

**National Volunteer
and Community Event
2022**



**Churches
Conservation
Trust**

Welcome

Liz Peace CBE, Churches Conservation Trust Chair



I am very pleased and proud to be writing this message to you, having been formally appointed a few weeks ago as the new Chair of the CCT. For those of you whom I haven't had the pleasure of meeting, I have actually been involved with the CCT as a Trustee for a number of years so I am very familiar with the fantastic achievements of the organisation, including the terrific work carried out by our volunteers.

As well as my own appointment, I should also introduce you to two new Trustees, Inayat Omarji, who has been a leading light in the transformation of All Souls' Bolton into a wonderful community resource, and Oliver Cox who leads the University of Oxford's Heritage Network, part of the Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities. In addition, we have been fortunate to secure the re-appointment for a third term of one of our existing Trustees, Sir Simon Jenkins.

Those are the 'arrivals' – but we also have a significant departure in the shape of our Chief Executive, Peter Aiers, who will sadly be leaving us at the end of March. I will leave him to tell you about his new – and very exciting role. All I will say is that he is going to be a hard act to follow, having been an inspirational Chief Executive – and before that Regional Director – of the CCT.

There are going to be plenty of other challenges facing us in the coming year. As you will all be aware, we introduced a new strategy just before the pandemic which involved placing a much stronger emphasis on the role of communities in supporting and breathing new life into our churches. That strategy barely had a chance to get off the starting blocks before the pandemic struck so I am keen now that we should re-invigorate it and prove that it is absolutely the best way to achieve the protection, conservation and renewal of our collection of beautiful buildings.

The pandemic has also meant that the Church of England has to confront the possibility that there will be more closures and more church buildings in need of care and support. That is where we believe there could be some significant opportunities for the CCT, through the proposed review of the Pastoral Measure, to bring its expertise to bear not just to take on the care of redundant churches but also to help communities to stop them becoming redundant in the first place. It is almost too obvious to say, but we could not deliver our existing strategy or even think about adding to it, without the contribution of our volunteers. I would like to thank you all for what you have done to keep the organisation going during the pandemic and particularly for the support you have provided to the repair projects enabled by the Heritage Stimulus Fund. We are investing over £2 million in the repair of some of our most at risk buildings and your efforts with match funding have been brilliant. If one were searching for silver linings from the pandemic, this would definitely be one of them!

So let's now look ahead to all the good things that we hope will start happening in 2022 – events, re-openings, our Trustees tour of the West region, the launch of two of our major regeneration projects at Sunderland and Worcester, and of course the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June. I hope I will have the opportunity to meet many of you in person at one or more of these events. In the meantime, though, I hope you enjoy our virtual evening and find new ideas and inspiration from what you hear, as well as an affirmation of our grateful thanks for all that you do.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Peace".

Elizabeth Peace CBE

Chair

Welcome

Peter Aiers, Churches Conservation Trust Chief Executive



It has been a privilege to work for the CCT for fifteen years, with nearly five of those as Chief Executive. It has been a very hard decision to leave, but I was offered the wonderful opportunity to become the 34th Master of the Charterhouse in London, an amazing community (it is an almshouse for 40 'Brothers') and historic site positioned between Smithfield and the Barbican in central London. Please do come and visit when you are in London, there are regular tours and a fascinating museum.

I leave the CCT in a great position with a strong board and an excellent new Chair. I have worked with Liz for many years and I am pleased with her appointment as she has a deep understanding and love for, this complex charity and the challenges it faces.

I remember my first site visit all those years ago; it was to All Souls Bolton. I was faced with an urban church with blocked gullies, graffiti, attempted arson, the consequences of lead theft and no visitors. This was my first challenge and I am so pleased that it is now a thriving hub at the heart of the Astley community in Bolton. This project was only possible because of the inspiration and support of the local community as well as the expertise of the talented team at CCT. This combination of effort has stood us in good stead over the years and is now more important than ever.

The future of historic church buildings are the largest heritage challenge of the next 10 years and it is vital that local communities are supported to use and love these beautiful and significant cultural assets. I am proud that the CCT is demonstrating and learning, with all of you, how this can be made possible.

