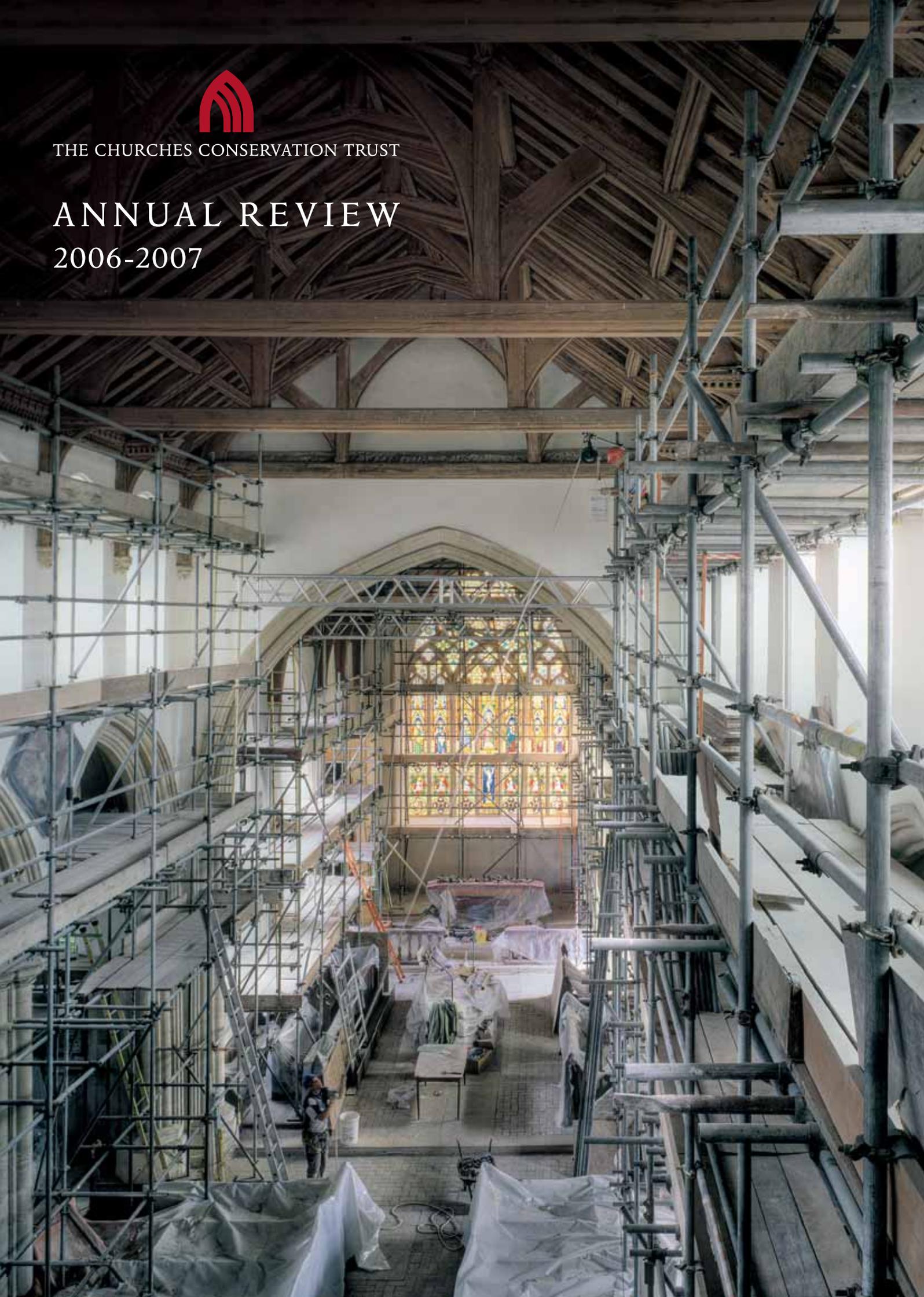




THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

# ANNUAL REVIEW

2006-2007



## THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST CARES FOR THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND HISTORIC CHURCHES NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR REGULAR WORSHIP BY THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

OUR AIMS ARE TO:

- CONSERVE THE BUILDINGS IN OUR CARE
- ENCOURAGE AND ENABLE COMMUNITY USE OF THOSE BUILDINGS
- DEVOLVE RESPONSIBILITY, MANAGEMENT AND OWNERSHIP WHERE APPROPRIATE AND PRACTICAL
- RESOURCE WHAT WE DO THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS, VOLUNTEERS, INNOVATIVE APPROACHES AND FUNDRAISING

THIS YEAR WE RECEIVED A TOTAL OF £5.47 MILLION OF WHICH WE SPENT £4.48 MILLION ON THE REPAIR AND CONSERVATION OF 340 CHURCHES.

OVER ONE AND A HALF MILLION PEOPLE VISITED OUR CHURCHES.

THE TRUST HAS 36 STAFF AND OVER A THOUSAND VOLUNTEERS.

### Head Office

Chief Executive **Crispin Truman**  
Locum Director of Conservation **John McVerry**  
Director of Development **Colin Shearer**  
Director of Finance and Resources **Vipan Narang ACA**  
Head of Fundraising and Communications **Paul Stephenson**  
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Education Officer **Virginia Simpson MA**  
Major Projects Manager **Peter Aiers**  
Tourism and Marketing Officer **Joanne Terry**  
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To contact the Trust in your area, see regional details on the inside back cover.

Front cover: Work in progress on the capacious interior of St Mary, Redgrave cum Botesdale (Suffolk).

This page: 'Capability' Brown used St Mary Magdalene as an 'eye-catcher' when he landscaped the grounds of Croome Park (Worcestershire) in the 18th century.

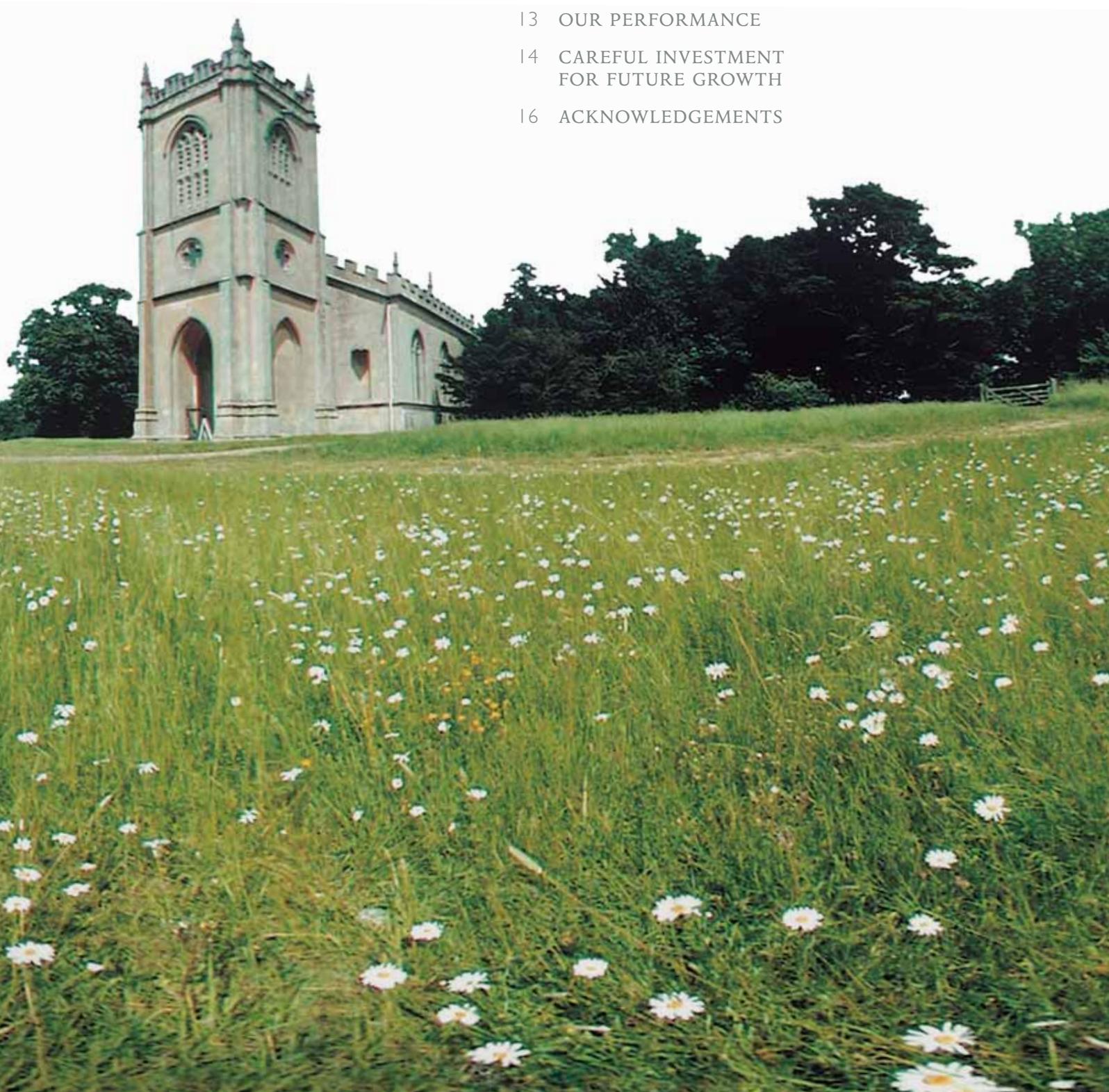
Back cover: Wall paintings, St John the Baptist, Inglesham (Wiltshire).

