



Places of Worship is a project of The Heritage Alliance, an operating name for Heritage Link. It has been generously funded by the National Churches Trust. Reg. Charity No.1119845

There are 14,500 places of worship in England listed for their special architectural or historic interest. 45% of all grade I listed buildings are places of worship. 85% of listed places of worship in England belong to the Church of England.

About 85% of the population visit a church building or place of worship each year.

Church of England ORB survey

Places of Worship @ The Heritage Alliance is

an action-oriented national forum designed to strengthen the voice of historic places of worship in national debates. Its aims are to:

- provide a national forum for liaison and communication between a wide range of organisations with an interest in the future of historic places of worship
- develop a shared vision on the way forward for historic places of worship
- strengthen the 'third sector' voice on historic places of worship, actively engaging with those representing the heritage of all faiths and seeking to agree a joint position on important matters of policy when dealing with government and other stakeholders
- increase the capacity of the sector through collaboration, seeking to maximize the overall funding available while minimizing competition between members, and supporting relevant initiatives through joint marketing and in other ways
- enhance members' contribution to, and strengthen the sector's relationship with, wider debates on heritage, regeneration and funding through the work of The Heritage Alliance
- provide advice to The Heritage Alliance and its working groups on matters relating to historic places of worship.

For further details, contact

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Places of Worship at The Heritage Alliance A Manifesto



PLACES OF WORSHIP AT THE HERITAGE ALLIANCE

A MANIFESTO FOR HISTORIC PLACES OF WORSHIP

COMMUNITY, JOBS AND SUSTAINABILITY



Historic places of worship are nationally important landmarks and places of history and architectural wonder. They are sacred places valued for their quiet and space for reflection by a wide public beyond regular worshippers. Historic places of worship are community buildings; run, maintained and paid for by local people.

Places of Worship @ The Heritage Alliance (POWAlliance) is the voice for all voluntary sector organisations promoting the sustainability and community benefit of historic places of worship, within The Heritage Alliance. Its members represent the majority of the sector and work through *POWAlliance* to communicate with Government and policy audiences.

We believe that:

- Investing in historic places of worship to provide 21st century facilities can regenerate rural and urban community life.
- Repair, maintenance and adaptation of historic places of worship stimulates local economies, and creates local jobs and training.
- The revival and sustaining of craft skills keeps traditional craftspeople in business and provides vocations for young people.
- Putting historic places of worship back to use reconnects communities and provides landmarks for regeneration.
- Historic places of worship generate volunteering opportunities for all ages
- Regenerating historic places of worship significantly reduces carbon emissions as it avoids the waste of embodied energy and materials caused by demolition and new build. It takes up to 50 years for even a 'green' new building to recover the energy used in its construction



We seek:

- The continuation beyond 2011 of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, which has invested over £94m across the UK (to August 2009) and attracted four times that amount to the benefit of community projects over eight years
- Protection of the Heritage Lottery Fund's share of Lottery funds
- An end to the freeze in DCMS grant-in-aid to the bodies supporting historic places of worship and to the EH/HLF repair grants schemes, and a continuing commitment to grant aid for historic places of worship from the Welsh Assembly via Cadw
- Partnerships – with the regeneration and community development sectors, regional development bodies, government departments, the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament – in recognition of shared objectives, and to deliver the very significant benefits which historic places of worship can bring to such agendas
- Closer working relationships with local authorities and increased participation in LSPs, LAAs and LAGs etc. to reflect the ability of places of worship to help deliver on many local authorities' priorities
- Greater public awareness of the number of historic places of worship at risk and the support which needs to be given to the volunteers who keep them going.
- Greater awareness among private grant giving and sponsoring bodies of the value of places of worship and recognition of this in grant giving.