

From: [National Churches Trust](#)
To: ctcinfohub@gmail.com
Subject: January 2024 Newsletter
Date: 12 January 2024 16:59:59



Join us in exploring the UK's beautiful churches

Dear Supporter,

At the start of this year, perhaps you've decided to visit more churches, or to explore parts of the UK you haven't been to before. There are thousands of churches, chapels and meeting houses across the UK, each waiting to welcome you and immerse you in a wonderful story.

On our website, you'll find trails to explore and helpful visitor information. And we'll be bringing you stories from amazing places of worship on our social media channels too.

We will also be running exciting church tours and events in person, and we'd be delighted for you to join us on them. All the proceeds from these events go towards our work helping to keep churches open and in good repair.

On Friday 9 February, we start with a guided tour of Waltham Abbey in Essex. You'll enjoy hearing about this building's centuries-old history and spectacular stained glass, including the huge wheel window that is described by Sir Simon Jenkins as Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne-Jones' "finest work."

If you can't make the date though, don't worry as we'll be running more events throughout the year, including a tour of Liverpool's Cathedrals, taking place on Wednesday 1 May. Photographer and author of *The Treasures of English Churches*, Dr Matthew Byrne, will be leading the tour, giving expert insight into the development of Liverpool Cathedral and Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.

[You can sign up for our upcoming events here.](#) And make sure to keep your eyes open for more details of upcoming events in these newsletters.

Best wishes,

Claire

Claire Walker

Chief Executive

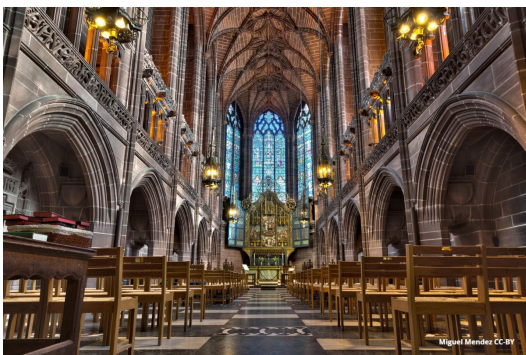
Join us on exciting church tours



Discover Waltham Abbey

On Friday 9 February, we're hosting a guided tour of Waltham Abbey in Essex. This historical gem was the last abbey in England to be dissolved under King Henry VIII. On the day, you'll hear tales through the ages about the medieval parish church, and be able to take in its wonderful architecture, from the Romanesque nave to the stained glass windows designed by Edward Burne-Jones.

[Find out more and get your tickets](#)



Get tickets for our Liverpool Cathedrals tour

Photographer and author of *The Treasures of English Churches*, Dr Matthew Byrne will be guiding us around Liverpool's Cathedrals on Wednesday 1 May. Liverpool Cathedral and Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, together, represent the remarkable development of twentieth-century ecclesiastical design.

[Find out more and book your place](#)

Speaking up for churches



Championing churches through meetings with UK Government

Yesterday, Thursday 11 January, the National Churches Trust met with the UK Government's Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) to help them with vital research they are undertaking. The DCMS wanted to hear about the scale of backlog of conservation repairs and maintenance affecting cathedrals and major churches that are also visitor attractions. We were able to share with them the need for funding to ensure these buildings can remain open. Through meetings like this with the UK Government, we will continue to champion churches and help them to get the support they need to stay open and in good repair.



Launching our six point plan to save UK churches

Last year, we asked you what needed to be done to help keep the UK's churches open and in good repair. Thank you so much to all of you who responded. Later this month, we will be launching our six point plan in the UK Houses of Parliament.

On Thursday the 25 January, we will be hosting an online event with the Religion and Media Centre to share more about this plan, and we would love you to join us.

[Please email the Religion and Media Centre to get a secure link for the webinar.](#)



The mouldy, cold church being transformed into a lifeline for people in their lowest moments

"They might only have the clothes that they're wearing, might literally just have arrived a few days previous and been told: 'Go there and they will help you.' So, they turn up [at the church] and they can access English lessons, a clothing bank, a foodbank, a toiletries bank, classes for parents and toddler groups, a birth partner project for asylum-seeking women who might be birthing on their own." – Fflur, Trinity Centre Cardiff.

Trinity Centre Cardiff, a Grade II Listed Methodist church in Wales, is one of our last chance churches. These churches are in desperate need of support to help repair their buildings. Our Support Officer in Wales, Gareth Simpson, showed a reporter from *Wales Online* around Trinity Centre to showcase how this church is on the frontline of caring for people in need – and how restoring their building will enable them to help even more people.

[Read the article](#)

[Find out more about our last chance churches](#) – and how you can help keep them open and in good repair.

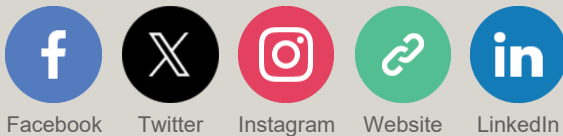
Can you help us?



Join our Grants Committee

We're looking for two new members for our Grants Committee. We strive to ensure that members have experience that spans the UK and represent different professional backgrounds and interests, in order to help advise our grant decisions. We would love to hear from anyone who loves church buildings and thinks that their experience can help places of worship to remain a sustainable part of our heritage. Please do also share this with your networks and people who you think will be a good fit for the committee.

[Find out more and apply](#)



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