

December 2022



The Church of England  
Diocese of Ely

# CHURCH HERITAGE

News from the  
Church Buildings Team

Wisbech St Mary,  
Richard Humphrey



St Peter's, Coton, William M Connolley



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



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

## REACH ELY LAUNCH

The REACH Ely project launched its final report at an event in Cambridge on 15th November. A suite of tools, advice and videos are now available to churches to help develop the way buildings are used and plan for the future. The range of subjects includes Friends Groups, Festival Churches, community engagement, village welcome booklet, the safe opening of churches, writing a church guidebook and new options for church governance. Guidance is based on 40 case studies of churches in this Diocese; these are also available on the website. [REACH Resources](#)

You can also join a new online forum to discuss these subjects and more, so that churches can collectively learn from each other. [Diocese of Ely Church Buildings Google Group](#)  
Please share any questions you have about the new resources in this forum.



## BREAK-INS AT CHURCHES

Since 1st September there have been six reported break-ins at churches in this Diocese. At one church an Elizabethan communion cup and paten were taken. In most cases, nothing of value was stolen but the parish was left with the cost of repairing the damage done to break in, which usually accounts for the bulk of the costs when a church is burgled.

Ecclesiastical Insurance publishes several guidance notes to help churches make their buildings more secure. We have also recently published a video on how to keep your church open to visitors and remain secure - Safe Opening of Churches.

We recommend that you keep valuable and portable items locked away out of sight, particularly items which are easy to sell, such as audio and computer equipment. All churches should be equipped with a safe which is securely fixed to the building. Some older safes do not provide a good level of security and consideration should be given to upgrading your safe - this can be done without needing any consent from the Diocese. It is important that thieves cannot access the keys for the safe, therefore, these should not be kept in the church, not even in a key-safe. Most key safes are relatively easy to break into, unlike the safes themselves. Keeping keys in a key safe simply makes it obvious where they are and how the thieves can get hold of them.

Installation of alarms and closed-circuit television cameras can now be undertaken with permission from your Archdeacon. Both of these technologies have become much cheaper in recent years, are often "wireless", and can be connected to the internet via a mobile phone sim card, meaning remote monitoring is possible. Please talk to your insurer before you undertake any works of this type, as they may be able to put you in touch with their local representative who can offer further tailored advice to the needs of your church.

### £1,000 REWARD

for information leading to the safe recovery of a **SILVER CHALICE AND PATEN** stolen from the church of **ALL SAINTS AND ST ANDREW, KINGSTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**



The chalice is 115mm high and 80mm in diameter and weighs 150g. The paten, a dish for communion wafers, is 90mm in diameter and weighs 40g. The chalice is inscribed **FOR THE TOWEN OF KINGSTON**

CONTACT: CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY  
PHONE 101 or via [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk)  
quoting **police crime number 35/71217/22**  
PAPWORTH TEAM MINISTRY 01480 839933  
[www.papworthteamchurches.org](http://www.papworthteamchurches.org)

## GOOD NEWS

### Re-roofing of St Mary the Virgin, Leighton Bromswold

The project to completely re-roof this Grade I listed church, which included supporting beams, masonry work and new glazing in the Chancel, was completed earlier this year. The overall cost was £250,000 and a grant from National Churches Trust of £79,128 made it all possible. This grant was part of the Government's Heritage Stimulus Fund.

The supporting beams dating to 1632 had some unusual construction techniques, so a detailed record has been created recording the re-roofing and its substructure.

The church, known for its unique twin pulpits, includes a complete set of Jacobean furniture. Visits to the church are enhanced with a newly updated, free, full colour 36-page booklet.

[More information](#)



# GOOD NEWS CONTINUED

## National Church Awards

The results of the first National Church Awards were announced last month. The competition was tough and whilst there weren't any winners from this Diocese, one church did make it into the final and impressed the judges, making their task all the more difficult. Congratulations to the volunteers at [Wisbech St Peter and St Paul's](#) for not only gaining national recognition for their hard work, but also getting the church removed from the Heritage at Risk Register (see below).

## Sails Installed at Brampton

The last month has seen the Bats in Churches Project install two new pieces of mitigation, with one in this Diocese at [Brampton church](#). Two fabric 'sails' were installed at Brampton, sited under the main bat roosts to catch bat droppings before they reach the floor. The sails can be lowered by a pulley so they can be cleaned whenever it's convenient. It is a comparatively low cost compared to making alterations to the bat roost and can be an instant solution to bat mess in specific areas. [Contact the project](#) for more examples of mitigation measures.

