

# Building Faith in our Future

This is the **fifth** e-bulletin since the publication of **Building Faith in our Future**. It sets out developments to date and seeks your help as we continue to move the campaign forward

## The *Building Faith* Campaign Messages:

The *Building Faith* Campaign has three simple messages:

- Churches matter and deserve support
- Without support they are at risk
- We are therefore seeking: better funding (50:50 partnership with the State in funding towards their repair, and a 'level playing field' in terms of access to other funding); and to strengthen the Church's capacity to develop the use of its buildings for worship and mission to the wider community.

## Contents:

1. Update: "*Funding of Church Buildings: Next Steps*"
2. Downing Street Petition
3. Valuing our Heritage – *making the case for future investment in the historic environment*
4. The Pastoral (Amendment) Measure
5. Funding Opportunities: English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund, LPWGS and Landfill Grants
6. Heritage Link launches *Heritage Funding Directory*
7. Further mapping of the contribution of places of worship to their communities
8. Request for Good Examples
9. Church Art website
10. Shrinking the Footprint - update
11. Liaison with Government Departments
12. Liaison with Other Partners

## Become a *Building Faith* Supporter:

Join our network of people, at national, regional and local level, within the Church and outside, to be kept informed of developments, approached directly about new initiatives and to tell us their stories about the

achievements of churches in their communities, and spread the word themselves with their local and regional contacts

To register as a *Building Faith* Supporter and receive copies of the ***Building Faith in our Future*** e-bulletin, please contact: **Becky Payne** at:

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Download copies of the ***Building Faith in our Future*** report, latest Key Facts and other information about the Building Faith Campaign from:

**[www.cofe.anglican.org/about/builtheritage/buildingfaith/index.html](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/builtheritage/buildingfaith/index.html)**

## **1. “Funding of Church Buildings: Next Steps”**

As we reported last time, a new paper was produced in July 2006 on behalf of the Archbishop’s Council with assistance from The Church Commissioners and several dioceses. It set out the actual financial position of our churches more clearly than anything previously available. Members of the Church Buildings Campaign Working Group and staff from the Archbishops’ Council have been discussing these proposals with Government Departments to seek a new financial settlement with both central and local government which reflects the value and potential of these community assets. Our main focus is still to engage privately with the key players about our proposals rather than seeking to generate lots of publicity.

In the meantime, we welcome the very positive statement made by the Chancellor in his pre-budget speech 6th December 2006:

*“In the specific case of faith based organisations, many said that within a secular society, they encounter suspicion from funders in applications to deliver particular projects or services. The Government wants to ensure that the range of community based organisations can access the support available to perform their multiple roles of providing voice to citizens and in building communities”.*

A positive tribute also appeared in the December 2006 report ***The Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration: interim report*** from the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury.

*“Faith communities can make a difference in ways governments cannot; in the ways they reach out to excluded communities, build the confidence and abilities of those who volunteer, and provide innovative solutions to the new problems that society faces. The Government wants to address the barriers faith communities experience to participation in civic life, including in accessing sources of funding, and wants to increase and improve the wide range of services that they provide to members of their own faith and to the wider community.”* (page 13, box 2.2) [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pre\\_budget\\_report/prebud\\_pbr06/other\\_docs/prebud\\_pbr06\\_odthirdsector.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pre_budget_report/prebud_pbr06/other_docs/prebud_pbr06_odthirdsector.cfm)

## 2. Downing Street Petition

In January, Mr W. G. Blake from a parish in Bristol placed a petition about church repairs onto the No 10 website. It reads as follows:

*We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to arrange for the cost of repairs to C of E church buildings to be reimbursed to help preserve our archaeological and historical heritage for the future. Churches are a valuable part of our heritage and a major tourist attraction, yet the funding of repairs is left to the parish in which the building is situated. Thus the cost of maintaining a national asset is left to the minority. This is grossly unfair and should be rectified.*

This local initiative is very much in line with what **Building Faith in our Future** is supporting, although we would not wish to restrict help to the Church of England alone. This new site is a useful tool for gauging public opinion. (The biggest petition requesting the scraping of the planned road pricing policy had over 1,700,000 signatures by the time it closed on 20<sup>th</sup> February!) Please draw this to the attention of your contacts. Go to <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/preservation> . Signing it takes about 30 seconds.

