

The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance

The Big Update

Wednesday 5 June 2024 at St James the Less,
Pimlico, SW1V 2PS

Programme

Welcome to the 2024 HRBA Big Update.

The day is a mix of shorter and longer items. Those marked ♦ are short, pacey items, typically ten minutes or less; those with □ against them are more reflective, typically twenty minutes or more.

The event is not being recorded. Powerpoint presentations and videos will be placed on our website a few days after the meeting.

We are grateful to Cathedral Communications for sponsoring this event.

9.30: St James will open for tea, coffee etc.

10.15: First Session

- ♦ *Welcome* from Trevor Cooper, Chair, the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance
- ♦ *What is happening at St James* – Revd Lis Goddard, Vicar of St James
- Simon Thurley, Chair, the National Lottery Heritage Fund.
- *'A beginning not the end for the parish church?' revisited* – Richard Halsey. After reviewing the emergence and history of State and lottery grants some fifty years ago, Richard will revisit the options for the future he suggested in 2011.

11.35 (approx) Refreshments

11.55 Second Session

- ♦ *Update on the Cherish Project* – Beatrice Prosser, Cherish Project Manager.
- *Making music and churches – a match made in heaven?* – Barbara Elfler will talk about the importance of places of worship as venues for those who make music.
- *Fifty years of recording churches*. Liz Chalmers will reflect on the more than 2,000 detailed inventories of church buildings and their contents produced by volunteer groups now under the aegis of the Church Recording Society.

13.05 (approx) Lunch (cold buffet)

13.50 Third Session

- ◆ *Bellringing video* – Central Council of Church Bellringers
- ◆ *Your Big Update*
Open to any member of the audience, maximum of three minutes per person, updating us with news you want to share. No diatribes, no hard sell. Do you want to speak? – let us know before the end of lunch.

The following have already asked for three-minute slots:

Jane Hellings on the 'Restoring Pugin' project at Nottingham Cathedral (Catholic)
Jenny Freeman – short video on proposals for St Mary the Less, Thetford, Norfolk
Adam Klups (double slot: a) short video on a shop in Amberley church, Glocs and b) the *Religiana* database

- *From now to a new administration: a look at 2024* – Lizzie Glithero-West, commenting on the current and developing political environment for heritage
- *Meaning and metaphor: the thinking behind recent commissions for cathedral altars* – Luke Hughes, who has overseen the design and installation of new altars in a number of cathedrals

15.20 (approx) Refreshments

15.40 Fourth Session

- Geoffrey Hunter will provide an update on two areas. First, current work on developing and promoting the Festival Church Model; and, secondly, pilot projects for the Church Buildings Partnership Model.
- ◆ *David Knight* on the security of places of worship and Martyn's law
- ◆ *Katie Steele* on some recent digital technological developments in the care of places of worship
- ◆ *Sarah Crossland* on the use of trails to promote churches and chapels
- ◆ *Trevor Cooper*, looking back on HRBA's first twenty years

Finish by 16.45

Please stay for cake and a glass of something sparkling as you chat over the day

Trevor Cooper, Chair of the HRBA, has had a long-standing interest in church buildings and their future. 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 also edited *For public benefit: churches cared for by Trusts*, looking at the variety of Trusts caring for churches no longer needed for regular worship. He has been an external member since 2002 of the Historic England 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. His historical research focuses on the interior of the English parish church after the Reformation. www.hrballiance.org.uk/

Elizabeth (Liz) Chalmers is a Church Recording Society Trustee and the contact for general Enquiries and Membership. She has been a Church Recorder since 2000 when she retired from her life as a surveyor, managing residential, sometimes 'listed', property but with never a church in sight! Her family home was in Greenwich so surrounded by 'Heritage', while her life is now based in the Chilterns, another historic area. Her church recording was initially in the Oxford Diocese but now mainly in the City of London. From 2014 to 2017 she was the UK Head of Church Recording under NADFAS so she has seen, and still sees, church recording in action all over the UK. She is sure that awareness of the heritage in our local communities is of fundamental importance. <https://www.churchrecordingsociety.org.uk/>

Sarah Crossland is Engagement Manager at the National Churches Trust. She has managed regional and national church tourism projects for 25 years, working with national DMOs, and currently manages the church tourism strategy and content to ensure that churches are promoted as key heritage attractions. She leads on training at the Trust, delivering online and in person events to help volunteers develop skills and share experiences. She also manages the National Church Awards - celebrating the very best of architecture, volunteer, maintenance and tourism projects at churches across the UK. Sarah is also a Trustee of the Churches Visitor and Tourism Association and heritage adviser on Sheffield Diocese DAC. <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/explore>

Barbara Eifler, Chief Executive, Making Music

Barbara has been leading Making Music since 2013 and membership organisations for 25 years, following a first career as stage manager in theatre, opera and events. She played the piano as a child, is now taking singing lessons and plays cornet in the Crystal Palace Band. Thus, she is typical of the hobby musicians who make up the 4,000 leisure-time music groups in Making Music membership. Churches are close to her heart, having played the organ (badly) as a teenager and rehearsed and performed in a variety of churches since becoming an adult amateur musician, as they are to Making Music members: 54% use churches as their regular meeting space and for performances. <https://www.makingmusic.org.uk/>

Lizzie Glithero-West, Chief Executive of The Heritage Alliance since 2016. Her previous career has been mainly in the civil service and she has expert knowledge of a wide range of policy areas including archaeology, heritage protection, museums and tourism. Lizzie has spent time as Private Secretary to Culture Ministers and the Permanent Secretary, as Head of Logistics at DCMS at the time of the General Election, and on secondment to English Heritage and to the National Museum Directors' Council. She has a degree in Archaeology and Anthropology from Oxford, and an MA in History of Art from Birkbeck. In 2014 she was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and is a Trustee of the Egypt Exploration Society. Lizzie is a mummy of two energetic little women and tries to keep up with her academic interest in Egyptian Revival in her spare time - she has published on Belzoni and the Egyptian Hall and on Cartier's Egyptian Revival Jewellery in the Art Deco Period. www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/

Richard Halsey is an architectural historian specialising in English twelfth century architecture. He started working professionally with parish churches at a national level in 1978 with the first Government grant scheme and continued to do so until retiring from English Heritage in 2007. He also ran the Cathedral Repair Grants scheme and has been a member of four cathedral Fabric Advisory Committees. Since 2007 he has been a Trustee of the Friends of Friendless Churches and chaired Ely DAC and the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust.

