



GutterClear

a new approach
to church
maintenance

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Maintain
our Heritage

What is GutterClear?



- GutterClear:
 - accredits contractors;
 - standardised spec, terms & conditions
 - markets service to parishes & other denominations
- Contractor:
 - quotes price to parish
 - clears all gutters & downpipes
 - reports obvious defects
 - invites architect
- Church:
 - pays contractor: median is £300 & VAT

Why is GutterClear needed? (1)



- Few parishes can do it themselves
- Complex fabric; inadequate access & drainage
- Lots of advice –but no incentives, grants etc
- Limited understanding of consequences of failure
- Cost - and VAT on top!
- More...

Why is GutterClear needed? (2)



- Health & safety concerns
- contractors
- Low status
- Quinquennial system



GutterClear in action



- Launched 2007
- 3 contractors; 1 builder
- Approx 25% churches; other DIY or other contractors
- “early bird” grant scheme 2008
- Special measures

Why GutterClear Works



- Makes *preventive* maintenance easier
- Promotes but doesn't subsidise
- Scalable
- low startup & management costs
- Uses marketing techniques

The Background



- Why people neglect their buildings
- what other countries do:
 - Netherlands, Flanders, Germany, USA
- what Britain does(n't) do
- EH, HBC & HLF
- Fatalities; Edinburgh
- maintenance: so important we don't any

The Maintain response



- 1998: Maintain formed
- 2002-03: pilot “Monumentenwacht” –style scheme in Bath
- 2004: “*Putting it Off*”: research
- 2007: GutterClear scheme in Gloucester
- 2012: GutterClear scheme in Chelmsford

GutterClear & other schemes

Dioceses of the Church of England



- Diocese of London : St Barbara scheme
- Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich: Elix Scheme
- Diocese of Norwich
- Diocese of Chelmsford
- SPAB Maintenance Co-operative scheme

The Future?



- Shrinking & ageing congregations
- perverse incentives
- poor grants
- more intense rainfall
- Deteriorating maintenance..?

So What do we need to do?



- change the culture!
- grants for collective maintenance schemes
- enforce existing rules
- recognition schemes
- early-bird grants
- other ideas:
 - bigger EH/HLF repair grants for well-maintained buildings
 - a duty of care
 - minimum maintenance codes

A Reminder from History?



“Rain is always prepared to wreak mischief, and never fails to exploit even the least opening to do some harm:

by its subtlety it infiltrates, by softening it corrupts, and by its persistence it undermines the whole strength of the building, until it eventually brings ruin and destruction on the entire work.”

Leon Battista Alberti,
De re aedificatoria, (1450)

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- www.maintainourheritage.co.uk
www.gutterclear.org.uk