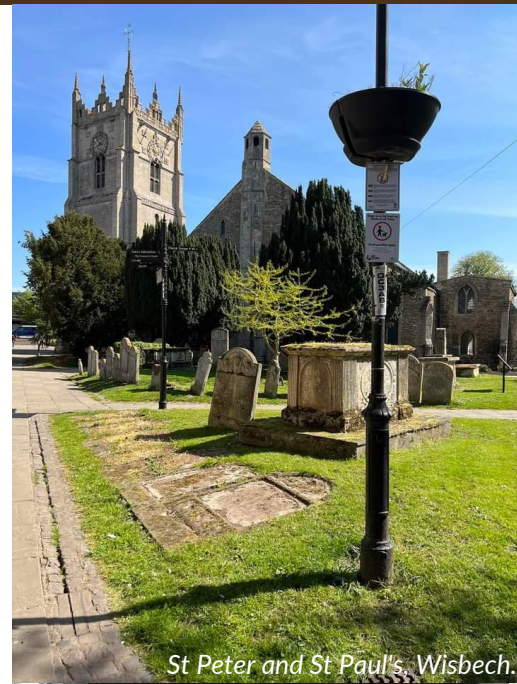
## Churches Removed from the Heritage at Risk Register

In November the [2022 Heritage at Risk Register](#) was published – this is a record of all the heritage assets across the country which are deemed to be at risk of significant deterioration. It is based on assessments carried out between September 2021 and June 2022. During that time, we are pleased to announce that three churches from this Diocese were removed from the register: St Peter and St Paul's Wisbech, St Peter's Coton (pictured top of newsletter) and St Mary's Gamlingay.

## "We Are Re-opening" - St Mary's Ely Celebrates

On 27th November, St Mary's Church, Ely was open for a Festive Fayre, giving many people the chance to see the transformed building for the first time.

The project, which took about nine months, has created a space which can be used daily by the community and by the church. [Find out more](#) about the project, including images and videos.



St Peter and St Paul's, Wisbech.



Brampton, Bats in Churches.



St Mary's, Gamlingay

Please share with us your good news stories. They could be about building projects, events, a new guidebook or display or other ways to draw people to your church.



St Mary's, Ely

# MAINTENANCE MATTERS



**Recommended Monthly Tasks** From *SPAB's Faith in Maintenance Calendar*.

## December

- Clear parapet and valley gutters of snow to prevent melt water rising above them and causing damp internally. Take care in icy conditions.
- Gulleys beneath rainwater pipes should be cleaned out regularly and drains should be rodded out if they overflow during wet weather. Remove silt and debris and ensure water discharges freely.
- Make sure that fire safety equipment has been serviced.

## January

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

## February

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

# GRANTS

## Warm Spaces

The [ASDA Foundation](#) is offering grants that are intended to deal specifically with the cost of living crisis. Upto £2000 is available to local community groups to meet the demand for "Warm Spaces" for those struggling, or for providing meals and other resources. [Click here](#) to find out more.

For more information about warm spaces, visit [The Warm Welcome](#) project website and explore the resources provided by [The Methodist Church](#).

**The [National Churches Trust](#)** are due to launch a new strategy in 2023 - keep an eye on their website for changes to grant criteria and deadlines.

## Suspended Grants Programmes

The **Tudor Trust** closed until 1st April 2023.

The **Jill Franklin Trust** closed to church repair projects until at least December 2022.



# GRANTS CONTINUED

## Current Deadlines

### December

- 1st - The Joseph Rank Trust
- 1st - Amey Cespa Community Fund
- 2nd - John Coates Charitable Trust
- 7th - FCC Communitis Fund

### January

- 3rd - Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust
- 5th - Veolia Environment Trust
- 14th - The Leche Trust
- 20th - The Steel Charitable Trust
- 23rd - Church Buildings Council (Wall Paintings)
- 31st - The Prince of Wales' Charitable Fund
- TBC - Norfolk Churches Trust

### February

- 1st - Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
- 1st - The Sharpe Trust
- 10th - Screwfix Foundation
- 23rd - National Lottery Heritage Fund £250,000+
- 28th - War Memorials Trust
- TBC: Congregational & General Charitable Trust  
Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

### Early March

- 1st - The Joseph Rank Trust
- 1st - Amey Cespa Community Fund
- 8th - Mick George Community Fund
- 8th - FCC Communities Foundation

For advice on grants whether it is for repairs or new works, please contact Holly.

