

POW WOW

The Newsletter of the Places of Worship Project

Issue 10

May 2011

NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST REPORT PUBLISHED



The results of the National Churches Trust Survey, published last month, established new and up-to-date facts about the state of the UK's church buildings. The survey, the most comprehensive of its kind, was open to all of the estimated 47,000 churches, chapels and meeting houses in the UK. It has found that these buildings play a key role in local life as venues for volunteering and community activities – but need support in undertaking repairs and maintenance.

The survey is unique in revealing not just the physical condition of churches but also the way they are managed, funded and used by their communities. The results show that in addition to their role as places of worship, church buildings play a vital role in activities for the benefit of the wider community, including supporting children and young people. Analysis suggests nearly 80% of churches are used for purposes other than regular worship.

The survey also reveals the maintenance needs of church buildings. Whilst many buildings are well looked after, the survey indicates 8% of churches are in poor or very poor condition.

Andrew Edwards, Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust, said:

“Through a single, national survey we now have a better understanding of church buildings across the UK. The survey shows that open, accessible church buildings provide communities with a significant resource. Voluntary action that takes place locally often needs a physical space in which to happen, and it is clear that church buildings help fill that need.

“However, the survey also reveals these buildings’ repair and maintenance needs, which can pose great challenges to those tasked with their care. Good maintenance practice is fundamental and the evidence of the survey backs our assertion that formal maintenance plans are essential.”

John Penrose MP, Minister for Tourism and Heritage, said:

“It’s excellent to hear that so many of our places of worship are in such a good state and are serving their local communities in a variety of ways beyond just worship. Much of this is thanks to the hardworking volunteers and congregations who selflessly give up their time and energy. Of course, it’s important we know where there are problems too, so we can work together to address them. I’m grateful to the Trust and everyone who contributed to this vital study.”

To read or download the full report, go to:

<http://nationalchurchestrust.org/explore-and-discover/national-survey.php>

POWAlliance CONTRIBUTES TO THE HLF'S CONSULTATION

SHAPING THE FUTURE – CONSULTATION ON THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2013-2019

Readers of the last issue of POW WOW will remember reading news of the Heritage Lottery Fund's consultation initiative. They asked all interested parties to contribute to their strategic planning for the next eight years by completing a questionnaire and returning it by the 26th of April. After a long discussion, both at the last Steering Group meeting, and in emails, with some strong opinions expressed, Deborah Jarman sent the POWAlliance response to the HLF on the 26th of April. Historic places of worship are viewed by many as being particularly vulnerable in the years to come, and making a strong response was vital to promoting their interests. The HLF will report back on the exercise later on this year and expect to publish their strategic framework for 2013-2019 in spring 2012.



To read the response go to: <http://www.heritagelink.org.uk/2011/04/26/2891/>

POWAlliance has a new Places of Worship Development Officer

Deborah Jarman officially left her post with The Heritage Alliance as Places of Worship Development Officer at the end of March 2011, after working with the THA for two and a half years. This also marked the end of the period of financial sponsorship of the post by the National Churches Trust.

Her post has been ably filled by **Becky Payne** who is filling the part time post in a voluntary capacity while further efforts are made to find future financial sponsorship. Becky was extremely well qualified to take over the job, having recently ceased work as a **Policy Officer** for the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division of the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England. Her existing knowledge of the sector has ensured a very smooth transition period.

Becky is working two days a week at The Heritage Alliance's office in Westminster at Clutha House, 10 Storey's Gate, London SW1P 3AY. Her email address remains the same placesofworship@theheritagealliance.org.uk, but her phone number has changed. She should be contacted on **0207 233 0900**.

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

We were successful in retaining this grant scheme, be it in a reduced form. The new application process has now been agreed and can be seen at [Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme website](#) . POW Alliance intend to review these new arrangements by consultation with our membership towards the end of the year.

Future for European Religious Heritage **The European network for historic places of worship** www.futurereligiousheritage.eu

Since the November 2010 forum event held in Canterbury, the Steering Group have been working hard to establish an organisation to take forward the aims agreed at the forum. One of the immediate goals is to share information on what is happening across Europe and there is now have a monthly news update with research, event reports and upcoming events. If you would like to receive this please email lhockley@tcct.org.uk.

Over the next few months, the aim is to start some of the more subject-specific projects discussed at the forum. You can also share information and follow the network on twitter [@Rel Heritage](#)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO LEAVE THE NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST

The Board of the National Churches Trust has announced that the Chief Executive, Andrew Edwards, will be leaving in July, after 5 years. *"In five years the Trust has been transformed,"* said Chairman, Michael Hoare, *"We now combine grant-giving with a much broader range of support for the estimated 47,000 Christian places of worship across the UK. Andrew's energy and commitment to working closely with the Board to drive this transformation has been vital to our achievements. We wish him well in his new role as Chief Executive of The Canterbury Gift , the charity that raises funds in support of Canterbury Cathedral."* The Board is recruiting a new Chief Executive to lead the next significant phase in the Trust's development, promoting and supporting church buildings of historic, architectural and community value across the UK.

Andrew Edwards said, *"I have enjoyed leading an organisation that has achieved so much over the last five years. I am particularly proud of the recently published survey findings which establish new and up-to-date facts about places of worship. I am certain that the Trust will continue to go from strength to strength and I wish the team well."*

BOOK ON PEWS and CHURCH SEATING



The Ecclesiological Society's book on pews and church seating is now at the press. Those who are currently members of the Society will receive a copy free (in about a month).

