was challenging for the first two years + of the project, but now this is in place there is significant room for growth of events, particularly conversation and craft.</p> <p>An important aspect of our biodiversity survey was young people stepping out in nature, amongst green and trees and stopping and quietly observing plants and waiting for insects to arrive.</p>	<p>Feedback at all events was on the whole very positive. The atmosphere smiles on faces, laughter and chat speaks for themselves.</p> <p>Conversation and craft has had a particularly lasting impact on members of the community and the schools. So much positive feedback was received by the schools including “[the community outreach officer] has been incredibly warm and welcoming to all of our kids and have been very accommodating to those students who may need some extra support. She has also made sure all students can join in.”</p> <p>Another comment from the Assistant head at the secondary school said “Thank you so much. We have loved this project. Some of our most vulnerable children have attended, enjoyed themselves and had an afternoon out of school peacefully doing artwork and being happy within the setting. It’s brilliant”</p> <p>Members of the community commented on conversation and craft saying “Interaction and pleasure on older people’s faces chatting with young children bringing emotions care etc”</p>	<p>The intergenerational work has been so important, being open and inclusive to all has enabled engagement with a wide range of people.</p> <p>Talking to members of the community, event attendees, students, teachers and partner organisations gave valuable feedback as to how the project had made a positive impact on their wellbeing</p> <p>We learned from feedback just how valued Conversation & Craft and BoA Youth sessions are by participants, as well as by the governing PCC. As a result conversation and craft and BoA Youth are to continue after the project, enabling the positive impact on people’s wellbeing will continue – across all age groups, including DCC!’s target audiences.</p> <p>Events designed for other objectives can contribute to well-being, e.g. During the Year 5 biodiversity survey, student said ‘it was calming’ Staff commended that this ‘is very supportive of mindfulness’.</p>
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Summary and commentary

That the Discover Christ Church! project has had a positive impact on peoples mental health and wellbeing is demonstrated in some cases by direct evidence from practitioners, young people, parents/carers and teaching staff and by the laughter, smiles and chatter seen at our regular Conversation & Craft and BoA Youth events, as well as at the many one off events and activities. This has been achieved through a combination of direct interventions working with young people in need of wellbeing support, or through wider community activities such as conversation and craft and celebration events.

Whilst some things did not go to plan and were out of our control, the impact of the mental health workshops has been significant and long lasting.

The evidence indicates that the project should leave a lasting legacy from the interventions completed to date, as well as from the planned program of future activities including Conversation & Craft and BoA Youth sessions that are continuing after the conclusion of our project. In addition a practitioner is engaged with the church in exploring ways of funding Relax Kids for other children to enjoy and benefit, after the project ends.



A sample of the feedback on the DCC! program of practitioner facilitated well-being workshops with young people:

*Primary school practitioner:
The program has proven to be a powerful and effective intervention for improving children's wellbeing. Through a blend of science based strategies, creativity and grounding influence of a spiritual heritage space, pupils built resilience,, self awareness and peer connection*

*Students:
'I really enjoyed it and it helps me calm down'
'I feel a lot better about myself'
'I feel really confident'*

*Parent/ carers:
'very valuable'
'...every child should be able to access (these sessions)'
'...my (child) has shown a massive improvement in confidence, self esteem and socially. (they) have had no panic attacks since and have gone back to trying new things'*

*Secondary school practitioner:
'Positive results included
... young people who struggle to remain still and focused... when taking part in exercises were able to find calm and relaxation throughout.'

'some quieter members were able to use one to one discussions with us to explore personal situations and mental health challenges'*

*Headteacher
...the program has been instrumental in upskilling our pupils with the tools they need to help them cope with mental health issues and to address their individual needs.*

*Students:
'I really enjoyed it and it helps me calm down'
'I feel a lot better about myself'
'I feel really confident'*

4.2.3 Heritage will be in better condition

As is apparent on site and in photographs the heritage of Christ Church is in better condition as a result of a range of conservation interventions, the details of which are set out below.



Heritage will be in a better condition

<p>Starting point</p>	<p>Key features of Christ Church’s fabric were in poor condition or broken, including its landmark spire clock, nave walls, stonework and windows. In addition a number of found artefacts were at risk of further damage or loss. Outside although much of the churchyard comprises wildflower meadow species that are thought to reflect the meadow that was there before the church was built, the priority was mowing the grass with only small areas given over to flowering plants.</p> <p>Further details on the starting point for Christ Church’s heritage are set out at Section 2.3 above.</p>		
<p>Measure of success</p>	<p>How did we do this?</p>	<p>Completion, and any programme or cost implications (RAGG)</p>	<p>Evaluation & Learning</p>
<p>Restore and restart landmark spire clock faces re-gilded, mechanisms restored and electronic mechanism replaced.</p>	<p>Smith of Derby (SoD) makers of the electronic clock mechanism that had failed 15-20 years earlier, and who had until that time serviced the clock, were appointed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove, strip, prepare, re-gild and restore the large east and west facing spire Remove, strip, restore, and repaint all the connecting rods supply a like for like mechanism <p>Social contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 05 October 2023: factory tour for team of volunteers including apprenticeships at SoD, 10&11 Oct 2023: participation in clock raising event and 16 Jan 2024: An evening talk about public clocks, horology and the restoration of CC clock. 	<p>All aspects of the commission successfully delivered by on time and to budget.</p> <p>Photographic evidence of the condition of the clock faces before and after.</p> <p>Smith of Derby took part in the ‘Clocktober’ celebrations, with over 200 adults and children gathered excitedly to watch the gleaming dials hoisted aloft, plus attendance by</p> <p>Clock restarted at 12 noon on 12 October 2023, and two annual services have been delivered.</p> <p>A lively and entertaining evening talk supported by Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, and with bubbles to celebrate was successfully delivered, with very positive survey responses received from attendees</p>	<p>This work is considered to be a resounding success with over 200 people of all ages participating in the clock raising celebrations, that also attracted BBC Radio Wiltshire coverage and promotion of our wider project.</p> <p>Final and payment certificates confirming satisfactory delivery issued by the Inspecting Architect 20 October 2023.</p> <p>The restoration of our landmark clock was of keen interest to the wider community, attracting a grant and donations from the BoA Preservation Trust and individuals.</p> <p>People commented on how they always glance up at the clock to check the time when passing by, how disappointed they used to be to see it stopped, and their joy at now seeing it gleaming and working once again. ‘The clock looks superb... you must be thrilled with the work achieved’.</p> <p>Query came in: ‘Why has the clock stopped?’: We will publicise on DCC! social media that when there is a power cut or the clocks change, the clock stops and waits until the correct time comes around.</p>

<p>Restore damaged timber floors and door in tower</p>	<p>Adrian Baker Carpenters of Bradford on Avon restored water damaged areas of the floor and the ringing chamber door, thereby enabling safe access to restore the clock.</p>	<p>Work to time and budget.</p> <p>Work completed to conservation standards using reclaimed Victorian boards to match original.</p>	<p>Final and payment certificates confirming satisfactory delivery issued by the Inspecting Architect 19 November 2023.</p>
<p>Rewire and new lighting clock chamber</p>	<p>Burbage Electrical of Bradford on Avon completed rewiring and new lighting to clock chamber, to enable installation of new electronic clock mechanism.</p>	<p>Work completed by to time and budget.</p> <p>Part of wider rewiring of tower, with DCC! contributing the cost of rewiring and new lighting for the clock chamber.</p>	<p>Final and payment certificates confirming satisfactory delivery issued by the Inspecting Architect 28 August 2023, along with the contractor's electrical certificate.</p>
<p>Repair tower & spire stonework including joints and intricately carved pinnacle, plus clock chamber windows.</p>	<p>Wiltshire Steeplejacks of Trowbridge, Wiltshire laddered the spire and repointed stonework joints as found necessary (two visits), plus as part of the same contract</p> <p>Wiltshire Stonemasons of Broughton Gifford, Wiltshire dismantled the SW pinnacle (found to have internal corrosion damage beyond repair and identified as a H&S risk), re-carving and reinstating two intricately carved stones.</p> <p>Social contribution provided in the form of 'Meet the Steeplejack' and 'Meet the Stonemasons' events held in conjunction with BoA Youth. The latter also supported by the Inspecting Architect.</p>	<p>Work completed to program.</p> <p>Additional costs agreed over and above the original quote due to the need to undertake work that was unforeseen at the start of the project.</p> <p>£500 withheld on first completion of the repointing with the contractor returning to address issues identified by the Inspecting Architect.</p> <p>Additional stone restoration work to SW pinnacle also incurred further costs as additional scaffolding was required for access.</p>	<p>Final and payment certificates confirming satisfactory delivery issued by the Inspecting Architect 27 October 2025.</p>

<p>Clean and conserve nave walls, friezes and & wall paintings to north, south and west nave walls</p>	<p>Peter Martindale Conservation who had previously undertaken cleaning and conservation of the adjacent chancel walls was appointed to clean and conserve the south, north and east nave walls including the magnificent archangel wall paintings, paterae and friezes as well as the stone work surrounds to the windows.</p> <p>Social contributions provided in the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 'Meet the Conservator' event held in conjunction with BoA Youth, and • Enabling filming of key stages in the cleaning and conservation of the walls wall paintings, friezes and paterae. 	<p>A revised contract sum was negotiated following consultation with TNLHF, allowing for inflation given the time that had elapsed since the original quotation.</p> <p>Work was completed to time and budget.</p>	<p>Final and payment certificates confirming satisfactory delivery issued by the Inspecting Architect 23 May 2025.</p> <p>There have been so many comments from people on how the nave has been transformed - how it is so much lighter and brighter, and how magnificent the wall paintings are. Some comments are entered in the visitor book, including the Smith of Derby horologist commented on the transformation of the nave compared with when he last visited.</p> <p>Other comments include:</p> <p>'What wonderful work being done'</p> <p>'Looks so much better – beautiful now!'</p> <p>'Congratulations to all involved'</p> <p>'What a transformation of the church – I remember it looking very different'</p>
<p>Natural heritage: enhance the biodiversity of the churchyard</p>	<p>A biodiversity enhancement plan co-designed throughout with young people and agreed with the PCC and Town Council is now being implemented. This has changed reduced mowing across large areas, enabling the meadow mix of wildflowers and fine grasses to flower and seed, and enable the orchid colonies we discovered to thrive.</p>	<p>As a result of the extension to the project and savings on other budget lines we have planted significantly more bulbs than originally planned.</p> <p>We also responded positively to the opportunity to enter the Britain in Bloom South West 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category, taking the opportunity to subject ourselves to external evaluation of our work.</p>	<p>Britain in Bloom SW 'It's your neighbourhood' judges evaluated DCC! biodiversity initiatives as outstanding in both 2024 and 2025, contributing to Bradford on Avon achieving 'Gold' overall. The award reflects both the biodiversity enhancements and the co-design and co-working with young people to deliver them.</p> <p>Again biodiversity enhancements have benefitted from an extended project program, enabling us to amend the enhancement plan in response to concerns about access to some graves in one quadrant of the churchyard, and to extend the program of bulb planting with young people.</p>

	<p>In addition we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planted 20 native trees and shrubs Over 3000 native daffodils, snowdrops and English Bluebells, and Installed and planted 2no. metre square planters with colourful insect attracting bulbs, perennials and annual fillers typical of a Victorian pallet and reflective of the rainbow found on one of the nave wall paintings <p>Created hedgehog habitat piles from fallen wood.</p>	<p>Photographs of the reduced mow areas clearly indicate significantly more biodiverse ground coverage and foraging insects across the west, south and east of the churchyard. The area to the north comprises course grasses and planting here has revealed rocky ground indicating it was probably used as the builders yard for the church.</p>	<p>Britain in Bloom South West judge commented: 'If other places (in the 'Its your Neighbourhood' entries) I visit are as good as this I'll be very happy'</p>
<p>Additional purposes agreed and funded from contingency and other savings:</p>			<p>Careful budget management and savings on other lines have enabled works to be implemented that extended our delivery on planned outcomes, including:</p>
<p>Clean and undertake minor repairs to holes in the 8 no. nave stained glass windows.</p>	<p>Great Panes Stained Glass of Westwood undertook minor lead strapping repairs to a small number of holes in a few of the windows. They also carefully cleaned the glass and stone drip trays below, and restored the functioning hopper window.</p> <p>A social contribution was delivered by enabling filming of the cleaning of the stained glass windows. A stained glass workshop for Year 6 has also been offered for a later date.</p>	<p>All work was planned to take advantage of the nave wall scaffolding and was completed on time and to budget.</p>	<p>Final and payment certificates confirming satisfactory delivery issued by the Inspecting Architect 23 April 2025.</p> <p>Cleaning of and small repairs to the windows should probably have been included in the original grant application as they are an integral part of the nave walls, and saving have resulted from using the scaffolding for two purposes instead of the initial one.</p> <p>Many people have commented on how light and bright the nave now looks. The Benefice Administrator has commented on how beautiful, coloured light from the stained glass windows is as it moves across the pod walls opposite her office.</p>

<p>Protect and display surplus tapestry kneelers in custom built oak shelving to be put on permanent display in the nave.</p>	<p>Alastair Williams Woodworker was commissioned to create bespoke oak shelving designed by the architect for installation on the walls of the office and storage pods in the nave.</p>	<p>Work completed on time and to agreed budget.</p>	<p>This idea came up late in the project when it was realised that a significant number of the beautiful hand stitched kneelers needed a new home and given their subject matter and community connections were worthy of permanent display.</p> <p>In line with the flexible and creative approach to the project throughout an idea was developed for their display, and budget savings enabled delivery.</p> <p>There have again been many comments on how good they look, how one now really notices their different designs and depictions and how they help to 'anchor' the new pod structures into the nave.</p>
<p>Protect and display found 'work in progress' C19th & C20th embroidery piece to be put on permanent display in the nave.</p>	<p>Right Angle Framing of Corsham provided museum standard framing with UV protection of the piece complete with its pins, needle and work in progress threads.</p>	<p>Work completed to time and agreed budget.</p>	<p>In line with the flexible and creative approach to the project throughout an idea was developed for the display of this beautiful found artefact, and more time and budget savings have enabled delivery.</p> <p>An added bonus was that the framer was able to document her work and use as a case study for her conservation framing qualification.</p>
<p>Year 6 had told us that they wanted to see the found stained glass panel restored and displayed, one writing: . 'this iconic piece of history deserves another chance - please help'.</p> <p>Restore, frame and backlight one of the found 'Tree of Life' design stained glass window panels, to be put on permanent display in the nave.</p> <p>The panel commemorates a Mary Palairet whose husband funded the building of Christ Church School.</p>	<p>Great Panes of Westwood were commissioned to restore the most complete of the stained glass panels. By using a few panes from the more damaged panel a complete match could be achieved.</p> <p>The panel was formerly part of a large tower window that had been vandalised beyond repair in the second half of the C20th.</p>	<p>Work completed to time and budget.</p>	<p>Aghast that people could have vandalised this beautiful window, over 150 young people age 10-11 had signed a petition over 2 local history visits asking us to find a way of restoring and displaying this panel. We are so pleased to be able to deliver this in line with their wishes.</p> <p>In line with the flexible and creative approach to the project throughout an idea was developed for the display of this beautiful found artefact, and more time and budget savings have enabled delivery.</p>

Summary and commentary

Discover Christ Church! has completed a program of works that along with a (separately funded) project to add essential amenities and community use spaces, has completely transformed Christ Church's nave, from a cavernous, dingy, poorly lit space with an air of neglect, to a light bright welcoming space that is now home to significantly increased community use.

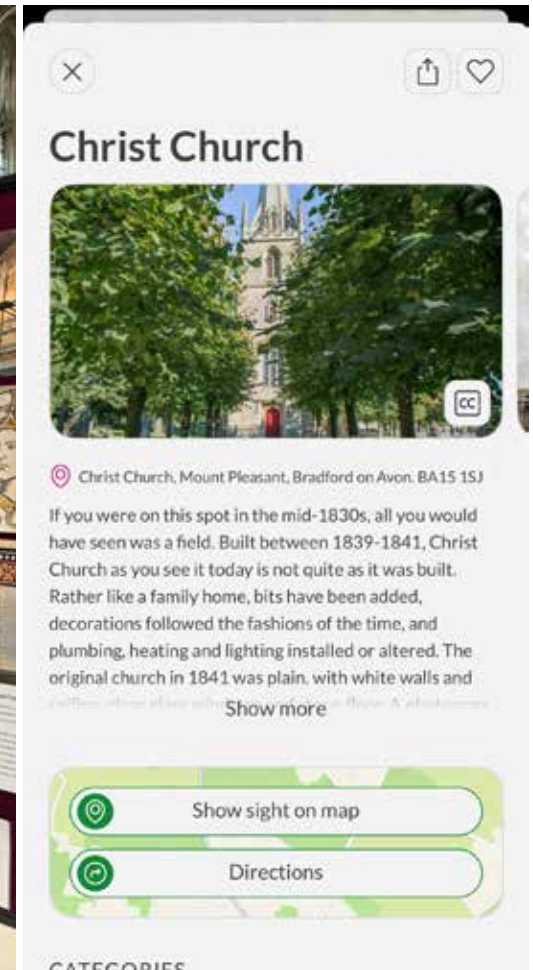
The additional works have saved and protected heritage artefacts and delivered their permanent display in the nave.

Sample of typical visitor book entries:



4.2.4 Heritage will be better identified and explained

Here we set out how we have better identified Christ Church's heritage through displays both temporary and permanent, interpretation materials on paper and on line, lighting, as well as through our program of events and activities.



