



CHURCH HERITAGE

News from the
Church Buildings Team

St Pandionia & St John the Baptist, Eltisley

St Bartholomew, Great Stukeley

**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.

NEW TEAM MEMBER

We are delighted to announce another addition to the Church Buildings Team, Sacha Watson. Sacha joined us in March as the Diocese's Net Zero Carbon Officer, to support churches, schools and clergy houses to move to net zero.

The first step is to complete your church's **Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)**.

Your church could be eligible for future Grant opportunities if you submit your church's EFT.

A number of churches have been identified to receive funding from last year's EFT submission, and further funding has already been allocated for a number of this year's EFT submissions. We'd like 90% of churches in the Ely Diocese to have completed the EFT by the deadline of 30 June 2024.

Find out more in the **ENVIRONMENT** section.

GOOD NEWS

Raising the Roof on Duxford Church

St Peter's has had its share of challenges, not least when in 2019 the lead was stolen from the porch and aisle roofs. In 2023 the PCC raised over £70,000 from the Friends Group and other local donations, and grants from the National Churches Trust, Cambridge Historic Churches Trust and the Thalia WB Community Fund. Work to replace the temporary roofing with terne-coated stainless steel, and other associated repairs, were completed in March this year. Find out more on the [Hinkledux Churches](#) website.



Celebrating The Aisle Project at Feltwell

A grand opening has celebrated the new facilities at St Mary's church, including a social space, kitchen and toilet. The Aisle Project has been an ambition of the church and Friends Group for over 15 years, but despite numerous challenges along the way, the dream has been realised thanks in no small part to the efforts of Sue Garland and Christine Parker. You can find out more about the project [HERE](#) or book onto the **Church Buildings Zoom Meeting on the 4th June** - see the **VOLUNTEERS** section for more details.



Phase Two of Drainage Works Underway at Upwell

St Peter's is a large church with an extensive Victorian drainage system which was in urgent need of repair. The scale and cost of the work meant it was necessary for the PCC to phase the project, and thanks to their hard work and commitment over the last 4 years, the final phase has begun. Grants have been received from various sources include the [Norfolk Churches Trust](#), Borough Council, Garfield Weston and local Trusts.



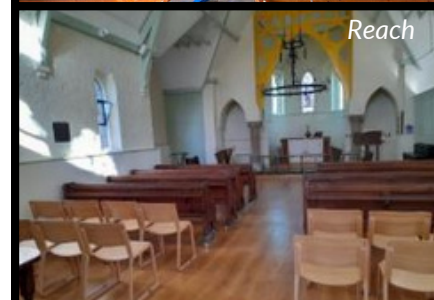
St Mary's, Hardwick is Once Again Open to All

Following a series of plaster falls in St Mary's in late 2022, and with worsening plaster cracks noticeable, the PCC took the difficult decision to temporarily close the church. Thanks to incredible support with local fundraising activities and a grant from the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust. The PCC are delighted to announce that St Mary's is once again open to everyone. [Church website](#).



Reach Church as a Venue

Thanks to a generous legacy, [St Etheldreda's](#) and [the Holy Trinity](#) was completely refurbished in 2022/3 including a servery, toilet and flexible internal space. It is now well equipped to serve not only the needs of the church and the villagers of Reach, but also to be used by the wider community. This year, work has started to landscape the garden to promote biodiversity, creating a variety of habitats and including wildflower areas to attract pollinators. It has extensive views of the Fens and the ruined arch of an older chapel and, although a little bare at present, will form an attractive area for contemplation as it matures in the months and years to come.



REMINDERS

Get Ready for Ride and Stride - Saturday 14th September

One of the biggest fundraising events for historic church buildings is only a few months away. It's a national event, but it is organised locally by County Historic Churches Trusts. There are numerous ways to take part to make it as inclusive as possible. You can be a sponsored participant walking, riding a bike, horse etc... to visit as many churches as possible, or you can be a sponsored welcomer at a church, greeting participants. You can open your church for all or part of the day, or if this isn't possible, encourage people to stop and explore the churchyard instead. If all else fails, people can just give a donation or support the event by displaying a poster or mentioning it on social media- it's as much about highlighting the importance and need for support on a local and national scale, as it is about raising money for church buildings.