I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all of you that have supported the CCT and your local historic church building over the years. Nothing the CCT does would be possible without you. I would have loved to see more of the great work that you have all been doing over the last couple of years in person, and so I am very sorry that I have to say goodbye virtually. I will remain a committed member of the CCT and will continue to visit churches and keep abreast of all the exciting work, which is ongoing, and that is still to come.

Thank you again for all you do to support your church buildings and the CCT.

Peter Aiers
Chief Executive

Welcome

Judith Patrick

CCT Head of Region, North, & National Lead for Volunteering and Community Engagement

This evening marks our second year of hosting the National Volunteer and Community Event virtually, and whilst it would have been lovely to be meeting in person after such a long time apart, sadly there was too much uncertainty when planning for this evening's event began in the autumn to guarantee that we could go ahead with an in-person gathering.

The great plus side to meeting virtually is that last year's event attracted a record attendance, with volunteers and community members joining us from a much wider geographic area than ever before. I am hopeful that this will be repeated this evening.

Whilst tonight's event is a stripped back version of previous years, we hope we have managed to create a programme that will be both interesting and engaging. We have dedicated the longest sections of the night to focusing on the awards themselves and regional case studies presented by you, our volunteers.

We truly see this as your evening and we hope you benefit from it. There will be an opportunity to provide individual feedback in the chat during the event and following it, so please do let us know your thoughts, so that we can keep refining the content for next year's gathering.

We remain thankful for the continued support of the Marsh Charitable Trust in enabling us to acknowledge and recognise the hard work of you, our volunteers and community members, through the Marsh Volunteer of the Year Awards. The quality of nominations were of a consistently high standard and there were some very interesting and thought-provoking approaches acknowledged in the process.

2021 was a slightly more settled year of church openings, but as COVID-19 remained with us, we saw a direct impact on confidence in holding and attending events, particularly around Christmastime. There were still a great number of Christmas events held in our churches, which I personally always enjoy attending.

Our staff continued to provide support digitally, but they were also able to get out more, visiting churches, volunteers and communities across our regions. I hope you continued to feel supported during this time, whether it be through in person contact or virtual means.

I hope that 2022 sees a continuation of church openings, and a returned confidence to visiting churches and attendance at events. Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee gives us a great opportunity to come together and celebrate a momentous year, and of course to host a busy programme of events across the country.

As an organisation, we continue to focus on our interactions with you as volunteers and community members, and the ways in which we are able to practically support to you. I hope to be holding group focus sessions during the course of this year to hear your ideas and suggestions on the ways we can best develop this.

Local networking events remain a popular request in the annual survey and we have assigned a modest budget to each region to facilitate these gatherings. Please do remember that in my capacity as National Lead on Volunteering and Community Engagement I welcome your feedback and the opportunity to speak with you directly at any time.

It remains for me to say that we could not function without the continued dedication and support of all of you, for which we are very, very grateful – my whole-hearted thanks to you all.

Last but by no means least; I would like to thank the team who have put this evening together. Our work in planning this event starts in the autumn and they have given time regularly over the last five months to see it through to tonight's conclusion – Clare Chapman, Patrick Joel, Pete Clegg, Jane Hatton, Chana James, George Reynolds, Jessica Clarke and Kate Burden.

I hope you enjoy the evening and I look forward to your questions during the Q&A session.



Judith Patrick,
Head of Region, North,
National Lead for Volunteering and Community Engagement

Programme

18:30 Welcome & Housekeeping

Judith Patrick, National Lead for Community Engagement & Volunteering

18:35 Introduction

Peter Aiers, Chief Executive

Liz Peace CBE, Chair of Trustees

19:00 Marsh Volunteer of the Year Awards

Sinead O'Haire, Ambassador for Marsh Christian Trust

19:25 Church Based Membership & Jubilee Celebrations

Marian Carson, Director of Operations

Simon Wiles, National Lead for Community Fundraising

19:30 Regional Case Studies

Fundraising for repairs:

David Ashforth, The Friends of Holy Trinity Wensley

Growth through community engagement:

Stephen Monsey-Cribb, The Friends of St Peter's, Hockwold

Reaching new audiences with technology:

Brook Bishop, Volunteer Interpretation Assistant for North Somerset and Wiltshire

20:15 Q&A

With panel members:

Marian Carson, Director of Operations

Gabriella Misuriello, Head of Conservation

Judith Patrick, National Lead for Community Engagement & Volunteering

20:30 Close

Peter Aiers, Chief Executive

Marsh Volunteer of the Year Awards

We are very happy to be working with our charity partners The Marsh Charitable Trust once again to continue the celebration of the efforts made by our volunteers and communities in helping to protect and care for their local historic church.