**Photo credits:** David Adgar p12 (left); Paul Barker p16; Robert Bilsland p1; Brian Clark back cover; Christopher Dalton p8 (right); Eastern Daily Press (©Archant) p6 (upper left); Alfred Fisher p5 (bottom left); Paul Heyes p3; Alex Howe front cover p6 (lower left); Tony Jedrej p11 (bottom left); Nicky Milstead p10; Gabriella Misuriello p4/5 (centre), p4 (bottom), p5 (right); Paul Richold p8 (centre); Neil Rushton p7 (right), p8 (left), p9 (centre & right); Doug Selway p11 (top left); Roger Simmons p5 (centre top & middle); TTL Camera Club p12 (right); Dawn Whitton p5 (centre lower), p6 (top left & right), p7 (left), p9 (left).

We apologise to any photographers we have been unable to identify and credit.

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## CLARENCE HOUSE

I am absolutely delighted to have recently become President of The Churches Conservation Trust – an organization which I have privately supported over many years. There are so many beautiful and historic parish churches in England that are, sadly, no longer required for regular worship. I happen to believe most strongly that without our care their unique character may simply be lost to future generations, which is why I agreed to become President of the Trust, and why I wholeheartedly support the wonderful work it is doing, particularly at this time when many of these churches need our help.

Each of the 340 buildings under the care of the Trust are uniquely special in their own way, and therefore I believe it is imperative we make sure they, and the special story that each of them tells, are protected for others to enjoy. I need hardly say that I have had the great joy over the years of visiting several churches under the protection of the Trust and have been enormously heartened to find them kept in such good care.

I have the greatest admiration for the work of the Trust and for those who so faithfully devote themselves to the conservation of its churches, let alone for all their marvellous efforts to encourage more people to visit and support our ecclesiastical heritage.

I believe the Trust is setting a tremendous example of how we can carefully conserve our historic churches, at the same time as placing them back into the centre of local community life, and I very much look forward to supporting the work of the Trust in the coming year ahead.


# Facing THE future

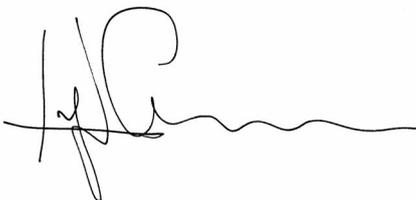
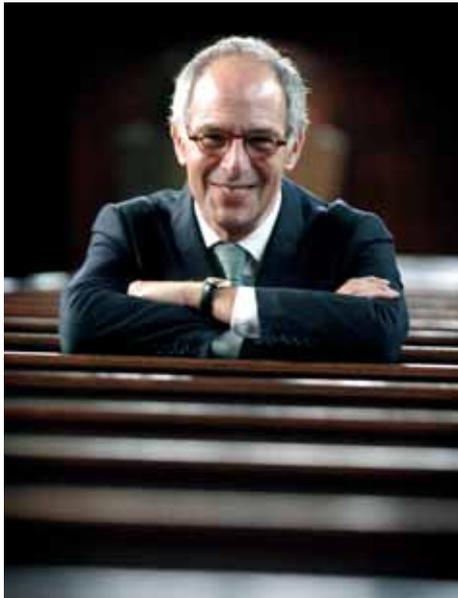
## LOYD GROSSMAN CHAIRMAN

Welcome to our Review of the highlights of the year at The Churches Conservation Trust. I feel very privileged to be the new Chairman at a time when local communities are becoming more actively involved in our churches and the number of visitors and events are rising steadily. This is also a time of great challenge. We need and wish to do more and more, but our funding remains tight.

Like many people, I value our parish churches for their beauty, their history and the aspiration to be better that they arouse in all of us. I believe that The Churches Conservation Trust has so much to offer in its work with local people, government and the Church both in terms of safeguarding and promoting our heritage and making sure that our parish churches can be lively centres of community activity in this country.

From the remoteness of the 12th-century St Mary the Virgin in Little Horstead to the glorious Victorian bulk of All Souls in Bolton, the 340 churches in our care offer inspiration and delight to all who wish to visit. As I make my way around the Trust's unique collection and read the comments in our visitors' books, I am moved and impressed by the strength of feeling about the beauty and importance of our parish churches, a national legacy that we are pledged to defend.

The Trust's staff and volunteers bring tremendous scholarship and devotion to the care of our churches and I look forward to working with them and you to conserve this significant part of our heritage and to build increased support for our work. The Trust needs your help and enthusiasm to secure the future of a thousand years of church architecture and history.

As we went to press we were delighted to learn that we have won the RICS Community Benefit award with Circomedia at St Paul, Bristol.



## CRISPIN TRUMAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE

This year the Trust has continued to build on recent achievements while keeping its 340 churches sound and well cared for. Visitor numbers, local involvement and community and cultural events increased significantly, despite a frozen budget, which has resulted in heavier workloads for our staff and cuts in non-urgent repair work. We're particularly proud to highlight the benefits that our new project around five Trust churches in South Yorkshire has brought to local communities (see page 12). This is an example of a project that both increases volunteering and brings redundant churches back to life.

Over in Lincolnshire we're very proud to have rescued the church of St Martin, Waithe from a state of terrible decay and neglect, helped by a revival of community interest in the building's future. Both Waithe and St Giles at Imber, in Wiltshire, were taken off the national Buildings at Risk register this year because of repairs carried out by the Trust.

As we went to press we were delighted to learn that we have won the RICS Community Benefit award with Circomedia at St Paul, Bristol. This follows a Europa Nostra European Heritage award this year and the Georgian Group award for best re-use in 2006.

We're looking forward to another year of intense conservation activity, tourism, education and community projects. We also want to save more churches at risk. Please help us to continue this important work: we can't do it without your support.

We are particularly grateful for the financial assistance we receive from public bodies, trusts and foundations, and from individuals (see page 16). Thank you also to all those who have worked with us this year. I hope that as you read our Review you will share in our sense of achievement and hope for the future.



This year's work has included some major re-roofing projects and participation in an international exhibition of medieval glass.

# Conserve AND repair

## ST BERNARD, MASTERPIECE OF THE RENAISSANCE

**T**he stained glass is one of the glories of **St Mary the Virgin, Shrewsbury** (Shropshire) and much of it is of international importance. This year its significance has been highlighted through the loan of early 16th-century panels to the prestigious Museum Schnütgen in Cologne, for the exhibition 'Rheinish Stained Glass – Masterpieces of the Renaissance', which ran from May to July.

The panels depict the life of St Bernard of Clairvaux, his miracles and his work. St Bernard was a 12th-century Cistercian abbot who lived a simple life but travelled extensively and had considerable influence in the Europe of his day. The panels were made in Cologne and originally installed in the cloisters of nearby Altenburg Abbey. Following the dissolution, much stained glass was dispersed and sold, and 18 of the 66 St Bernard panels were purchased at auction by the Reverend Rowland in 1845, who had them installed in the chancel and nave of St Mary's. These 18 constitute the largest single collection of St Bernard panels in existence.