Heritage will be identified and better explained			
Starting point	<p>As set out in greater detail in Section 2 above, Christ Church had little history, heritage or archaeological information available beyond 1990's photocopied book and booklet, and limited online information. It was not on any town map digital or paper. Within living memory there had been no heritage related events at Christ Church.</p> <p>Within the church there was a single painting showing how it appeared in its early years. Lighting was poor and it was hard to see some of the magnificent wall paintings and other heritage details.</p>		
Measure of success	How did we do this?	Completion, and any programme or cost implications (RAGG)	Evaluation & Learning
Lighting to better reveal heritage features of the nave	Installation of a new lighting system designed to highlight key heritage features such as Christ Church's magnificent wall paintings that are a key element in its Grade 2* listing, including Christ in Majesty with rainbow and the huge west wall archangels.	Yes All the wall paintings in the nave are now successfully lit by focussed or indirect lighting.	<p>Lighting has certainly highlighted heritage features as evidenced by discussions at Conversation and Craft and BoA Youth on for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Whether that is George and the dragon?' answer 'no its Archangel Michal slaying sin - shown as a monster' • The meanings of symbols • The rainbow image inspiring Year 6's designs for the large west door planters.

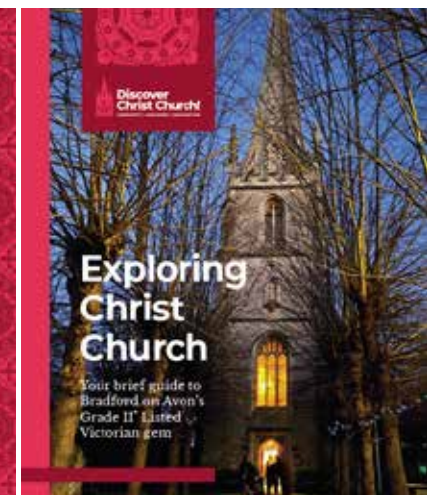
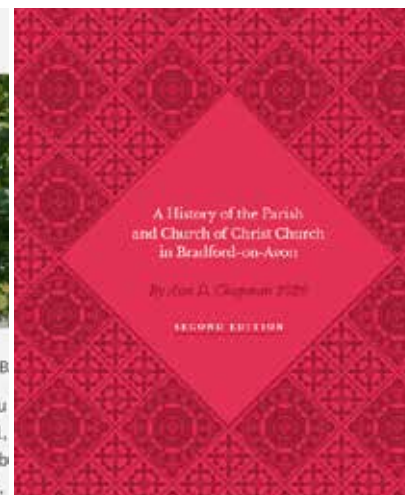


Christ Church



Christ Church, Mount Pleasant, Bradford on Avon, B

If you were on this spot in the mid-1830s, all you have seen was a field. Built between 1839-1841, Church as you see it today is not quite as it was. Rather like a family home, bits have been added,



<p>Community events identifying and explaining aspects of Christ Church's heritage and its restoration.</p>	<p>Over 150 events focussing on / related to the heritage and restoration of Christ Church have been delivered. These took a wide range of formats enabling people to discover and explore Christ Church's heritage features and to watch and/or 'have a go' at the traditional skills that created it. Examples of these are described in more detail at section 5.2.1 of this report</p> <p>A carer suggested we made memory & snap games using pictures of CC's heritage features – so we did and they were in use frequently at our Conversation & Craft sessions.</p>	<p>Yes we have identified and explained Christ Church's heritage via an extended program of mainly interactive events that have resulted in many more participations than the stretching target we had set ourselves.</p> <p>We have also ensured that for the whole life of the project there were DCC! displays in the nave that identified and explained the many aspects of Christ Church's built and natural heritage and its restoration.</p>	<p>We take DCC's attracting c.10,000 participations in events as a key indicator of peoples interest in the heritage of Christ Church and the traditional skills that created and have now restored key features.</p>
<p>Establish a dedicated DCC! website (by the end of the project this will be hosted in its entirety within the Christ Church section of the Benefice web site.)</p>	<p>Delivered by Brighter Side of Bradford on Avon, Squarespace web designer who has been used by a number of other community organisations locally.</p> <p>The Discover Christ Church! website went live in June 2024. It has been set up in a structured way to enable people to find out about the history of Christ Church and its churchyard, including a timeline with explanatory information relating to key dates and developments in the history of the church, key reports produced by DCC!, directories for the graves and kneelers and more.</p> <p>https://www.nboachurches.co.uk/dcc/discover-christ-church</p>	<p>Yes, however website delivered slightly later in the project program than planned due to other DCC! project pressures and finding the staff capacity to devote time to commissioning and working with the appointed consultant. Delivery was within the agreed quotation.</p> <p>The use of Squarespace was important to the Benefice as they were moving their website to that platform.</p> <p>Christ Church has its own dedicated section within the Benefice web site.</p> <p>Discover Christ Church! has proved easy to find via search engines as long as the exclamation mark is included!</p>	<p>Updating the website was a learning curve for DCC! staff, but fortunately we were able to call on the support of the web designer to help us through.</p> <p>We still find that periodic updating takes significant amounts of time, compared with IT tasks that are done daily or weekly.</p> <p>However we have observed that Squarespace seems to be user friendly in that non IT people can with effort master it.</p>

<p>Christ Church 'on the map'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Trail (digital & paper) • Explore Wiltshire App. (digital) • Town Council 	<p>Christ Church is 'on the map' at two sources (see pages 89 & 90 for links):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust Town Trail available to download on their website and handed out freely at the town centre Tourist Information Centre, at Christ Church and at other locations. • The Explore Wiltshire App. On their map and as part of the BoA Churches Trail. 	<p>Delivered as planned on two maps, at nil cost: one digital and paper and the other on an App.</p> <p>Explore Wiltshire welcomed and included DCC!'s contribution of explanatory and mapped information, and the Preservation Trust included Christ Church in an update to and new print run for their map.</p> <p>It has proved more difficult to get an update to include Christ Church on the Town Council's Explore BoA map, or to update the Town Trail to the current version.</p>	<p>We know that the BoA Preservation Trust paper Town Trail is well used as visitors to town are frequently seen with them, the Tourist Information centre regularly runs out, and the stack of trails at Christ Church regularly needs to be replenished.</p> <p>We feel that the steady increase in visitor numbers to Christ Church during the life of our project, from c. 600 at the start to c.1200 at the end is a good indicator that better signposting and interpretation of Christ Church is leading to increased visits.</p>
<p>History of Christ Church (book)</p>	<p>Publication of the second 2026 edition of the History of Christ Church brings its detailed history and local connections up to date, and includes the achievements of the DCC! project.</p> <p>Printed by Avon Print of Melksham, it is now an attractive full colour book with plenty of pictures and images.</p>	<p>Delivered as planned during the life of the DCC! project. Timed late in the project plan to enable inclusion of recent history, comprising both DCC! and other improvement works.</p> <p>150 copies delivered to agreed quality and budget.</p> <p>Copies donated to the British Library, BoA Museum and Library, and available from Christ Church, with a suggested donation of £5 to Christ Church Friends who's remit includes community outreach and building fabric.</p>	<p>By combining the graphic design and content ideas provided by Year 12 students with the skills of a professional graphic designer and the addition of a wide range of images and photographs has resulted in a very attractive looking book that is likely to attract more readers to find out about the history and heritage of Christ Church. It was however a time consuming task and steep learning curve for the DCC! staff member as they were not familiar with the conventions of printing books.</p>

<p>Exploring Christ Church: a short guide</p>	<p>Utilising co-design outputs from Year 12 students a professional graphic designer produced a full colour 24 page photograph heavy guide providing an up to date and accessible guide to the layout, features and evolution of Christ Church up to the present day and highlighting and explaining its key heritage features was developed.</p> <p>Printed by Avon Print of Melksham,</p>	<p>500 copies delivered to time and budget and were available with many copies being distributed at the DCC! Sip Sip Hooray end of project celebration. Copies available in the church with a suggested donation of £2 to Christ Church Friends whose remit includes community outreach and building fabric.</p> <p>Copies also offered to the Tourist Information Centre in the town centre, the museum and library.</p>	<p>The services of a professional graphic designer and the addition of a wide range of images and photographs has resulted in a very attractive looking visitor guide that is likely to attract visitors and locals alike to find out about the history and heritage of Christ Church. It was however a time consuming task and steep learning curve for the DCC! staff member as they were not familiar with the conventions of printing booklets.</p>
<p>DCC! displays/noticeboards inside and outside church during project implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical • On screen 	<p>DCC! has had a permanent and ever changing table top image and photo heavy display in Christ Church for the duration of the project, displaying information about the project including for example its heritage features, discoveries, restoration works, biodiversity enhancements and community activities.</p> <p>During the clock and spire restoration work a printed and branded metal signboard was hung on the scaffolding to explain to passers-by the ongoing work and had space for a poster to publicise events.</p> <p>During the nave wall and stained glass window cleaning and conservation a film loop with captions was played on a large screen so that people could find out about and see the conservation techniques being used high up on the scaffolding.</p>	<p>Delivered as planned.</p> <p>Displays were updated throughout the project as we explained and illustrated the ongoing conservation works, including areas inaccessible to the public and to display discoveries. For example displays showed photographs of the inside of the clock chamber and clock mechanism restoration, the process of re-gilding, the fitting of the re-gilded fingers onto the clock, and up close details of the stained glass windows, and details and marks found amongst the wall paintings. In addition several displays explaining the ongoing biodiversity improvements and achievements were put on at key times.</p>	<p>We are aware from Britain in Bloom South West's assessment of our 'Its Your Neighbourhood' submission that in both 2024 and 2025, the judges found our displays very helpful in illustrating the co-design and co-implementation of biodiversity improvements helpful in coming to their judgement of our work as 'Outstanding' for both years.</p> <p>For 2025 the Britain in Bloom SW assessment comments included:</p> <p><i>'Impressive information display explaining the project and the work of volunteers throughout the year'.</i></p>

<p>Biodiversity enhancement signs to explain reduced mowing, orchid colonies log piles etc</p>	<p>These were put up during the periods when the meadow species were left un-mown. Coinciding with the time when concerns were most likely to be expressed about the churchyard looking unkempt.</p> <p>We prepared a laminated plan for distribution to the Town Council Wardens and supervisor to clearly illustrate which areas and paths were to be regularly mown, and when the reduced mowing areas should be left untouched.</p>	<p>Delivered as planned.</p> <p>There were a few concerns in year 1 of reduced mowing and a few changes were made to ensure mowing continued around the most active graves.</p> <p>Concerns reduced to one in year 2, and again a minor change was made to the mowing regime.</p>	<p>We found that when we put up signs to explain the reduced mowing, the presence of orchid colonies, and log piles for recently discovered hedgehog, that the number of concerns about changes in management reduced.</p> <p>We prepared a written Biodiversity Enhancement Plan as well as a coloured plan but found that it was only the coloured plan that was in reality used by the Town Council to inform their maintenance and management operations.</p>
<p>At events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displays • Hands on activities • Meet the craftspeople in conjunction with BoA Youth 	<p>A very wide variety of means have been used to enable people of all ages to engage with and learn about the heritage of Christ Church, from hand on traditional craft and archaeological activities, to filmed footage and static displays explaining the restoration work undertaken, to 'did you know?' signs affixed to or by various heritage features of the building, as well as live displays of crafts such as blacksmithing, wood carving, spinning, carding, weaving and stained glass window cartoon making.</p> <p>We also explained and explored a range of crafts seen at Christ Church through table top activities at our intergenerational Conversation & Craft sessions, including stencilling, painting, mosaics, stained glass, as well as planting native bulbs and seeds in pots to take home.</p>	<p>With an extended program and many more events and activities delivered than planned we have actively engaged with many more people than was originally planned.</p>	<p>People like to explore and learn in different ways, and we found that offering a wide variety of means to explore and find out about Christ Church and its natural and built heritage was very well received with ratings of over 9 out of 10 given in all our feedback surveys.</p>

<p>Social media</p>	<p>We have actively used social media throughout Discover Christ Church! to illustrate, explain and publicise the community and conservation elements of our project, via Facebook, Instagram and You Tube.</p> <p>In order to contribute, the older member of DCC! staff had to learn the necessary skills for posting and harvesting information on views, comments etc.</p>	<p>Delivered as planned.</p> <p>Engagement steadily climbed during the project so that Facebook was consistently receiving over 400 and up to 600 views each month.</p>	<p>Expect the unexpected!</p> <p>Our most popular posts were both around 2500 views each – one for a volunteer at the top of the nave scaffolding with a 20’ feather duster commentating while dusting the rafters. The other was a clip by the steeplejack showing the spire ‘looking up, looking down’ and showing the churchyard and wider context of Christ Church.</p>
<p>Quizzes</p>	<p>Using the vehicle of creating a quiz, year 6 were invited to explore the history and features of Christ Church, and these were published on paper and on line for others to find out about Christ Church’s heritage and history.</p>	<p>Delivered as planned.</p>	<p>Although designed by young people for young people, adults have been seen showing interest in the quizzes and checking the answers!</p>
<p>Other organisations publications and publicity</p>	<p>The BoA Preservation Trust spread information on the project throughout its life by publishing 7 articles in 7 of their 3 times a year ‘Guardian Angel’ newsletters.</p> <p>Several Diocesan Grapevine newsletters covering restoration of clock, re-carving of stone pinnacle and our heritage celebrations. More articles and promotion are planned by the Diocese.</p>	<p>Delivered as planned with additional requests for us to run a ‘learning from Discover Christ Church!’ session for both the Salisbury and Bristol Dioceses in the very last days of the project (timing is so that they can harvest learning from this report) and also for them to publish and disseminate information about the best practice demonstrated by our project as a Case Study.</p> <p>Our The National Lottery Heritage Fund Investment Manager has also indicated that our project could make a good case study.</p>	<p>Our articles have been very well received by the BoA Preservation Trust (over 400 members) and they are keen to keep its dialogue with Christ Church going into the future via articles about its heritage and DCC!’s discoveries. Two more articles have been requested and one already provided for newsletters that will be published after the conclusion of our project.</p> <p>The 5500+ circulation Grapevine Diocesan newsletter has also published several articles and is keen to disseminate the good practice achieved by Discover Christ Church! as a Case Study.</p>

<p>Media coverage</p>	<p>We have secured multiple articles in print and on line, as well as a significant number of Breakfast Show radio slots – providing the opportunity to explain to a wider audience about the heritage features, discoveries and the restoration of Christ Church as well as how we intertwined this with community involvement.</p> <p>Outlets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wiltshire Times • BBC Radio Wiltshire • BBC News Wiltshire • West Wiltshire Radio <p>See pages 89 & 90 for links.</p>	<p>Delivered as planned throughout the project starting in October 2023 with the final BBC Radio Wiltshire interviews and BBC Wiltshire news item being published in February 2026.</p>	<p>Having a way with words is very beneficial in press releases garnering interest, and choosing the right person to draft these is key to success.</p> <p>We found that highlighting the unusual can also reap rewards, such as the carving of an intricate top stone by a former pupil of the school next door and our ‘Mystery embroidery’ can lead to unexpected coverage and explanation of heritage assets to a much broader audience.</p> <p>Occasionally we found that despite attending events and showing keen interest in heritage related activities, other news intervened and our event was not covered.</p>
<p>Permanent displays of DCC! discoveries:</p>	<p>Several of the Christ Church’s hidden secrets are now permanently on display in the nave for all to see, with explanatory information either nearby or in the DCC! published Exploring Christ Church visitor guide.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A stained glass window panel found in the cellar • A ‘work in progress late C19th with 1970s additions embroidery, and • 90 of the kneelers previously hidden under pews now forming a pair of tapestry displays in the nave. 	<p>These are unexpected bonuses of our project that have been delivered as a result of careful budget management and extension of the project program to enable increased delivery on our approved purposes and outcomes.</p> <p>These features increase the potential for visitors to find out about additional craft skills and heritage assets associated with Christ Church.</p>	<p>We found it important to be flexible in the detail of our project planning and delivery so that we could realise opportunities as they presented themselves.</p> <p>This did cause additional work and pressure on DCC! staff, but feedback from visitors and congregation is that by revealing, displaying and explaining these finds we have enhanced the appearance and heritage interest and value of Christ Church.</p>

Summary and commentary

Discover Christ Church! has revealed a significant number of heritage assets that were previously difficult to see, hidden from view or not known about, from important wall paintings, to stained glass, embroidery and tapestry kneelers depicting heritage features of the church building.

We have also successfully delivered multimedia presentations, displays and explanations of the history of Christ Church, its heritage features and Discover Christ Church!'s program of restoration through a variety of media including print, online and radio as well as through c.150 events and activities, attracting c.10,000 participations, newsletter reach to at least 7000 readers of other organisations newsletters plus unknown numbers of local radio listeners and BBC Wiltshire news and Wiltshire Times readers.



4.2.5 The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit

Our project has delivered both a restored and enhanced internal and outdoor physical environment it has also developed a community life in this building that previously did not exist - some of which are planned to continue into the future. Further details below.



The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit

Starting point

We knew from pre-application consultation that there was a need and desire for community activities at Christ Church, and that its location in a relatively flat area at the top of the hill is walkable from the surrounding neighbourhoods to the north, west and south. Also that there was a strong desire from both the schools and other organisations to be involved in our project.

Early research showed that Christ Church was not on the town's tourist maps on paper or on line, and that the photocopied visitor information and history book was dated and in short supply.

The management of the churchyard mainly prioritised mowing to the detriment of the meadow species present.

The Benefice Office with its daily administrator presence was in an isolated location in the nearby community centre.

Measure of success

How did we do this?

Completion, and any programme or cost implications (RAGG)

Evaluation & Learning

Events held, participations, diversity of participation and target groups engaged.

During the life of the project, we considerably expanded the offer of community events within easy walking distance of the northern half of the town, both regular and one offs throughout the life of the project.