If you would prefer to search for grants and receive more frequent updates on funding opportunities, you can register for free with the following websites:

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



Haslingfield, John Sutton

## Grants without Deadlines

- All Churches Trust
- The Archer Trust
- BIFFA Award - Community Buildings
- Church Buildings Council Conservation Reports
- Garfield Weston
- Geoffrey Watling (Norfolk only)
- Henry Smith Charity
- The National Heritage Memorial Fund - COVID-19 Response Fund (closes April 2023)
- National Lottery Community Fund: Awards for All
- National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities Fund
- National Lottery Heritage Fund: Grants for Heritage (upto £250,000)
- Paul Bassham Charitable Trust (Norfolk only)
- Suez Community Fund
- Tarmac Funding
- Tesco Bags of Help
- The Barron Bell Trust
- The Beatrice Laing Trust
- The Bernard Sunley Foundation
- The Clothworkers' Foundation
- The Co-op Local Community Fund
- The Foyle Foundation Small Grants
- The Hobson Charity Ltd
- The Jack Patston Trust (Cams only)
- The John S Cohen Foundation
- The Rank Foundation Pebble Grants
- The Round Tower Churches Society
- The Swire Charitable Trust - grants under £25,000
- TASC Grants
- Virridor Credits Environment Co.

# ENVIRONMENT

## **Church of England Energy Efficiency Guidance**

The Guidance on [temporary closure of a church due to cold weather](#) and [managing frost protection](#) are now both in the download section of the Energy Efficiency Measures page. On the [Heating Your Church This Winter](#) page you will now find [Practical Suggestions to Help Parishes Save Energy and Money](#). This is a new, free publication packed with useful hints on cutting fuel consumption, occupying the very practical middle ground between putting an extra sweater on and installing solar panels. Many can be completed in an afternoon and none costs a vast amount of money.

## **Historic England Heat Pump Guidance**

Historic England has published advice that looks at the options of air, ground and water source heat pumps, and explores the process of assessing and reducing heating demands in buildings. You can access it [here](#). There is an online library of recordings of webinars that explore a variety of topics including energy efficiency, building services and counting carbon in the historic built environment. You can watch them [here](#).

## **Update from the Bats in Churches Project**

### ***Natural England Wants Your Views***

Natural England is running a free, special workshop on the 8th December to collect views, attitudes and experiences about bats and people sharing spaces. People from all backgrounds, including clergy and PCC members, are invited to come and take part. The results might be used to help shape policy on how bats are managed in public spaces. Contact: [diana.spencer@churchofengland.org](mailto:diana.spencer@churchofengland.org)

### ***Travelling Art Installation A Wing & A Prayer***

Art installation celebrating the relationship churches can have with their bats goes on display at project churches in the new year. The artwork comes as free-standing framed fabric panels (see image right) with an accompanying 'soundscape' and interpretation. It needs no fixings and the soundscape runs on batteries so doesn't need a power cable. [Find out more here](#) If you are interested in hosting it let Diana Spencer know asap so she can plan a UK tour (see details above).

### ***National Bats in Churches Survey***

A huge survey of bats in churches across England has been running for the past four years. The full results will be published in the new year, but one piece of very good news was the discovery of a Grey Long-eared Bat in a church in Somerset, only the second time the project has recorded this species.