Luke Hughes studied History of Architecture at Cambridge University and has, for the last 45 years, specialised in designing and making furniture for sensitive architectural settings. These include 62 Oxbridge colleges, 24 cathedrals, more than 150 parish churches and 9 synagogues (mostly in the UK but also in the USA). Recent projects including altars at Winchester, Ely, Salisbury, Bristol, Chester, Bangor, St Giles (Edinburgh), Trinity Wall Street (NYC), as well as the clergy seating which sits on the Cosmati Pavement in Westminster Abbey. Designing furniture for such diverse places of worship presents a particular challenge - how to support liturgy that is contemporary, legible, adaptable and relevant without diminishing either the dignity of the architecture or the sense

of the numinous. In 2021, Luke Hughes was voted 'Craftsman of the Year' by the Worshipful Company of Carpenters. <https://www.lukehughes.co.uk/>

Geoffrey Hunter is Head of Church Buildings at the Diocese of Ely, covering Cambridgeshire and part of West Norfolk. Geoffrey is also a member of the Church Buildings Council and through that was appointed Chair of the Buildings for Mission Project, which is disbursing £9m of Church of England Triennium funding to support the sustainability of church buildings throughout England. Buildings for Mission is taking forward a number of workstreams which came out of the 2015 Church Buildings Review and the subsequent 2017 DCMS Taylor Review into the sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals, including the Church Buildings Management Partnership model. Geoffrey is also a founding trustee of the Association of Festival Churches. <https://www.elydiocese.org/parish-support/church-buildings/>

Adam Klups is Care of Churches & DAC Team Leader and Senior Church Buildings Officer at the Diocese of Gloucester. He is passionate about conservation management, building conservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings. He holds a BA in History of Art with Material Studies, and an MA in Principles of Conservation, both from UCL. Adam is a Fellow of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC) and a full member of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC). He sits on the council of the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and on the Communications Committee of Future for Religious Heritage (FRH) - the European network for historic places of worship. He is also a member of the Conservation & Adaptive Reuse Committee of the European Heritage Awards 2024, run by Europa Nostra www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-resources/church-buildings-and-churchyards/

Dr David Knight is Head of Church Buildings for the Cathedral and Church Buildings Department, Church Commissioners. He leads a multi-disciplinary team that is engaged with advice and policy for church buildings in use and those considering or going through closure. This covers work in sustainability, net-zero carbon and the impact on heritage significance. David is also the national point of contact with Diocesan Advisory Committees, and leads for the department on terrorism and hate crime. <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare>

Bea Prosser-Snelling is Interim Director of Church Engagement at the National Churches Trust. For the past year, she has been project managing the £1.9m, National Lottery Heritage Funded Cherish project, providing targeted support for churches, chapels and meeting houses across Scotland, Wales/Cymru and North-West England. Bea has a wealth of experience working on projects in heritage settings including Chartwell, the Queen's Gallery, the Imperial War Museum and in contemporary arts spaces such as Turner Contemporary and Artswork. <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/cherish>

Katie Steele, Dr Amy Graham and Stephen Elliott, Cheribim which is a startup supporting Churches to achieve sustainability by making relevant tech accessible. Their work emphasises facilitation by creating physical and digital spaces for co-creation. **Katie** founded Cheribim in 2022 following Support Officer and LBAC Secretary posts with the Diocese of Sheffield and Baptist Union, she has a particular interest in BIM and Artificial Intelligence for historic building management. **Amy** (Chief Heritage Officer) was formerly Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames' Local History Officer and has a PhD in Critical Heritage studies, exploring Bus Enthusiasm. She has a particular specialism in engagement and co-creation. **Stephen** (Chief Technology Officer) is an experienced technologist and creator of *Situate*, the "do-it-yourself" heritage trail app which facilitates heritage organisations to create and manage their own walking, museum/gallery-visitor, and object/artefact-based, audio-visual guide apps. www.cheribimapp.com/situate.io or LinkedIn/Facebook.

Dr Simon Thurley, CBE is Chair of The National Lottery Heritage Fund. He is a distinguished historian and heritage expert. He serves on the Delivery Authority for the Restoration and Renewal of the Houses of Parliament, is a trustee of the British Library and chairman of the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. Between 2002 and 2015 he was chief executive of English Heritage, responsible for the National Heritage Collection of 420 sites including Stonehenge and Dover Castle, as well as for the National Heritage Protection system, including the listing of buildings. He played a role in setting up the Canal and River Trust, where he was a trustee until 2015, and masterminded the transition of English Heritage into a charitable Trust. For five years from 1997 Simon was director of the Museum of London, the world's largest city museum, and its archaeological unit MoLAS. For eight years in the 1990s he was Curator and Surveyor of the Fabric at Historic Royal Palaces, leading various projects including the Restoration of the Privy Garden at Hampton Court. As a historian Simon has written thirteen books including a history of English architecture, *The Building of England*, and the story of heritage protection, *Men from the Ministry*. <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/about/our-people/board-trustees/simon-thurley-cbe>