Please take part in [Cambridgeshire](#) and [Norfolk](#). For other counties visit the [R&S information page](#). You can also take part in [Heritage Open Days](#) 6th-15th September.

The National Church Awards – the 'BAFTAS for churches'

National Churches Trust Awards is due to open for nominations this summer. You can nominate your church in a range of categories including architecture, maintenance, tourism and volunteers. Visit the website for stories from 2023 and news about this year. [Church Awards](#).

Charitable Status of PCCs

PCCs are excepted charities. This means they are charities, but unless their income is over or near to £100k per annum they are not at present allowed to register with the Charity Commission and so they do not have a charity number. PCC's are, however, still charities and subject to Charity Commission regulations and the Trustees are the members of the PCC.

PCCs must not use the Diocesan charity number. You can download a certificate of Proof of Charitable Status on [A Church Near You](#) - find your church and then look under More Information.

You must now register even if your income exceeds £100k for just one year.

There used to be the option to seek exemption from registering with the Charity Commission if the income exceeded £100k for one year, due to say a large grant received as income, but this has now gone.

Further information:

- Guidance on [Excepted Charities](#)
- [HMRC registration](#)
- [Parish Resources](#) has some useful information on how to apply to the Charity Commission.



St Leonard's, Southoe and Midloe

REMINDERS

Church Property Register

Please ensure your terrier, inventory and log book are kept up-to-date. A logbook, in particular, can be overlooked but its importance cannot be underestimated. Logbooks are a record of all alterations, additions, removals or repairs to the fabric, fixtures and fittings of the church and churchyard.

This record enables future Churchwardens and PCCs to know exactly what action has been taken and when, in order to inform decisions which they may need to take in future.

It is recommended that you produce/maintain an inventory or terrier, together with a photographic record of valuables (including stained glass windows) to aid recovery/replacement of valuable items if stolen or seriously damaged.

A copy of this document should be kept away from the church e.g. at the home of a Church official.

Click [HERE](#) for more details and paper and electronic versions.

Security

Lead theft, break-ins and vandalism, unfortunately, continue to threaten churches. Please ensure you are taking all the necessary steps to minimise the risks and have in place adequate insurance cover if the worst happens.



Take a Virtual Church Tour

St Mary the Virgin

St Neots

[Google Street View Tour](#)

RISK CALENDAR

Taken from [Ecclesiastical Insurance's Church Risk Calendar](#).

June – Fire Risk Assessment

Have you reviewed your [fire risk assessment](#)? All churches need to complete a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 which should be periodically reviewed to remain valid.

July – Working at Height

Falls from height can result in serious injury. Identify circumstances where tasks or access at height may be required and check the precautions you have taken are adequate.

August – Electrical Wiring

Electricity has the potential to cause considerable damage to property and serious personal injury. Check your electrical systems have been inspected by a qualified electrician within the last five years.

GRANTS

Current Deadlines

June

- 1st Thalia WB Community Fund
- 1st The Joseph Rank Trust
- 3rd Churchcare (Organs)
- 5th FCC Communities Foundation
- 10th Churchcare (Church Plate)
- 10th Churchcare (Churchyard structures)
- 10th Churchcare (Brasses and metalwork)
- 10th Churchcare (Monuments)
- 10th Churchcare (Textiles)
- 10th Churchcare (Wooden objects)
- 20th Veolia Environment Trust
- 30th National Churches Trust Small Grants
- 30th War Memorials Trust

July

- 2nd National Churches Trust Large Grants
- TBC The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust
- 15th The Steel Charitable Trust

August

- 1st Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
- 1st Congregational and General Charitable Trust
- 12th Churchcare (Stained Glass)
- 15th National Lottery Heritage Fund
- 31st The Georgian Group - Cleary Fund
- 31st National Churches Trust Small Grants
- 31st William and Jane Morris Fund

Early September

- 1st The Sharpe Trust
- 1st Thalia WB Community Fund
- 1st The Joseph Rank Trust
- 4th Mick George Community Fund
- 4th FCC Communities Foundation

