

**The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance Annual Open Day  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

***The Big Update***

St Albans Conference Centre, Leigh Place, Baldwins Gardens, Holborn  
EC1N 7AB ( [www.stalbanscentre.org/](http://www.stalbanscentre.org/) )

**Programme**

**09.30 Arrival and tea and coffee**

10.00 *Welcome* - Trevor Cooper, Chair, the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance

10.10 *How certain is the victory of Conservation? Indeed, have we won?* – Matthew Saunders reflects on a 40-year career in Conservation

10.40 *The Heating of old churches* – Andrew More, Senior Building Services Engineer, Historic England

11.10 *The Taylor Review Pilot in Suffolk* – a short introduction from Diana Evans, Head of Places of Worship, Historic England; followed by James Halsall, DAC Secretary for the Care of Churches and Pastoral Secretary, Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

**11.40 Tea and Coffee**

11.55 *"Ring out the old, ring in the new" (a la Tennyson) - sustaining and developing the tangible and intangible heritage of church bell ringing* - Christopher O' Mahony, President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

12.25 *Inspired Futures for church buildings: methods, examples and learning from an innovative HLF funded church support project in North East England* – Ian Bapty, Inspired North East and Peter Biggers, Inspired Futures

**12.55 Lunch**

14.00 *Pilgrimage and England's Cathedrals project: results, impact and next steps* – Revd Dr Dee Dyas and Dr Louise Hampson, The Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture

14:30 *Your Big Update* – an opportunity for you to tell us about your news – no more than 3 mins!

15.00 *The Mission of the Church and the use of property* – Louise Wilkins, Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice for the Methodist Church

**15.30 Grab cup of tea and bring back to chair**

15.40 *Practical ways to make your church more environmentally friendly* – Ruth Knight, Environmental Policy Officer, Church of England

16.10 Discussion and concluding remarks followed by tea and latest finish at 16.30

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## Speakers Biographies

**Ian Bapty, Inspired North East Project Officer.** An archaeologist by background, Ian has over 25 years' experience working in the environmental, heritage and museum sectors. This includes developing and delivering a wide range of community-based conservation projects, extensive fundraising experience, and managing major regional and national projects on Offa's Dyke (in the English-Welsh borders) and supporting industrial heritage museums across England.

Ian has been *Inspired North East* Project Officer (based with the Diocese of Newcastle) since August 2016. They work with local churches to help them achieve a sustainable future for their historic church buildings and to improve access, present their stories and welcome visitors. Via *Inspired North East*, Ian also manages the HLF funded *Inspired Futures* Project, which is providing intensive development support and training for 18 churches in the Newcastle and Durham dioceses. Across both projects, Ian's recent work involves supporting churches on heritage repairs, development for wider community use, fundraising and heritage activities. <http://inspirednortheast.org.uk/>

**Peter Biggers, Inspired Futures Lead Consultant, Durham Diocese,** is a Chartered Planner and conservation specialist with over 30 years' experience in planning, conservation, historic buildings and community work. Before setting up Argyle Planning Consultancy in 2010 – which provides planning services to developers, landowners and community group - Peter had senior planning roles in several local authorities including Northumberland, Alnwick and Bedfordshire councils.

Peter was the *Inspired North East* Development Officer for Durham from the inception of the innovative *Inspired North East* project in 2010, and since 2016 he has been the lead consultant for the 9 HLF funded *Inspired Futures* project churches within the Durham Diocese. Over the last 8 years, Peter has advised many churches on heritage repairs, funding, re-ordering for wider community use and preparation for visitors, and has facilitated individual church rescues, feasibility studies, business plans and community consultations. <http://inspirednortheast.org.uk/inspired-futures>

**Trevor Cooper, Chair of the HRBA,** has had a long-standing interest in church buildings and their future. Some years ago, he wrote *How do we keep our parish churches?* and he jointly edited *Pews, benches and chairs*, looking at the history of church seating, and discussing its future development. He has recently edited *For public benefit: churches cared for by Trusts*, an Ecclesiological Society publication. He has been an external member since 2002 of the HE Places of Worship Forum and its predecessor, and sat on Southwark DAC between 2003 and 2013. He was Chairman of Council of the Ecclesiological Society from 2000 to 2018.

A native of Bradford, in 1990, **James Halsall** moved to Suffolk and joined the staff at the diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich. Four years later James became the Secretary of the DAC. James's passion for Suffolk's churches is not just for their architectural splendor. He recognises that churches have changed over time and their evolution needs to continue in order for them to be relevant for today's worshippers and the wider community.

James has contributed essays on church buildings to *Faith Matters*, an article on Anglo-Saxon carvings to *Masterpieces: Art and East Anglia* and wrote the acclaimed book *Caring for your Church Building*. During 2018 he has spoken at conferences in Norway and Sweden on the subject of adapting rural churches for wider community use. <http://www.cofesuffolk.org/dac>

**Revd Dr Dee Dyas** is Reader in the History of Christianity, and Director of the Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture and of the Centre for Pilgrimage Studies at the University of York. Her research and publications have focused primarily on the history, experience and significance of pilgrimage through the centuries and the interaction of Christian belief and practice with Western culture. She has edited four major interactive resources, two of which explore in depth the story of the Church in England through the centuries.