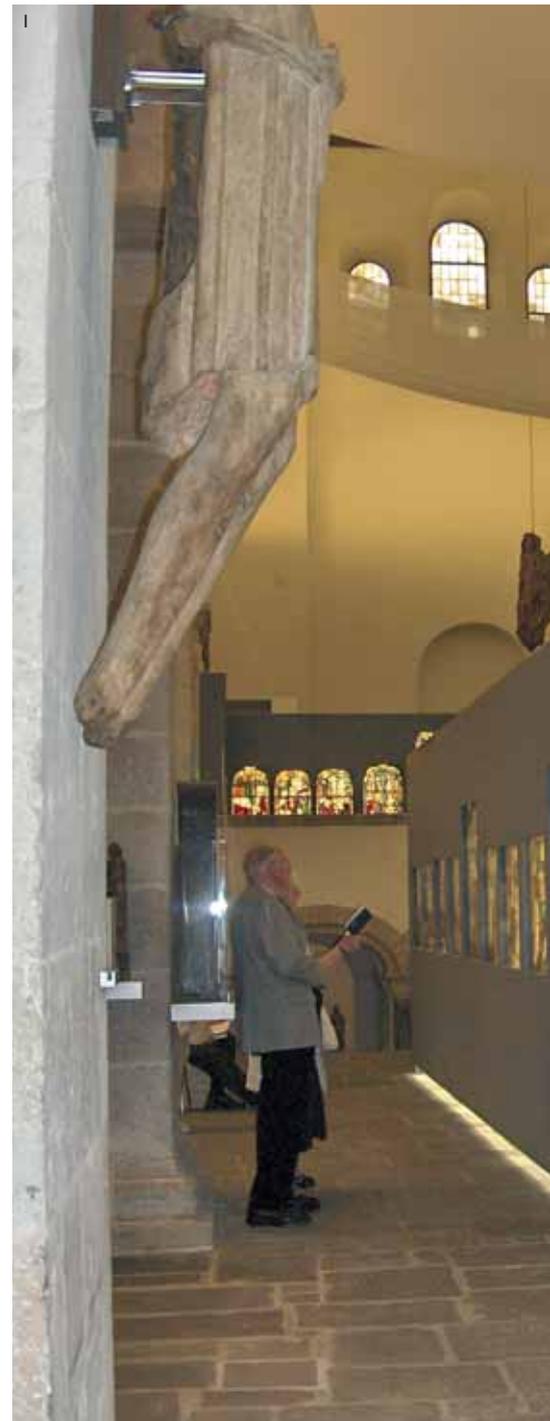
Dr Dagmar Taiübe, Deputy Director of the Museum Schnütgen, visited St Mary's in 2004, and it took two years of work to ensure that all necessary precautions, statutory consents and contractual provisions were in place in time for the exhibition. The glass was removed and transported under the supervision of Alfred Fisher, the Trust's

specialist consultant, and the conservation team. Glasmalerei Peters, under the supervision of the Cologne Cathedral Glass Workshop, cleaned and repaired the glass, which has enhanced its long-term stability.

**The exhibition attracted over 20,000 visitors from all over the world, and gave the Trust a unique opportunity to participate in a cultural exchange with a museum of international reputation in the field of medieval art.**

The exhibition attracted over 20,000 visitors from all over the world, and gave the Trust a unique opportunity to participate in a cultural exchange with a museum of international reputation in the field of medieval art. In addition, the fresh exposure gained new audiences for the Trust and St Mary's. Our own exhibition on the significance of the St Bernard panels was well attended throughout the summer, as were the associated educational days. The annual lecture in May by Dr Paul Williamson of the Victoria and Albert Museum, on the collecting of medieval and Renaissance stained glass in England, was also a highly successful event.

The panels are now back in St Mary's for the enjoyment and appreciation of the church's many thousands of visitors, and especially for all those who have, since the exhibition, discovered the splendour of this precious treasure held in a Trust church.





### PRESTON DEANERY, NORTHANTS

Improving tower access at **St Peter and St Paul** involved replacing a single vertiginous ladder with two inclined ladders and an intermediate landing. The chancel was also re-roofed. Most of the work, however, consisted of stripping unsuitable paint finishes and replacing extensive areas of inappropriate cement-based repairs with lime plaster. Following a drying-out period walls were limewashed, allowing the fabric to breathe.



### CAMBRIDGE

The pulpit at **All Saints** (1875) was designed by G F Bodley and the panels were painted by Wyndham Hope Hughes under the direction of C E Kempe. To celebrate the centenary of Bodley's and Kempe's death, The Kempe Trust generously funded the pulpit's conservation. The work of paintings conservator Sally Woodcock included consolidation, surface cleaning, filling and retouching of the gesso base, removal of discoloured varnish and re-varnishing the painted stone plinth.



### HALEY HILL, HALIFAX

As part of bringing **All Souls**, one of Gilbert Scott's finest churches, back to life, the Trust has reopened the south porch and fitted beautiful new gates. The gates, designed to complement the architecture, were made by Don Barker Ltd in a mixture of wrought, cast and pure iron. The paint colour, typical of that used by Scott and many of his contemporaries, was chosen following analysis of railings in the churchyard.

## CROOME REVIVED

**P**icturesquely set on top of a gentle green hill, **St Mary Magdalene, Croome D'Abitot** (Worcestershire) is more than simply a focal point that 'Capability' Brown wanted for his scheme for Croome Park. The elegant interior, attributed to Robert Adam, is a perfect fantasy of the period, with beautiful Gothic windows and plasterwork.

Each year thousands of tourists come to admire the splendid church and the beautifully restored gardens (in the care of the National Trust) in which it is set. It was therefore very important, in planning a large programme of repairs, to ensure minimal disruption. Special measures ensured the safety and accessibility of the site and the church has been open to the public for almost the entire duration of the repairs. Even more careful planning had to take into account the needs of those other loyal visitors so familiar to church conservators: the bats. In fact, the project had to be deferred to the less congenial winter months to minimise the impact on their life cycle.

The church has been completely re-roofed. During the uncovering of the chancel roof, several Westmorland slates were found, evidence that the Welsh slates were a more recent variation. Despite the additional cost, it was decided to return the chancel roof to its original covering material. Work also revealed that most of the roof timbers were reclaimed, with interesting numbering marks that perhaps indicate they came from the old church or



main house. The masonry parapet and merlons, which were showing signs of advanced erosion, have been sensitively repaired and the elegant east window has been carefully re-leaded.

This year has also seen the completion of a project in which the Friends of Croome Park have been involved. William Dean, botanic gardener to the 6th Earl of Coventry, played an important role in the making of the Croome landscape. His gravestone has been cleaned and protected with low railings, so it now deservedly catches the eye of the many visitors who are enthused by all aspects of the history of Croome.

**1 & 2** The Museum Schnütgen in Cologne is located in the atmospheric setting of the redundant Romanesque church of St Cecilia.

**3** A panel from the St Bernard glass depicting a vision in which the saint is tested in prayer by an angel during a night vigil.

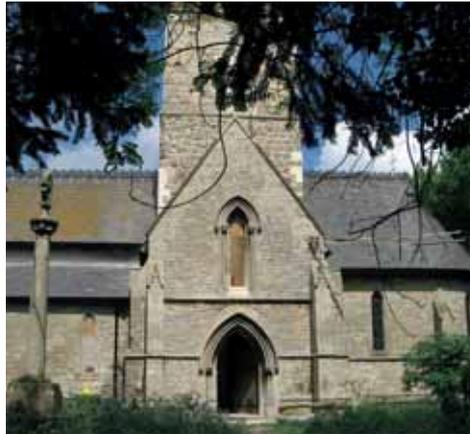
**4** Numbers discovered carved into the roof timbers of St Mary Magdalene, Croome indicate the timber was reclaimed, perhaps from the old church or main house.

## MAJOR WORK AT REDGRAVE

Following its vesting in October 2005, the first phase of repairs to **St Mary, Redgrave cum Botesdale** (Suffolk) was completed within time and on budget. This comprehensive programme, overseen by Philip Orchard of Whitworth Co-Partnership Architects, included major work to the drainage, stone conservation of the east window, re-roofing the vestry, replacing and repairing the ashlar facings and flint walls around both the nave and chancel and a raft of smaller works.

The second phase of the programme, concentrating on the inside of the church, began in March 2007. This involves the replastering and limewashing of the interior walls, a project that requires – as can be seen on the front cover – an extensive scaffold network throughout the nave and chancel. This phase will also include cleaning and consolidating all the monuments and conservation work on the hatchments, one of which is in a perilous state and currently residing in the vestry.