## 3. Valuing our Heritage

**English Heritage, the National Trust, Heritage Link, Historic Houses Association, and the Heritage Lottery Fund** published on 15<sup>th</sup> January a joint report “**Valuing our Heritage**” making the *case for future investment in the historic environment*. This is part of the heritage sector’s own campaign to get a better settlement for DCMS in the Comprehensive Spending Review against a background of further cuts.

The booklet gives four priorities

- Resources and skills to deliver Heritage Protection Review (including developing skills at local authority level)
- **Places of Worship** - referring to *Inspired!* campaign whose objectives we continue to support.
- ‘Investing in the assets’ - restoring English Heritage’s grant-in-aid to 1997 levels
- Reaching out to a broader audience and engaging them with their heritage.

To read the report in full go to <http://www.heritagelink.org.uk/>

## 4. Pastoral (Amendment) Measure

In recent years there has been an increasing recognition in many quarters that wider community use may be complementary to a church’s primary purpose as a place of worship, rather than opposed to it, and that they can provide a valuable means of bringing the church congregation and the wider community more closely together. Coming into force in January 2007, the Pastoral (Amendment) Measure 2006 (“the 2006 Measure”) takes this concept forward by providing a new mechanism through which a lease may be granted

of part of a church building, provided that taken as a whole the building continues to be used primarily as a place of worship. Guidance has been produced which explains the background to the 2006 Measure, what a parish has to do if it wishes to proceed under it, how to assess whether the new provisions will be of value to it and how to carry out the consultation required. It also gives examples of successful alternative uses. This can be found at: [www.cofe.anglican.org/about/churchlawlegis/measures/pamguide.rtf](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/churchlawlegis/measures/pamguide.rtf)

## **5. Funding Opportunities: English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund, The Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme and Landfill Grants**

In December 2006, **English Heritage** and the **Heritage Lottery Fund** announced that they are extending their Joint Repair Grant Scheme for Places of Worship for a further year. (It was due for review in 2007). The **Heritage Lottery Fund** also confirmed that they propose to continue a funding stream for the repair of places of worship for 2008-2013 at the same level of investment as present (£15m for England and £5m for the other countries of the UK). This is welcome news given the demands on the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Under the **Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme**, over **£55 million** has now been awarded in grants up to the end of January 2007 throughout the United Kingdom. Over **£44 million** of this was paid to listed places of worship in England, an estimated 89% of them Anglican churches. For further details go to: <http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/>

Since it began in November 2005, the **Memorial Grant Scheme** has paid out nearly **£330,000** for the construction, renovation, and maintenance of memorials in England. For further details go to: [http://www.culture.gov.uk/what\\_we\\_do/Historic\\_environment/memorial\\_grant\\_scheme/](http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/Historic_environment/memorial_grant_scheme/)

Please encourage your contacts to apply.

The SITA Trust which distributes funding through the **Landfill Communities Fund** (formerly the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme) and is supported by the waste management company, SITA UK, has launched a small grants scheme for community improvement projects in England and Wales. These could be physical improvements to community facilities, sports projects and historic buildings/structures. A fast track scheme offers up to £10,000 for projects that improve facilities within a 10mile radius of a SITA landfill site. Other options are the Large Grants schemes up to £50,000 and in the Challenge Fund three awards of up to £250,000 will be made in 2007, one in each of these categories: community, sport and historic buildings/structure. Not for profit organisations, community groups, parish councils, Local Authorities and charities can apply. For further details see [www.sitatrust.org.uk](http://www.sitatrust.org.uk) where there is also a Landfill Locator.

## 6. Heritage Link launches *Heritage Funding Directory*

On 12<sup>th</sup> February, Heritage Link launched its *Heritage Funding Directory* which is a new resource designed to benefit all those who are seeking funding or other support 'in kind' for projects in the heritage sector. The Directory details organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors, from English Heritage and the National Lottery to charitable trusts that offer grants, loans, scholarships and bursaries, education and various forms of 'in kind' assistance.

