



Research into the impact of the £12million a year LPWGS by English Heritage, July 2010

“Although it only provides grants of 17.5% of the total cost, 1 in 5 recipients said they would not have been able to proceed without it. 86% of recipients polled said that their grant halted the decline of the building and 76% said it prevented irreversible damage”

Why the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme Should Continue

Why should the Scheme continue?

- Places of worship are maintained largely by volunteers for whom **this Scheme provides an accessible form of funding**;
- It is easy to apply for, unbureaucratic and **the grant goes directly to those who have undertaken the works**;
- **It encourages POWs to employ VAT registered builders and contractors and architects**, because it is based on VAT receipts, helping to ensure that the work is going to be professionally undertaken;
- It attracts Government investment, from voluntary donations and private funds. **It pump-primers fundraising efforts**.
- It **catalyses communities and volunteers** to take responsibility for the future of the historic building in their midst.

There is strong momentum within the majority of faith groups to make their buildings available to the wider community, both in rural areas (post offices, community shops, public libraries) and in the inner cities (drop in centres, Childrens' Centres, safe space for a range of social services).

If the Scheme does not continue, the VAT that is currently recoverable will be taxed at 20%; the extra costs that congregations will have to spend on getting the buildings into a good state of repair and energy expended on additional fundraising will considerably slow down the valuable services they are providing and their potential to play an even bigger role.

“48% of recipients agreed that the repair and maintenance supported by the LPWGS has broadened the types of people from the local community that use the place of worship”
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- Association of Diocesan & Cathedral Archaeologists
- British Institute of Organ Studies
- Cathedral Architects Association
- Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, Church of England
- Churches Conservation Trust
- Churches Tourism Association
- Churches Trust for Cumbria
- DAC for the Diocese of Coventry
- DAC for the Diocese of Leicester
- Friends of Friendless Churches
- The Georgian Group
- Historic Chapels Trust
- Jewish Heritage UK
- Maintain our Heritage
- Methodist Church Resourcing Mission Office
- NADFAS
- National Churches Trust
- The Pilgrim Trust
- SPAB
- Twentieth Century Society
- The Victorian Society
- War Memorials Trust
- World Monuments Fund in Britain

POW Alliance represents:

- LPWGS is a **simple, non-competitive scheme** that pays quickly and helps small communities to maintain their heritage building without having to engage in a complex application process;
 - LPWGS **helps with all types of repairs** to all listed places of worship;
 - LPWGS **addresses a specific disincentive** to faith-based volunteers to repair historic places of worship when building new, unlisted buildings is VAT free.
 - LPWGS is **universal in its application**. It is an excellent way of engaging volunteers & the wider community in their heritage & building civil society.
- We welcome the Government's commitment to restoring funds to the Heritage Lottery Fund, but **this is no substitute** for the disappearance of the Listed Places of Worship Scheme:

The Heritage Lottery Fund

What difference has the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme made?

It currently refunds about **£15m** per year across the UK, important support to the many tens of millions of pounds raised by local communities each year through their own efforts.

Key Facts

- The issue of VAT on repairs to listed places of worship is significant. There are approximately **15,500** listed places of worship across the UK, **14,500** of which are in England and **12,500 (85%)** are Church of England churches. The Church of England is responsible for **45%** of all Grade I listed buildings in England — a large part of England's heritage.
- Currently, the Church of England is spending **£110m per annum on repairs and maintenance** to its parish churches.
- The major sources of funding in England for these repairs are **£25m pa from the Joint English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund** and **£15m pa from the LPWGS** which makes a total of **£40m** available in total per year.

This means that English congregations and local communities are currently raising 66% of the £110 million spent, themselves.

“63% of recipients state that repair and maintenance for their place of worship is a constant major concern”
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Some examples of what progress has been made in the past eight years....

[St Peter's Church, Peterchurch, Herefordshire](#)



Repairs and renovations completed in January 2010 in partnership with Herefordshire Council have provided a home for the Golden Valley Children's Centre, and a public branch library in the bell tower as well as making the church safe, beautiful & warm for a whole host of activities.

<http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/features/5015907>

[St Paul's Church, Bow, London](#)

In the late 1990s, St Paul's was facing redundancy. Following a £3.2m development project, it re-opened in 2004 as a place of worship and a community centre. The "Ark" has been inserted into the main volume of the church and provides space for the *Into University* charity, meeting rooms, *Ability Bow* –an inclusive fitness gym and sauna. A café and toilets and additional workshop space have been created at the west end. <http://www.saintpaulschurch.co.uk/>



[St Clement's Church, Ordsall, Stockport](#)



"St Clement's was threatened with closure in the late 1990's. However since re-opening in 2003 with just 3 members we now have 40 members who all live in the parish. Though lacking financially, they are very passionate about St. Clements church. The church sits at the centre of the estate

and is an important landmark. Its future success is an imperative for the estate as a whole. Before we began the church had no windows, loose, missing and broken tiles to all the main roofs. There was visible dry rot. Due to the minimal funds of the churchwe have to do the work in phases. We have had two phases so far. The first was for the south aisle. We received £35,700 from the LPOWGS. The total costs of the works were £230,000. We applied for grants everywhere...The second phase which is happening as we speak costs £240,000, of which we are claiming £35,600 from the LPOWGS.

[The LPOWGS is helping us] to create a sense of community, belonging and developing a sense of outreach to the local community. Without it we would have real difficulty securing other grants to fulfil other phases. This is not just a church but a community space which provides accommodation for a variety of community groups .eg dancing group, children's weekly club, craft class, health and art development groups...This place is at the heart of the community and the community uses it as their place"

Rev'd Sandra Kearney—Priest in Charge

http://www.salfordchurch.org/St_Clement.html



[St Michael's, Framlingham, Suffolk](#)

Repairs and renovations to the lead roof, which was leaking onto the important monuments below, have preserved the interior of this historic building, and allow a wide range of activities to continue throughout the week, as well as on Sundays.

To find out how the church serves its local community, visit

<http://www.stmichaelsframlingham.org.uk/>

[Sandys Row Synagogue, London](#)

This is the oldest Ashkenazi synagogue in London, in a building originally constructed in the 1760s as a Huguenot chapel.

The scheme has assisted with the restoration of a dangerously fragile roof, and interior. Future plans include the building of an East End Heritage Centre to feature the long history of Judaism in the local area. The synagogue featured in English Heritage's 'Heritage at Risk' initiative this year: To learn more, visit:



(C) English Heritage.NMR

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/about/multimedia-library/har/?child=04-case-study.flv>

[St Nicholas's Church, Fundenhall, Norfolk](#)



"The.. Scheme has been a great help to [us].....St. Nicholas Church was closed in..2005 because the stone work on the.. tower was starting to crumble and break.... Inside the church the electrical installation was becoming dangerous. A meeting was called in.. 2006

and a letter was sent to each house in the village stating that unless something was done the church would remain closed and would eventually fall down. Much to the amazement of the Rector and those of us who wanted to do something the village hall in a nearby village was filled. A committee was formed and from that night the members have worked tirelessly to restore the church. We have raised over £25,000 ourselves, and when you consider there are only 375 people in the village, many of whom are retired, this is a wonderful achievement.

English Heritage covered the major part of the cost of restoring the Tower and South Nave Roof. We applied to the LPOWGS and received approx £16500 in repayment of VAT on the work for the Tower and Roof. We then found ourselves able to pay for the rewiring of the church and with generous donations for the heaters we now have a very warm and beautifully lit church!"

Mrs Dianne Burridge—Churchwarden

<http://ashwellthorpepc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/churches/fundenhall/>