We are pleased to welcome Sinead O'Haire, ambassador for The Marsh Charitable Trust, who joins us for the second year running to present this year's Marsh Volunteer of the Year Awards.

The Marsh Volunteer Awards celebrate the outstanding contributions made by volunteers from across the country who go that extra mile to support to their local historic church and to support the work of the CCT.

Our Generous Sponsors

MARSH

Charitable Trust

Its current Chairman, Brian Marsh OBE, founded The Marsh Charitable Trust in 1981 with the sum of £75,000. His aim was to create a sustainable way to give something back to society, by supporting the organisations and people who are making a difference, as best he could.

From the outset, the Trust has aimed to create long-standing relationships with the organisations it supports and partners with through both its principle areas of work in its Grants Programme and Awards Scheme.

The Trust supports around 350 charities every year through the Grants Programme and gives around 100 different Awards to individuals and groups from across the charity sector, who make a difference to a cause that they believe in.



Sinead O'Haire
Marsh Charitable Trust Ambassador

As an Ambassador, Sinead enjoys the unique opportunity to gain a further understanding of a wide range of different charities and valuable causes supported by the Trust. She has held a long interest in the Arts, in particular dance, and has followed and built relationships with several grant partners within the sector.

Sinead is an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators and Company Secretary at B.P. Marsh & Partners PLC, a specialist venture capital / private equity investor.

The Marsh Awards celebrate the outstanding contributions of these people who are committed to social, cultural and environmental causes. It is people who are at the heart of the charity sector and who, voluntarily or professionally, go above and beyond to make a difference.

Today marks our twelfth annual celebration of the Volunteer of the Year Awards in partnership with The Marsh Charitable Trust. We hope that we will continue to celebrate the sustained efforts of our volunteers and local communities together with our friends and colleagues at The Marsh Charitable Trust for many more years to come.

Marsh Volunteer of the Year Awards

This year, as well celebrate these annual awards from the comfort of our own homes once more; we take a moment to reflect on the journey of the last 12 months. We have made incredible progress in this last year, despite the continued setbacks and ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic.

Together we have weathered the storm, and this year's nominations have served to highlight the resolve of volunteers and communities across the country who have ploughed their energies into the ongoing care and support of their local historic church.

Tonight we will be presenting awards to some very deserving recipients in the following categories;

Regional Volunteer of the Year

An award will be made in each of the three regions of the Trust – North, South East and West to a volunteer or community member whose contribution deserves special recognition within that region, in any capacity.

Fundraising Volunteer of the Year

A volunteer or community member who has made a particularly valuable contribution to the Trust in a fundraising capacity.