Grants without Deadlines

- The Archer Trust
- Benefacts Trust
- Churchcare Conservation Reports
- Garfield Weston
- Geoffrey Watling (Norfolk only)
- 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)
- Tarmac Funding
- The Barron Bell Trust
- The Beatrice Laing Trust
- The Bernard Sunley Foundation
- The Clothworkers' Foundation
- The Foyle Foundation - closes Jan 2025*
- The Jack Patston Trust (Cambs only)
- The Jill Franklin Trust
- The John S Cohen Foundation
- The Round Tower Churches Society
- The Swire Charitable Trust - grants under £25,000
- The Tudor Trust - suspended*
- TASC Grants

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](#)

CHURCH HALLS

VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme is a new funding scheme to help voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations in England improve their energy efficiency. If your church hall is used for a frontline service such as a foodbank, you could be eligible to apply. The Capital Grant is from £2K to £150K.

The application has 2 stages: you must first submit an Independent Energy Assessment by 20 June, before you can apply for a Capital Grant (deadline 14 August).

[Find out more here.](#)

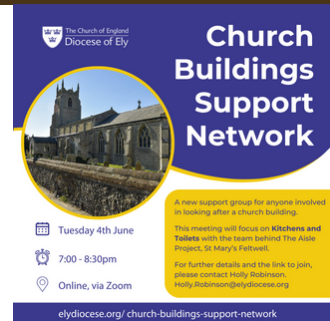
BUILDING VOLUNTEERS

Church Buildings Support Network

A new form of support for parishes, to share experiences and resources.

Notes from the first meeting, held in April, can be found [HERE](#).

The next meeting is on Tuesday 4th June, 7pm - 8:30pm via zoom. The focus this time is on toilets and kitchens with a presentation on The Aisle Project at St Mary's Feltwell, by Sue Garland and Christine Parker. For more details and the link to join please contact Holly. The full programme can be viewed [HERE](#); it is updated as details are confirmed.



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

Church Buildings Support Network

A new support group for anyone involved in looking after a church building.

This meeting will focus on Kitchens and Toilets with the team behind The Aisle Project, St Mary's Feltwell.

For further details and the link to join, please contact Holly Robinson, holly.robinson@elydiocese.org

elydiocese.org/church-buildings-support-network

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

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

June

- Inspect all windows. Check the glazing, putty, lead comes and wire ties for signs of damage.
- Check timberwork for signs of rot including less accessible areas such as floor and roof voids, under stairs and in cupboards.
- Clear any dirt from condensation drainage channels and holes at the base of windows.
- Remove any vermin from floor and roof voids.

July

- Look at timber windows, doors, fascias and bargeboards. Check for cracked and rotten wood. Redecoration may be required.
- Clear away any plant growth from around the base of the walls and in particular from the drainage channel.
- Have the lightning conductor system serviced once every five years.
- If your building has a steeple, consider having it inspected by a steeplejack once every five years.

August

Take a break!

Further information: [Building Maintenance](#).



ENVIRONMENT

Love Your Burial Ground Week and Count on Nature : 8th-16th June

Celebrate churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries this month.

Visit [Caring for God's Acre](#) for more details about the events.

The Church of England Environment Programme is running a [special series of webinars](#) on different aspects of land and nature.

Find out about common species in your churchyards such as swifts and bees; watch some great advice about ancient yew trees; hear from Bishop Graham Usher about the global Communion Forest initiative and explore the relationship between oceans, science and faith.



New Solar PV Guidance from Historic England

Historic England has recently published new guidance on solar PV that considers the whole life of a system from proposal for installation to end-of-life recycling. [Installing Photovoltaics](#).

For church-specific context on solar PV please see advice on [Churchcare](#).

Cost of electricity supply upgrades

For parishes looking to connect to an electricity supply, or upgrade from single phase to three phase, the cost changes brought into force on 1st April 2023 through Ofgem's Significant Code Review can make a huge difference. The changes mean that while we still pay to connect to the electricity network, we no longer pay for improvements to the network (e.g. upgrading substations). The details are explained on the [National Grid's significant code review webpage](#).

VAT Relief for Charity Energy Upgrades

Buildings used solely for charitable purposes can now save on VAT for installing eligible energy-saving materials like insulation, solar panels, and heat pumps. This tax break went into effect on 1st February. Click [HERE](#) to read more about qualifying buildings, materials and works.