Dee recently led a large 3-year Research Council funded project on '*Pilgrimage and England's Cathedrals, past and present.*' She has since received follow on-funding for a project working with partners in

Canterbury and London to use the 2020 Thomas Becket anniversary as a catalyst to enhance heritage, tourism, and community engagement. Dee also oversees Christianity and Culture's wide-ranging programme of research-based heritage interpretation partnerships with cathedrals, churches and other institutions. <http://www.christianityandculture.org.uk/>

**Ruth Knight** leads the Church of England environmental work which exists to enable the whole Church to address - in faith, practice and mission - the issue of climate change. Having trained as an architect, Ruth worked for local authority in Oxfordshire while taking a Masters in Historic Conservation. Over the last 8 years she has developed and supported environmental sustainability throughout the Church. Ruth is an alumni of the Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leadership, an ambassador for Fit for the Future and a coordinator on both the European Christian Environment Network and global Anglican Communion environment group. <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/about-us/cathedra-and-church-buildings-division>

**Dr Louise Hampson** is the Research and Impact Officer for The Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture, History Department, University of York. Originally from London, she moved to North Yorkshire in 1995. An archivist by training, working at Northants then Warwickshire County Record Offices, Louise worked for the Dean and Chapter of York for 14 years first as archivist, then Collections Manager, then as Director of the first phase of the York Minster Revealed project before moving to freelance work and then her present role in 2009. She was a member of the former Yorkshire Museum, Libraries and Archives Council and the Yorkshire Cultural Consortium. She chaired the Yorkshire Archives Council for 3 years and has taught and lectured on the history of art, medieval culture and stained glass. She completed a part-time PhD in History of Art at the University of York in 2018 on the post-medieval reception and care of the stained glass of York Minster. Her current role focuses on working with churches and cathedrals on their interpretation schemes and undertaking research for those and wider grant-funded projects. <http://www.christianityandculture.org.uk/>

**Andrew More** studied Building Engineering, specializing in Building Services, at the University of Liverpool. Andrew has nearly 40 years' post-graduate experience of design and project management, as well as building operation, maintenance and inspection.

As a Senior Building Services Engineer for Historic England, he has three main roles:

- a) giving specific advice on building services to third parties with listed and other historic buildings (including many churches);
- b) providing general advice to the heritage sector and bodies like the British Standards Institution;
- c) helping look after Historic England's own estate of office and other accommodation

He is Chairman of the Chartered Institution of Building Services 'Heritage Group'.

Andrew also helps look after his local Baptist church (a three-hundred-person capacity building) which dates from the post-war period with its own distinct technical challenges.

Australian-born **Christopher O'Mahony** is currently President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Currently based in London, his passion for bell ringing extends over 40 years, including leadership positions in both Australia and UK. <https://ccbr.org.uk/>

**Matthew Saunders** was Director of The Friends of Friendless Churches (and Secretary of Ancient Monuments Society) until Easter 2018. From 1983-2005 he was Secretary of the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies and 2005-2011, a Trustee of the Heritage Lottery Fund. He remains editor of AMS/The Friends newsletter and ecclesiastical caseworker to AMS, for a transitional period.

He has just been commissioned by Historic England to prepare a report on the current state of statutory listing and this will of course embrace places of worship. He is a member of the DAC for London Diocese, is a Trustee of the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation and a Vice-President of The Ecclesiological Society.

**Louise Wilkins** holds the senior role of Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice for the Methodist Church. Louise fulfils the responsibilities of general counsel for the Church and is overseeing the improvement of support to local managing trustees in respect of property matters. A long-standing trustee of the Churches Legislation Advisory Service and recently shortlisted for ICOSA Governance Professional of the Year. <https://www.methodist.org.uk/>

## **How to find the venue:**

**St Albans Conference Centre is at Leigh Place, Baldwins Gardens, Holborn, London EC1N 7AB**

**Underground:** it is a very short walk from Chancery Lane tube station and can be reached on foot from Holborn, Farringdon and Kings Cross stations.

**Buses:** The following buses all pass within a short distance 8, 22B, 25, 45, 46, 17, 171A and 243. For more information call 020 72221234

**By Car:** There is no car parking available at the venue (except for those requiring disabled by access, by prior arrangement). NCP sites are at Shoe Lane, Saffron Hill and Snow Hill

**More information about the venue** at [www.stalbanscentre.org](http://www.stalbanscentre.org) ; <http://stalbanscentre.org/location/>

Any queries please email Becky on [hrb@theheritagealliance.org.uk](mailto:hrb@theheritagealliance.org.uk) or ring her on 0207 2330 900; or **on the day** 07903 135 893