Volunteer Team of the Year

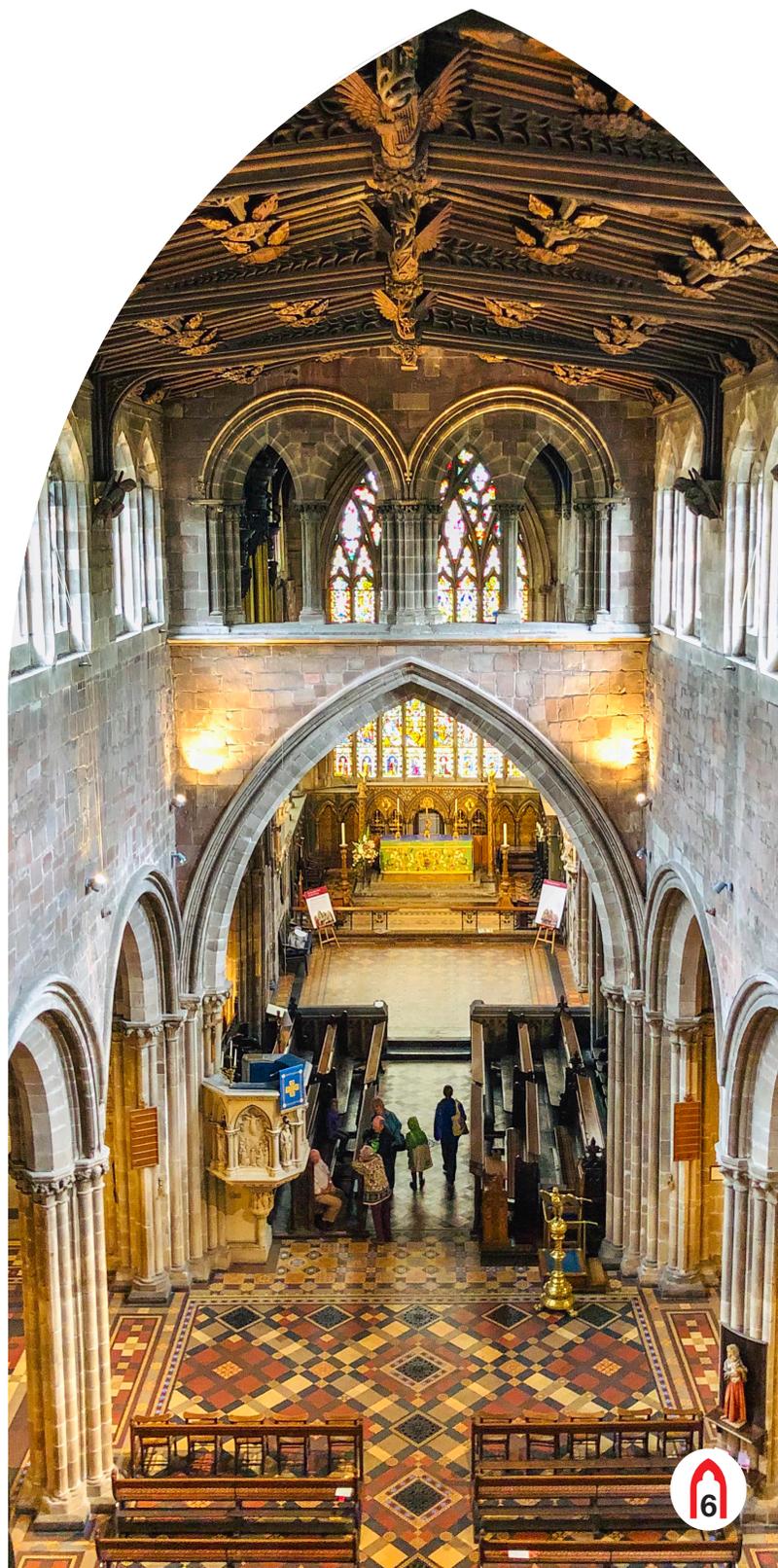
A volunteer team, friends group or community group who have carried out successful projects, events or activities together.

Digital Volunteer of the Year

A volunteer, community member, group or team who have made a particularly valuable contribution to the Trust through use of digital skills to improve the work of the CCT or promote a particular church.

Achieving Impact through Innovation

A volunteer or community member who has made a difference to a particular church (or churches), through a fresh approach to problem solving or developing opportunities in the last 2 years.



Nominees for the Marsh Volunteer of the Year Awards 2022

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone who was nominated for an award this year. The efforts you have gone to in supporting your local historic church and the work of the CCT in the last year have been truly inspirational!

We would also like to express our utmost thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers and community members who surround all of the churches in our care. Your continued support, commitment and enthusiasm makes the world of difference and we simply could not care for the 356 churches in our collection without you!