The breadth and extent of these events as well as diversity of engagement including with target audiences is described in Section 5.2.1 above, and clearly indicates significant growth across the project, plus the legacy benefits of events now planned for the future.

Our community events with their focus on heritage, crafts and biodiversity attracted attendances and volunteering that exceeded all relevant targets, including participations, diversity of participation and volunteering are clear indicators of success.

Without doubt the introduction of a wide range of heritage related community activities and events held at Christ Church and the positive feedback thereon indicates that DCC! has contributed to making this part of town a better place to live, work and visit.

We learned through the experience of delivering the project that the community interest in Christ Church as a place and as a venue for community activities and events was very much a reality.

The PCC has learned through our project that there is significant community interest Christ Church, and in response has established a dedicated Community Outreach and Fundraising group to ensure that this continues into the future, while the Benefice Family Liaison Officer job description now includes for the continued delivery of two of the main DCC! initiated community events.

	<p>Focussing on our target audiences of young people and those with Dementia, we established regular intergenerational Conversation & Craft sessions held during school hours and also Thursday BoA Youth Sessions supported by Youth Workers.</p> <p>In response to a request from St Laurence Secondary School, we expanded our Conversation & Craft sessions to include sessions for all 7 Year 7 classes.</p> <p>At one session a student spontaneously gave the volunteers his silk painted card saying, 'Thank you church!'</p>	<p>DCC! is also delivering significant legacy benefits from the project, with firm commitments and plans being in place for both regular intergenerational Conversation & Craft plus BoA Youth sessions to continue into the future as well as plans for the monthly pop up café to include a heritage themed session summer 2026. In addition plans are in place to continue to partner with Year 6 in monitoring and evaluating the success of the biodiversity enhancement plan, as well as for the bespoke Year 6 history tours to continue their facilitated small group exploration of the heritage and social history of Christ Church. So these successes will continue into the future, contributing positively to our local area as a place to live, work (or go to school) and visit.</p>	<p>We learned that while very beneficial to expand provision for Year 7, that this stretched DCC! staff resources beyond what was manageable. If this is to be continued into the future additional resources would need to be found, possibly in the form of grant funding to provide the human resources and material costs.</p> <p>A secondary staff member commented 'I think the project is brilliant and I know that research shows that the value of inter-generational activities benefits all parties involved'</p>
<p>Feedback on events</p>	<p>We gathered and assessed feedback throughout the life of the project, including:</p> <p>Anecdotal: by collecting quotes from people on the success or otherwise of our events throughout the project. Some are recorded on our table of events, while those received by email were saved and filed.</p>	<p>Key Indicators of success of our events program helping to make our local area a better place to live, work and visit came from all age groups and via various means. Responses were overwhelmingly positive, including from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Feedback pots' at most events, with numbers being recorded in our Record of Events. • Our 2026 end of project surveys drew 117 responses re: 	<p>The learning from feedback gave us confidence in planning for the DCC! program of events as the project proceeded, but also provided invaluable information for planning beyond the life of DCC! and boosting the case for legacy continuation of several key initiatives.</p> <p>The survey responses also gave us confidence in evaluating the success of our events, whilst also harvesting ideas for the future.</p>

	<p>Observations and photographs were collected and reported on to TNLHF throughout the project, including informal indicators such as chatter, smiles and laughter.</p> <p>Feedback pots at most events, recording the numbers of Excellent, OK or poor after each on our record of events.</p> <p>We sought the views of event participants as to the success of our community events by means of feedback pots at most events, and mid-point and end of project surveys.</p>	<p>1. Conversation & Craft (C&C) + BoA Youth Drop-Ins: 56 responses (young people undercounted as responded in groups) gave ratings of >9/10 for using Christ Church as a venue, intergenerational events, enjoyment and wanting C&C and BoA Youth to continue into the future.</p> <p>2. The project overall: 61 responses gave ratings of over 9.5/10 ratings for our events, the conservation of heritage features at Christ Church, the new amenities and spaces, as well as compliments about the achievements of the project including diversity of inclusion. 56% want to hear about future events and 26% offering to help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our July 2025 online survey of 31 Heritage Celebration participants (21% first time visitors) gave an average 5/5 rating for holding the event at Christ Church, enjoyment, and for the mix of activities displays and hospitality, and 93% wanting to see more Community events at Christ Church • 71 people (21% first time visitors) surveyed re the July 2024 Heritage Celebration weekend, 96% rating it as good to excellent, 89% telling us they had discovered something new in terms of heritage, 82% fed in new ideas for the future and also said they wanted to hear about future events. • The sample of quotations given along with the Executive Summary clearly indicate success 	<p>We found that inviting people to not only rate events but also contribute ideas for future events provided us with valuable contributions that helped shape the future program of community events thereby helping to make our local area a better place to live, work and visit.</p> <p>We learned that while it is great to ask people to complete surveys at events, these were so busy that it was difficult to find the staff or volunteer capacity to do so and therefore sometimes follow up emails with a request to complete were needed.</p> <p>We found it best to have a member of staff or volunteer inviting attendees to use the feedback pots. This not only encouraged feedback but also discouraged handfals being thrown into one pot!</p> <p>We also consider that the Town Council's support of DCC! initiated BoA Youth drop-in sessions, both through advertising and providing a Town Council Youth Workers, is an indicator that they consider these sessions are of significant value to young people, and indirectly indicates that they consider these sessions help make BoA a better place for young people to live.</p>
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		Our end of project survey including feedback across all age groups rated our community events at 9.5/10 and across the board support for continuation of events initiated by DCC!, suggestions for future events and a remarkable 83% of adult respondents wanting to keep in touch or help at future events (we asked young people not to provide direct contact details).	The planned continuation of key DCC! events and initiatives into the future ensures that our local area will continue to be a better place to live work and visit than it was before our project started.
Visitor numbers and feedback in visitor book	We monitored both our pedestrian counters and the Visitor Book located close to the main entrance into Christ Church throughout the duration of the project, both for numbers but also for comments. These were recorded and reviewed monthly as part of our ongoing project monitoring.	<p>Visitor numbers and Visitor Book entries increased steadily throughout the project, indicating Christ Church's increasing role as a place to visit.</p> <p>Comments in the Visitor Book gave us an insight into whether Christ Church is a better place to visit. They were overwhelmingly positive, and included specific comments from visitors from near and far highlighting the transformation of this place through DCC! conservation works and the improvements that delivered essential on-site amenities. Anecdotally, volunteers and members of the congregation have also received very many similar comments, supporting that our project has made a positive contribution to our local area as a place to live, work and visit.</p>	<p>Both the pedestrian counters and the Visitor Book have their limitations but we concluded that these were the best means to give an indication of numbers and views by visitors coming in outside our events.</p> <p>While most people enter and exit through the main West Door, particularly for larger events some use the South Door and are therefore not counted.</p> <p>While there is a sign to encourage signing of the visitor book, only a small number do. Asking people can help encourage, but this is not feasible or practical.</p>
Community 'what's on' noticeboard near entrance in nave	As a result of budget savings on other lines we were able to commission and deliver a new visually prominent 'What's on' noticeboard in the main community open space near the main entrance.	<p>Delivered to agreed program and budget, and in active use to promote events including DCC! current and follow on legacy events.</p> <p>The noticeboard provides information on upcoming community events for all visitors to Christ Church, and a table below accommodates fliers advertising events for people to pick up.</p>	Our flexible approach to the detail of project planning has enabled us to respond to opportunities and realise additional benefits that enhance both building user and visitor experience, while also promoting community use in this newly restored and improved place.

<p>Christ Church on the map</p>	<p>Christ Church and 'teaser' information about its history and heritage has been added to the Town's the main paper and web based heritage focussed map, as well as inclusion within a trail added to the Explore Wiltshire App.</p>	<p>Christ Church is indeed on the map, both on paper and on line, thereby adding to and enhancing the visitor experience, both enabling the planning of visits and providing information during a visit.</p> <p>The Town Trail maps have also proved popular with locals who have told us they are taking them for themselves and for use with friends and family. We found that the first 50 copies available at Christ Church went within a very few weeks, and additional supplies have kindly been provided by the Preservation Trust.</p>	<p>Successful delivery was achieved mid to later in the project, as we found that not only did it take time to grow relationships with external organisations, but we also had to wait in the case of the Town Trail for a planned update and new print run of this map.</p>
<p>Visitor Guide, history book and website</p>	<p>We updated and improved the existing guide to a more attractive and well-illustrated professionally designed format, as well as updating the content to the present day. A similar approach has been taken with the book.</p> <p>The DCC! web pages now hosted within the Benefice website provide digital access to information that was previously only available in print, and also to recent initiatives and discoveries at Christ Church.</p>	<p>The availability of attractive and updated printed and online historical and heritage related information has added not only to the visitor experience, but has also proved popular with locals who have told us they wanted them to read themselves and to share with friends and family.</p> <p>People have also told us how professional they think our new professionally designed resources look.</p>	<p>DCC! has delivered high quality, attractive and updated historical and heritage related resources in print and online. Visitor numbers and the number of copies taken gives us a good indication that there is interest in the resources produced.</p>
<p>Restored and improved CC provides a much improved working environment for the Benefice Administrator</p>	<p>The new office was not part of the DCC! project, but Christ Church now hosts the Benefice Office and its administrator.</p>	<p>The administrator has commented how many people come into Christ Church and how much better a working environment it is for them compared with the previous remote and isolated office, also how she enjoys the light of the (newly cleaned) stained glass windows shining onto the wall opposite.</p>	<p>The move of the Benefice Office to Christ Church as benefits for both staff and also benefits for the newly restored and improved building as there is informal supervision most mornings.</p>

Enhanced biodiversity in the churchyard.	The reduced mowing, planting of over 3000 native bulbs and 20 trees and shrubs, as well as the installation of two metre square planters framing the main West Door have significantly enhanced the appearance of the churchyard for both people and insects, and the welcome into the building.	Delivered as planned to time and budget and involving over 463 young people along with volunteers from the Christ Church Green Team, BoA Preservation Trust and Climate Friendly BoA.	The independent evaluation of Discover Christ Church! in the RHS Britain in Bloom South West Its Your Neighbourhood as outstanding in 2025 and 2026, is an indication that they judge the biodiversity enhancements and community engagement to have benefitted our local area.
New non DCC! community events following completion of capital works	This is something outside the control of the project, however the restoration works that DCC! has completed and the displays of heritage items and a community noticeboard have enhanced the attractiveness of Christ church as a place to hold events and for people to participate in events.	<p>Recent new events held at the newly restored and improved Christ Church have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bradford Choral Society concert with 70 strong choir, small orchestra and audience spilling onto additional chairs at the back. • Beautiful Gong Spaces and Yoga sessions in the new community space • Regular Saturday morning cafés some themed (heritage theme planned for the summer) • Mothers Union – held at Christ Church for the first time in years. 	<p>The holding of new events in Christ Church is evidence that it can attract new community uses in this part of Bradford on Avon, and the increased offer of community activities is successfully enhancing the local area as a place to live, work and visit.</p> <p>The Musical Director of Bradford on Avon Choral in his opening speech expressed great pride in being the first concert in years to be held here and described the restored and improved Christ Church as the ‘jewel in Bradford on Avon’s Crown’.</p>
Summary and commentary	<p>With its development of a wide range of inclusive community activities for people of all ages, restoration and enhancements that have been delivered and the plans for continuation after the conclusion of our project, and very positive participant feedback from all ages it is clear that Discover Christ Church! project has contributed significantly to enhancing the local area as a place to live, work and visit both now and into the future. The project has resulted in a legacy of community activities planned to continue into the future, as well as a beautifully restored community space that is already attracting a diversity of new uses. By bringing the Benefice office into the church, mutual benefits accrue: improved working conditions for the administrator and informal oversight of the newly restored and enhanced spaces. Outside the landmark spire clock gleams and flowers and fine grasses bloom for most months of the year, enhancing the environment for people and habitat value for slow worms, hedgehog, newt, frog, butterflies and other insects – all of which have been found here. All giving an outward indication of new life within the building itself.</p>		

St Laurence Secondary School Teaching Assistant on the Conversation and Crafts sessions:

'The variety of arts and crafts that are available for each class have been very fun and engaging. The whole event has been planned out brilliantly and has allowed for each of our students to engage with the community on a relaxed basis.... I have had the opportunity to speak to many students who attended, and all have given glowing praise about their experience and hope to attend again in the future. (DCC! Community Outreach Officer) has been incredibly warm and welcoming to all of our kids and have been very accommodating to those students who may need some extra support... (making) sure all students can join in by ensuring there are little cakes available with those who have dietary requirements. She has really gone above and beyond during this event, and I want her to be recognised for that. Thank you!'





4.3 Discoveries

Before we embarked on the Discover Christ Church! project, we knew from consultation and preliminary investigations that there was a lot to discover and explore, but little did we know just how apt our project title would be and how our discoveries would result in such widespread interest. We also discovered just how much interest there is in heritage related events and the generous capacity there is for volunteering within our fabulous local community.

During the project we were able to respond flexibly and creatively to maximise the opportunities that these discoveries presented, thereby enhancing delivery on our agreed purposes and outcomes.

We describe in this section just some of the discoveries that we have made along the way and how these have been publicised and promoted to a wider audience, as well as the levels of community interest in our project and supporting events and activities into the future.

4.3.1 Heritage

Windows on the past (under plain paint)



We were aware following early advice from the Conservator that the plain paint on the lower nave walls hid C1870s stencilled patterns and painting beneath. In 2021, during Covid, during a Year 5 consultation visit, we shone a theatre light up the walls to show these in relief, and drawn predictions of what lay under the paint.

2025: As a part of the nave wall conservation work, over paint was removed from a long vertical strip beside the tower arch, revealing a lower band of dark blue with fleur de Lys designs, and an ornate stencilled pattern covering the entire walls above. Similarly in the lobby we uncovered part of a frieze of similar design to that seen up high on the nave walls.

The patterns found bear a remarkable likeness to the some of the 2021 predictions of the primary school children!

These 'windows on the past' make an attractive and fascinating feature in the newly restored nave, and have been left uncovered for visitors to see and enjoy. They are explained in our Visitor Guide. Regulars and visitors alike have commented on how much they like them being there.

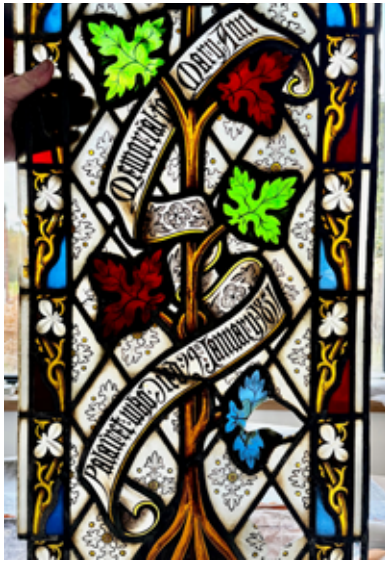
Makers initials and date 1925



During the cleaning and conservation of the nave walls, friezes and decorations, high up above a painted crown design the conservator discovered the initials of two people (presumed to be the painters), along with the date 1925. These were the last decorations to be added to the nave walls.

This discovery has been highlighted in our Visitor Guide as a 'fun fact'.
Include YouTube link ? - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vQ3ZfYTVQw>

Tree of life panel



This 'Tree of Life' design stained glass window panel was discovered during the preparatory stages of the project. One of a pair it was found leaning up against a stash of slate roof tiles in the darkest and furthest vault of the church cellar. We discovered that the panels were 2 of 3 that are all that remain of a large stained glass window in the tower, but which had been vandalised beyond repair in the late 1970s/early 80s. The window is a memorial to a member of the family that funded the building of the original school buildings next door and is therefore a lovely connection to our primary school.

The panels were brought out at all our heritage celebration events as well as for the Year 6 local history tours of the church. Each year the young people were aghast at the vandalism that had resulted in the loss of this window, and they wanted to know why anyone would do such a thing. At the displays, people of all ages signed up on sheets expressing their interest in and support for getting them restored and displayed in the church, perhaps through the TV's Repair shop program.

Due to careful budget management and savings on other budget lines, late on in the project we were able to commission Great Panes Stained Glass to re-lead the most complete panel and use a few donor panes from the other panel to restore it to its former complete self. This was then framed on a daylight LED light box and mounted in a visually prominent location on one of the new pod walls, for all to enjoy. Information on this discovery is included in the new Visitor Guide.



Late on in the project, when clearing out an old Victorian wardrobe in the corner of the nave, volunteers found this 'work in progress' embroidery, complete with its needle, pins and threads waiting to be sown. No one knows who the talented embroiderer was or why their beautiful work stopped, and was left on an old picture frame in a yellowing pillow case.

Research found that the applique embroidery uses late C19th techniques, close inspection by the Wednesday Coffee Group (including several embroiderers) spotted that the applique had been cut from a (presumably) earlier piece of work. Google lens helped identify a piece of card around which silk thread was wrapped as a 1970's buckle card. It is therefore concluded that the piece comprises earlier (C19th) embroidery being reworked in c.1970's into a new altar superfrontal.

This discovery along with an explanatory caption has been framed to museum standards and is now on permanent display in the nave. Its discovery is explained in our Visitor Guide. It also captured the interest of the press – with a BBC Wiltshire article and link to a Radio Wiltshire interview covering both this and the stained glass discovery described above. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgjzyzzjwido>

Kneeler display



While the designer of the 222 tapestry kneelers that are such a distinctive feature of Christ Church is still an active member of the community and congregation, the fact that each individual design depicts a different heritage feature or detail of the building was largely lost. About 90 of the kneelers languished on the floor under pews, where they were hidden from sight and at risk of dirt and damage.

