



# CHURCH HERITAGE

News from the  
Church Buildings Team



All Saints, Hartford



**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.



## **Festival and Friends Conference**

Monday September 30th, 10am-2pm  
St Mary's Church, Ely

Join us to learn more about Friends/Action groups and Festival churches. Have your questions answered, discover how these models could be successful for your church, and meet volunteers and leaders just like you.

A light lunch will be provided.

To book your FREE ticket please email [DAC@elydiocese.org](mailto:DAC@elydiocese.org)  
or use the link on our website.

If you can't make this date, book onto the [Community Engagement zoom meeting in October.](#)



# TWO SHORT SURVEYS TO HELP IMPROVE SUPPORT

## Church Buildings Department Review

Our role is to help people to maintain, repair, adapt, manage and enjoy church buildings and churchyards for mission, community and heritage.

Please spare a few minutes to tell us how we are doing, so we can make improvements where needed.

The short survey will take about 5-10 minutes depending on how you answer some of the open ended questions. It can be accessed here: <https://forms.office.com/e/ym9G01i0by>.

Paper copies are available on request, from Holly Robinson.

The survey will remain open until October 7th and the results will be discussed during the meeting of the Church Buildings Network on November 20th.



## Church visitor experience specialists Wildfi are seeking your views, and the chance to win a £30 Amazon voucher.

What are your attitudes to using digital technology in a church setting, and what types of content you would like to have greater access to when visiting? The survey is available via -

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LZV7WQ8>

It should take no more than 3 minutes to complete.

*Wildfi Co-founder Dan Boys said, "We've seen churches successfully adopting digital giving machines and streaming services over recent years. One area that many churches still struggle with is offering a 21st century solution that engages visitors and encourages donations. We hope this research will help us fine tune our products to ensure they meet the needs of our customers."*

Wildfi's Info Point system enables churches to create immersive experiences for visitors to engage with on their own phone – all without the need for internet connectivity.



To learn more please visit [info-point.com](http://info-point.com)

**Complete the survey before the 21st September to be entered into the prize draw to win a £30 Amazon voucher.**



# GOOD NEWS

## Kingston Church No Longer at Risk

All Saints and St Andrew's church, Kingston was added to the Heritage at Risk Register (HARR) in 2020 due to the poor condition of the nave ceiling, south aisle roof and clerestory windows. After a long campaign to raise approx. £135,000, the repairs were completed and the church was removed from the HARR earlier this year. Congratulations to everyone involved. Read the [Project Summary](#) for more details.

The HARR is published once a year in the autumn, usually in October. Kingston was the only church in the Diocese of Ely to be removed from the register this year; there were 3 additions bringing the total to 31. It is hoped that changes to the [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#) will enable more churches to complete repairs to facilitate removals from and prevent additions to the HARR. [Find out more about the HARR.](#)

## Haslingfield Completes First Phase of Repairs

In June, Haslingfield Choir performed in the newly decorated nave at [All Saints' church](#). The redecoration was the final part of a project which included repairs to high level stonework, clerestory windows, rainwater goods and internal plaster. The total cost was approx. £100,000 most of which was raised locally. Grants were received from Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust (£3000) and the Benefact Trust (£4000).

## Shouldham's Successful Community Event

All Saints held a special event to galvanise support for a "modest but wonderful parish church". The evening went off extremely well, with about 60 parishioners attending and some really positive feedback. It was a hot evening in late June, but people enjoyed a cool drink in a cool building whilst listening to some very interesting speakers who covered the past, present and future of the church, in terms of both the building and people. This has been followed by the return of the [church's flower festival](#) after a 2 year absence. More information: [West Norfolk Priory Group](#), [Norfolk Churches](#).

## Energy Footprint Tool – 74% returns!

Thank you to the 250 churches that submitted their Energy Footprint Tool this year. This is a huge increase on the total of just 36% last year.

The EFT helps to create both a local and national picture of heating systems and energy consumption, which will help us plan our journey to reach net zero carbon. The data collected from the tool will also help your church understand its carbon footprint and will mean you may be eligible for grants to help kickstart your net zero projects. An initial report will have been provided when you submitted your data, but a more detailed report will also be sent to your church over the next few months. Thank you again for this work.





# REMINDERS

## Support Ride and Stride - Saturday 14th September

One of the biggest fundraising events for historic 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](#) 6-15th September.

## Quinquennial Inspections

Please ensure that your [Quinquennial Inspection](#) (QI) is up to date, as well as your [maintenance plan](#) and [logbook](#). If you are not sure when your QI is due, please contact Sam.

## Contact Details for Church Officers

Please remember to send the Diocese a list of your church officers each year. Without this, the contact details we have on our database may be incorrect, meaning information is not getting to the right people. This should be done at the APCM, but if any details change in the interim, it really helps to let us know. If the care of the church building is carried out by someone in a 'different' role, and they would prefer not to be added to the database, please ask them to contact Holly to receive information relating to church buildings.