Green Church Awards Open for Entries

You are invited to enter the new Church Times Green Awards!

“Tell us what your church, school or community group is doing to make a big impact in your community through eco projects”.

The awards aim to celebrate the great work of church communities around the country who are caring for God's creation. The deadline for entries is 30 June 2024. [Green Awards](#).

Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)

Your church could be eligible for future Grant opportunities if you submit your church's [Energy Footprint Tool](#). A number of churches have been identified to receive funding from last year's EFT submission, and further funding has been allocated for a number of this year's EFT submissions. We'd like 90% of churches in the Ely Diocese to have completed the EFT by the deadline of **30 June 2024**. You will need your energy bills for your church (and church hall), and to know which tariff you have with your energy providers (a green tariff can help your church to reach Net Zero Carbon). The log in is the same as for your Parish Returns.

Work out your church's carbon footprint to help care for God's creation!

ENERGY FOOTPRINT TOOL



The data collected from the tool will help your church understand its carbon footprint. This work is an essential part of caring for God's Creation, by helping to combat global heating and climate change.

INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Parish Resources Gets An Update

Having been around since 2012, it's one of the oldest Church of England websites, but has been a little unloved over the past few years. With a new team in place that's all set to change.



Support with the day to day

“Parish Resources focuses on the everyday governance and administration of local churches— supporting those that serve their church community by ensuring compliance and best practice.”

The [Parish Resources website](#) has had a complete refresh and material is gradually being updated. Anything new will be clearly labelled with the date it was last reviewed, so you can be sure that you're working off something recently checked. There are three key areas of focus this year:

- Church Offices - how to recruit the volunteers who hold church life together.
- Weddings - reviewing current guidance to update and streamline the resources available.
- Charity Commission - working to provide guidance that will assist churches with the registration process, ensuring they are compliant with legislation.

Take a look at the website, sign up to the newsletter and send any feedback, questions, or ideas to giving@churchofengland.org

A New Format for Information

A new section on the Diocese's website, under Church Buildings, is now home to all our guidance and policies. [Care of Church Buildings and Churchyards](#) will be an easy to search area for information - there are still a few adjustments needed. This change will have resulted in some broken links in documents and on webpages, which we are gradually working through to update. Please contact Holly if you have any questions or comments.

Open and Welcome Churches:

Evaluate what you do now and start planning for next year

Churches are designed to be open, welcoming buildings.

Whatever their origin, church buildings all testify to a living faith but, if they are to be accessible and welcoming to all, they need to be open. Locked, they give out so many negative messages and appear elitist. Opening the door and inviting people to share, explore and use the church is a first step in building its future.

The challenges then are to provide a welcome that speaks of loving and caring; to tell the stories of our church in interesting and engaging ways, and to provide opportunities for people to explore their own faith and spirituality.

Every church is different - some have exciting stories to tell others are a place of calm to take time to reflect.

The main thing is to celebrate and share what is unique about your church and not to bite off more than you can chew.

Summer is a great time to evaluate what you currently do, identify opportunities and plan for next year.

Visit the [Open and Welcome](#) webpage for resources to help.



St Peter's Wimblington

TRAINING AND EVENTS

Church Buildings Support Network: 4th June, 7-8:30pm . Contact Holly for the link to join.

Love Your Burial Ground Week: 8th-16th June. [More Information.](#)

Heritage Open Days: 6th-15th September. [More Information.](#)

Ride and Stride: 14th September. Take part in [Cambridgeshire](#), [Norfolk](#) and [other counties](#).

Help! I'm on the PCC!

You are invited to a training event for members of Parochial Church Councils, new and not so new, with the Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech, the Ven Richard Harlow. This will be a chance to discover what your role is, what you are responsible for, and how better to work with your fellow members and your clergy. There are two sessions currently remaining:

Monday 17 June , 2.00 - 4.30pm (for 2.15pm start). All Saints' Church, Hartford.

Registrations close on Thursday 6 June.

Thursday 4 July, 7.00 - 9.30pm (for 7.15pm start). St Peter & St Paul's Church Hall, Chatteris.

Registrations close on Monday 24 June.

Numbers for each session are restricted to 40. [BOOK FOR ALL SESSIONS HERE.](#)

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 19th August.

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

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All Saints', Covington