Due to careful budget management and given the opportunity to further extend delivery on the outcomes of our project we were able to commission the architect to design two custom designed shelving units that would create a tapestry of the surplus kneelers that would encourage people to look at them close up and see and enjoy the unique design of each. This discovery is explained in our Visitor Guide, and the kneelers have all been cleaned, catalogued, scanned and published on our website along with information

Please see our kneeler cleaning clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKJiufY8W2g>

Trowel its story, origin and date



The silver foundation trowel dating from 1839 is kept in the safe.

However, members of the public at our heritage celebration events as well as Year 6 students as part of their Year 6 Local History Project, have found it fascinating to be able to handle the trowel and have each time wanted to read the intricate inscriptions and use a magnifying glass to decipher the hallmark – finding that it was made in Birmingham and dates from the late C1830's when the church was built. They have also deciphered the Roman numerals to work out when the foundation stone was laid. They are also keen to discuss the location of the foundation stone itself, but this remains a complete mystery.

At a recent community celebration event, a local resident came along with the story that told how the foundation trowel had been discovered and returned to Christ Church by his family. We need to follow this up to get the whole story and publish it on our web site.




Historic records 1870s to 1970s



We discovered during the pre-application consultations that the Primary School holds a fascinating collection of historic documents associated with the school, ranging from 1870's school inspection reports, early air photos, war time meeting notes and on up to photos from the 1970's.

These are kept by the school as a resource for the Year 6 Local History Project, but have been loaned to our project for our Heritage Celebration events, where they have been the source of endless fascination amongst all ages. There have been several occasions where people have spotted family members in the photos, as well as recognising class mates in the 1970s photos and then finding that the very same people were attending the same celebration event – so connections were rekindled some 50 years later!





4.3.2 Biodiversity

<p>Wildflowers</p> 	<p>We discovered early on in the project that a local botanist had undertaken a Covid time survey of the churchyard, when mowing was not taking place. He discovered and recorded an extensive species list of wildflowers and fine grasses, which are thought to be reflective of the meadow that was here before the church was built in the late 1830s.</p> <p>As a result of this we worked with Year 5 students to survey the churchyard and count the number of plant species found in 1m quadrat squares. With the support of a professional ecologist and other adults with an interest in botany the young people found that there were significantly more wildflower and grass species in lesser mown areas than there were in the more mown areas.</p> <p>In addition it had been noted that the grasses behind the church (north side) were coarser and less diverse with far fewer wildflowers. When digging holes for native woodland edge trees and shrubs, Year 5 discovered very rocky and debris loaded ground. We concluded that this area was probably the 'builders yard' for the construction of the church – leaving the diverse meadow species to the west, south and east undisturbed.</p> <p>As a result of the DCC! introduction of reduced mowing area, we found colonies of orchids, and each year BoA Youth members have been out with canes and tape to protect these and ensure they can flower and seed before these areas are mown.</p>
<p>Slow worms and newts</p> 	<p>Members of the Green Team could recall seeing slow worms in the north west corner of the churchyard. Following this tip, and in advance of the initial Year 6 surveys of the churchyard, and following the advice of the ecologist, roof tiles were put out in sunny spots.</p> <p>Much to the excitement of the young people slow worms and newts were discovered, with pictures taken as evidence.</p> <p>Their presence has again informed the Biodiversity Enhancement Plan, with these areas being identified for reduced mowing.</p>
<p>Hedgehog</p> 	<p>Late on in the project a builder discovered and reported to DCC! staff that they had found a live hedgehog that had fallen into an open service trench (new sewerage connection for the on-site toilets). This is the first time that we were made aware of the presence of hedgehogs.</p> <p>We responded by requesting that ramps were put in while the trench remained open so that hedgehogs could escape.</p> <p>During the session to plant additional native spring bulbs, Year 6 students took advantage of finishing early and responded positively to an invitation to collect fallen sticks and wood from around the churchyard, to create woodpiles along the boundary with the school, thereby creating habitat for insects and shelter for hedgehogs.</p>

4.3.3 Community engagement, interest and capacity




Pre-application consultations indicated significant interest in engaging with our project, but as ever ‘The proof of the pudding is in the eating’ and as highlighted in our Risk Management Plan was a risk that this would not materialise..

As set out in more detail in Section 4.2.1 above, early on in the project we discovered that significant numbers of people, organisations and businesses were keen to engage with our project, including in a voluntary or social contribution capacity. Through knowing our starting point and monitoring throughout the project, we discovered that not only did significant numbers of people participate in different capacities from visitor and participant through to volunteer, but organisations and businesses were keen to engage and offer social contributions. In addition our monitoring shows growth trends over time for visits to Christ Church, numbers attending our regular Conversation & Craft and BoA Youth session

	<p>Community interest in participating and engaging with the heritage of Christ Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 10,000 participations across 150 inclusive heritage themed events • c.560 Primary School and 235 Secondary School students actively and inclusively involved in co-design and heritage related events and activities, including c.350 with additional needs.
	<p>Volunteer capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 3500 volunteer hours contributed overall • 39+ people interested in volunteering at Christ Church in the future
	<p>Organisations interested in engaging at Christ Church and with its heritage</p> <p>c. 60 organisations engaged in a wide range of capacities from participation in events, to ongoing commitments throughout the project, including provision of craft and biodiversity skills for events, support for Conversation & Craft events, to reporting our project progress to members, volunteers and professional expertise.</p>
	<p>Discover Christ Church! becomes a Case Study</p> <p>During the delivery of our project a number of different churches and the Diocese sought meetings with and presentations so that others could learn from our experience and successes. A webinar was also delivered with the Bishop of Ramsbury.</p> <p>In response to requests to learn from our experience, the Salisbury Diocese is promoting Discover Christ Church! as a case study, with an in person workshop being held at Christ Church on 28 April 2026. This is being promoted via both the Salisbury and Bristol Dioceses as a: ‘Hear first-hand: The National Lottery Heritage Fund at Discover Christ Church!’, complete with tour of the restoration and improvement works and Q&A. Following this Salisbury Diocese have said they wish to share our learning by publishing our short project film, this final evaluation report and a recorded Q&A session on their website.</p>

4.3.4 Condition of heritage assets outside the original scope of DCC!

As a result of careful budget management and creative approaches to the delivery of events, cost savings were made. This enabled us to commission condition reports at the end of the project, to assess and provide advice on necessary works in areas not covered by our original grant application proposal. As agreed with our Investment Manager, these reports extended delivery on our agreed purposes. They also provide legacy outputs in the form of specialist information on the condition of key heritage features that will complement the Quinquennial Inspection being undertaken in April 2026:

	<p><u>Stained Glass windows</u></p> <p>During the DCC! funded cleaning and minor repairs to the stained glass windows in the nave, it became apparent that the Warrington window (Christ Church's earliest and most colourful window) was not stable. It was not possible to address this within the DCC! project scope, consents and timetable.</p> <p>However later on in the project, we and following receipt of an acceptable quotation, were able to commission Great Panes Stained Glass to provide advice on the condition of this and all the stained glass windows at Christ Church, and provide general recommendations and guidance for any conservation or restoration work that might be needed in the future.</p>
<p>Inside the spire</p> 	<p>Our perpetually leaky spire: In November 2025, after the architect had certified satisfactory completion of pointing of the spire stonework and found that following heavy rains, the spire was acceptably dry, there was a severe storm. Christ Church being located on the highest point in town, takes the brunt of storms, and this one led to a very unusual pattern of water ingress in the spire. It was found to be dripping vertically in the space inside the spire (something that the Tower Captain has never seen before), and onto the clock connecting rods and through the roof of the clock cupboard.</p> <p>To find out what was needed to address this, and following receipt of an acceptable quotation, we commissioned the steeplejack to repeat their inspection of the inside of the spire, as well as an external inspection facilitated by a drone pilot and the Inspecting Architect. Their brief was to see if they could find anywhere that the storm had opened up joints or caused other damage. A summary report with recommendations for future work was provided. We discovered that the DCC! works to the stonework and pointing were intact and there was no apparent storm damage. However, inside the spire an earlier internal water capture and drainage system was found, and it is now suggested that this should be restored and upgraded to take the water away and better protect the clock, timber and bells below. This is likely to be a much more cost effective solution.</p>
<p>Lady chapel wall showing water damage</p> 	<p>Discovering what else needs doing: DCC! focussed its heritage work and available budget on the main nave space at Christ Church and this has transformed the appearance and atmosphere of the building. However it has also very much highlighted the poor condition of adjacent spaces that form an integral part of this Grade 2* Listed building and heritage features. These areas are all open to and visually prominent in view from the nave. They include the entrance lobby at the west door, the Lady Chapel, Sanctuary and organ chamber.</p> <p>Following receipt of an acceptable quotation, the Conservator was commissioned to provide Condition Reports for the lobby, lady chapel, and south porch. A condition report for the water damaged and dull wall paintings in the Sanctuary and organ chamber were separate from and outside the scope of DCC! and funded separately.</p> <p>These give invaluable guidance on Christ Church's future restoration needs.</p>

4.4 Project governance and management

In this section we pull together our evaluation of and learning from our main governance and management arrangements into one place.

4.4.1 Governance arrangements

<p>Starting point:</p>	<p>It had been over 20 years since Christ Church had delivered a large project, and therefore governance and reporting arrangements needed to be set up and agreed from scratch.</p> <p>In order to help give certainty in terms of appropriate governance and deliverability, the proposed arrangements were defined and agreed by the Parochial Church Council in Terms of Reference and with reporting lines and a summary of responsibilities as set out in the diagram below. These were included in our TNLHF grant application.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Discover Christ Church! Governance and Key Responsibilities Diagram 28 June 2022</p> <p>Church Architect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quinquennial Inspection (2019) Future 4 Christ Church Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design, consents and contract administration for kitchen, toilets, office etc Discover Christ Church! project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract administration for heritage restoration and new lighting Valuations & recommendations to Working Group <p>Community Advisors: Head of Year 5 Christ Church School, Ark Toddler Group parent, BoA, Preservation Trust Council of Management Member, Dementia Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments, suggestions, ideas on project content, proposals, design and engagement Advice on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion & special needs curriculum opportunities heritage matters and opportunities <p>Parochial Church Council (PCC): Rector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church finance, Care and maintenance of Church building Charitable status All Members are Charity Trustees Safeguarding Duty of Care Chair of PCC Priest in Charge Employs staff HR and payroll for DCC officers Lead for Safeguarding <p>Future for Christ Church Working Group (WG) 8 Members (Rector +3 PCC, Bell Tower Captain, 1 congregation, local business person, Families Worker] including designated Discover Christ Church! Lead Member Terms of Reference set by PCC, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with & involve the wider community Deliver facilities enabling wider community uses, Conservation and restoration of heritage assets, Sustainability and Biodiversity enhancements Secure consents Prepare overall Project Plan, Program and Budget, and for PCC approval. Fundraising Select & appoint contractors Overall budget management + payments Instruct, receive, review and approve plans, monitoring and reports from architect and project officers. Project and budget update reports to PCC <p>Discover Christ Church! project</p> <p>Project Administrator (PA) Project and budget monitoring, management and reporting, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide and oversee PO outputs Authorise payments over £500 Compliance with funding body requirements including reporting Monthly progress reports to WG <p>Community Outreach Project Officer (PO) Develop, procure, promote and implement an Inclusive programme of community engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare Community Engagement and Communications Plans Authorise payments up to £500 Prepare and provide programming, progress, and financial monitoring information to PA for reporting Uraise with Architect re programme <p>KEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting line (solid arrow) Provision of advice (dashed arrow) 	
<p>What was proposed?</p>	<p>What actually happened?</p>	<p>Evaluation and learning</p>
<p>Written terms of reference and a summary diagram set out and illustrated the governance and reporting arrangements for the Discover Christ Church! Project as well as for the Future for Christ Church Working Group that oversaw the delivery of the project.</p>	<p>These arrangements were largely successfully implemented as planned, with the Working Group consulting the PCC as necessary, and approving project proposals, major spend, progress reports.</p>	<p>Decision making arrangements were clear and worked well, and the financial support from a member of the Working Group proved to be an invaluable check for all grant and expenses claims.</p>

<p>The diagram included summaries of roles and responsibilities, financial delegations and reporting lines for the two Discover Christ Church! Posts as shown above.</p>	<p>Approvals of grant claims was delegated to a Working Group member with significant experience of financial planning.</p> <p>There were just two changes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The DCC! posts reported to the Working Group as shown, and they in turn reported to and sought necessary approvals from the PCC, rather than the officers reporting to both the PCC and the Working Group. b. The Rector had a more proactive role in the line management of the Community Outreach officer than originally envisaged. 	<p>By having single reporting lines with PCC members of the working group liaising with the rest of the PCC proved to be a cleaner, more streamlined and efficient way of working than the arrangements originally proposed.</p> <p>The change to line management arrangements was more complex than originally envisaged, and it might have been beneficial to revisit the governance diagram at the outset of the new arrangements to give clarity for all.</p>
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4.4.2 Staffing

Two posts were agreed as part of our grant application and were filled shortly after award of grant.

What was proposed?	What actually happened?	Evaluation and learning
<p>The staffing arrangements envisaged a clear differentiation between the roles of the Project Coordinator and the Community Outreach Officer with the former to focus on direction, oversight and management and the latter to focus on community outreach and engagement in all its forms and delivery of the diverse community engagement and communications plan.</p>	<p>The proposed arrangements worked as planned and very effectively.</p> <p>In some instances relationship building with organisations took longer than anticipated.</p> <p>The workload associated with planning and delivering large events resulted in significant peaks in workload, and it was down to the goodwill of project staff that these were successfully delivered.</p> <p>At very busy time and when life events or unavoidable absences intervened, continued project delivery was ensured by the post holders working flexibility between the roles.</p>	<p>For any future projects with such a small project team it might be beneficial to build into the job descriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to peaks in workload, • Arrangements to ensure that these could be offset within the agreed working hours, time off in lieu, to seek to ensure both acceptable workloads and project delivery, and also a • Degree of flexibility between the posts, especially given the very small project team, to again ensure continued project delivery during times of unavoidable or unexpected challenges. <p>We found that the original duration of the community outreach post did not take account of the time it takes to build relationships with organisations and a longer duration should have been proposed.</p>

<p>The Community Outreach post was envisaged as a year round 3 days per week role.</p>	<p>This arrangement was not a good match with the school/holiday patterns of a key target audience – young people.</p> <p>We were fortunate the post holder stayed for the entire and extended duration of the project, as we are aware that the latter stages of fixed term contracts can be at risk of staff leaving.</p>	<p>It would have been better for the Job Description for the Community Outreach post to have specified more working days in term time when nearly all events were held, and less in the school holidays when desk based activities such as data harvesting and web site development could have been focussed.</p> <p>It would have been helpful for line management for the employment contract to specify working hours rather than days.</p>
<p>The Project Coordinator role was calculated as a year round 3 day per week role.</p> <p>The Job Description and salary were set up with a 1.5 day per week role for the same post.</p>	<p>The grant application documentation was reviewed and approved by the Working Group prior to submission of the grant application.</p> <p>Due to an error in the calculations at the grant application stage, this role was advertised and costed in the grant application at 1.5 days per week.</p> <p>After some months it became apparent that the role required the originally envisaged 3 days per week capacity. Fortunately the post holder was willing to provide 1.5 days in a voluntary capacity, and delivery of these functions therefore continued as planned for the duration of the project.</p> <p>This post was delivered as a year round role, and that suited the needs of the project. Experience showed that the 3 day per week post originally envisaged would have been about right.</p>	<p>The reality is that as the grant application included not just the application form but also a very long list of supporting documentation, and was probably unrealistic to expect volunteers to read every single line of every document.</p> <p>The error in calculation on the one line in the application was a significant and could have had a significant effect on delivery of the project coordination role.</p> <p>It would have been helpful for line management for the employment contract to specify working hours rather than days.</p> <p>For any future grant applications we suggest that the grant application documents be divided between various Working Group members, each scrutinising whichever aspect of the project best suits their skillset, including the financial and staffing calculations. Had we put this in place, the error could well have been avoided.</p> <p>However, there risks could arise from fragmenting the application review. It would therefore be important for grant signatories to retain their role in providing an holistic review of the application as a whole.</p>

4.4.3 Funding and budget management

We had been successful in securing some grant funding from other bodies, and had agreed financial delegations prior to applying to TNLHF. All budget and cashflow systems and procedures had to be set up from scratch for this project.

