

From: [National Churches Trust](#)
To: ctcinfohub@gmail.com
Subject: August 2023 Newsletter
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Increasing support for churches in need

Dear Supporter,

Across the UK, the future of churches is uncertain. Many churches need vital support to help maintain their beautiful buildings and keep them open and in use.

Through working with churches, we know that there is a geographical split; that in some areas it is harder to access support and to find out information about what funds are available that churches can apply for.

This is why, in Northern Ireland, we partnered with the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Pilgrim Trust and the Historic Environment Division at the Department for Communities in Northern Ireland to set up Treasure Ireland.

For the last three years, this project has been able to reach hundreds of churches in Northern Ireland with dedicated support and advice. We are delighted to share with you that [Treasure Ireland has been renewed for another three years](#), meaning that even more churches in Northern Ireland will benefit from this support.

Do keep an eye out over the next few months, as we'll be sharing more on how we'll be increasing our support across the UK so even more churches can remain open for good.

Best wishes,

Claire

Claire Walker

Chief Executive

PS If you'd like to support this vital work and help us to reach even more churches in the UK, [you can find out more here](#).



'Treasure Ireland' extension means more places of worship in Northern Ireland will be supported

For the last three years, Treasure Ireland has been able to reach hundreds of churches in Northern Ireland with dedicated support and advice. We're excited to share that Treasure Ireland has now been extended until 2026. Nina McNeary, our Church Support Officer in Northern Ireland, tells us more about how the project has helped churches so far and what's next for Treasure Ireland.

[Read the interview with Nina](#)



Can Britain's churches still be saved?

The future of churches is the biggest heritage challenge facing the UK. Writing in Prospect magazine, National Churches Trust Chair, Sir Philip Rutnam offers hope and a five point plan for keeping these amazing buildings open and in use. Sir Philip's timely article is a must-read for anyone who wants to see the UK's largest collection of listed buildings kept safe

for future generations to enjoy.

[Read more](#)



Let us know what you think needs to be done to keep UK churches open and in use

We want to know what you think needs to be done to keep the UK's churches, chapels and meeting houses open and in use. We've put together a short survey and your answers will feed directly into our new Manifesto for Church Buildings, which we'll use to push for greater support for places of worship.

[Take part in the survey](#)



Discover ancient Yew trees

You can find Yew trees in many churchyards in the UK. They are always beautiful, often huge, and some of them even predate Christianity itself. Having been around for so long, these trees have witnessed and participated in many historical events. Why not get out this summer and explore some of the churchyards near you to see if you can find one of these amazing trees? We also have a guide to where you can find some yew trees in UK churchyards with some fascinating stories about them.

[Read our guide to churchyard Yew trees](#)

Get involved with Ride + Stride this September

This year, Ride + Stride will take place on Saturday 9 September. Ride +



Stride is a sponsored bike ride or walk between churches; a chance to explore and enjoy the countryside. The money raised will help to repair churches, chapels and meeting houses throughout the UK. This sponsored event is the single largest source of income for many historic churches trusts in the UK, which enables them to give grants to local churches in need. What could be better than getting on your bike, or lacing up your boots, to explore historic churches for a good cause?

[Find out how you can take part in Ride + Stride](#)



Advance notice of Carols by Candlelight this December

Our annual carol concert, *Carols by Candlelight*, will be returning on 14 December at the wonderful Grosvenor Chapel in Mayfair, London. Tickets will go on sale in September. We will make sure you'll be one of the first to know how you can purchase a ticket by releasing this information in our next newsletter. Make sure you save the date for this festive treat.

[**More ways you can support us**](#)



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LOCAL COMMUNITY HUB PROJECTS

Town halls and churches are an important staple of any community so it is important to ensure that they are in good shape. Refurbishment can provide long lasting benefits to visitors and all the communities that utilise them.



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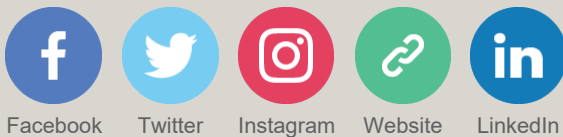
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