## SPECIAL FOCUS: WORKS TO CHURCH CLOCKS

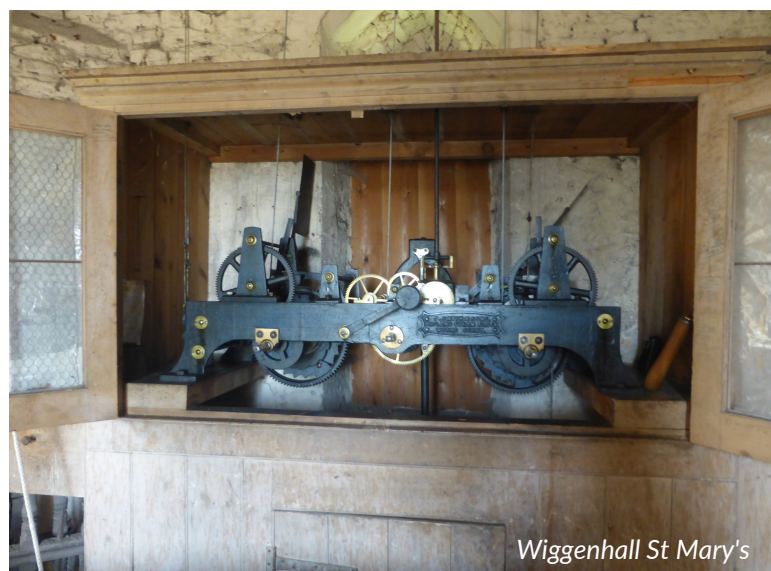
The tradition of putting clocks in church towers goes back many centuries. Before the technology developed to enable dials to be fitted to show the time, most clocks only struck bells to tell out the hours audibly - hence the "clocking" of the bell which gives these machines their name. As clocks developed, together with hour and minute hands to show the precise time, rather than just chiming the hour, their mechanisms became some of the most advanced and complex engineering known to humanity. Some were made by skilled blacksmiths, or in some cases, carpenters, who must have learned their clock-making skills locally; while in our cities larger firms developed who made nothing but clocks, some of whom survive to this day.

Examples of historic clock mechanisms survive in many of our church towers, continuing to tell the time just as they always have. Like any machine, it is important to maintain a clock mechanism and ensure it is kept well-adjusted and appropriately lubricated. As mechanisms get older and become worn, works can become necessary to help them tell the time reliably.

Any works to dismantle, repair, or alter a clock mechanism will require consent before it can go ahead, either from the Archdeacon or, in the case of bigger projects, Faculty consent. This is very skilled work, and it is important that churches seek advice from the DAC's Clocks adviser before commissioning works to a clock, if they are going to be sure of a good outcome. We see quite a few churches opting to install automatic winding on historic clock mechanisms. This can be a good solution in cases where a clock winder can't be found. However, it is important to continue to make regular inspections of the clock mechanism and not to simply ignore it. The type of auto-winding mechanism, and also how it is installed are also important considerations, and the DAC's clocks adviser will be able to assist churches in making the best choice.

Around the country there are many horologists engaged with servicing and repairing clock mechanisms, some of whom specialise only in turret clocks of the type found in churches. Nationally, the Turret Clocks Advisers Forum has published a [Code of Practice](#) outlining best practice when working on turret clocks. They also publish a list of firms which have signed up to the code of practice and we would advise any churches looking to carry out works to their clock to appoint a contractor who is signed up to the code of practice.

Grant funding is available from the [Church Buildings Council](#) towards works of conservation and restoration. The Church Buildings Council also publishes its own guidance specifically about church [turret clocks](#).



Wiggenhall St Mary's

# NEW INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

## Improvement to Digital Inventory and Terrier Template

We are very grateful to James Owen for improving the new digital template after some significant issues were highlighted. The template can now be found [here](#).

## New Belfry Guidance

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has published [new guidance on belfry upkeep](#). The guidance is intended for the person responsible for the care and maintenance of belfry installations, called the steeple keeper, but churches will have different names for the role, and this is recognised in the guidance.

## Conservation Cleaning

The recordings from the [2021-22 Good Housekeeping Lectures](#) are now available on the SPAB website as a pay-to-view. The talks cover a range of topics including hard surfaces: floors, plain and decorative glass, windows and mirrors, metals; soft surfaces: carpets and rugs, tapestries and wall hangings, curtains and upholstery; paper, painted surfaces and paintings.

The cost is £40 per person to view all the talks. For a quick introduction to conservation cleaning, please take a look at the guidance on our website: [Church Cleaning](#).

# CONTACT DETAILS

Please contact Holly if you:

- have any problems with the links contained in this newsletter
- would like to be added to/removed from the mailing list for the newsletter
- have information for the next edition; cut-off date 17th February.

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

**Geoffrey Hunter** - DAC Secretary and Head of the Church Buildings and Pastoral Department

Telephone (01353) 652737 or email [geoffrey.hunter@elydiocese.org](mailto:geoffrey.hunter@elydiocese.org)

**John Morgan** - Church Buildings Advice Assistant - email [john.morgan@elydiocese.org](mailto:john.morgan@elydiocese.org)

**Holly Isted** - Historic Church Buildings Support Officer

Telephone 07948 350211 or email [holly.isted@elydiocese.org](mailto:holly.isted@elydiocese.org)

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

