

from **The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance**  
*a group within The Heritage Alliance*

We bring together those working for a secure future  
for historic religious buildings

# The Heritage Alliance

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## REPORT OF THE CHURCH BUILDINGS REVIEW GROUP

The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance (HRBA) is a group within The Heritage Alliance. It brings together those working for a secure future for historic religious buildings. There are about 20,000 listed religious buildings in the UK, of which some 60% are owned by the Church of England (CofE).

The HRBA is a membership organisation, and when responding to consultations does so on behalf of its members and seeks to represent their jointly-held views. As the CofE is an active member of the HRBA and owns more than half of the historic religious buildings in the country it is not appropriate for the HRBA to respond to the consultation on the report of the Church Buildings Review Group.

We have however advertised the report and the opportunity to respond to it in our monthly e-newsletter, and Trevor Cooper and Becky Payne, Chairman and Development Director of the HRBA, will be responding personally.

Although not a formal response, we wish to say that many of those we have discussed the matter with have been struck by the scale of the burden on small rural parishes, and the limited number of ways in which non-churchgoers can at present help support these buildings. As you will know, Sir Laurie Magnus, Chair of Historic England has floated the idea of a Royal Commission to explore future options, and it may be that the CofE will wish to consider whether this or some other type of formal Inquiry might bring the issues to wider public attention and find ways to help shift some of the burden.

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