North Volunteer of the Year

Phyllis Witty

St Peter's Wintringham, North Yorkshire

Beryl Venables

Area Volunteer, Nottinghamshire

Kate Riley

St John's Stamford, Lincolnshire

Christine Audsley

Holy Trinity Sunderland, Tyne & Wear

Alan Rigby

All Souls Bolton, Greater Manchester

Bobby Johnson

Milton Mausoleum, Newark, Nottinghamshire

Matthew Wiles

Holy Trinity Wentworth, South Yorkshire

Tom Heys

All Saints Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire

Gail Sutton

St Mary's Tarleton, Lancashire

West Volunteer of the Year

Maggie Faultless

All Saints, Alton Priors, Wiltshire

Mary Szuster

St Cuthbert's, Holme Lacy, Herefordshire

David Hannaford

All Saints, Billesley, Warwickshire

Anthea Jones

St Mary's, Shipton Sollars, Gloucestershire

Mr & Mrs Sargent

Holy Trinity, Bothenhampton, Dorset

Bill Heath

St Cuthbert's Old Chancel, Osborne, Dorset

Teresa Brown

Holy Trinity, Privett, Hampshire

Peter Simper

Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Hemington, Somerset

Friends of St James Charfield, Gloucestershire

Friends of St Mary's Newnham Murren, Oxfordshire

South East Volunteer of the Year

Rachel Webster

Church of the Holy Sepulchre Warminghurst, West Sussex

Marion Walsh

All Saints Waldershare, Kent

Lynda Dale

St Mary's Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

David Tibbetts-Chaplin

St Mary's Chilton, Suffolk

Ricci Fothergill & Martyn Tillet

All Saints East Horndon, Essex

Paul Unwin

St John's Parsons Drove, Wisbech

Jean Hawkins

St Peter's Northampton, Northamptonshire

Jenny & Dickie Hart

St Laurence Norwich, Norfolk

Stuart & Kester Potter

St Andrew's Walpole, Norfolk

South East Volunteer of the Year (cont.)

Mary Hamilton

St Mary's Stonham Parva, Suffolk

Brian James

St George's Esher, Surrey

Adrian Parker

St Nicholas Chapel Kings Lynn, Norfolk

Jan Watt

All Saints Vange, Essex

Steve Card

Holy Trinity Halstead, Essex

Volunteer Team of the Year

Friends of Milton Mausoleum, Newark, Nottinghamshire

Volunteers of St Peter's Sandwich, Kent

Friends of St Thomas Pensford, North Somerset

Friends of All Saints Idmiston, Wiltshire

Curious Curators

Holy Trinity Sunderland, Tyne & Wear

Friends of the Church on the Hill

St Mary's Edlesborough, Buckinghamshire

Friends of St Peter's Northampton, Northamptonshire

Avon Dassett Parish Council,

St John the Baptist Avon Dassett, Warwickshire

Vale of Evesham Historical Society,

St Lawrence's Evesham, Worcestershire

Friends of St Leonard's Colchester, Essex

Volunteers of St George's Portland, Dorset

Friends of St Oswald's Kirk Sandall, South Yorkshire

Friends of Christ Church Waterloo, Merseyside

Visitor Welcome Steward's of St John Maddermarket
Norwich, Norfolk

Louise Horsley

St Mary's Lead, North Yorkshire

Saintbury Appeal Committee

St Nicholas Saintbury, Gloucestershire

Friends of Holy Trinity Wensley, North Yorkshire

Digital Volunteer of the Year

William Blackburn

Wiltshire

Brook Bishop

Wiltshire & North Somerset

Jessica Hesketh

Holy Trinity Sunderland, Tyne & Wear

Mackman Group

St Peter's Sudbury, Suffolk

Paul Unwin

St John's Parsons Drove, Wisbech

Achieving Impact through Innovation

Richard Jackman

St Leonard's Sutton Veny, Wiltshire

Heritage Volunteers

All Saints Cambridge, Cambridgeshire

Penny Taylor

St Leonard's Bridgnorth, Shropshire

Jacob Hodgkinson

St Martin's Preston Gubbals, Shropshire

Ricci Forthergill

All Saints East Horndon, Essex

Friends of St Peter Hockwold, Norfolk

Friends of St Mary's Bungay, Suffolk

Fundraising Volunteer of the Year

Annabel Lord

St Nicholas Saintbury, Gloucestershire

Neil Skelton & Peter Lankester

St Giles Imber, Wiltshire

Church Based Membership

This year's National Volunteer and Community Event marks the official launch of a new membership level here at the Churches Conservation Trust.

Our new Church Based Membership will allow our audiences to choose how they would like to support our work, by giving you the option to choose to support us based on where the need is greatest, or by selecting a specific church that might have some personal meaning to you. We look forward to telling you more about this new and flexible way of fundraising, and how it can benefit your local church.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Her Majesty The Queen has become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, after seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952.