1 Monument to Sir Nicholas Bacon and Anne Butts



## PROGRESS AT WAITHE AND WINTRINGHAM

**W**e are well into a two-year repair programme at both these beautiful country churches and are now really starting to see the results. When

**St Martin, Waithe** (Lincolnshire) came to the Trust it was in a very sorry state – every window vandalised, roofs leaking, the interior ruined by bird debris and the whole building disappearing into the undergrowth. However, this year's work has resulted in a dramatic change. Stained glass windows have been restored, and repairs to the tower included re-carving some of the massive belfry openings and fitting new floors and ladders. Re-roofing has finished, including replicating many of the intricate ridge tiles that were broken or missing, and the careful repairs to roof and tower have blended in well (see above left). But perhaps the biggest change has been to the interior, which has been transformed largely by the Friends' group, who spent so much time and effort in cleaning and waxing.

At **St Peter, Wintringham** (North Yorkshire), repairs concentrated on the tower, which needed a huge amount of work. The church is built from local calcareous sandstone, which tends to get wrongly bedded and layers can then shale off. This is made worse when hard cement mortars are used for re-pointing – normally, mortar joints should be weaker than the surrounding stone, otherwise water penetrates the stone

rather than the joint. Although a lot of stone in more exposed areas needed to be replaced, in other areas the damaged layers were carefully removed, and re-pointing with a soft lime mortar should enable the stone's surface to re-harden. Judging what to replace and what to leave needs an experienced eye and our architect, Peter Pace, and contractor Ebor Stone have done an excellent job.

An interesting discovery was made while working on the tower. We found that some of the original parapet mouldings did not follow the intended pattern, while other blocks were carved on the inner as well as the outer face (see above right) – perhaps the medieval masons took two goes to get these pieces right. We will never really know the answer, but where we had to replace some of these pieces we decided it would be more historically accurate to copy the original 'mistake' rather than attempt to correct it.

In all, work here will cost around £450,000. There are still repairs to be done to the stonework at the lower level, the south aisle needs re-roofing, and the tower and aisle parapet gutters need re-leading. Other work includes overhauling the remaining roofs and all rainwater goods, improving the below-ground drainage, repairing the south door and making new oak louvres for the belfry.

In spring 2006 an open day at Wintringham allowed visitors to see work in progress and talk to the architect, contractor and staff, and a similar day was held at Waithe in the summer.

## MAINTENANCE AND EMERGENCY REPAIRS

Regular maintenance is at the heart of the Trust's philosophy, as it minimises the need for more costly repairs, and we are indebted to the diligence and thoroughness of our regular maintenance contractors: Patrick Hansberry, for example, has given exemplary work in the South East region since 1981. Despite the vigilance of our contractors and others who care for our churches in different capacities, there has been an unfortunate rise in theft and vandalism during the year. Replacing stolen lead, repairing vandalised features and removing graffiti cause unforeseeable expenditure that challenges the annual budget – we hope that 2007/08 will allow us to spend more money on conservation and less on emergency repairs.

# Saving CHURCHES AT RISK

Each year more churches come into the care of the Trust, some in a very sad condition but all of historical interest. The two churches vested in 2006 are in villages at opposite ends of England, each very different in their appeal.

## HOLY TRINITY, WENSLEY, NORTH YORKSHIRE

*Vested in August 2006*

Set in a beautiful rural location in a small village, Holy Trinity is an impressive medieval church noted as much for its collection of furnishings as its architecture. The church dates from the mid-13th century but was built on the foundations of an 8th-century Saxon church. It consists of an aisled nave with north and south porches, chancel and vestry, and a three-stage west tower added in the 18th century. The walls, of uncoursed sandstone rubble with ashlar dressings, have a number of carved Saxon stones built into them. The roofs are covered in Westmorland slate, lead and stainless steel. The church has some fine gargoyles and head stops and the aisle buttresses are adorned with 15th-century heraldic shields in ogee arches.

Inside, three-bay pointed arch arcades separate the aisles from the nave, and an oak screen divides the nave from the chancel. A two-storey vestry (first floor since removed) leads off the chancel. The base of the tower is open to the nave and acts as the organ chamber, while the upper stage houses three bells in an oak bell frame. Some of the furnishings were brought from Easby Abbey after the Dissolution, including a screen forming the Scrope family pew, choir pews and a reliquary. The stained glass is mainly



late 19th and early 20th century, although fragments of medieval glass remain in a window of the north aisle. There is a good collection of monuments and brasses dating from 1394 onwards and the nave has been used for high status burials.

Before coming to the Trust the church had been well cared for, although some problems needed to be tackled quickly to avoid them escalating. This year we have overhauled the roofs and rainwater goods, re-roofed the tower and repaired the louvres, formed French drains around the base of the church to alleviate the damp inside, carried out localised re-pointing, conserved monuments and undertaken a long list of small but essential items. The church is already open to visitors and next year we plan to re-glaze windows in the north aisle using some of the original glass found stored in the vestry. In total all the repairs will cost approximately £130,000.

## ALL SAINTS, WALDERSHARE, KENT

*Vested in June 2006*

All Saints sits on the North Downs Way within the scenic estate of Waldershare Park. It underwent an extensive programme of pre-vesting conservation and repair during 2004/05 under the direction of Robert George, architect. The first phase (part-funded by English Heritage and the Diocese of Canterbury) saw the repair of roof timbers and retiling, as well as stonework repairs and the complete redecoration of the nave and chancel. The second phase involved the conservation of the wall paintings, hatchments and monuments.

It is the monuments that are, wrote Nikolaus Pevsner, 'what one comes to see'. They are located in two brick chapels added to the medieval church, one to the south in 1697, the other to the north in 1712. The work of Cliveden Conservation, partly funded by the World Monuments Fund, included the partial dismantling of the monument to Sir Henry Furness (d. 1712). This impressive three-tiered marble structure

features four female statues seated on plinths in poses of mourning (see picture below). Each statue and plinth was removed with a gantry hoist, allowing the plinth panels to be reconstructed using stainless steel bars that re-affixed the marble panels to the brick core of the monument.

All Saints is also the first Trust church in the country to have an automatic door-locking system installed. A time control and magnetic door lock allows access to the church during set times, and incorporates an external keypad for secure access at any time and an internal emergency release so that getting locked in is not a possibility. The system has been a great success and we are hoping to install more of these locks in appropriate churches, as the best way of assuring public access while retaining church security.



There are many projects we would love to undertake if only we had the resources.

# OUR Wish list



## Books and works of art on paper

*£50 to £25,000*

Many of the contents of Trust churches were removed when they became redundant, but we are still lucky enough to have some contents that give us the social history of the buildings, which give life to the generations who used them and worshipped in them.

None of these artefacts is more telling than the books, documents and pictures that survive: photographs of incumbents, weddings and Sunday School outings, engravings of the churches before their 19th-century restorations, choir books and, in many places, large and decomposing Bibles. Without investing in their care, these precious reminders of a parish's social history will inexorably decay and be lost. Conservation can cost from £50 for a moulded hymn book to more than £10,000 for a decayed Bible and a collection such of that at St Thomas, Bristol would amount to about £25,000.

## The east window, St Michael and All Angels, Princetown, Devon

*£80,000*

Built by French prisoners of war to serve the prison guards and the community of Princetown, this church is of historic interest rather than aesthetic beauty. Various alterations have been made to its stark interior, however, and the great east window makes a successful point of focus. Given by the US Daughters of 1812 in 1910, it is a colourful and significant work by Mayer of Munich, who still produce fine glass art.

The glazing was obviously in need of first aid when the church came to the Trust in 2001, when we spent £600,000 on the main building. A first estimate for window conservation came to nearly £50,000, but more recent inspection reveals serious weakening of leadwork, mortar and the very stone itself after a century of battering from the harsh Dartmoor climate. Every year adds to the damage and hastens the potential loss of the entire window, hence our need for around £80,000 to add to the £1,200 given by the current Daughters of 1812 to rescue the fine gift of their generous predecessors.