What was proposed?	What actually happened?	Evaluation and learning
<p>Prior to submitting TNLHF grant application we had offers of grants from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust • Via the Church Buildings Council, ChurchCare and Pilgrim Trust • Bradford on Avon Town Council 	<p>These grants were all claimed following submission of the relevant evidence of satisfactory completion of the proposed works, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clock restoration • Wall paintings cleaning and conservation • Biodiversity enhancements 	<p>By securing offers of grant prior to submitting our grant application we not only had greater certainty as to how the project would be funded, but also evidence of support from external bodies of the works proposed.</p>
<p>Prior to submitting our grant application we had raised community contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £5000 from various fundraising activities, from Teddy Zip wire down the nave, to sales of plants, jams and marmalades. • Anonymous and unsolicited donations totalling £2375 towards the restoration of our landmark spire clock 	<p>These contributions were carried forward in the ongoing financial monitoring of the project.</p>	<p>By securing significant community funding prior to submitting our grant application we not only had greater certainty as to how the project would be funded, but also evidence of tangible community support for the works proposed.</p>
<p>We set ourselves a target of raising an additional £5000 in community contributions during the life of the project</p>	<p>This target was achieved early on in the project through inviting donations at our events including collecting buckets and further Teddy Zip Wires including from the top of the tower, as well as further sales of plants marmalades and jams.</p>	<p>We learned that members of the community were keen to support the Discover Christ Church! project, and our various on and off site fundraising initiatives provided further opportunities to talk to people about our project promote it to a wider audience.</p>
<p>Early on in the project we discovered that damage to the southwest pinnacle at the top of the tower presented a real risk to this key feature as well as a health and safety risk to passers-by.</p>	<p>This issue arose at an early stage in the project. We felt at this stage in the project it would have been unwise to draw on the contingency element of our grant, due to the risk that other issues might come up later in the project.</p>	<p>Throughout the project we have sought to be agile and pro-active in responding to both problems and also opportunities, and think that this has contributed to finding positive solutions to problems such as this, but also in our ability to enhance and extend delivery on our agreed purposes and outcomes.</p>

	<p>We therefore sought funding elsewhere for this work, and were successful in securing funding through a combination of PCC funding and an additional grant from the Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust towards the cost of this urgent repair work.</p>	<p>We found that relationship building with funders is an important aspect of a project such as this, as is a willingness to look creatively to find solutions for unexpected problems.</p>
Budget and cash flow management		
General	<p>We created one large workbook to monitor spend, with worksheets for overall budget monitoring as well as further worksheets to monitor e.g. the detail of invoicing and spend on the main capital and consultancy elements of spend.</p> <p>With the extension of the project from 24 months to 36, this became rather large and the main spreadsheet very long!</p> <p>Regular meetings were held throughout the project between the Project Coordinator and the member of the Working Group who has extensive financial management experience.</p>	<p>Regular support for and checking of grant claims was invaluable for the Project Coordinator, and gave confidence that we would come in within budget.</p> <p>Our spreadsheets became very cumbersome to use. Perhaps if we had known at the outset that the project would be extended from 24 to 35 months, we would have considered purchasing and training staff in the use of a simple off the shelf budget monitoring package.</p> <p>We also wonder whether the TNLHF might, for small to medium grants, consider offering pro-forma budget monitoring spreadsheets? It is possible this might encourage standardisation of returns and perhaps result in efficiencies for Investment Managers?</p>
<p>•Inflation</p> <p>At the time of our grant application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the annual rate of inflation had reached a 41 year high at 11.1% according to the Office for National Statistics and we therefore factored in 10% inflation for all costs, except salaries which we pegged at 5%.</p>	<p>In the event while some (non-staff) elements of the project were impacted, most spend was impacted at a significantly lower rate. Where significantly increased costs were proposed we negotiated to secure reductions.</p> <p>With the approval of our Investment Manager, we were able to direct the resultant savings to extend delivery on our agreed purposes and outcomes.</p> <p>The modest staff salaries were increased annually by 5% as planned.</p>	<p>Inflation is a risk, and one that could play out one way or the other:</p> <p>The mismatch between national inflation at the time of our grant application and project delivery was of course outside our control. In the event the rate came down, and savings enabled additional delivery on our agreed purposes, resulting in enhanced delivery on agreed outcomes.</p> <p>However, had the mismatch been a higher rate during delivery than at the time of our grant application, we have needed to draw on contingency and the scope of project delivery could have been at risk.</p>

<p>Contingency</p> <p>A contingency sum was built into our grant application to cover for the unexpected.</p>	<p>As it turned out the major contingency item we encountered (the pinnacle as described above) was very early on in the project, and only relatively minor unexpected cost pressures arose later. Savings were therefore made on this line, and with the agreement of the Investment Manager we were able to divert spend to enhancing delivery on our agreed project purposes and outcomes.</p>	<p>Given that our project included significant spend on capital works, and with a historic building there will always be risks of encountering unexpected and or hidden problems, we still think we were correct to include this as a significant element.</p>
<p>Actual versus projected costs</p> <p>Our project proposal envisaged that we would bring in paid artisans and craftspeople to facilitate workshops and activities, and the use of caterers for events.</p>	<p>Through the inventiveness and creativity of the Community Outreach officer, and goodwill of many local artisans and craftspeople, we were able to deliver most of the heritage related activities at nil or materials costs only. Where we found we could make do without planned equipment we did so.</p> <p>For most events volunteers were happy to make cakes and sandwiches, and we bought nice cakes rather than using caterers, thereby reducing costs.</p>	<p>This creativity and community support realised significant savings, enabling us to run many more events than originally planned – thereby significantly increasing participations in our activities and events, without losing any of our focus on exploring and having a go at a wide range of traditional skills and crafts.</p>
<p>Bi-monthly grant claims</p> <p>These were proposed at the start of the project, and although we understand that quarterly is more usual, this was accepted by TNLHF. This was very helpful for the cashflow of the Parochial Church Council due to their limited reserves.</p>	<p>This worked well and was adhered to throughout most of the project.</p>	<p>As for all aspects of budget management, we found that while the bi-monthly budget claims were quite onerous, it did have significant benefits in that we frequently monitored spend and cashflow and were therefore at all times on top of our costs, and were successful in easing cash flow for the PCC.</p> <p>The latter part of the project when we reached our 90% grant claim cap before approval of this Final Evaluation Report, did however result in challenges, and voluntary loans covered an element the uncovered outlay for a few months</p>
<p>Costs for DBS checks</p> <p>We understood at the time of the grant application that this cost would be covered by the project.</p>	<p>The reality was that the Diocese covered all DBS check costs and therefore this was a saving to the project that could following approval from TNLHF be diverted to additional delivery on our agreed purposes and outcomes.</p>	<p>This was only a minor budget line however the savings contributed to enhanced and extended delivery on other lines.</p>

<p>Spend on incidentals</p> <p>The PCC had not previously run a project of this scale, although they were well set up for paying invoices via delegations to the Chair of the Future 4 Christ Church Working group.</p>	<p>For very many smaller purchases, including for example, catering and craft supplies for events, IT kit and licenses etc, the only practical and efficient way forward was for the Project Coordinator to use one of their own credit cards and recover the project costs incurred by means of expenses claims. These at times climbed to over £1000 over a two month period.</p>	<p>The PCC and Friends Group were fortunate that a member of staff was willing to ‘bank role’ significant project spend in this way, and although it worked, and the project was able to proceed smoothly, we do not consider this to be an appropriate set up for a project of this scale.</p> <p>For any future projects, the PCC should put in place a business credit card with the appropriate security and accountability arrangements, to enable necessary purchases without the involvement of staff members own financial arrangements.</p>
<p>VAT recovery on repair work and associated professional fees via the Department for Culture Media and Sports Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (LPWGS)</p>	<p>In January 2026 just 3 months before the end of our 3 year project, the Government confirmed closure of the scheme, resulting in us not being able to reclaim VAT that we had expected to.</p> <p>This amounted to additional costs to the project of £538.75..</p>	<p>The change was confirmed very late in the day, resulting in having to pay VAT on items we would previously have been able to recover via the grant scheme. This caused unexpected financial pressure in the last months of our project. However we were pleased that our precautionary approach to budget management enabled this pressure to be accommodated.</p>

4.4.4 Risk management

While the PCC has Risk Management procedures in place for their normal operations and these were followed for our program of events, there was not a model for a project of the scale of Discover Christ Church! and therefore a Risk Management Plan was developed, agreed and submitted as part of our grant application documentation.

What was proposed?	What actually happened?	Evaluation and learning
A Risk Management Plan was prepared and submitted in support of the grant application	The Risk Management Plan was regularly reviewed and when there were new, revised or updated risks it was reported to the Future 4 Christ Church Working Group for comment and or approval of the mitigations proposed.	This was found to be a useful document in informing the management and implementation of the project. We found that some risks such as Covid fell away, while other unforeseen risks such as life events impacting on both staff at different times, necessitated thinking through and agreeing mitigations to enable project delivery to continue.
Risk Management Plans for each and every event.	These were prepared for all events, although for repeat events such as Conversation and Craft of BoA Youth sessions they only needed to be revisited if activities and their risks changed. The introduction (late on in the project) of on-site toilets and a kitchen as well as flexible use community spaces, significantly changed the risks of our events.	The routine and habit of assessing risk was vital in ensuring that event organisers think through all relevant eventualities when planning events,
Governance arrangements and management conclusions	<p>Our governance arrangements including decision making, financial delegations and management as well as risk management worked as per the arrangements proposed as at grant application stage.</p> <p>Staffing arrangements while subject to a change of line management and working arrangements delivered and over-delivered on our targets.</p> <p>Our project program was significantly extended enabling us to better realise relationship building with organisations, as well as enabling us to positively respond to opportunities and utilise budget savings to realise enhanced delivery on our agreed purposes and outcomes.</p>	

Sip Sip Hooray Celebration Tea Party

Location: Christ Church building
 Time/Frequency: Sunday 22nd February 2026
 Name of leader with responsibility: Becky Stiles

Risk Matrix:

	Minor	Medium	Major	Critical	Catastrophic
Highly unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Possible	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Likely	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Almost Certain	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

The matrix shows various risks listed in the rows, with their corresponding severity levels indicated by colored cells (green for low, yellow for medium, orange for major, red for critical, and dark red for catastrophic).

4.4.5 Project programme

Here we set out our original project program proposals and how these changed from that proposed at the time of the grant application.

What was proposed?	What actually happened?	Evaluation and learning
<p>A 24 month project.</p> <p>Our project plan identified our proposed conservation activities in some detail, while the heritage related community and biodiversity activities were set out in more general terms as their detail was to be co-designed with young people and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>Due to a combination of circumstances including availability of a key conservator, life events, and budget savings, the project was delivered over 35 months, with a significantly extended delivery including for example more heritage related community events engaging with many more people of all ages, 2 additional programs of wellbeing support for young people, and additional heritage features put on permanent display and a prominent 'what's on' community noticeboard provided.</p>	<p>Careful and regular budget management and cashflow projections along with project planning provided us with the information and confidence to be able to respond positively to opportunities and problems. We were also able to demonstrate to our Investment Managers the credibility of our case for our proposed project extensions as well as additional heritage related outputs that would enhance delivery on our project purposes and outcomes. These were approved.</p>
<p>An 18 month program of heritage related community activities, with letters of support from a range of organisations making suggestions for community and heritage related opportunities for our project.</p>	<p>The postholder hit the ground running and facilitated DCC! to have a major presence at the very well attended Coronation Celebration, and thereby promote and harvest community engagement in the project over a 35 month period, resulting in a significant increase in the numbers of events, participations and volunteer hours.</p>	<p>Although we had letters of support from key organisations related to our target groups, we found that we needed time to build those relationships and turn what had been ideas in letters of support into real tangible community actions. In addition co-design takes time and can be messy, and not every seeming opportunity will become a reality.</p> <p>We are of the view that our original project program for community activities was over ambitious and a c.3 year project would have been more realistic from the start.</p>
<p>A 1 month period was envisaged at the start of the project for project set up</p>	<p>The reality was that both part time posts started on the same date, although significant volunteer effort had been put in advance of this date to set us up with the necessary hardware and software to enable us to work.</p>	<p>For a small organisation without systems in place, set up of a project is a challenge. We were fortunate to have an IT savvy volunteer who could support the project in setting up the basic systems we needed to get started.</p>
<p>A 2 month period after the conclusion of the community and conservation activities was envisaged for project write up and close down.</p>	<p>The reality at the end of the project is that we were still delivering some community events and a number of the smaller physical works to promote and publicise Christ Church's heritage during the final two months of the project.</p>	<p>This scrunching of the project program in the final two months was not practical, and led to significant stress and an inordinate number of additional hours on the part of the project coordinator to continue to deliver physical works while also trying to write up the final report.</p> <p>It is strongly suggested that for any future project these last 2 months of a project are protected for write up, grant claim and project close down.</p>

4.4.6 Funding acknowledgment

This was a key requirement of funding from larger organisations, and we delivered on this across all media including on paper, online, in press releases interviews and on social media as set out in the table below. We learned that acknowledgements were more likely to be realised if we asked reporters to ensure they included our funding acknowledgements.

<p style="text-align: center;">With grateful thanks to our funders</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">        </div>				

Starting point	As this project was a first of its kind for the organisation, there were no protocols in place for acknowledging funders, however the National Lottery Heritage Fund guidance was there to steer our approach, plus we also had other funders and community donations that needed to be acknowledged.		
What was proposed	What happened	Completion, and any programme or cost implications. (RAG)	Evaluation & Learning
The National Lottery Heritage Fund logo to be clearly and prominently displayed on all project and legacy materials:			
On-site including signs, information boards and construction site boards	All on site boards and signs and construction site boards clearly and prominently displayed The National Lottery Heritage Fund logo in line with guidance. Where relevant and other funders needed to be acknowledged, TNLHF logo was listed prominently and first in teal as per the logo strip shown above.	All completed as planned.	It was considered important to establish a 'house style' and a branded and consistent approach to all project materials from the outset, including the project logo and relevant logos of our funding bodies. For some materials where the National Lottery Heritage Fund was the only funding, only their logo was shown or displayed.
In publications and promotional materials	Publications and promotional posters that were funded only by The National Lottery Heritage Fund only included their logo in accordance with guidance.	All completed as planned.	
At events	Notices, information sheets and handouts used the standard logo strip acknowledging the role of all relevant funders with The National Lottery Heritage fund logo listed prominently and first using the teal colour as shown on the logo strip above,	All completed as planned.	
Online including on our website and social media	<p>The Home page of our website and the 'About' section of our Facebook page states at the top 'Discover Christ Church! is a National Lottery funded community project to explore, restore and celebrate Christ Church's rich Victorian heritage....', with Instagram and YouTube being similarly badged.</p> <p>The standard logo strip with The National Lottery Heritage fund logo being listed prominently and first using the teal colour as shown on the logo strip above is included on YouTube clips and films and also at the bottom of the website home page.</p>	All completed as planned.	

<p>In media and public relations</p>	<p>Following the publication of guidance the National Lottery Heritage Fund their Marketing and Communications office was consulted on press releases and feedback actioned.</p> <p>In all interviews we took the opportunity to thank The National Lottery Heritage fund and Lottery Players, although we of course had no control over press and media coverage that was publishes. Acknowledgements were however included in most published stories and media. We took the same approach in all talks and speeches about the project and continue to do so, often referring to the ‘transformative National Lottery Heritage Fund grant’.</p> <p>We developed a standard sign off for emails from project staff incorporating the project logo with the logos of our funders below, along with the words ‘With grateful thanks to our funders’, and The National Lottery Heritage fund logo listed prominently and first using the teal colour as shown on the logo strip above,</p>	<p>All completed as planned.</p>	<p>Learning from early experiences we took to proactively asking interviewers to ensure that they acknowledged The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Lottery Players. This increased the chances of inclusion of relevant wording in the final publication or media coverage.</p>
<p>Display DCC! posters at Lottery ticket selling points</p>	<p>In addition to posters distributed to partner organisations, we regularly posted posters promoting DCC! events on the Community Noticeboards at local Lottery ticket selling points in town, although there was one that chose not to display any posters of any kind.</p>	<p>All completed as planned.</p>	<p>Not all selling points will accept posters, others require notice and others are poorly located or very cluttered with poster on top of poster.</p>
<p>Install a plaque in the church to acknowledge and thank The National Lottery Heritage Fund, with its logo appearing first</p>	<p>Following the conclusion of the capital works at Christ Church and in readiness for a service of thanksgiving and re-dedication an A1 size 3D framed plaque was created incorporating 4 plaster moulds of the paterae from the string course that lines the top of the nave walls, calligraphy by a local artisan summarising the essence of DCC!’s community and restoration work, and including words of thanks to our community and funders.</p> <p>The plaque prominently incorporates the National Lottery Heritage Fund logo first in a list of all 16 funders of the Discover Christ Church! and Future 4 Christ Church projects. The teal colour logo is used for added prominence.</p>	<p>All completed as planned to time and within budget.</p>	<p>An innovative and distinctive approach to design has ensured that an eye catching plaque that fits with rich Victorian fabric of Christ Church, while giving due prominence to our most significant funders.</p>

	<p>For the service of celebration and re-dedication the plaque was placed as backdrop to the celebration cake, ensuring that it featured in communications and photographs of the Bishop and cake cutting ceremony.</p> <p>The plaque is on permanent and very prominent display in the entrance to Christ Church.</p>		
<p>Summary & commentary</p>	<p>Following their guidance, The National Lottery Heritage Fund logo and wording references were successfully incorporated into all our publicity, promotion and media outputs, as well as routine emails and site notices thereby giving The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Lottery Players due prominence in all our outputs.</p> <p>The use of a standard format utilising both the Discover Christ Church! logo and a standard banner of funders ensured consistency and a branded approach to all project outputs. The National Lottery Heritage Fund logo always appeared first on the banner in recognition of the scale of their funding, and where they were the sole source of funding, for example for our publications they were the sole logo.</p> <p>We found it helpful that there are alternative formats for The National Lottery Heritage Fund logos, so that the format that worked best on different colour backgrounds and on different sizes of product could be selected.</p>		

4.5 Legacy

Discover Christ Church! as a project may have 'concluded', but this is not the 'end' as the restored, conserved, cleaned and repaired fabric provides a beautiful setting to new community life, with several of the initiatives started by the project continuing on into the future. A very short summary of the project's legacy is summarised below.



