

From: [National Churches Trust](#)
To: ctcinfohub@gmail.com
Subject: Your March 2024 Newsletter
Date: 08 March 2024 17:00:33



How we're working to support churches in Scotland and across the UK

Dear Supporter,

I have been to Scotland many times, but the landscape, warm welcomes, and fantastic architecture never fail to impress. The news that the Church of Scotland is due to close up to 40 per cent of its churches is worrying. But our new *Cherish* project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, means we now have additional support in Scotland for churches.

In February, I went to visit Karen Hind, our new support officer on the ground in Scotland. I had the privilege of being shown Crathie Kirk, a beautiful building in Aberdeenshire. But hearing about the damp and water damage, and seeing busts of Queen Victoria and King George VI protected under cloth served as a stark reminder of why our work matters.

With *Cherish* now well under way, I hope that our dedicated help for churches and volunteers can help to turn this around.

During my trip, I also visited RCCG King of Glory Church, in Craightinny, Edinburgh. At the end of 2023, [we awarded RCCG £9,965 funding to help them install new facilities, which will help them to better support the local community.](#)

And the support we offer doesn't end there. From advice on writing grant applications, signposting to new funders, to help on how to care for listed buildings and ideas on how to get volunteers involved with looking after the building, we are on hand to help churches, chapels and meeting houses to stay open and in good repair.

Best wishes,



Claire Walker

Chief Executive

Latest news from across the UK



Remembering Lord Cormack: a champion of churches

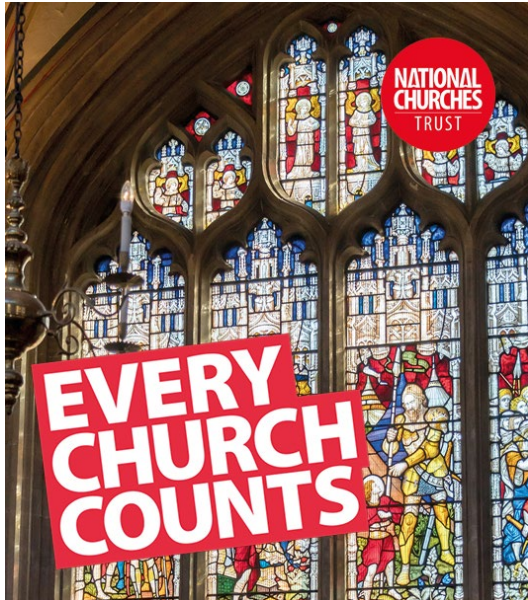
We are saddened by the death of Lord Cormack, who faithfully served as Trustee of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust and then Vice President of the National Churches Trust for more than 40 years.

"Lord Cormack was one of this country's most committed and fearless advocates for the cause of our church heritage. He understood the English church in all its dimensions – physical, spiritual and social – and was tireless in supporting the work of the National Churches Trust. He was also a charming, kind and hospitable man, for whom friendship clearly ranked alongside family, community and faith as one of the sources of life's meaning." – Sir Philip Rutnam, Chair of the National Churches Trust.

As a charity, we remain hugely grateful for Lord Cormack's support. His contribution – to the National Churches Trust and to other heritage causes – has enabled so many churches to get

the vital support they need to stay open and in good repair. He is – and will be remembered – as a champion of churches.

[Read more about Lord Cormack and the many ways he has helped churches](#)



Churches miss out in the spring budget

It is disappointing that church buildings have been overlooked in the spring budget. The closure of many church buildings is the single biggest heritage challenge right now, with so many churches, chapels and meeting houses at risk of falling into disrepair and being forced to shut.

Without regular financial support from the UK Government, and more funding from heritage organisations, denominations and philanthropic trusts, more and more churches will close if they cannot pay for repairs. This will mean an uncertain future for precious buildings, symbols of hope and continuity, and the loss of the community support they provide.

[Read Every Church Counts, our six point plan to help save UK church buildings](#)

Progress at Tain St Andrew Church for urgent repair work to fight rot

We're delighted to see the new tower starting to rise up from St Andrew's Church, Tain, North Ross-shire and East Sutherland. In December last year, we awarded St Andrew's a £15,160 grant to help carry out urgent



repairs to rot in the tower. This beautiful church was built in 1887 and features much woodwork from 'Mousey Thompson', who's furnishings can be identified from the mice carved on them. With repairs now well underway, Tain St Andrew's Church can remain open for generations to come.



National Church Awards winner honoured again

Huge congratulations to Mary McGee from St Macartans, Forth Chapel, in Northern Ireland, who recently received an MBE for services to heritage and tourism. Mary was the driving force behind the successful Treasure Ireland supported project at St Macartans, which saw the church crowned Church of the Year at the 2022 National Church Awards. While Mary was in London, it was great to welcome her and her family to our London office and hear more about the wonderful work she's doing.

Waltham Abbey event recap

Thank you to all those who came on our recent Waltham Abbey tour and made the day so enjoyable. We explored this marvellous building, including the beautiful painted ceiling,



which features signs of the Zodiac, and the 15th century doom painting, pictured here. We run events throughout the year, so keep an eye out for more opportunities to enjoy the UK's churches with us.

[Find out more about future events, including our upcoming Liverpool tour](#)

Upcoming dates for your diary



Walk Welsh Church trails

This spring, discover places of worship on wonderful trails, with the Chepstow Walking Festival. We've helped to arrange two walks, where you'll be able to take in history and culture while enjoying the Welsh landscape. Find out more details through each of the links below.

- [On Friday 5 April, our Support Officer for Wales, Gareth Simpson, will be leading a walk in the Usk Valley, which will include a visit to Bettws Newydd and St Aeddan's Church – one of the churches we've been able to help with urgent roof repairs through our grants.](#)
- [On Saturday 6 April, enjoy a tour of St Mary's Priory in Chepstow, which was built in 1071.](#)

Can you help us?



We are hiring

Are you an experienced Project Manager who wants to help keep churches well maintained, valued and in use? You could make a massive difference to the UK's churches, chapels, and meeting houses by joining our team. We're hiring an Interim Cherish Project Manager to oversee delivery of our National Lottery Heritage Funded Cherish project.

[Find out more](#)

Nominate the National Churches Trust for additional funding

The Benefact Group are an international group of financial services businesses that gives all available profits to charities and good causes. They are generously giving out £1,000 grants to charities this spring. Please consider nominating the National Churches Trust for a £1,000 grant by next Sunday, 17 March. In doing so, you will help us to support historic churches across the whole of the UK. It won't cost you a thing but could save a building loved by many.

[Nominate us for a donation](#)



Last minute Mother's Day gifts

Gift a National Churches Trust membership this Mother's Day

Give your mother, grandmother or



mother-like figure in your life a gift that will last the whole year. Our gift membership is the perfect present for people who love heritage and who appreciate the rich history the UK's churches, chapels and meeting houses. Our gift welcome pack includes a copy of *The Treasures of English Churches*, an inspiring book of photographs by Dr Matthew Byrne.

[Find out more](#)



Facebook



Twitter



Instagram



Website



LinkedIn

Copyright © 2024 National Churches Trust, All rights reserved.

Registered Charity (No. 1119845)

You are receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the work of the National Churches Trust.

Our mailing address is:

National Churches Trust
7 Tufton Street
London, London SW1P 3QB
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