Often heritage project objectives are a complex combination of environmental, social, educational, economic and other outcomes, not always sitting easily in one category or another. The Directory includes details of virtually all substantive funding sources which directly support the heritage sector, as well as many which provide funding for the heritage within a broader remit. By mapping the highways and byways of the funding scene, this new Directory will therefore be a valuable tool in helping projects to identify sources of appropriate support. The Directory, which is free to all users, can be accessed directly from the main Heritage Link website at [www.heritagelink.org.uk](http://www.heritagelink.org.uk).

## 7. Further mapping of the contribution of places of worship to their communities

**Church of England churches along with other faith groups make a huge contribution to social action in their local communities.** New surveys mapping the size and range of this contribution continue to be published. The majority of these surveys have been undertaken by the regional faith network supported by their regional development agency. An up to date table is attached which summarises those reports which we know about. Please let us know if you come across others.

One recent research report mapping cultural activities undertaken by faith groups in the East Midlands was published in Autumn 2006. ***'East Midlands Regional Faith and Cultural Project: a report into the range of cultural activities'*** was undertaken by the Faith Sector by Creative Associates (Autumn 2006) for East Midlands Churches Forum in partnership with Culture East Midlands, East Midlands Forum of Faiths, Engage East Midlands, FATIMA Women's Network as part of the Regional Change Up Programme for the East Midlands. Key Findings:

- An average of 40 active volunteers in each faith centre involved in delivering cultural programmes.
- **Cultural events seen as one way of bringing different faiths together as joint hosts.**
- Groups contacted displayed considerable pride in their activities, were happy to showcase them, and those who responded were generally encouraged by the interest in their activities.
- Activities revealed by the study are very wide, and operate across much of the sector including the heritage and tourism agendas. Many activities take part as part of the social menu of a faith centre, and encourage people to share and participate.

- Appeared to be significant difficulties for faith groups to access public funding for these activities. Most funding came from internal sources. To read the full report and the recommendations go to: <http://www.faith-culture-em.org/>

## 8. Good Examples Please!

Remember to keep sending us your stories of **innovative and imaginative projects** where churches are enhancing the community uses of their buildings, whether by well-designed physical adaptation of the church building and/or outreach into the wider community. We would greatly welcome local examples for possible inclusion on the the Churchcare website. These can include examples from any of the areas covered in **Building Faith in our Future** (cultural activities, voluntary and community activities, in rural and urban areas, education, tourism as well as innovative funding ideas). Please send your stories to Becky Payne along with a contact name for the project and/or a website link as soon as you can.

## 9. Church Art website

Since its launch on November 2005, the **website directory of artists and craftspeople** is going from strength to strength. Advertisements have gone in the Church Times and the Journal of Stained Glass. The number of pages viewed in August last year was 7405 and this has gradually increased to 16,597 pages viewed in the month of January. One new page has been added under the Commissioning & Funding Artwork section: the Cottam Will Trust. This gives information on grants available for commissioning new works of art in gothic churches. There are now well over 100 artists listed and pictures of their work can now be viewed on [www.churchart.co.uk](http://www.churchart.co.uk) .

## 10. Shrinking the Footprint – update

The Church of England Shrinking the Footprint campaign has been boosted by the positive reception in parishes of the dedicated campaign website (<http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/>) which offers easy to follow advice about reducing carbon emissions and promoting green alternatives to provide energy needs. Nearly 3000 individual visits were made to the site in December alone with 5902 pages served.

A new leaflet, promoting the campaign and offering advice on carrying out a simple audit to help Church people assess and understand their church's energy footprint, was added to the site in February. This is available directly from the homepage in downloadable form. Other available resources continue to prove popular. Last month the Measure questionnaire had 431 views, for example.