What was proposed?	What actually happened?	Evaluation and learning
<p>Restored and enhanced fabric of the church, supplemented later on in the project by permanent display of key artefacts and specialist condition reports setting out recommendations for future conservation and repair works.</p>	<p>In addition to the planned delivery of the restoration of the landmark spire clock, carpentry and stonework repairs, stained glass window cleaning and repairs, and conservation and cleaning of the nave walls and wall paintings, due to savings on other lines and extensions to the project program we have been able to deliver the conservation and permanent display in the nave of several key artefacts including Millennium tapestry kneelers depicting heritage features and details, a beautiful found embroidery and a stained glass panel that had been found in the cellar.</p>	<p>We benefitted from constantly seeking value for money in the delivery of our agreed outputs and made savings along the way, plus our approach to co-design throughout meant that we were able to harvest and then realise people's ideas for artefacts found along the way.</p>
<p>It was envisaged that a Friends Group might be established to deliver capacity for community engagement into the future and an interest in the fabric of the building.</p>	<p>The Parochial Church Council has set up two dedicated working groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Community Outreach & Fundraising Group, and 2. A Fabric committee to enable a more structured approach to the care of the building. <p>There are clearly relationships between the two groups, especially in respect of fundraising for fabric repairs or enhancements.</p> <p>Interested volunteers have already offered to join the community outreach group.</p>	<p>An energy and momentum has been established through the delivery of the Discover Christ Church! project, particularly in respect of community interest in this place and an interest in volunteering to support its community activities.</p> <p>Two end of project surveys have resulted in 39 people providing their contact details and saying that they like to keep informed about and or help at events in the future.</p>
<p>In response to pre-application consultation responses that told us there was a need for community spaces at Christ Church, our grant application was written to include delivery of community activities and events that were intended to become embedded in a new community life for this place.</p>	<p>DCC! events and activities have brought and embedded diverse community life into this beautiful historic building.</p>	<p>The desire to continue these broad range of Discover Christ Church! initiated activities into the future is an indication of the value placed on these activities by participating organisations and our local communities.</p>

	<p>Several of the regular community activities developed and established by DCC! are proposed to continue into the future, and staff, volunteer and where relevant online resources are in place to enable these to continue, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term time Conversation & Craft sessions in partnership with Christ Church Primary School and Dementia Action Alliance • BoA Youth Thursday after school drop ins in partnership with BoA Town Council • Annual biodiversity surveys at peak wildflower time (June) • Annual exploration of and significantly enhanced resources to support the historic fabric and artefacts of Christ Church with the whole of Year 6 as part of their Local History Project. <p>The well-being workshop practitioner has approached the Working Group with a view applying to external bodies for these to continue and extend the benefits to more young people.</p>	<p>As advised by the Rector, 'the church and school will continue to work together to seek ongoing opportunities for the children to explore both the fabric and the life of the church'.</p> <p>That volunteers have come forward and want to be involved is further indication of the success and future viability of these community events.</p> <p>In addition to the DCC! activities the church community itself now organises other community outreach including monthly Saturday pop up cafés with different themes and activities, as well as daily hospitality to young people en route from school to home.</p> <p>The future of this formerly gloomy and rather neglected building that lay unused for much of the time, now regularly buzzes with community life, and the future for community life in this beautiful Victorian gem at the top of the town looks rosy indeed.</p>
<p>A website, book, booklet and quiz as well as getting Christ Church 'on the map' were all integral to the proposed legacy of our project.</p>	<p>These have all been delivered and provide paper and online information on the heritage of Christ Church that was not available previously. In addition heritage artefacts are now on display and explained in our visitor guide, adding to the visitor experience, as well as resulting in a range of media coverage.</p>	<p>The production of these written and online resources has stretched both our part time staff, both in terms of the time needed to enable and/or support their production, but also in the new skills we have had to learn to ensure delivery.</p>
<p>Condition reports and recommendations to guide future management and restoration of the fabric of the building</p>	<p>Condition reports have been delivered for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The visually prominent and as yet un-restored spaces adjacent to the nave 2. All Christ Church's stained glass windows 3. The spire and its ongoing (albeit reduced) water ingress 	<p>These reports provided legacy advice for the custodians of this grade 2* listed building and will help guide future priorities and initiatives. They also provide detailed specialist information to compliment the upcoming Quinquennial Inspections.</p>

<p>Our grant application and early fund raising literature envisaged Christ Church as a thriving community hub fit for the C21st.</p>	<p>The Discover Christ Church! project and its sister (separately funded) Future 4 Christ Church project have delivered light bright flexible community use spaces supported by (for the first time) toilets, a kitchen, office and storage, all housed complemented by new lighting and set within newly restored nave walls. Outside the biodiverse and floriferous churchyard and gleaming gold landmark spire clock give outward and public facing signs of the new life within – just as Year 6 students had envisioned and illustrated some 3 years earlier</p>	<p>Many people from outside the church community have evaluated our project as a success, including via surveys, the visitor book, in conversations and in speeches made at recent events. In addition, other organisations are starting to use Christ Church as a community space and to deliver paid for wellbeing activities. All this gives us confidence that our purposes and outcomes have been achieved and that the future for this place is indeed bright.</p>
<p>Summary & commentary</p>	<p>The Discover Christ Church! project has delivered a legacy of heritage conservation, access to artefacts discovered, digital and paper access to its history and heritage assets, condition reports for as yet un-restored assets and spaces plus a thriving community life.</p> <p>We think that the following quotes help to convey what others think of this legacy:</p> <p>Various visitor book entries – along lines such as this:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>‘Wow! What a transformation. Beautifully done... Congratulations to all involved.’</i></p> <p>The Rector and Chair of Christ Church’s Parochial Church Council, who arrived at Christ Church part way through the Discover Christ Church! project:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>‘The DCC! Project has been transformational. Not only do we now have a church building that looks welcoming, light and loved, and a churchyard that embraces the natural world, we also have forged new and lasting links with our community.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>It feels like this project has brought church and community together enabling mutual blessings.’</i></p> <p>The Bishop of Ramsbury who performed a recent pop-up community café said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>‘This project has connected community and place with such creativity.’</i></p> <p>Music Director of Bradford on Avon Choral Society: <i>‘We are delighted to be singing in this newly restored building which is clearly a jewel in the crown of Bradford on Avon. The building is transformed and we look forward to returning here in the future.’</i></p>	

5. Conclusions

5. Conclusions

Firstly, a few words from our final survey of participants in a range of our events and from our Visitor Book:

'The impact has been immense: the improvement in lighting and exhibition of features which are unique to the church (and) discovered during the renovations are really impressive.'

'A brilliant project with clear vision that has been fulfilled and exceeded in so many ways.'

'I love how organised and thorough the community heritage events were, making use of the history of the church to establish connections... also the variation of activities at BoA Youth drop-ins.'

'Fantastic project, well executed and professionally finished engaging all sectors of the community.'

'The project has brought new life into a huge and beautiful building which has now become a new community space.'

'Wonderful project to conserve the historic environment and history of the town whilst supporting the local community.'

'People's jaws drop at what has been done!'

Consistent with the above observations of others, and our RAGG ratings seen in Section 4 of this Final Evaluation Report, it can be seen that the Discover Christ Church! project has very successfully delivered on all the Project Purposes and Outcomes that were agreed with The National Lottery Heritage Fund at the time of grant award and acceptance. Very positive external evaluation has come from people of all ages; in addition to the quotes above, we have shared just a few of the many feedbacks we have received at the end of the Executive summary, as well as on pages 64, 100 & 107.

Outcomes that were agreed with The National Lottery Heritage Fund at the time of grant award and acceptance. Very positive external evaluation has come from people of all ages, and we have shared just a few of the many feedbacks we have received at Section 1 of this report and alongside the Executive summary.

Key to our success were the terms of our The National Lottery Heritage Fund grant which built in (and indeed required) co-design with our target audiences and stakeholders as an integral part of our project. This enabled the detail of our program of works and activities to develop and evolve over time and better deliver on our agreed purposes and outcomes. Their positive approach to our proposed mitigations of risk and changes of circumstance that arose along the way, was also very helpful in our overcoming unexpected challenges and realising opportunities.

For many of the outputs and targets that we proposed to ensure delivery on our agreed purposes and outcomes, we have not only delivered, but have gone above and beyond and delivered more. We did this by taking a creative and proactive approach to the opportunities that arose during the course of the project, including ideas from staff, stakeholders of all ages, approved project program extensions as well as exercising careful budget management and realising budget savings on some lines.

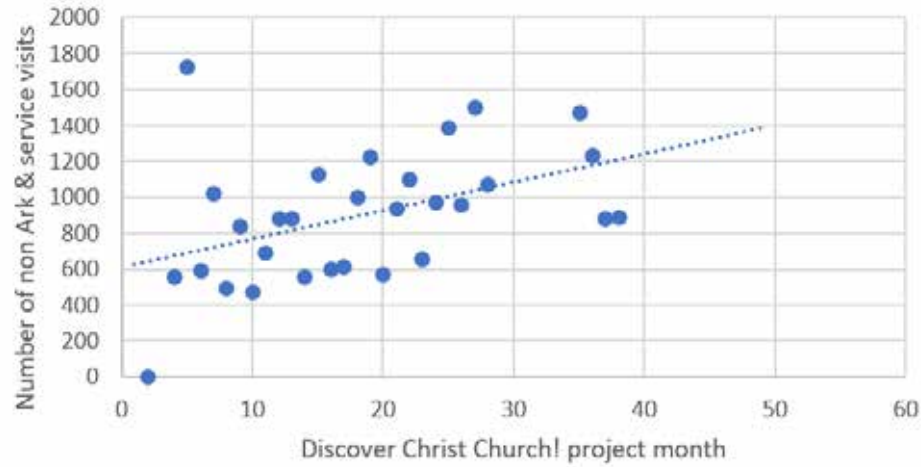
As may be seen in the detail of our evaluation, we have exercised a continuous cycle of monitoring, assessment, review and learning and adapting as we went along. And as a result we have been able to deliver significant additionality across a wide range of project areas, including major benefits in the form of increased numbers and diversity of participation in our heritage inspired events and activities, significantly increased levels of involvement of our target audiences and volunteer hours, as well as in the opportunities we have taken to identify, explain and put on permanent display heritage artefacts that we have discovered along the way. Where we were not able to deliver on a few minor of our planned actions, we made suitable alternative provision.

Additional evidence of our success has come in the form of requests from other organisations to come and learn from our experiences, with events being held during the course of project delivery, and a final open invitation in person session at Christ Church on 28 April 2026, with open invitation being promoted by both the Salisbury and Bristol Dioceses. In addition the Diocese of Salisbury is planning to promote Discover Christ Church! as a Case Study to benefit others considering future projects.

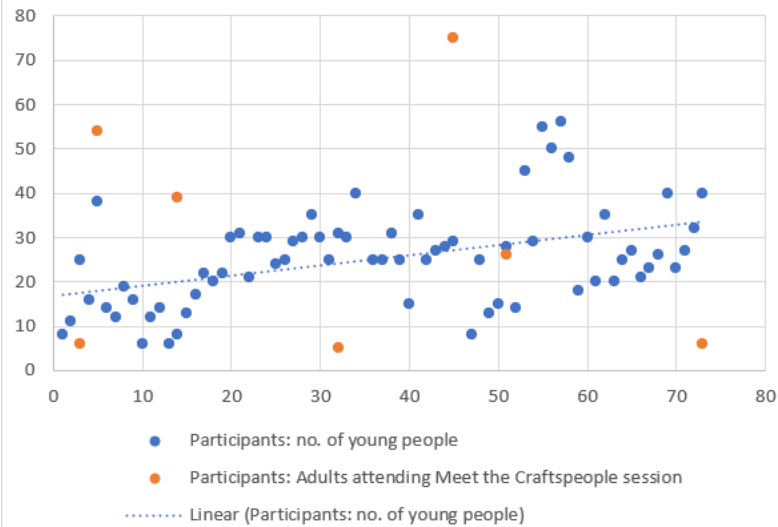
For details of the responses to our end of project survey please see Appendix I, and for the findings and ideas of Year 6 please see Appendix II.

Please see opposite the promising upward trend in numbers of people visiting Christ Church since the start of our project, and also the upward trend in numbers participating in the DCC! initiated and established and highly valued BoA Youth drop-ins as well as our intergenerational Conversation & Craft sessions. Both these initiatives are being taken forward into the future by the church.

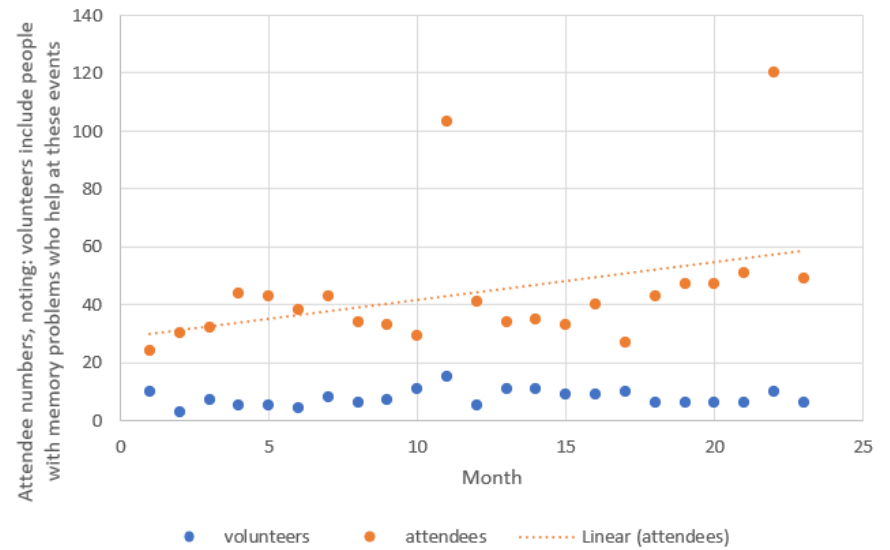
Discover Christ Church! monthly visits into the building
 April 2023 - Feb 2026
 (excluding services & Ark Toddler Group)



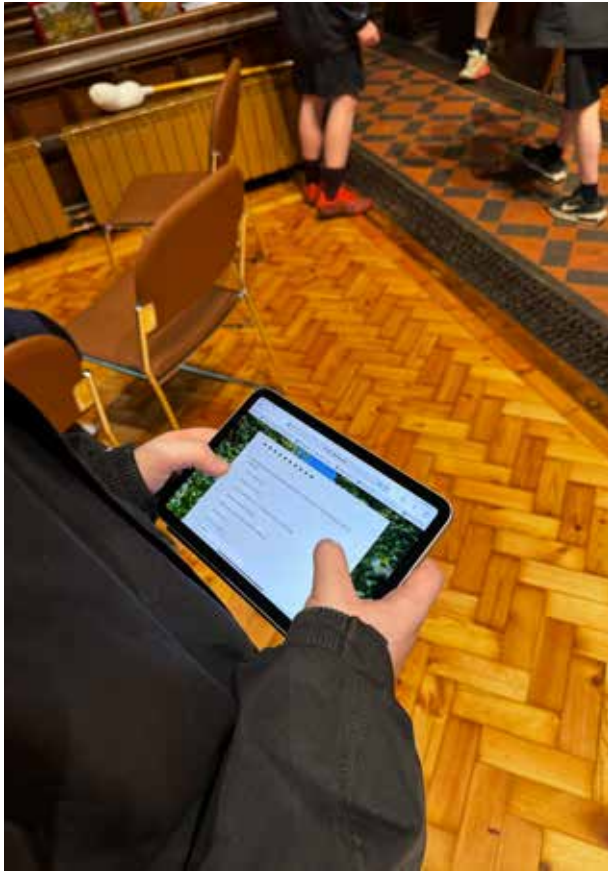
BoA Youth Attendance 2023-2026



DCC! Conversation & Craft attendees 2023-2026



6. Recommendations and ideas for the future



Recommendations and ideas for the future

With Christ Church's own Parochial Church Council, Community Outreach and Fundraising and Fabric Working Group in mind, as well as other interested organisations, we thought it sensible to summarise the ideas for future actions that have come out of the Discover Christ Church! project. Sources include our end of project survey, Year 6's Local History Project views and suggestions as well as the comments of others. People have told us:

The Building

'There are still neglected parts of the church' Therefore conservation, restoration and cleaning of areas adjacent to the nave that now appear in stark and shabby contrast to the light bright restored nave would be beneficial including the:

- Main West Door entrance lobby
- Sanctuary
- Organ Chamber, and
- Lady Chapel

Stained glass windows: The conservator has recommended:

- Major repairs to the fragile Warrington stained glass window – Christ Church's earliest and most colourful window
- Repairs and cleaning to other stained glass windows that were outside the scope of the Discover Christ Church! project, both as proposed in Great Panes stained glass window report updated January 2026.

Further details may be found in Great Panes Condition Report updated January 2026.

Peter Martindale Conservation recommended as follows:

- Chancel walls: Assessment and restoration works to wall paintings on north and south walls (Sanctuary), once water damage has completely dried out.
- Chancel stonework: Investigate stonework to south window, investigate drainage holes to north and south windows and ensure clear.

- Western Vestibule and adjacent revealed strip (north side of tower arch): Extend amount of revealed decoration to increase awareness and link to nave, both on north and south walls. Improve toning out to lower fleur de lys using water colour paint.
- North Transept: Assess and consolidate damaged wall paintings on west wall, and consider reconstructing areas of loss. Clean wall paintings to considerably improve aesthetic.
- Remove items leaning against graffiti wall to prevent further damage, and the small area of damaged plaster on the west wall could be conserved.
- Roof drainage: the importance of keeping the building's rain-water disposal system in good order (twice yearly inspection and clearance), as the building is large, and in an exposed hilltop location. Note this is more difficult due to the roof and gutter system being hidden behind parapet walls.

Further details may be found in Peter Martindale Conservation's Condition Reports dated March 2026.

Spire: The Inspecting Architect has advised of the need for:

- Clearance of the:
 - Parapet gutter to the organ chamber and vestry
 - Tower downpipe and back gutter to (bell tower) staircase roof
- Monitoring and review spire stonework at forthcoming Quinquennial Inspection, and potentially
- Future proofing the spire by installing a simple internal water catching and drainage measures to mitigate against storms and weather damage.

Further observations may be found in Chedburn Codd's site inspection notes dated 31 March 2026.