### Churches Eligible for Reduced VAT on Energy

Did you know, charities and non-profit organisations (including churches) are entitled to a [VAT reduction](#), down from 20% to 5%, on energy used for 'non-business' purposes, as well as exemption from the Climate Change Levy?

To benefit from this, you need to complete the VAT declaration on your energy suppliers' website. If you switch suppliers you will need to complete a new VAT declaration with your new supplier. If you have been paying an incorrect rate you can claim back up to four years overpayments, for some parishes, this could amount to several thousand pounds.

#### ***But what if our church is sometimes used for activities/by groups which generate income?***

If 60% or more of the fuel supplied to your church is used in non-business activities, then you can pay the reduced rate of VAT on the whole supply. If less than 60% of the fuel used by your church is for charitable purposes, you can still claim the reduced rate of VAT (5%) on the qualifying part and the standard rate (20%) on the rest.

Visit [this website](#) to find out more.





# USING THE OFS: PART THREE

## FACULTY APPLICATIONS AND SUMMARY

The Online Faculty System (OFS) can be accessed here: <https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org>.

In previous articles, we have introduced the Church of England Online Faculty System (OFS) and covered List A and List B consent. This article looks very briefly at Faculty applications and summarises the key points to consider for anyone managing a church.

When you start a new application, you will be offered a choice to start either a List A/List B item or to start a Faculty Case. If you are unsure which to select, please contact the Church Buildings team for guidance (details below). If the application is not a matter explicitly covered by List A or List B, then you will need to make a Faculty application.

Faculty applications are more complex than List A/B applications, so we recommend that you seek advice from the Church Buildings team before starting an application. There are two key documents that are almost always required for Faculty applications for listed churches:

- a [Statement of Significance](#) describing the key features of the church and highlighting those that are significant from an historic conservation point of view.
  - a [Statement of Need](#) summarising what the parish is seeking to achieve through the works, and how those works will impact the historic features detailed in the Statement of Significance.
- Other documents will depend on the nature of the works.

All faculty applications will be considered by the Diocesan Advisory Committee at one of its regular meetings. DAC meeting dates can be found at: [DAC Dates and Deadlines](#). The DAC's role is to advise the Chancellor who decides each application. The DAC will summarise its advice under one of three headings: to Recommend, to Not Object, or to Not Recommend, and will provide justification for its advice if appropriate. The DAC may also propose provisos which it considers should be included if a Faculty is granted.

### Summary

These articles have provided a brief overview of the Faculty System. There is an extensive library of help materials including: [Frequently Asked Questions](#); a [Complete Guide to the OFS](#) for parish users; and the helpful overview of how to use the OFS created by the [Diocese of Lincoln](#).

If you are managing your church please remember the following as you consider new works:

1. Almost everything you are considering will require approval under the Faculty system via List A (no approval), List B (Archdeacon's approval) or a Faculty (Chancellor's approval).
  2. All applications for approval should be made by the Online Faculty System and one or more member of the PCC should be registered users of the system.
  3. The OFS is not always intuitive to use but thousands of churches across the country successfully gain approval for tens of thousands of applications each year via the OFS.
  4. If you need help at any time in respect of making or progressing an application, the Church Buildings team on 01353 652729 or via [dac@elydiocese.org](mailto:dac@elydiocese.org) should be your first port of call.
- We will always aim to respond within 5 days ... but we are human. If you don't hear please try again!

John Morgan, Assistant DAC Secretary

# MAINTENANCE MATTERS

## Recommended Monthly Tasks From SPAB's Maintenance Calendar

### September

- If your roof space has safe access and is boarded, check for evidence of leaks or damage to the roof covering during heavy rain, especially below gutters.
- Clear away any plant growth from around the base of the walls and in particular from the drainage channel.
- Make sure that water tanks and exposed water and heating pipes are protected from frost. Any leak should be repaired.
- Make sure that any airbricks or under floor ventilators are free from obstruction and clean if necessary.

### October

- Check masonry for signs of damage. Report any deeply eroded mortar joints or cracks or signs of movement.
- Check that snowboards and access walkways are in a good state of repair.
- Clear leaves and debris from gutters and rainwater pipes regularly and check for any storm damage. Frequent attention may be needed if the building is surrounded by trees or perched on by pigeons.

### November

- Check that the flagpole is secure.
- Check the roofs for damage. Debris on the ground from broken or missing slates and tiles indicates that there may be a problem.
- Continue to clear leaves and debris from gutters and rainwater pipes regularly and check for any storm damage.
- Take part in SPAB's National Maintenance Week 11th-17th November.