The Church's national Shrinking the Footprint team welcomes feedback, particularly about local initiatives, which might be supported by wider publicity, and will seek to answer other questions/queries. Contact the team at: [shrinkingthefootprint@c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:shrinkingthefootprint@c-of-e.org.uk)

## 11. Liaison with Government Departments

## 1. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)

As we reported in the last bulletin, the **House of Commons Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport** published its report on its inquiry into how we protect our heritage in July 2006. Entitled '**Protecting and Preserving our Heritage**' you can read the whole report by going to <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmcomeds/912/91202.htm>

In October 2006, the Department of Culture Media and Sport published their response which has been described as 'disappointingly complacent'. To quote Heritage Link, "*as a catalogue of Government heritage actions over the last five years it reads admirably, but it fails to pay attention to the seriousness of the evidence and the Select Committee's concerns*" [Heritage Link Update 101] To read the DCMS report, go to [http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference\\_library/Publications/archive\\_2006/cms6947\\_cttee\\_ppheritage.htm?contextId={E1CC8501-8793-4EF9-AD40-0BB73D05A11D}](http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2006/cms6947_cttee_ppheritage.htm?contextId={E1CC8501-8793-4EF9-AD40-0BB73D05A11D})

There have been a couple of debates in Parliament. On the 7<sup>th</sup> December, there was a short debate in the House of Lords on *Funding for Historic Places of Worship* initiated by Lord Howarth of Newport. The Bishop of London emphasised the need for more funds for churches to enable them to unlock their potential as community hubs – places where social and community activities take place as well as worship. The Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham further stressed the community benefit of church buildings and the Church's desire to work in partnership to serve the community.

On 14<sup>th</sup> December, Sir Patrick Cormack secured an Adjournment debate on the subject of churches, their fabric and their survival. In reply, David Lammy, MP, Minister for Culture, reiterated what the government has been doing including the LPWG Scheme, and the Joint English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund grant scheme. He also praised the objectives set out in the English Heritage *Inspired!* Campaign and the need to support churches which are finding new ways of engaging with their local communities. He ended by saying that "*the Government remains committed to the future of all our historic places of worship, and to working with the denominations as they seek a sustainable future for their buildings*" while at also stating that he was unable to commit to any increases in Government support as "*we are about to enter a comprehensive spending review period*".

On 25<sup>th</sup> January, a debate was held in Westminster Hall to discuss the Select Committee report, lasting four hours. Numerous MPs spoke about the need for more support for our heritage. Cathedral and churches came up many times as a vital part of that heritage with many speakers quoting particular churches as being valued parts of the heritage in their area. <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070125/halltext/70125h0001.htm#070125109000002>

**Latest news:**

DCMS are still working on the ***Heritage Protection Review*** White Paper, but it seems likely that it will now appear in March this year.

The Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee announced on 16<sup>th</sup> January a **new inquiry into the tourism sector in the UK**. Among other issues, the Committee is particularly interested in receiving evidence on:

- The effectiveness of DCMS and its sponsored bodies (such as VisitBritain) in supporting the industry;
- The structure and funding of sponsored bodies in the tourism sector, and the effectiveness of that structure in promoting the UK both as a whole and in its component parts;
- What data on tourism would usefully inform Government policy on tourism;
- The practicality of promoting more environmentally friendly forms of tourism; and
- How to derive maximum benefit for the industry from the London 2012 Games.

Written submissions are invited from any interested organisation or individual by Friday 16 March 2007.

For more information go to:

[http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/culture\\_media\\_and\\_sport/cms070117.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/culture_media_and_sport/cms070117.cfm)

**2. The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)** is continuing to update and further develop its information website for rural community buildings. Go to:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/communities/halls/default.htm>

Two research reports were published out last Autumn both commissioned by DEFRA both of which should provide useful contextual information for those responsible for rural places of worship:

1. ***'Faith in Rural Communities: contributions of Social Capital to Community Vibrancy'*** (October 2006). Research carried out by three organisations: the University of Coventry, the Church of England (through Dr Jill Hopkinson, National Rural Officer) and the Arthur Rank Centre.