Improve access via the west door – its draughty and hard to negotiate with a wheelchair, pushchair or rollator

Other Heritage

- Scan the historic school records and older photographs held by Christ Church Primary School and publish to the DCC! website to give people digital access.
- Digitally record, explore the social history behind the names scratched on the organ chamber walls, including making connections to family graves.
- Explore the social history of the names of former choir boys and others scratched on the wall behind the organ (75 found in one session with Year 6, and there are many more).
- Explore the social history of the adjacent former Christ Church Primary School buildings (now the Mount Pleasant Community Centre) including collecting memories of how the building was used, from former pupils and staff, and the school cap collection (found in the attic) displayed above their bar.
- Find the foundation stone (if this is possible!)
- A weather proof entrance for the West Door.
- All that fancy woodwork needs a really good clean
- Remove more pews for a dance and community youth space

The Churchyard

- Biodiversity enhancement suggestions from Britain in Bloom South West's 2024 and 2025 evaluations of Discover Christ Church! as 'Outstanding' beyond those that we are already implementing, included:
 - Pollard the veteran Lime Trees (long overdue), and beneficially using some of the arisings for mulching and creating a dead hedge
 - Extend biodiversity enhancements into the adjacent and extensive Christ Church Primary School grounds to further enhance habitat and connectivity including for hedgehogs
 - Bird nest boxes in conjunction with Bradford on Avon's Men's Shed, and
 - On-site composting
 - Discover and find out about the different types of lichens found on the building, gravestones and trees/shrubs.

- Explore Eco-Church accreditation
- Year 5 interest in exploring social history related to the gravestones in the churchyard

Community

We have been asked to continue with '*more of the same*' and '*keep going its wonderful including bridging the generations*'. As a result a decision has been taken to continue both the Conversation and Craft sessions in partnership with Christ Church Primary with Dementia Action Alliance and Bluebird Care, and the Thursday BoA Youth Drop-in sessions. In addition the following new ideas have been suggested:

- Provide inclusive and open opportunities for young people to take part in practitioner facilitated well-being activities, for example via the established BoA Youth sessions
- Seek funding to extend delivery of the very well received Well being workshops delivered through Discover Christ Church!, to new cohorts of young people
- Better enable people in supported living settings to participate in events and activities at Christ Church.
- Grief support
- Seek funding to enable the large St Laurence School Year 7 cohort to engage with the Conversation and Craft initiative in partnership with Dementia Action Alliance
- Extend the history tours of the church to include adults
- Activities for 20 somethings.
- Find out more about the quarries and local builders who made Christ Church
- Find out about and publish information on local families that have multiple graves in the churchyard e.g. the Rossiters and Moultons.
- Find out more about the people and families associated with the war graves
- Oral / video histories connected to the use of the adjacent former school buildings (students & teachers we have met have lots to show and tell)
- Geology tours of the church (it has some unusual natural building materials, as well as some issues with inherently porous gravestones failing).

- Work with the young people at the local primary school to support the church's A Rocha, Eco Church accreditation, building on the biodiversity work carried out.
- Choral and other musical performances/ events including working with the music teacher at the local primary school as well as the Head of music from St Laurence
- Involve the primary school children in the Saturday cafés, by giving them the chance to share songs and extracts from their end of year 6 performance with the wider community
- Work with young people to seek grant funding for e.g. Charity Shop fashion show, mending clothes workshop
- More events outside, e.g. Summer community BBQ
- Art project with the schools
- More craft based activities
- Games with older people
- Build on the excellent foundations from Discover Christ Church! including more variety of festivals and events, including bridging the ages
- Shop fashion show, mending clothes workshop
- More events outside, e.g. Summer community BBQ
- More craft based workshops themed around the building contents, stonework, embroidery, books etc
- Tours of the church for all ages, including a geology tour
- A project/initiatives to explore and develop Christ Church's wider social, historic, and biodiversity connections
- Solar panels
- An information board showing the wildflowers in the churchyard
- A successor grant application - with a theme around Christ Church's as yet un-restored assets and its social and physical connections.

We are particularly grateful to the 52 Year 6 students who, during their Local History Tour, put so much thought into writing down c.60 suggestions as to future uses at Christ Church. We take this as a clear indication of the priority young people give to the continuation of community activities here. Their suggestions included from music and performance including having a go at playing the 1878 Sweetland organ, to food related activities, to a relaxing / calm space,

to adding a museum area to the church, more tours, to sporting and other activities. Their concerns about the physical fabric of areas not yet restored have been incorporated into the above lists. A summary of their findings is included at Appendix II.

Just as Christ Church has changed over its nearly 180 years, people of all ages have told us that they see opportunities this building to continue to change and adapt, long into the future.



Christ Church, Bradford on Avon
2025: Minor repairs & cleaning of stained-glass windows (nave only)
2026: Condition Report & recommendations (all stained glass windows)



By **Great Panes Stained Glass,**
 4 Priory Street, Corsham, Wiltshire, SN130AX
 T: 07976848927

Date: May 2025 Updated January 2026



peter martindale conservation

Christ Church, Bradford on Avon - Diocese of Salisbury

The Lady Chapel and the South Porch
 Condition survey and proposals for conservation

Peter Martindale – 30 March 2026



Lady Chapel – east wall

Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Historical background	1
3. Lady Chapel (south transept) – stone and plaster deterioration	2
4. South Porch	4
5. Building maintenance	6
• Illustration - plan of the church and location of investigations	
• Photographs (1 - 24)	

Distribution list

- Margaret Chapman and Stephen Pike, Churchwardens, Christ Church, Bradford on Avon
- Wendy Brown, assistant Churchwarden, Bradford on Avon
- Gillian Ellis-King, Project Coordinator, Discover Christ Church
- George Chedburn, inspecting architect, Chedburn Codd, Conservation Architects
- Dan Crookle, Secretary, Salisbury DAC
- Tracy Manning, Senior Conservation Officer, The Church Buildings Council, London
- Ann Chapman, PCC Secretary and church historian

This report is supplied in electronic (PDF) form to all, with one hard copy to the Parish

Acknowledgements

I thank The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Parochial Church Council for funding this report and associated survey. My thanks are also due to Margaret Thompson and Gillian Ellis-King for their assistance during the course of the in-situ inspection. Finally, I thank Catherine Hessel for carrying out the analysis of the paint sample.

1 Green Dock (Tower) | Salisbury W199HX | 01252 515118 | 0122 714271 | M27707 2096918 | petermartindale@btinternet.com
 www.petermartindale.org.uk

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CHRIST CHURCH, BRADFORD ON AVON
DRONE SURVEY & INSPECTION
Thursday 26th March 2026 at 3.15pm.

The following notes relate to the recent drone survey carried out at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon on Thursday 26th March 2026 from 3.15pm. The drone pilot was Elliott Webster and the weather at the time of the inspection was warm & dry. The aim of the survey was to look at the condition of the parapet gutters of the church and the condition of the hopper & downpipe serving the parapet gutter situated at the base of the spire.

The results of the survey will be used to inform the forthcoming Quinquennial Inspection due to be carried out on Wednesday 29th April 2026.

1.0 Main Church Roof

In relation to the roof of the church, the survey has identified that:

- the main gutters to the roof are clear (with the exception of the parapet gutter to the roof over the organ chamber and vestry)
- the outlets from the gutters are clear and working well
- the downpipes are in good condition and well decorated.

ACTION

1.1 Clear parapet gutter to organ chamber & vestry.

2.0 Tower Hopper & Downpipe

In relation to the downpipe serving the tower & spire the following comments should be noted:

- the hopper and outlet serving the tower parapet gutter at high level is in good condition
- the downpipe appears to be blocked and is causing water to escape from the joints of the downpipe & also to leak from the hopper
- there is staining to the ashlar stonework for the height of the downpipe
- the downpipe terminates above the roof to the tower staircase and discharges via a series of swan-necks into the parapet gutter to the north side of the nave
- the swan-necks appear to be blocked, and rainwater is seeping onto the ashlar roof of the tower staircase
- the ashlar, pyramidal roof to the tower staircase has a back-gutter at the junction with the tower
- the back-gutter is showing signs of blockage & plant growth.

ACTION

2.1 Clear tower downpipe and back gutter to staircase roof.

3.0 Tower Parapet Gutter

The parapet at the base of the tower appears to be in good condition:

- plant growth was removed at the time of the survey
- the pinnacles appear to be stable
- recent repair work appears to have been successful.

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Appendix 1

sample survey results

Biodiversity Questionnaire

26

Responses

04:52

Average time to complete

Active

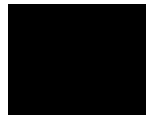
Status

1. Your First Name

26

Responses

Latest Responses



2. What did you discover about the biodiversity of the churchyard?

Latest Responses

"The church yard is a neat and tidy place but if you take a ...

"The the church is a great place for wildlife to flourish and g...

"There are many flowers that insects can live in. "

26

Responses

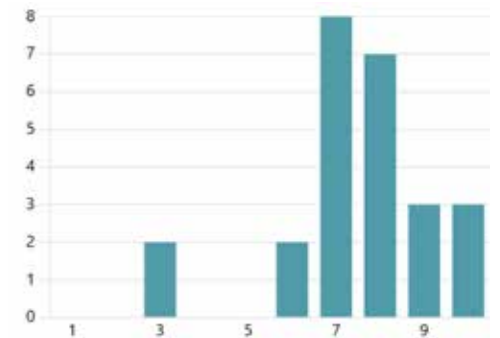
7 respondents (27%) answered **place where wildlife** for this question.



3. How would you rate your involvement with this project?

7.48

Average Rating



4. What did you like the most about this project?

Latest Responses

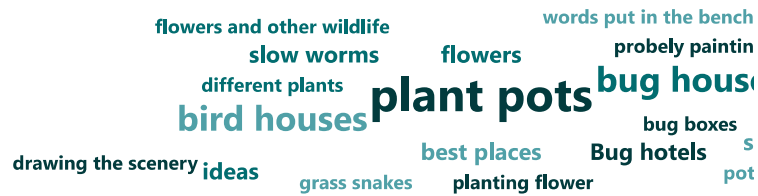
"I liked how they actually used are ideas"

26 Responses

"I enjoyed going to the church and being able to paint the b..."

"Making the bug house "

4 respondents (15%) answered **plant pots** for this question.



5. Out of all the things you have planned, what do you think will make the biggest difference to biodiversity?

Latest Responses

"Planting the flowers and the bat boxes they really encoura..."

21 Responses

"Wildlife "

12 respondents (57%) answered **planted** for this question.



6. Did you feel that we listened to what you thought was important to our churchyard?

Latest Responses

"Yes"

25 Responses

"Yes "

"Yes "

17 respondents (68%) answered **Yes** for this question.



7. Is there anything else you think we should do?

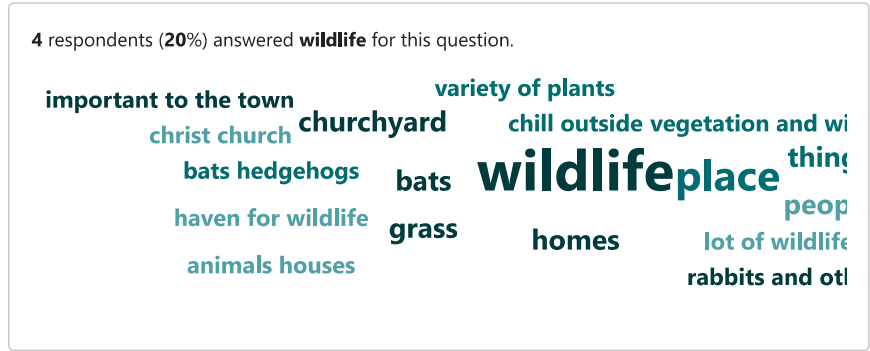
20 Responses

Latest Responses

"No not really"

"Yep i think there should be more benches outside so we ca..."

"No you have done great "



Heritage Celebration Feedback

72 Responses

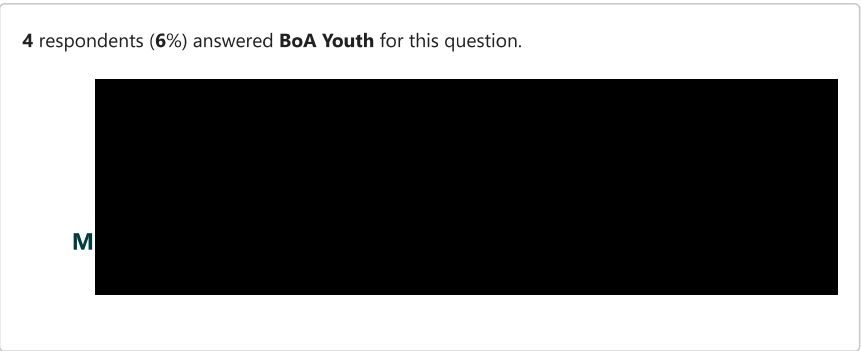
06:03 Average time to complete

Active Status

1. Your Name

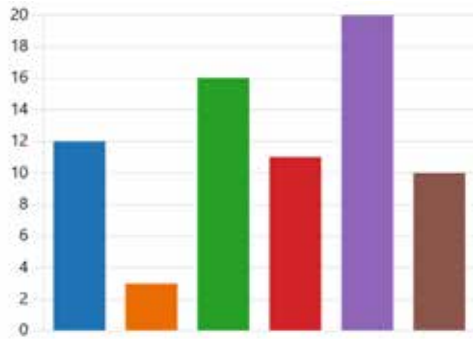
68 Responses

Latest Responses



2. Your Age

Under 16	12
17 - 24	3
25 - 40	16
41 - 59	11
60 - 75	20
76+	10



3. Is this your first time inside Christ Church?

Yes	18
No	53



4. How would you rate today's event?

Promoters	54
Passives	14
Detractors	3



5. Have you discovered anything new today?

63 Responses

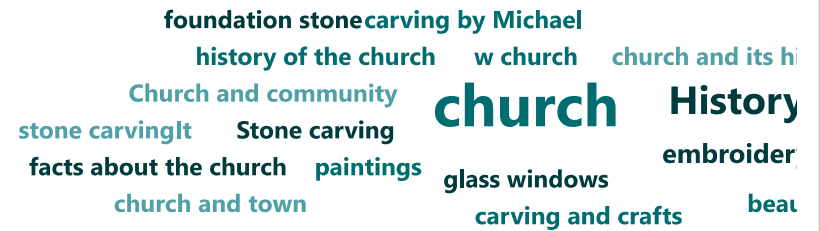
Latest Responses

"The marvelous needlework and all the old artefacts - amaz...

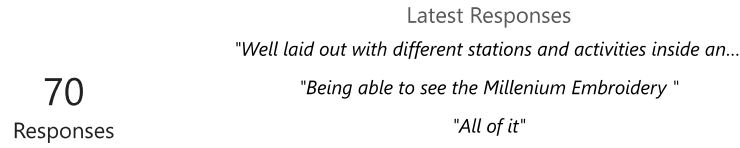
"The stained glass window found in the cellar"

"History of CC including school Talking to Bancroft and the ..."

13 respondents (21%) answered **church** for this question.



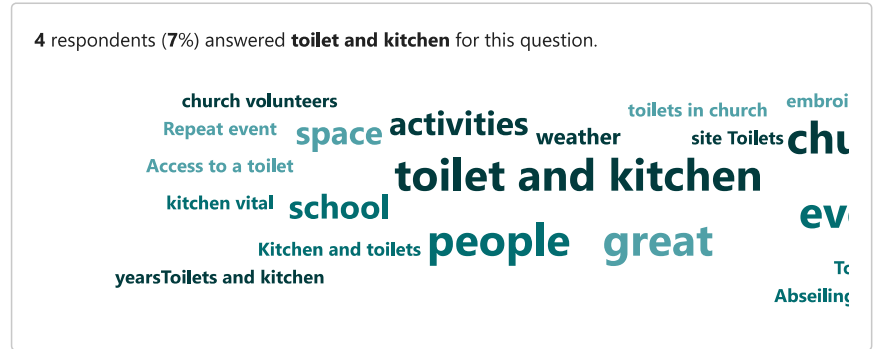
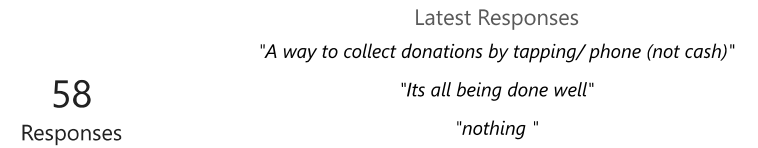
6. What did you like most about the event?



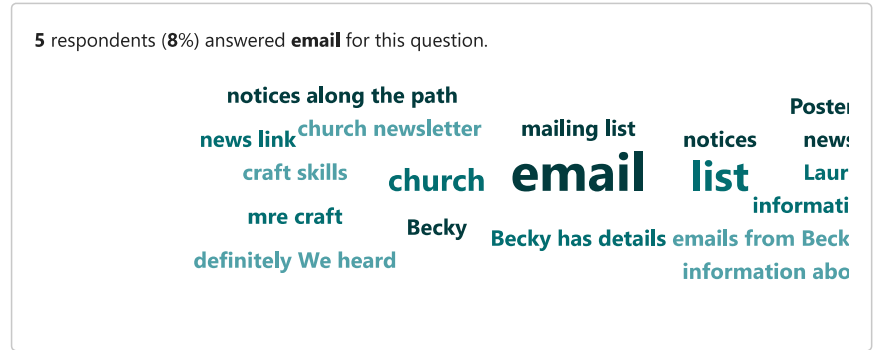
7. What did you like least about the event?