For guidance, including maintenance plans and videos [visit our website](#).

## RISK CALENDAR

Taken from *Ecclesiastical Insurance's Church Risk Calendar*.

### September - Slips and Trips

Claims data shows that slips and trips are the most common cause of injury in churches.

To reduce the risk, review your precautions to tackle slip and trip hazards both indoors and outside.

### October - Working Alone

Working alone can present a number of hazards, including an increased risk of assault and/or aggression. Review situations where people complete tasks on their own to check the adequacy of precautions in place to protect them.

### November - Flood Safety

Climate change is resulting in more extreme weather events. Though it's impossible to flood-proof your church properties, there are some simple actions you can take to reduce the damage caused.





## NEW SECTION: OFFERED AND WANTED

Do you have any church furnishings or equipment you no longer need, or would like to acquire? Send the basic details, a photo if applicable and contact details to Holly and we will feature your offered or wanted item here.

## GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING

### Meet the Funder: **easyfundraising**.

Want to access a new funding stream for your church?

ACAT are offering a **FREE** webinar in conjunction with **easyfundraising**, a free to use fundraising platform which your church can use to receive unrestricted funding on an ongoing basis.

“We want to help your church access this exciting opportunity to grow your churches finances.”

**Tuesday 24th September 2024, 12.30pm - 1.30pm**

For more information and to book: [ACAT webinar](#)

### Government grants to support the modernisation and improvement of rural community buildings

ACRE are pleased to be managing a grant fund on behalf of Defra to support the modernisation and improvement of rural community buildings.

As far as multi-use spaces within Churches are concerned, applications are welcome where there is not a village hall or other similar meeting place in the village. Similarly, some Church halls will be eligible. Applications are looked at carefully by the award panel so church applications will be given fair consideration. Find out more: [Grants for Village Halls](#).

### Thrive Renewables Community Benefit Programme – Grants for energy saving measures in community buildings.

This programme gives grants of up to £4,500 to cover improvements such as insulation, draught-proofing, LED lighting or improved heating controls.

**The deadline for applications is midday on Tuesday 24th September.**

The programme is open to community buildings within a 20-mile radius of one of the 15 wind and hydro sites in which Thrive Renewables is invested. [Find out more here](#).



# GRANTS

## Current Deadlines

### September

- 1st The Sharpe Trust
- 1st Thalia WB Community Fund
- 1st The Joseph Rank Trust
- 5th The Idlewild Trust
- 4th Mick George Community Fund
- 4th FCC Communities Foundation
- 24th The Worshipful Company of Glaziers
- 26th Norfolk Churches Trust
- 30th The On Organ Fund

### October

- 3rd Veolia Environment Trust
- 7th Church Buildings Council (Organs)
- 14th Church Buildings Council (Church Plate)
- 14th Church Buildings Council (C/yard structures)
- 14th Church Buildings Council (Brasses & metal)
- 14th Church Buildings Council (Monuments)
- 14th Church Buildings Council (Textiles)
- 14th Church Buildings Council (Wooden objects)
- 15th The Steel Charitable Trust
- 31st War Memorials Trust
- 31st National Churches Trust Small Grants

### November

- TBC The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust
- 1st Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
- 5th National Churches Trust Large Grants
- 7th Congregational and Charitable Trust
- 13th Augean Landfill Fund
- 21st National Lottery Heritage Fund (over £250K)

### December

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

*King Charles III Charitable Fund - the small grants programme is closed to applications at present and will reopen in early 2025*



## Take a Virtual Church Tour

All Saints

Pidley

[Google Street View Tour](#)

## Grants without Deadlines

- The Archer Trust
- Benefacts Trust
- Church Buildings Council Conservation Reports
- Garfield Weston
- Geoffrey Watling (Norfolk only)
- Henry Smith Charity
- National Lottery Community Fund: Awards for All
- National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities Fund
- National Lottery Heritage Fund (upto £250,000)
- Paul Bassham Charitable Trust (Norfolk only)
- Suez Community Fund
- Tarmac Funding
- Tesco Bags of Help
- The Barron Bell Trust
- The Beatrice Laing Trust
- The Bernard Sunley Foundation
- The Clothworkers' Foundation
- The Co-op Local Community Fund
- The Foyle Foundation Small Grants
- The Hobson Charity Ltd
- The Jack Patston Trust (Cambs only)
- The Jill Franklin Trust
- The John S Cohen Foundation
- The Rank Foundation Pebble Grants
- The Round Tower Churches Society
- The Swire Charitable Trust - grants under £25,000
- The Tudor Trust
- 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 Buildings Network

Support for people looking after church buildings



## Meeting Dates

All are online via zoom

**SEPTEMBER 4TH 7PM - 8:30PM**

**Focus: Lighting and Net Zero Carbon**

Speakers from Alconbury and Newnham churches

**OCTOBER 9TH 7PM - 8:30PM**

**Focus: Community Engagement**

Friends Groups to community events, with Samuel Pedlar, Church and Community Support Adviser

**NOVEMBER 20TH 7PM - 8:30PM**

**Focus: Open Q&A session**

Ask your burning questions and help shape the 2025 programme for the network.