As part of the national celebrations, Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family will undertake a variety of engagements to mark this important event culminating with the focal point of the Platinum Jubilee Weekend in June.

An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone.

At the CCT, every community linked to one of our churches is encouraged to host public events and activities that will mark this unique occasion. Whether it is an Art Exhibition, Tea Party, Musical Concert, Children's Colouring Activities, or Guided Tours around the church – it is focused on local people joining in with the celebrations and recognising Her Majesty's achievements.

We would love to hear your ideas! If you would like to discuss this with your Local Community Officer, then please do get in touch. We would very much like to help support your event and promote your activities wherever they might be. Let us make it a weekend to remember!



Regional Case Studies

In previous years, we have hosted a series of popular volunteer led workshops, which provided an opportunity for volunteers and community members to come together to talk around a particular topic, to share ideas and to focus on what we can achieve when they work together.

Last year, we expanded on this idea with the introduction of Regional Case Studies at our first virtual event. A hybrid of the ever-popular volunteer led workshops, we will be presenting three new regional case studies for you this evening. Written and delivered by volunteers and community members, we hope you will find these new case studies equally valuable.

Fundraising for repairs

David Ashforth

The Friends of Holy Trinity, Wensley

Situated in the beautiful rolling hills of the Yorkshire Dales, Holy Trinity is at the heart of the small village of Wensley. Whilst its countryside setting conjures up an image of the rural idyll, things have been far from peaceful!

The church has encountered plagues of biblical proportions in recent years; hailstones the size of golf balls have damaged the windows, gale force winds have blown open the roof hatches and hibernating flies have seized the workings of the tower clock mechanism.

Despite the setbacks, The Friends of Holy Trinity have worked together to overcome these obstacles, channelling their efforts into major fundraising bids to address some of the repair needs of their local church. They have even had a little help from the King of Rock 'n Roll himself!

As a retired vicar and Chairman of the Friends of Holy Trinity Wensley, David Ashforth has played a key role in generating income and coordinating the fundraising activities of the group in recent years. Focusing on their activities during the last three years, David will be sharing their fundraising story with us. It demonstrates that with the support of local community, and the strength of personal affection for a church, together with the ability to produce great grant applications, you have the perfect recipe for success!



Growth through community engagement

Stephen Monsey-Cribb's, The Friends of St Peter's, Hockwold

The church of St Peter's Hockwold had been closed for several years after continued antisocial behaviour and a small fire threatened the safety and security of the building.

A dedicated key holder was on hand to facilitate access, but visitors were rare. With its overgrown churchyard, St Peter's looked unloved and unkempt. That was until the formation of the Friends of St Peter's Hockwold in April 2021.



© John Salmon

This dedicated group formed with a renewed interest in re-opening the church to the public and they have achieved a huge amount in only a short space of time! St Peter's is now clean and open regularly, with events and fundraisers filling the church with visitors. The Friends have worked hard to improve the appearance of the churchyard, making St Peter's an altogether more welcoming space.

The group will be sharing their story and highlighting how their efforts to establish strong links with the local community have gone a long way to ensuring that this church is a relevant community asset once more.

Reaching new audiences with technology

Brook Bishop, Volunteer Interpretation Assistant for North Somerset and Wiltshire

We all love a good guidebook, and between us, we probably have enough of them to create our own library! But where do we look when we need more information?

There is seemingly no end to the vast amounts of resources available online, and one area of increasing interest is that of the audio guide.



Do you have stories about your church that you would like to make more available to visitors, or features that need further explanation? You can offer free and engaging interpretation, available at the swipe of a smartphone screen, by creating a digital audio guide.

Brook Bishop joined the Churches Conservation Trust in 2020 as a Volunteer Interpretation Assistant in North Somerset and Wiltshire. He has used his skills to create audio guides that explain more about our church buildings and their history to visitors. Brook will be sharing his experience and tips for creating digital audio guides for the public, in the hope that you will be inspired to have a go at creating your own!



**Churches
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Trust**

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Cover image:
St James' Church
Holcombe, Somerset