## Lamps, St Michael the Archangel, Booton, Norfolk

*c. £9,000*

Filling half a dozen apple boxes in storage are the disassembled oil lamps that once illuminated the nave of St Michael the Archangel. They were originally suspended from long chains clasped in the hands of the operatic oak angels with outspread wings that look down from the hammer-beams of the roof. The angels were carved by James Minns (1824–1904) a master carver whose carving of a bull's head is still the emblem for Coleman's mustard. Nellie Peeling, a local girl, was reputed to have posed for one of the angels. The lamps were taken down many years ago, before the church was vested in the Trust, and lie tarnished and begrimed in their boxes awaiting cleaning, reassembly, conversion to electricity and rehanging. When back in place where they belong they will look magical. Aladdin, where are you?

Conservation work is, by its nature, highly skilled and labour intensive. The cost of such meticulous work, mainly involving hours of expert attention, is higher than most people expect, and tends to rise faster than the rate of inflation.



**Bells, St Wilfrid, Low Marnham  
Nottinghamshire**

**£3,000**

St Wilfrid's is a fine, largely medieval church set in the Nottinghamshire countryside. In its square tower hang three bells that date back to about 1500, and these now need to be repaired and rehung. Without restoration work – costing in the region of £3,000 – the bells will sadly soon become unsafe and will have to be silenced until funds can be found to put them back into good working order.

Keeping our churches weathertight is the Trust's first conservation priority and, with static funding from the DCMS, we are increasingly having to focus sharply, forgoing projects that bring sparkle and joy to our churches. In the next year or so we will be meeting our primary responsibilities by re-covering the chancel and south aisle roofs. This expensive work (estimated at more than £70,000) is most unlikely to leave us with sufficient funds to cover the work needed on the 500-year-old bells, but it would be a great pity for them to fall silent after half a millennium.

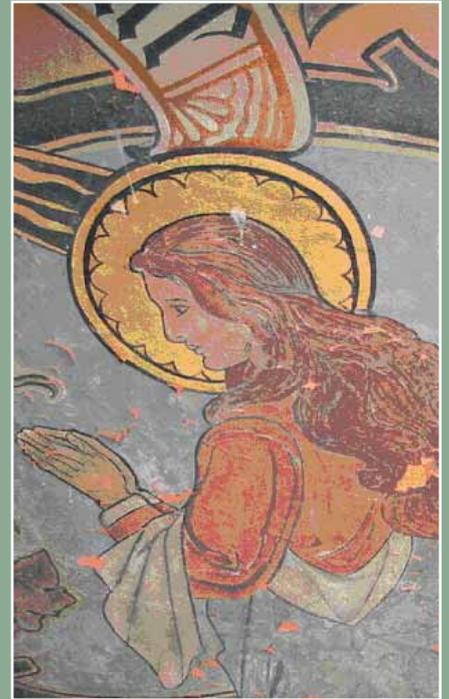


**Pugin chapel, St Peter and  
St Paul, Albury, Surrey**

**£60,000**

This small church, with its distinctive cupola, is a composite of many architectural styles, from its Saxon core to 19th-century additions and remodelling. In contrast to the plain interior of the main body of the church, the south chapel glows with rich colours: highly decorative stained glass, a magnificent tiled floor and ornately painted walls and ceiling. This was the work of Augustus Pugin, who refashioned the chapel in the 19th century as a mortuary chapel for the Drummond family.

The paintings have undergone an assessment that calls for extensive conservation. Most especially, much of the paint on the ceiling is suffering from delamination and will require the attention of a wall paintings specialist. There also needs to be an investigation of the damp roof space above the ceiling. A programme of conservation estimated at £60,000 would ensure the survival of this important example of Pugin's interior design techniques.



**Victorian wall paintings,  
St Leonard-at-the-Hythe,  
Colchester, Essex**

**£75,000**

St Leonard's is a medieval church but it underwent extensive restoration during the 19th and early 20th centuries, which was when the elegant and beautifully coloured mural was painted above the chancel arch. This work of art was completed in 1901, but a century on, as can be seen in the photograph, the paint is becoming extensively delaminated from its orange base layer. Part of the problem causing this deterioration has been dampness in the air: for much of the 20th century the church was heated with gas, which produced high levels of humidity. This has been corrected and the environment much improved, but the wall paintings require expert consolidation to prevent further flaking and damage. Conservation of the sophisticated pigments and techniques of 19th-century wall paintings is usually more expensive than work to their simpler medieval counterparts, and the work here is estimated at around £75,000.

# A SENSE OF Community

Regional regeneration, church tourism, and schemes for young people feature strongly in the Trust's work.

## TOURISM AND SACRED BRITAIN

Encouraging people to visit our churches is a priority for the Trust and visitor numbers have now grown to more than 1.5 million (see page 13). Improved signposting, more churches open more often and increased hosting of popular community and cultural events have all helped to boost numbers. We know we can offer a distinctive and memorable experience, something very special that busy people crave and need in an ever more crowded world. As we attract visitors who are less familiar with churches, it makes sense to join up with tourist organisations and other like-minded bodies. So we've established the Sacred Britain strategy group with partners who share our objectives. These include the Civic Trust, VisitBritain, English Heritage, the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Churches Tourism Association (for whom we provide administrative support) and equivalent bodies in Scotland and Wales.

The first fruits are beginning to show, as we develop regional projects with help from the Heritage Lottery Fund; we have also had secondments from VisitBritain and DCMS.



We have appointed our first Tourism and Marketing Officer, to coordinate this vital area of Trust activity, and redeveloped our popular website ([www.visitchurches.co.uk](http://www.visitchurches.co.uk)) with a stronger visitor focus. We are also introducing podcasts for our churches, starting with **St Leonard, Bridgnorth** and **St Peter, Sudbury**. We are also asking people about their visit to a Trust church and learning from their responses, to ensure they get the most from their visit.

## REACHING YOUNG PEOPLE

Work with children and young people has always been important to the Trust, but this year we've tried some new approaches to engage an older age range and young people from a variety of backgrounds.

### Working with disadvantaged young people

In November 2006 the Trust set up a project with Bristol Foyer, which provides services for vulnerably housed young people. It aimed to raise awareness among hard-to-reach youngsters of church buildings and their heritage, engaging them through music and photography. It began with a day's workshop on photographic and artistic skills, followed by several sessions on music production. Filming on the local streets around **St Thomas'** developed their video-making skills and resulted in the production of two videos and a high-quality DVD.

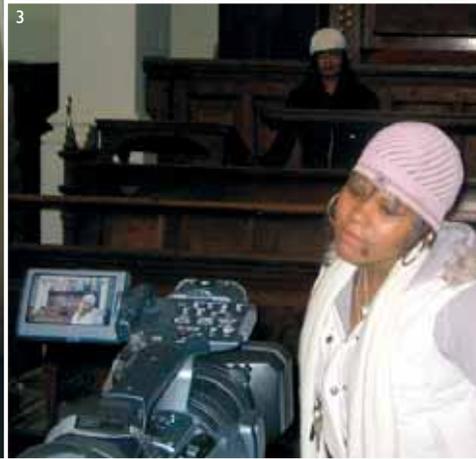
The success of this project led to further work with Bristol Foyer and Dean Crescent Women's Hostel in 2007, with a project called Bitter Sweet. As part of the anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade, this explored the role of tobacco



## TRAINING A NEW GENERATION

In summer 2007 the Trust collaborated with the Council for British Archaeology to provide regional skills training days at York, Cambridge and Worcester for the volunteer leaders of its Young Archaeologists' Clubs, who run 70 branches nationwide for children aged eight to sixteen. The days involved collaboration with different partners – local public records offices, cathedrals and parish churches; custodians and volunteers – and together we provided a toolkit of knowledge and skills that will enable clubs to undertake some simple archaeological activities, from surveying a churchyard to using local documentary evidence and considering conservation issues. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive: 'We'll use it to set up a project about a church in our local area and with local help produce a trail/guide,' enthused one participant.

**'Anything that helps get young people interested in historic church buildings is a wonderful idea. I'm fully behind The Churches Conservation Trust and YAC in making this possible.'** Mick Aston from BBC's *Time Team*, who took part in the skills training.



1 During the Marathon Big Draw in October 2006, St Mary-at-the-Quay, Ipswich was open continuously for 48 hours, inviting young and old to come in at any time to try out their creative skills.

2 A workshop at St Thomas, Bristol introduced sugar sculpting to participants in the Bitter Sweet project.

3 Church heritage and filming techniques were just two aspects of a project that the Trust ran in conjunction with Bristol Foyer.

