



St Martin's Church, Barcheston (Grade II*)

Welcome to the ninth edition of the Church Buildings Team newsletter. This publication aims to bring you up to date with church building related news in the Diocese, and nationally, and highlight some of the work being done in our wonderful churches. If you would like your church to feature or have any suggestions for content please contact Claire, the editor, on

claire.strachan@covcofe.org

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<http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/ChurchBuildings>

CHURCH BUILDING NEWS

DIOCESAN SUPPORT FOR GRANTS & FUNDING

Back in June we were delighted to welcome Andy Duncan, our new **Church Building Funding Support Officer** to the Church Buildings Team. If you are currently navigating your way through grant applications for a building project, or aren't sure where to start, then get in touch! Andy can advise you on which grants you may be eligible for, help you manage your approach to funders, & support you as you make your applications. Andy comes with a huge wealth of knowledge and experience, having a background in regeneration, bid writing & project management in the charitable sector & local government. This post is an 18 month appointment but we hope to make the post permanent by showing just how important this role is in supporting those parishes faced with large fundraising challenges. So get in touch with him to discuss your fundraising needs on Andy.Duncan@covcofe.org or 024 7652 338!



LIST OF CONTRACTORS

We often get requests from PCCs asking for details of 'approved' or 'recommended' contractors to carry out work on church buildings. Your church architect should be a first point of contact on this matter, however, although we are unable to *recommend* contractors (we do not have a robust vetting process, or work directly with the contractors ourselves) we can provide parishes with a list of contractors who have carried out similar work in the Diocese. This is not a comprehensive list & before appointing any contractor, a PCC should always take up references & the appointment should be supported by the full PCC. If you would like a copy of this list please contact the Church Buildings Team.



THE VALUE OF MAINTENANCE

Ongoing, small scale, maintenance is key to ensuring the long-term health of your place of worship & reduces the risk of expensive large scale repairs, a [new report](#) commissioned by Historic England has confirmed. The research used a sample of 30 listed church buildings (a few of which came from this Diocese) & aimed to estimate the repair costs for each building alongside the cost for repairing the issues when they were first identified, establishing whether prompt attention to minor repair & maintenance would have slowed the development of major repair needs. The research found that, perhaps unsurprisingly, delaying repairs significantly increases cost liability. On average, the increase was between 15% & 20% over the costs that would have been incurred if the defects had been fixed when first identified. It also noted that roofs & rainwater goods were the main causes of defects & consequential damage.

LYCH GATES



Lots of churches have lych gates but do you know what the origins of these are? The word *lych* comes from the Old English word 'lich' which means corpse.

The 1549 Prayer Book required priests to formally meet the corpse (dead obviously, brought by the family!) at the entrance to the churchyard. Lych gates were built to provide a meeting place and shelter for those parties bringing corpses for burial. There aren't too many medieval ones left now but many were rebuilt or replaced in the Victorian period, like this one at Farnborough which dates to 1875.



Mission + Mortar

The Encounter Tool

Back in October Archbishop Justin launched Hereford Diocese's new online resource developed with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable parishes to do whatever they need to in their church buildings. The [Mission and Mortar Encounter Tool](#) is a unique piece of software which aims to signpost volunteers who care for places of worship to a range of bespoke resources based on their local circumstances. It was developed out of a need to put all the relevant notes, guidance & templates in one easily navigable place—a one stop shop for advice regarding church buildings, mission, governance, finance & much more.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

Churchcare:	27th Jan for Fabric Repairs & painting/wall painting conservation
	17th Feb for works to bells & bell frames
	4th March for clocks
National Churches Trust:	9 January for Gateway Grants
	2 March for Cornerstone Grants

The Churchwardens Handbook: If you are a new churchwarden (or would just like a refresher) have a look at our Churchwarden's Handbook which provides a good introduction to all things associated with the care, maintenance and development of your church building. You can find it on the Diocesan website at www.dioceseofcoventry.org/images/document_library/UDR01333.pdf

REORDERING AT ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, WOLSTON

Recently I was delighted to attend a service of dedication led by Bishop Christopher and Revd Kevin Flanagan, celebrating the completion of the reordering project at St Margaret's Church in Wolston. This expansive project involved removing all the pews & pew platforms, replacing them with chairs, installing an under-floor heating system, & laying a tile floor, building a draught lobby inside the South door, & constructing a servery at the West end, As you can imagine, such an extensive plan for a Grade I listed church has taken some years to come to fruition (the first site visit was back in 2009!) but the results are delightful. Furthermore, in addition to the original plans, the church team are also planning to put a glass floor over the top of the Norman font base which was uncovered—to much excitement - by local ar-

chaeologist, Alex Thompson, as the building work got underway. Chris Carter, Churchwarden & project leader, has reported that this new flexible space is already being put to good use including for Messy Church, where half the floor was cleared for floor-based activities, & for a Carol Concert for the WI. Coffee mornings are being planned making use of the new servery, & concerts are in the pipeline too. Do visit if you are in the area, & look out for exciting events and activities taking place in Wolston in the coming months!



CHURCH BUILDINGS TEAM CONTACTS

Will Jones (DAC Secretary)

Will.Jones@CovCofE.org 024 7652 327

Claire Strachan (Church Building Projects Officer)

Claire.Strachan@CovCofE.org 024 7652 353