8. Do you have any suggestions for us to improve future events?



9. Would you like to hear about future events?



DCC Final Evaluation

56
Responses

05:06
Average time to complete

Active
Status

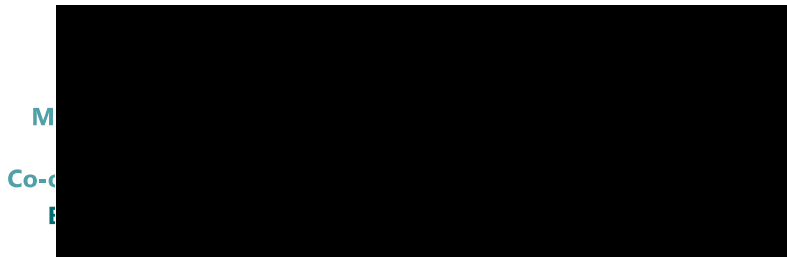
1. First Name

56
Responses

Latest Responses



4 respondents (7%) answered **volunteer** for this question.



2. Your Age

● 0-11	8
● 12-18	16
● 19-29	4
● 30-64	14
● 65+	14



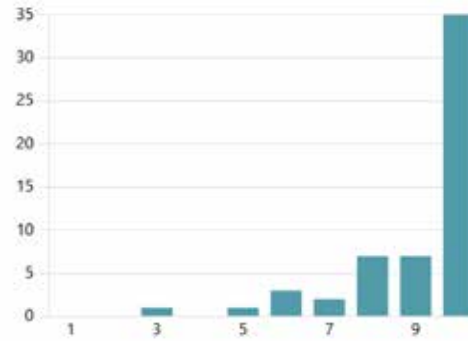
3. What event did you attend today?

● Conversation and Craft	47
● BoA Youth Drop In	9
● Mental Health Workshops	0



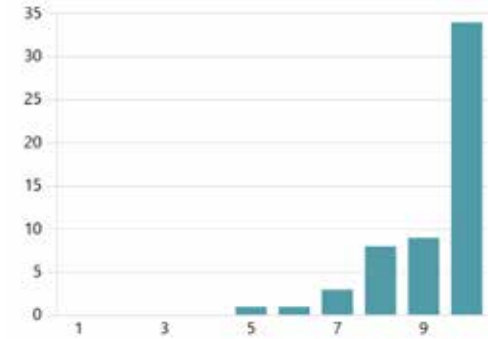
6. How have you found spending time with people of different ages?

9.09
Average Rating



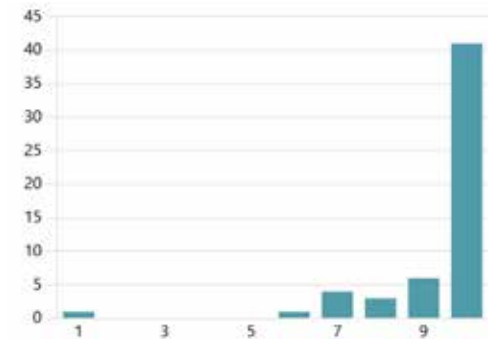
4. What do you think about holding this event at Christ Church?

9.23
Average Rating



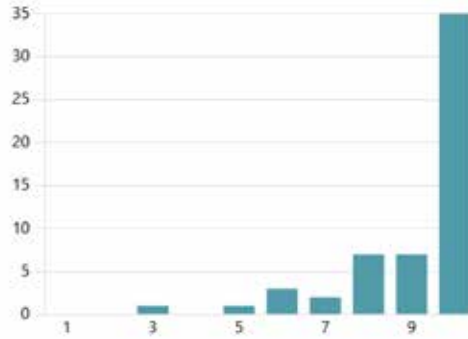
5. Have you enjoyed today's session?

9.34
Average Rating



6. How have you found spending time with people of different ages?

9.09
Average Rating



7. What did you like most?

56
Responses

Latest Responses

"Seeing the children engaged in new activities and talking t...

"The silk painting and strawberry's "

"It was relaxing and therapeutic "

12 respondents (21%) answered **people** for this question.



8. Have you any suggestions for future sessions?

56
Responses

Latest Responses

"No all good"

"More activities "

"Make it longer"

7 respondents (13%) answered **games** for this question.



9. Would you like this event to continue?

● Yes	55
● No	0
● Maybe	1



10. Have you any other comments?

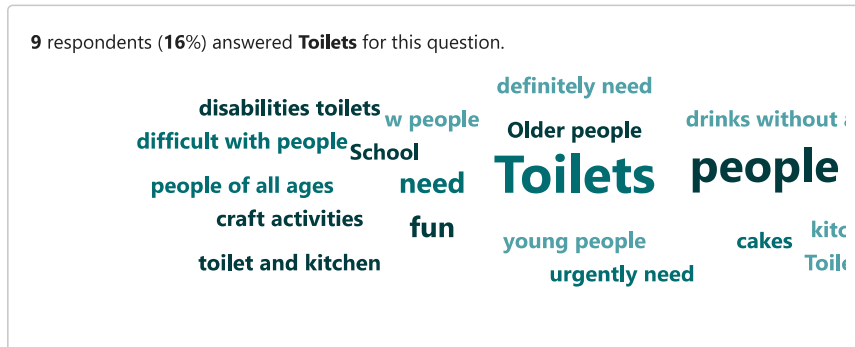
56
Responses

Latest Responses

"Thank you so much. We have loved this project. Some of o..."

"No but we really loved it 🍷"

"No"



Responses Overview

Active

Responses

30

Average Time

05:48

Duration

244

Days

1. First Name and Organisation (if any)

27
Responses

Latest Responses

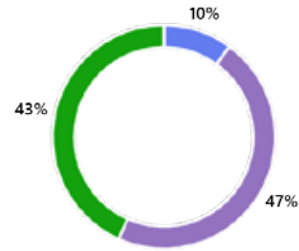


...

3 respondents (11%) answered John for this question.

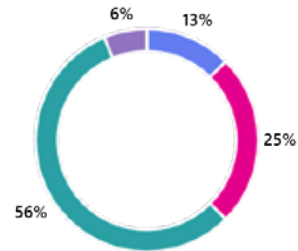
2. Your age:

● Under 11	3
● 12-18	0
● 19-29	0
● 30-64	14
● 65+	13



3. Your role at the event

● running an activity	4
● a volunteer	8
● attendee	18
● Other	2



4. What did you think about holding this event at Christ Church?

1 = poor 3 = middling 5 = excellent

5.00

Average Rating



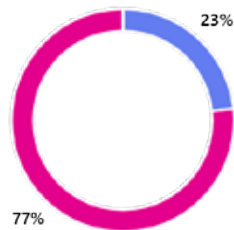
5. What did you think about the mix of activities, displays and hospitality on offer?

1 = poor 3 = ok 5 = excellent



6. Is this your first time attending an event like this at Christ Church?

● Yes 7
● No 23



7. Did you enjoy the Heritage Celebration event?

1 = no 3 = it was ok 5 = yes it was excellent



8. Did you discover anything new?

26 Responses

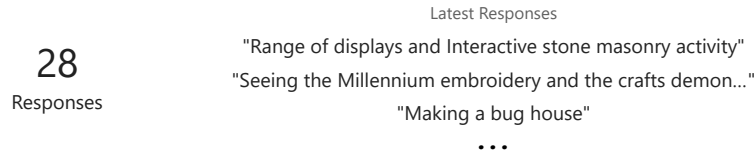
Latest Responses

- "History of Christchurch School Stone carving First viewin..."
- "Learned more about the restoration work"
- "I liked the arty activities and looking at the pictures of th..."
- ...

6 respondents (23%) answered church for this question.



9. What did you like mos.



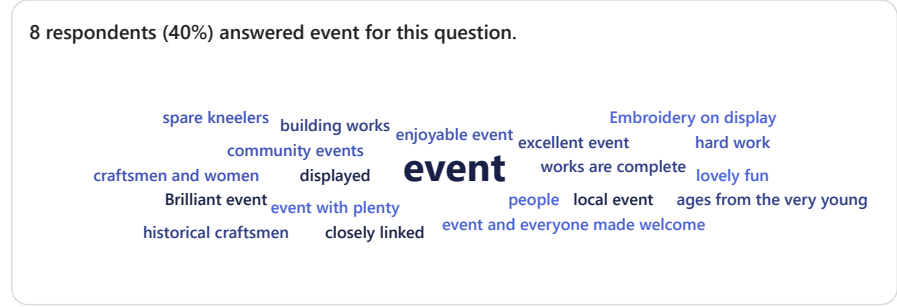
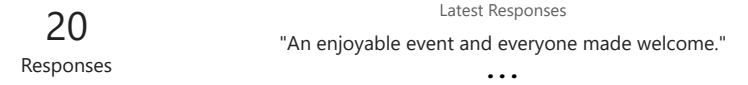
10. Would you like to see more community events at Christ Church?



11. Do you have any suggestions to improve future events at Christ Church?



12. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?



13. Please provide your email address if you would like us to contact you about your feedback.

8
Responses

Latest Responses
...

DCC Final Evaluation

56
Responses

05:06
Average time to complete

Active
Status

1. First Name

56
Responses

Latest Responses
"j" [Redacted]

4 respondents (7%) answered **volunteer** for this question.

[Redacted]

2. Your Age

0-11	8
12-18	16
19-29	4
30-64	14
65+	14



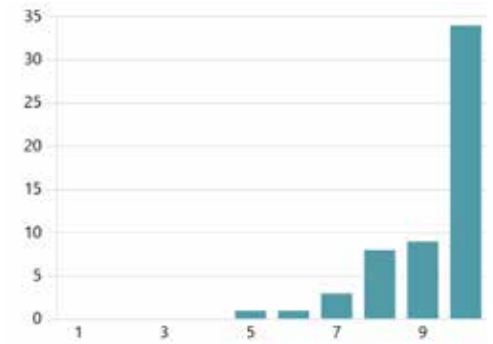
3. What event did you attend today?

Conversation and Craft	47
BoA Youth Drop In	9
Mental Health Workshops	0



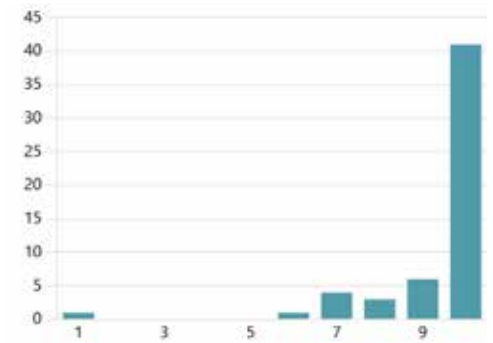
4. What do you think about holding this event at Christ Church?

9.23
Average Rating



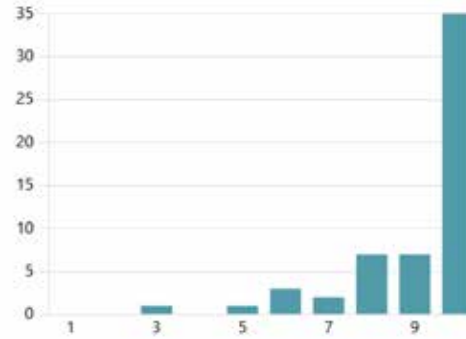
5. Have you enjoyed today's session?

9.34
Average Rating



6. How have you found spending time with people of different ages?

9.09
Average Rating



7. What did you like most?

56
Responses

Latest Responses

"Seeing the children engaged in new activities and talking t..."

"The silk painting and strawberry's "

"It was relaxing and therapeutic "

12 respondents (21%) answered **people** for this question.



8. Have you any suggestions for future sessions?

56
Responses

Latest Responses

"No all good"

"More activities "

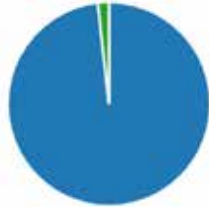
"Make it longer"

7 respondents (13%) answered **games** for this question.

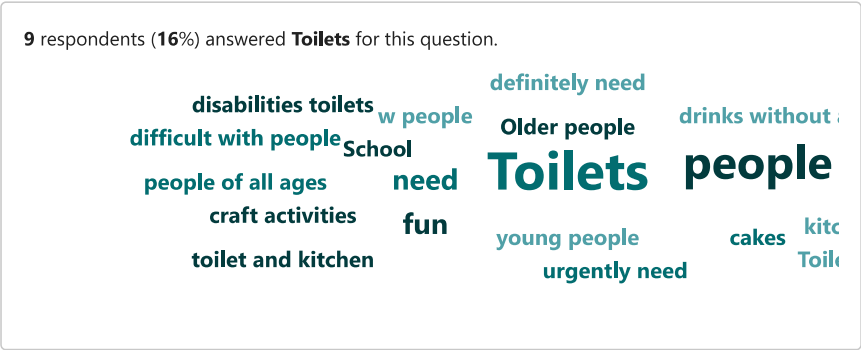
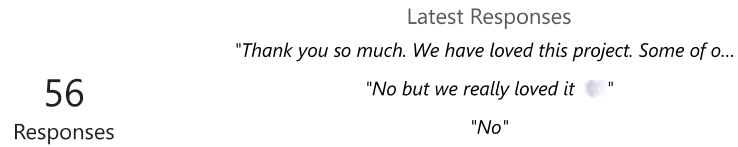


9. Would you like this event to continue?

● Yes	55
● No	0
● Maybe	1



10. Have you any other comments?



Appendix 2

Local History Tour findings & recommendations

Year 6 Local History Tour: findings and recommendations

02 December 2025

Led by the Community Outreach Officer and the Project Coordinator, history tours were carried out for the two year six classes at Christ Church School on Tuesday 2nd December 2025. These were supported by six volunteers on the day, alongside the teacher and teaching assistant for each of the two classes. Not only does this area of work link perfectly with their local history project that they carry out each year, but also instils a keen interest in exploration of the church, looking at the church as a sacred, yet beautiful heritage space that is full of interesting things to discover.

We had five 'areas' for the children to explore which were:

1. **The organ, choir and graffiti wall** – names were recorded on large sheets of paper.
2. **The Chancel and Sanctuary** - with chalice and patten from the safe
3. **The Lady Chapel** – the children recorded their likes and dislikes in this area
4. **Artefacts display including the 'old stained glass window', the foundation trowel and the newly discovered embroidery** – the children shared if they wanted to see the stained glass window repaired
5. **The font, the old picture of the church, the wall paintings and the new facilities (thinking to the future)** – the children wrote down ideas, if any, for the future.

Each class was split into five groups, and spent time listening, looking, exploring, interacting with and writing in each of the areas for approximately 10 minutes per area. Once they had completed all five areas, they gathered back in the choir stalls, and on a post it note the children shared 2 key things they had learnt or found interesting today.

The engagement of the young people was fantastic and **some key findings** are highlighted below:

- The young people particularly enjoyed area one, the organ and graffiti wall, with over 31 choosing to share this at feedback – "I liked seeing the choir people writing and carving names on the walls. VERY INTERESTING!". A wonderful example of social stories and social history as people have a personal connection to the church through recording their names. The young people recorded over 75 names in total, and clearly enjoyed seeing which names they could spot.
- They were keen to discover new things – 13 young people said they found the lady chapel of interest because of the 'secret cupboard', 14 shared how much they liked this cupboard when recording likes and dislikes in the Lady Chapel. The idea of it being a 'secret' is exciting, so clearly shows how important it is to give the young people the opportunity to discover the hidden treasures in this space. Something which they otherwise wouldn't have done.
- There was genuine concern for damage to the church and to the windows – not only the old stained glass window that has been stored in the basement, but also 25 noted their concern about the lady chapel and the amount of

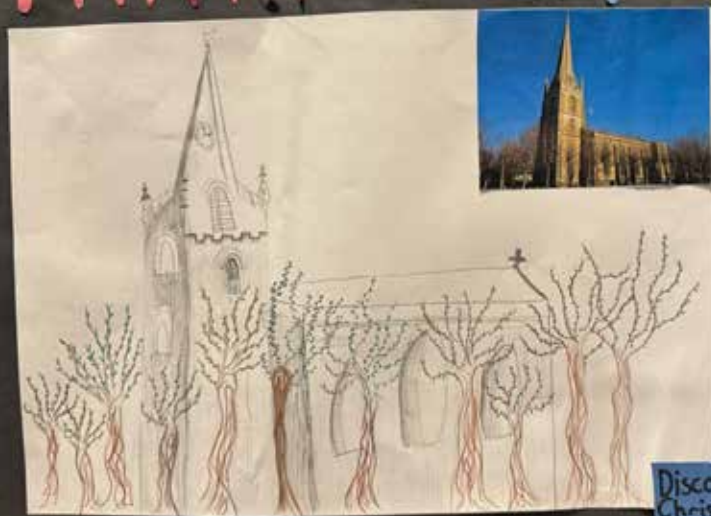
damage that could be seen on the walls. "The old stained glass window that was vandalised - it should be on the repair shop", "I think some of the money from the church should be spent[in the lady chapel] here" – Which is a brilliant idea for a future project!

- The young people want the building to continue to be used. When asked about how they see this space in the future, there were 60 answers, each one suggesting that the church should be used and enjoyed. There was a variety of suggestions for its use, from music and performance, to food related activities, to a relaxing space, to adding a museum area to the church, to sporting and other activities. Just as Christ Church has changed over its nearly 180 years, the children saw opportunity for it to continue to change and adapt, long into the future.

Conclusions

Overall there is a clear desire from the young people for Christ Church to be cared for, used and enjoyed both now and into the future. It is also clear that there is great benefit from doing such tours, so a similar format could be used for year 6 classes for years to come.

THANK YOU!



DISCOVER
Christ Church
COMMUNITY | DISCOVER VILL

Dear volunteers,

Thank @ you for all your help
with the Discover Christ Church
project!

From

Year 6 at
Christ Church
Primary School xxx





Discover Christ Church!

COMMUNITY | DISCOVERY | RESTORATION



With grateful thanks to our funders