4 'William Morris' points out to 21st-century children some of the design features in All Saints, Cambridge.

5 Tiles made for the Bitter Sweet project commemorated the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade.

and sugar in Bristol's history and the repercussions these 'bittersweet' items have in people's personal lives today. A fascinating exhibition at St Thomas' church included articles produced during the project's workshops.

**Gaining skills and experience**

The national Cathedral Camps programme seeks to encourage learning about the history of Britain's old churches and the role they play in a community, and to foster an interest in conservation. In August 2007 the Trust's **Holy Trinity Old Church, Wentworth** (South Yorkshire) was offered as a new venue and welcomed eight teenagers between the ages of 16 and 18 for a week-long Cathedral Camp. During their stay they recorded all 500 gravestones and devised an electronic database. On wet days, they waxed and polished the church's woodwork, and evening activities ranged from bowling to a pub quiz. The scheme was a great success in developing the volunteers' self-confidence and sense of independence, and in bringing the work of the Trust both to the attention of the young people and to Wentworth. One volunteer enthused: 'I hadn't heard about the Trust before I volunteered but my first impressions have been good as I feel I am helping out with conservation work, which is satisfying.'



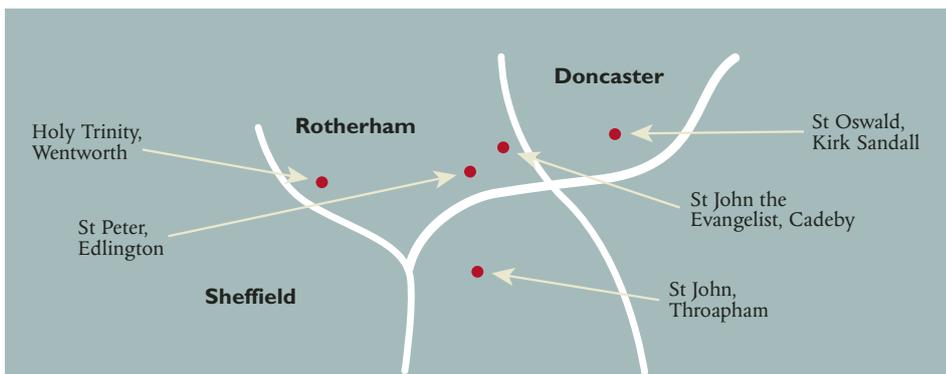
5



**KEEPING IN TOUCH**

We are keen to offer full support to our growing number of volunteers and Friends' groups, who are essential to the future of our churches through their care, concerns and initiatives. This year we brought together our Friends groups for a day in London to share ideas about how we might work more closely together in the future. That meeting has helped to shape a number of related initiatives:

- **regional newsletters** (see above), to help improve communication and celebrate what is happening at a local level throughout the country
- **policies** to clarify our relationships and mutual expectations with volunteers and Friends' groups. These have been approved by our Trustees and draw on best practice guidelines from Volunteer England
- **training events**, including training interested staff or volunteers to give presentations about the history, architecture and social importance of their local churches
- **CHIPs** – Church Information Packs that bring together all that individuals and groups need know about caring for and making the most of their church
- **new roles and opportunities for volunteers**, such as short-term placements in our London office, and area volunteers providing help with a group of local churches.



**REVITALISING COMMUNITIES IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

Funding from the Tudor Trust and Henry Smith's Charity has ensured that our groundbreaking community project could continue in South Yorkshire this year. The project focuses on the Trust's five churches in the region and the communities around them. These churches lost their congregations with the demise of the coalfields and are in areas that have experienced significant disadvantage. Although their fabric is well looked after by the Trust, most were rarely open and little used.

Our aim is to increase community participation, contribute to local regeneration and sustain historic churches as valuable centres for public use. Funds from the two trusts helped pay for a development worker, whose first priority was to open the churches up, make contact with communities and increase volunteering and visitors. In the first year he's also made strong links with local schools, who now use the churches to learn about local and social history. He is playing a key role in local arts and heritage organisations, and has mobilised community members to help develop the future use of their buildings.

The project has resulted in events that range from a celebration at Throapham of the bicentenary of the abolition of slavery to participation in the Doncaster Festival. Local press and radio have covered events such as the moving ceremony by the Coldstream Guards in the churchyard at Cadeby to honour a local VC.

Much appreciated volunteer work is on the increase, with the formation of the Friends of St Oswald's. A local history society now acts as Friends of St John, Throapham, while Edlington Residents' Association actively supports St Peter's. At Cadeby the Friends of St John already provided an important point of social contact in this commuter village, and is expanding its activities.

Visitor numbers have leapt – in the case of St Peter's from 340 in 2005/06 to 1,400 in 2006/07. The church is now on the curriculum of the local secondary school, and Holy Trinity hosted the first ever Cathedral Camp in which the Trust has been involved (see page 11).

There is much still to do, but the progress achieved this year has been hugely encouraging and worthwhile.

1 A Cathedral Camper deep in concentration at Wentworth.

2 Local artist exhibiting at St Peter, Edlington, as part of the rural programme of the annual Hothouse Arts Festival.



# OUR Performance

The Trust evaluates how well it is doing through a number of numerical targets agreed with the sponsor bodies. It also gathers data on its own targets and reviews feedback from visitors, volunteer and staff.

The table below summarises our performance against numerical targets in 2006/07.

OUR TARGET	WE ACHIEVED	COMMENTS
<b>CONSERVATION AND REPAIR</b>		
To ensure that 95% of our churches were <b>safe and weathertight</b>	<b>97%</b>	Above target and 1% better than last year.
To ensure that <b>repairs start</b> on churches newly vested in the Trust within an average of 6 months	<b>100%</b>	Repairs began at Holy Trinity, Wensley, within 4 months of vesting; work on All Saints, Waldershare was carried out before official vesting (see page 7).
Some churches we take on are in a very poor state of repair; but we try to have them ready to <b>open to the public</b> within 2 years	<b>6 months</b>	Our achievement is pleasing and matches that of last year.
An external peer review panel aims to visit and report on Trust churches in 2 areas each year	<b>100%</b>	On target: the panel visited St Lawrence, Evesham, and St John the Baptist, Strensham.

OUR TARGET	WE ACHIEVED	COMMENTS
<b>ACCESS</b>		
To increase visitors to Trust churches by 3% each year, i.e. to attract 1,272,000 <b>visitors</b> to Trust churches during the year	<b>1,588,734*</b>	Upward trend continues; 29% higher than 2005/06.
We aim to ensure that 95% of our churches are <b>open to the public</b> at any one time	<b>97%*</b>	This is 3% better than last year.
435 public events in Trust churches (this being a 3% increase on our 05/06 target)	<b>512</b>	Ahead of target and an 18% increase on last year.
10,876 visitors to selected churches with special events (mainly <b>Heritage Open Days</b> , but also <b>National Archaeological Days</b> and <b>The Big Draw</b> )	<b>15,255</b>	Another good year, with actual visitor numbers exceeding target by 40%.
275 <b>visits by schools and adult education groups</b>	<b>293</b>	6% greater than target.
For 6 churches, <b>disabled access</b> reviewed and recommendations considered	<b>13*</b>	More than double our target.
6 joint <b>church trails</b> established	<b>3*</b>	50% achieved; trails taking longer to achieve through partnership working.
5 churches with <b>active volunteers or Friends groups</b>	<b>6</b>	Target met, and outcome also 50% greater than last year.

\* Targets agreed with DCMS. All others are internal targets.

# Careful INVESTMENT FOR FUTURE growth

During the year the Trust received £5.47m in income to repair and maintain the 340 historic churches in its care, improve facilities, pay staff and cover running costs of the organisation.

## OUR MAIN SOURCES OF INCOME

Grant-in-aid provides the Trust with its core income and we are very grateful to both the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Church Commissioners for their continued support – without it, the Trust could not carry out its valuable work.

With this key source of income frozen since 2001, however, the Trust's financial and staff resources are increasingly stretched across a growing number of churches and projects.

We have continued to invest in new projects that can attract money from both grant-giving bodies and individuals. This investment is aimed at enabling us to maintain the quality and breadth of our church conservation work and to pay for

improvements to benefit our visitors, while widening our funding base. This process will take time.

