



ASSOCIATION OF
FESTIVAL CHURCHES



Festival Churches

Nigel Mills



Aims

- Say Hello!
- Give you some food for thought
- Introduce the Association
- Stimulate the difficult questions
- Remind you of some resources



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What is a Festival Church?

- Church Building Review 2015
- Recommended in the Taylor Review
- Amendments to Canons B11, B14 and B39
- Church of England's vision of a mixed ecology
- Not an official "designation"



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A way of “Doing Church”

- Doing less formal worship - but doing it better
- Enabling more people to be actively involved in the management of the church



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Characteristics

- Festival Churches are local
- Festival Churches are a positive choice
- Festival Churches are creative
- Festival Churches are part of growth



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St Mary, East Cottingwith

- Awarded Festival Status in 2021
- Managed by Joint Council
- Festivals well attended
- More people looking after the building
- Income increased
- Better placed to tackle the issues



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St Mary, Longsleddale

- Small Church in a dead end valley
- Existing PCC wanted to close the church
- 12 month fallow period
- Joint PCC
- Friends Group
- Financially sustainable



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The Process

- Discuss in your PCC and with Archdeacon
- Consult with the community
- Pass a PCC resolution
- Inform the Bishop and/or DAC
- Celebrate, implement change and be creative!



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Summary of Benefits

- Wider responsibility for the building
- Still visibly operates as a church
- Remains open for “life events”
- Focuses on fewer special events
- Still eligible for public funding



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The Association

- Promoting the Festival Church Model
- Producing resources and case studies
- Providing direct support
- Organising and delivering training
- Anything else you can think of!



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General Information

The Association of Festival Churches

www.festivalchurches.org.uk

The Church of England

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/diocesan-resources/strategic-planning-church-buildings/festival-churches>

The Diocese of Ely

<https://www.elydiocese.org/outcomes-and-documentation.php>



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Resources

The National Churches Trust

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/grants>

The Benefact Trust

<https://benefacttrust.co.uk/>

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/>

Crossing The Threshold

<https://www.hereford.anglican.org/parish-support/community-partnership/crossing-the-threshold-toolkit/>



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Keep in Touch!

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I'm also around all day!



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