This is a groundbreaking book – dealing not just with history, including the Victorian period, but with current issues of pew removal.

DEADLINE:

There is a very generous offer price for anyone ordering a pre-publication copy before midnight Sunday 8 May.

(Current members of the Society will only need to do this if they want extra copies.)

Details on the Society's website www.ecclsoc.org

The Welsh Historic Places of Worship Conference 2011 Llandaff Cathedral and St Michael's College, Cardiff. Tuesday 17th May

This conference will be of interest to individuals and organisations who are involved with the care, conservation and maintenance of places of worship in Wales

- **The Reverend Canon Jeremy Winston**
The Way Forward for Welsh Places of Worship
- **Alun Adams, Architectural Glass Centre**
Swansea Metropolitan University
Conserving Our Stained Glass Heritage
- **Terrence Lee BA(Hons), MCGI MInstRE**
Conservation of Traditional Brickwork
- **Richard Lamb RIBA AABC**
Contracts between Architects, PCC's and Contractors
- **Roger Capps, Managing Director Capps & Capps Ltd.**
Conservation of Stone

£15 per ticket, to include buffet lunch

To book, please contact:

Tina Andrew

**Church Heritage and Conservation Officer
The Church in Wales**

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tinaandrew@churchinwales.org.uk

HISTORIC CHURCHES COMMITTEES CONFERENCE 2011

Thursday 19th May 2011
at the Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Helen, Brentwood CM15 8AT

Shut Down or Open Up? The Future of Catholic Church Buildings

PROGRAMME

- 10.00a.m. Assemble, Registration and Coffee
10.30a.m. Welcome by the Rt. Rev. Thomas McMahon, Bishop of Brentwood, Chairman of the Patrimony Committee
10.35a.m. Introduction by Sophie Andreae, Chairman of the Patrimony Sub-Committee: *Problems or opportunities – reflections on some recent cases*
10.45a.m. Carol Lawrence, Financial Secretary Diocese of Shrewsbury: *Church closure - a series of unfortunate events*
11.15a.m. Paul Drury, Principal, The Paul Drury Partnership: *Assessing significance and using it to inform decisions*
11.45p.m. Discussion
12.noon The design of Brentwood Cathedral:
Bishop Thomas: *How the Project Evolved*
Quinlan Terry: *Designing the New Cathedral*
12.30p.m. Lunch
2.00p.m. Visit to the Cathedral led by Bishop Thomas and Quinlan Terry
2.20p.m. *Private Visit to Ingatestone Hall*
N.B. This must be pre-booked by ticking the box on the booking form as transport has to be arranged and Lord Petre notified as to how many visitors to expect.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS TUESDAY 10th MAY 2011

Please contact:

Tricia Brooking, 23 Horseguards Drive, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 1XL
Tel /Fax 01628 637759 Mobile 07710 241839 Email triciabrooking@gmail.com

[Ecclesiological Society](#)

Annual Lecture:

‘A beginning, and not the end, for the parish church?’
(followed by AGM).

Speaker: Richard Halsey, MBE.

Thursday 26th May, 6.30pm St Alban's Centre, Baldwins Gardens, London.

Non-members please email admin@ecclsoc.org
to confirm a place.

The following project is potentially valuable both as an informal adult learning opportunity and a church planning tool:

Past for the Present: History as a Resource for Mission and Ministry

A day event co-organised by St Peter's Saltley Trust (<http://www.saltleytrust.org.uk>) and Building on History (<http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/building-on-history-project>)

Monday 13 June 2011 at the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham

This event seeks to explore ways in which historical perspectives and awareness of major social trends can inform the identity, mission, ministry and strategy of local churches and denominations. Speakers will include members of the **Building on History** project, which since 2009 has worked alongside the Anglican Diocese of London to inform its contemporary life with historical understanding. The event will include a significant practical element including an introduction to the idea of 'history audits' for local congregations as part of understanding and engaging with their contexts. **The event may particularly interest:** those in local church leadership and diocesan/denominational IME/lay training officers.

Speakers and contributors include Prof John Wolffe and Dr John Maiden (Open University), Prof Arthur Burns (Kings College London), Ven Bill Jacob (Archdeacon of Charing Cross), Revd Dr Dee Dyas (Christianity and Culture Project, University of York/St John's Nottingham), Revd Paul Walker (Highgate Baptist Church, Birmingham), Ian Jones (St Peter's Saltley Trust) and Helen McGowan (Divine Inspiration, Coventry).

Cost: £15 per person to include hot lunch. To book, please email hannah.matthews@saltleytrust.org.uk.

A poster and booking form is downloadable from the St Peter's Saltley Trust website (<http://www.saltleytrust.org.uk>) - click on '*history and local churches event*'

Just confirmed: -

The 2011 POW Alliance Annual Members Day will take place on

Tuesday 13th September 2011 at St Gabriel's Church, Warwick Square, London

The theme will be ***Places of Worship and the Big Society***.

The aim is to make it very much a practical day with a focus on practical resources, and some successful case studies. The Heritage Lottery Fund will also be running a session on the proposals for the new Places of Worship Grant Programme .

So put the date in your diary.