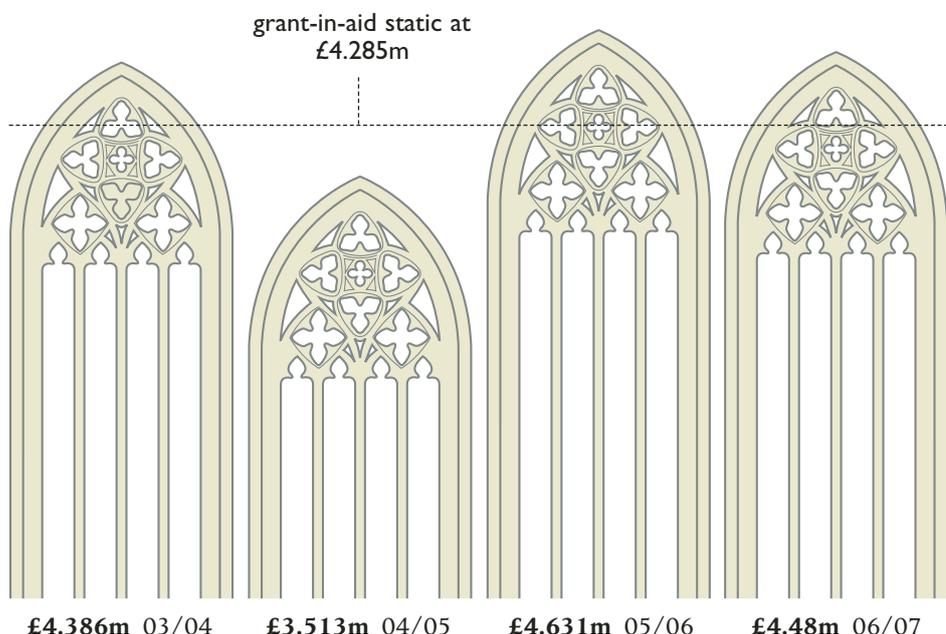
A key fundraising initiative launched in 2006/07 was that of our Supporters scheme, which in the seven months from launch to year-end attracted just under 300 members and raised £16,000 of unrestricted income. See opposite for further fundraising information.

It was pleasing that the Trust's 2006/07 income exceeded the budget by £104,000 (2%). However, this figure was lower than in 2005/06 (by £172,000 or 3%). In that year significant, exceptional amounts were received, including £381,000 from English Partnerships in respect of the vesting of St James, Stirchley.

## Performance measures

The Trust's results for 2006/07 show very good progress in numerical measures such as visitors and events, where the Trust exceeded the majority of its annual targets. Most notably the Trust now has 1.5 million visitors a year at its churches – a 29% increase on last year's figure. This impressive result reflects improved promotion initiatives, including partnerships with destination tourism organisations (for example in Bristol) and sharp increases in certain Trust regions, such as the North-East, where partnerships with local organisations, investment in staff and initiatives to encourage visitors are proving successful. Other key indicators of how the Trust is doing also show good progress, with, for example, public events increasing 18% in the year. See page 13 for fuller performance achievement details.

## COMPARATIVE COSTS OF CONSERVATION AND REPAIR SINCE 2003



## OUR MAIN AREAS OF EXPENDITURE

The majority of our expenditure goes on conservation and repair, with increasing amounts on access and revitalisation.

### Historic church conservation and repair

Church repairs were completed on budget and to a high standard. Conservation and repair is at the heart of all that the Trust does and in 2006/07 accounted for £4.48m or over 75% of the Trust's total spending, with substantial amounts spent on essential repairs across the Trust's five regions and 340 churches. There remains an enormous amount of work we are unable to do with our insufficient funds (see Wish List, page 8).

### Access and revitalisation

The 18% increase in development costs to £1.25m reflects both the amount of work put into promoting access to our churches

and the increasing importance the Trust places on bringing its buildings to life. The Trust is engaged in a small number of complex projects at its more vulnerable, urban churches (including Bolton and Ipswich) to find new community-led uses that will secure their future. We have also continued considerable investment in improving signage, literature and a new website to encourage public access, enhance visitors' appreciation of our historic buildings and encourage donations. Expenditure on development made up 21% of total Trust costs, up from 18% in 2005/06.

**Fundraising and publicity**

Investment in fundraising and publicity increased from 1.5% to 2.5% to help achieve the strategic aim of increasing the Trust's independent income through a heightened profile. While small, the increased percentage is a step-change for the Trust: we have traditionally had no fundraising staff and during the year a fundraising consultant worked on a one-year contract to set up the Supporters scheme, implement professional donor development activities and advise on long-term fundraising targets and strategy.

With grant-in-aid remaining constant and the fundraising environment becoming competitive, this investment is critical to the Trust. Fundraising income is unpredictable, and significant increases in income from fundraising investment typically take two years to come about.

**Our reserves policy**

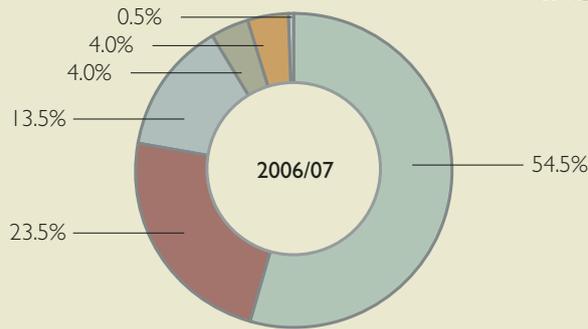
The Trust's overall reserves decreased by £441,000 to £1,740,000, with the bulk of this planned for. The majority of these Trust reserves are restricted to specific churches. £283,000 of 'free' reserves are retained to enable the Trust to carry out ongoing commitments to its charitable work not covered by grant-in-aid, including externally funded projects where the Trust carries out its work in advance of receiving funding. The budget for 2007/08 will also draw down against its reserves, as the Trust continues to focus on delivering more of its core work and expands its fundraising capacity.

**SUMMARY OF THE TRUST'S FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES IN 2006/07**

These are not the statutory accounts but a summary of the information relating to the statement of financial activities and the balance sheet. The full statutory accounts can be obtained from our website [www.visitchurches.org.uk](http://www.visitchurches.org.uk) or by writing to our head office.

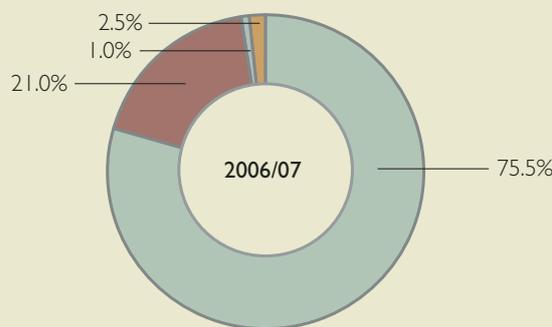
The summary financial statements of The Churches Conservation Trust were approved by the Trustees and the Accounting Officer on 23 October 2007 and signed on their behalf by Loyd Grossman (Chairman of Trustees).

**INCOMING RESOURCES**



	06/07 £m	05/06 £m	change from 05/06
DCMS grant	£3.00m	£3.00m	no change
Church Commissioners grant	£1.29m	£1.29m	no change
Other grants	£0.74m	£0.88m	-£0.14m
Legacies and bequests	£0.03m	£0.03m	no change
Donations	£0.21m	£0.25m	-£0.04m
Investment and other	£0.20m	£0.19m	+£0.01m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5.47m</b>	<b>£5.64m</b>	<b>-£0.17m</b>

**EXPENDITURE**



	06/07 £m	05/06 £m	change from 05/06
Conservation/church repairs	£4.48m	£4.72m	-£0.24m
Access and revitalisation	£1.25m	£1.06m	+£0.19m
Governance	£0.06m	£0.05m	+£0.01m
Fundraising and publicity	£0.15m	£0.09m	+£0.06m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5.94m</b>	<b>£5.92m</b>	<b>+£0.02m</b>

**Independent auditors' statement to the Trustees**

We have examined the summarised financial statements of The Churches Conservation Trust.

This statement is made solely to the Trustees, as a body in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trustees those matters we have agreed to state to them in this statement and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trustees as a body, for our work, for this statement, or for the opinions we have formed.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the Charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Trustees' report. We also read the other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 'The auditors' statement on the summary financial statement' issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom. In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the Trustees' report of The Churches Conservation Trust for the year ended 31 March 2007.