For further details and the link to join, please contact  
[Holly.Robinson@elydiocese.org](mailto:Holly.Robinson@elydiocese.org)

For more details and notes from past meetings visit: [elydiocese.org/church-buildings-support-network](https://elydiocese.org/church-buildings-support-network)

## INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Three new [Project Summaries](#) have been added to the website. These give a brief overview of completed projects to help parishes planning something similar. The new summaries are:

- All Saints and St Andrew's Kingston - urgent repairs
- St Mary's, Feltwell - Toilet , kitchen and community space
- St Etheldreda's, Reach - Reordering and development

For more information about these and other featured projects, please contact Holly.

# ENVIRONMENT AND NZC

## Eco Church Support Zoom Session

**Tuesday 26th November 6-7pm**

An informal session to chat about what you are doing to work towards Eco Church Awards.

Share success, obstacles and challenges you may be experiencing, seek support and support others.

Whether you're seeking advice, have lots of experience

to share or just want to listen in to the chat, please join online, with Robert Skelton (Ely Cathedral - Eco Church Gold Award), and Polly Eaton (A Rocha Eco Church - Eco Diocese Officer).

[Register here](#) to receive a zoom link (this will be emailed out prior to the session).



## Could you be an Eco Champion?

We are building a network of Eco Champions who can help to support one another as they progress through the Eco Church awards, helping to progress sustainable change.

The role of an Eco Champion will be to help the church to reduce its carbon and environmental footprint and to support the church with its response to the climate and nature crises (this might be at parish or deanery level). [Read the Eco Champion role description](#)

If you're interested in this voluntary role, contact [nigel.cooper@elydiocese.org](mailto:nigel.cooper@elydiocese.org) to find out more.

## About Boilers

As the autumn season starts, thoughts turn to heating and for some, whether the existing boiler will last. Nearly 40% of the churches in the diocese have boilers which are 20+ years old, some of which may be about to fail. If this is true for your church, you may want to start planning for a replacement boiler – noting that replacement oil and gas boilers now require a faculty. There are resources to help on the [Church of England's Heating webpage](#) and other useful information on the [Diocese of Oxford's Heating webpage](#). You can also contact Sacha Watson, our Net Zero Carbon Officer, for further advice and support (details on next page).

## Churchyard Conservation Scheme

Visit the Wildlife Trust websites for [Cambridgeshire](#) or [Norfolk](#) to discover how your church or group could get involved.

## The Stobart Sustainability Fund

This is a relatively new fund which has only just come to our attention.

It is “aimed at supporting community-led sustainability projects and initiatives lead by non-profit organisations, community groups and educational facilities, such as schools and colleges, to help them transform their local community through projects that tackle climate change, reduce carbon emissions or that protect and enhance the environment”.

The fund does not respond to general queries; the advice is to complete the short online application form to start a conversation. [Stobart Sustainability Fund](#).

If you do decide to apply, please let us know how you get on.



# TRAINING AND EVENTS

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

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

**Easyfundraising Free Webinar:** 24th September, 12:30- 3:30pm. [More Information](#).

**Festival and Friends Conference:** 30th September, 10am-2pm. [More Information](#).

**Church Buildings Network** - Contact Holly

- Lighting and NZC - 4th September, 7-8:30pm
- Community Engagement - 9th October, 7-8:30pm
- Open Q&A - 20th November, 7-8:30pm

**Eco Church Support:** 26th November 6-7pm. [Register here](#)

**SAVE THE DATE 2025**

**Love Your Burial Ground Week:** 7th -15th June 2025 [More Information](#).

## 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 November 18th.

**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) or on 01353 652729.

**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 - Assistant DAC Secretary**

Telephone 01353 652705 or email [john.morgan@elydiocese.org](mailto:john.morgan@elydiocese.org)

**Sam Reeder - DAC Administrator**

Telephone 01353 652718 or email [sam.reeder@elydiocese.org](mailto:sam.reeder@elydiocese.org)

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

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

**Samuel Pedlar - Church and Community Support Advisor**

Telephone 07539 916607 or email [samuel.pedlar@elydiocese.org](mailto:samuel.pedlar@elydiocese.org)

**Sacha Watson - Net Zero Carbon Officer**

Telephone: 07301 29856 or email [sacha.watson@elydiocese.org](mailto:sacha.watson@elydiocese.org)



St Martin's, Little Stukeley