PKF (UK) LLP Registered auditors London, UK, 2007

# Acknowledgements

We are very grateful for the important financial assistance provided by our principal sponsors, the Church Commissioners and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (see also page 14).

We would also like to thank the following local authorities and other grant-giving bodies, whose generous support has enabled us to carry out a number of important projects:

Chichester Festivities  
Diocese of Canterbury  
The Heritage Economic Regeneration Trust  
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council  
Sunderland City Council  
Winchester City Council

In addition we would like to thank the following for their support in the form of donations:

#### Trusts and foundations

Harrison's Charity  
The Hickinbotham Charitable Trust  
The Jack Patston Charitable Trust  
The Ritchie Charitable Trust  
The Sandwich St Mary's Community Trust  
Sefton Community Foundation  
The Henry Smith Charity  
The Townsend Family Charitable Trust  
The Tudor Trust  
The World Monuments Fund

#### Friends of churches

Friends of St Andrew's, Hove  
Friends of St George's, Esher  
Friends of Imber Church  
Friends of St Mary's, Bungay  
Friends of St Mary's, Shrewsbury  
Friends of St Nicholas, Gloucester  
Friends of St Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn

#### Other organisations

The National Society of United States  
Daughters of 1812  
Pattingham PCC

#### Individual donors

Without valued individual donations, we simply would not be able to maintain so many churches and enhance the lives of local communities. We would particularly like to thank the following for their significant contributions in the past year:

Mr R Aldwinckle  
Mr A Bennett  
Dr R Booth  
Mr J Christophers  
Mr A Clark  
Ms J Dowson  
Mr W Fowle CBE  
Miss L Gibson  
The estate of the late Mrs D V Green  
Mrs A Greene  
Neil & Elisabeth Johnson  
Mrs B Kipling  
Mrs S Liddle  
Mr M Paul  
The estate of the late Mary Schofield  
Mr A Smith  
Sir John Sykes Bt  
Mr J Tillet  
Mr M A Wilks  
and those of our generous donors who choose to remain anonymous.

We also gratefully acknowledge the donation of a large number of books to the Trust's library from the estate of James Johnston.

All Souls, Haley Hill, Halifax, West Yorkshire.



# REGIONAL CONTACTS

as at 1 November 2007

## THE NORTH EAST (INCLUDING NOTTS AND LINCS)

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Development Workers  
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Hannah Smith (St Mary the Virgin,  
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## THE EAST MIDLANDS AND NORFOLK

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John Vigar 07884 436649

Conservation Manager  
Neil Rushton

Development Worker  
Frances Hurd (Sussex)

## THE SOUTH WEST

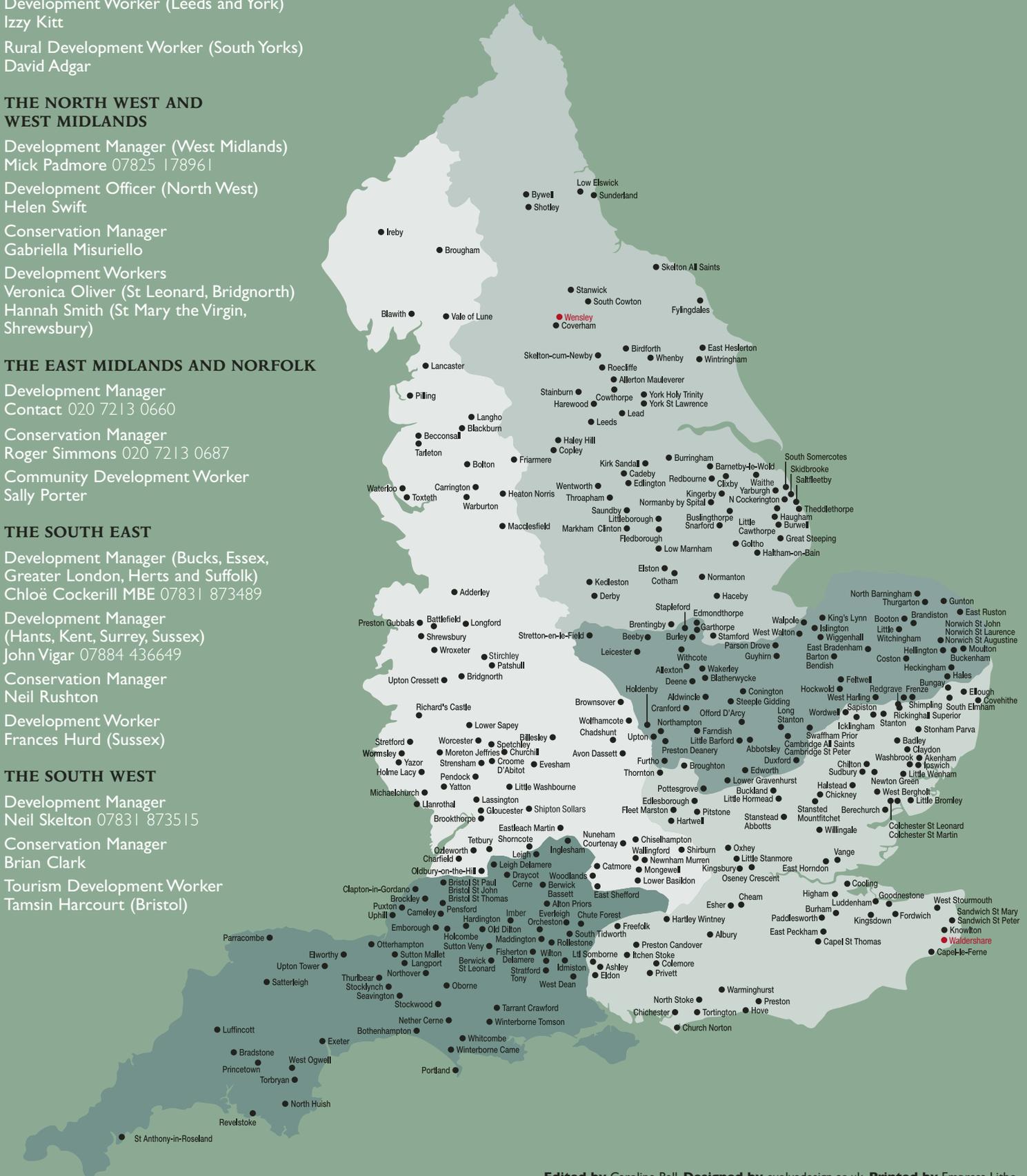
Development Manager  
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Conservation Manager  
Brian Clark

Tourism Development Worker  
Tamsin Harcourt (Bristol)

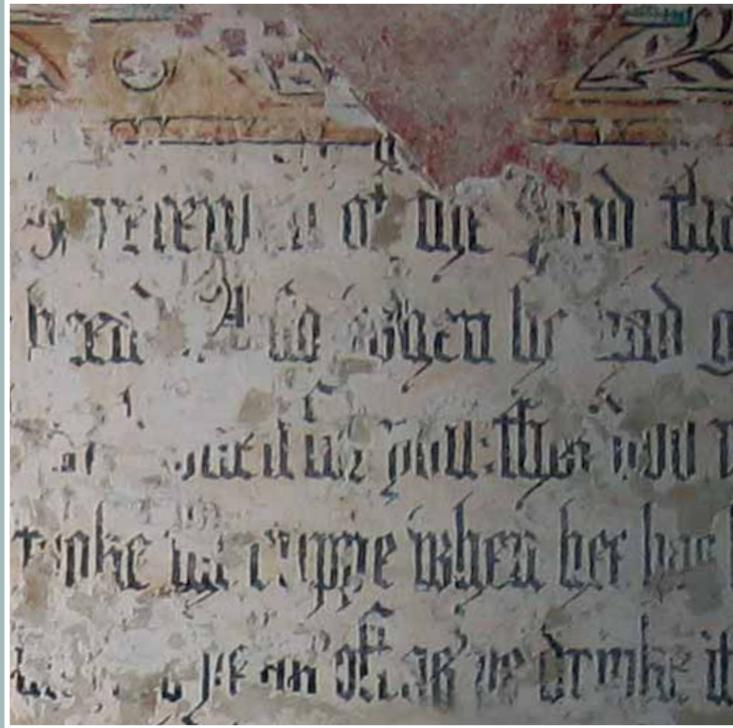
# Locations of the Trust's 340 churches

2 new vestings in 2006





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