*'People who attend church regularly make a significant contribution to community vibrancy through their engagement in church based activities and their role in the village'*

Based on findings from five locations across England, the research found that this contribution occurred in two major ways. The existence of the church building and graveyard provide a sense of history while the annual church cycle of prayer, celebration and rite of passage contribute to a sense of belonging and well-being. Secondly, a considerable number of people who attend church regularly tend to volunteer to lead or help organise a wide range of activities both church-based and in wider village life such as the parish council, or Women's Institute. The church can also be crucial in bringing people together to make things happen whether Age Concern, support for farmers, village festivals as well as providing the church building

as a community space. Some churches take the initiative in responding to the needs of those who are often excluded due to old age, youth, poverty, ethnic origin or disability. Church leaders provide linking skills through their national networks and benefice arrangements, these links could be built upon by local communities and higher tiers of government. There is a clear link for some between their faith and their community involvement which they see as putting their faith into action. The report recommends a wider recognition of this contribution amongst government departments, regional agencies, local authorities and the voluntary and community sectors leading to a greater degree of partnership and co-operation with faith communities. All these bodies need to look at what support they can provide to enable faith groups to make an even bigger contribution whether in the form of training, grants or including faith representatives in the development of local plans and development frameworks.

It can be downloaded from [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk) or from [www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications/faith\\_in\\_rural\\_communities/](http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications/faith_in_rural_communities/) or in printed form from Dr Jill Hopkinson, the Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8

**2. 'Research into the Funding of Rural Community Buildings and their Associated Benefits** (2006) Conducted by Rural Partnerships in association with the University of Gloucestershire and CJC Consulting. Key findings: most rural community buildings (RCBs)(village halls, church halls etc) are managed by a voluntary committee and charge a hire-fee to groups and individuals to use the facilities for community events, meetings and clubs. Few generate sufficient income to be able to meet the cost of major refurbishment and the research found that 50-60% will require major capital funding over the next decade. Their ability to reduce social exclusion and bring about community cohesion especially in small and remote communities was recognised as the factor that contributed most to the Government's rural agenda. The report recommends that RCBs need to become more enterprising and extend their services to a wider cross section of their community.

In November, the **Rural Community Buildings Network** met for a second time facilitated by DEFRA, bringing together representatives from many organisations which are responsible for rural community buildings including ourselves and the Methodists. There were presentations from DCMS on the 2003 Licensing Act and from the Big Lottery on the Community Building Fund programme.

### **3. The Department of Education and Skills**

The *Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto* partnership was launched by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on 28th November 2006. The Manifesto is a 'movement' or joint undertaking that many different stakeholders have helped to create and to which anyone can sign up. Its aim is to ensure that all young people have a variety of high quality learning experiences outside the classroom environment. A Places of Worship working group was part of the consultation process and did manage to raise the profile of places of worship in the field of education. We have been promised that

more money will be put to further develop the <http://www.reonline.org.uk/> website.

The Manifesto is a short publication with a vision statement and high level aims. Government departments (including DfES, Defra and DCMS), Learning Outside the Classroom providers, local authorities, schools, youth groups and many other supporters are in the process of signing up to or 'endorsing' these common aims and making 'pledges' of practical action to support them. There is now a Manifesto website [www.teachernet.gov.uk/learningoutsidetheclassroom](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/learningoutsidetheclassroom) where you can find out more and order free copies of the document. Individual places of worship can sign up as a 'provider'.

## 12. Liaison with Other Partners

**The Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings** is currently developing its *Faith In Maintenance Courses for Volunteers Caring for Listed Places of Worship*. Starting from May 2007, there will be 32 tailor-made courses across England and Wales each year and two of those will be aimed at young people. To date, 26 venues for courses have been identified in locations including Bangor, Bristol, Cardiff, Carmarthen, Chester Le Street, Dewsbury, Guildford, Hove, Ipswich, Kidderminster, Lincoln, Manchester (x2), Northampton, Portsmouth, Ramsey (Isle of Man), South Devon and Somerset. Five courses a year will be held in London for the Diocese of London, Diocese of Southwark, the Jewish community in London, Roman Catholics, Methodists and those of other faiths and denominations who have listed places of worship.

Enquiries about these courses can be made by phoning SPAB HQ on tel: 020 7456 0913, or e-mail: [info@spabfim.org.uk](mailto:info@spabfim.org.uk) or visiting the website: [www.spabfim.org.uk](http://www.spabfim.org.uk)

**The Churches Tourism Association** held its annual national convention in November 2006 at which *An Agenda for Action*: the *'Sacred Britain: Places of Worship and the Tourism Destination Experience'* was launched in presence of David Lammy, Minister for Culture. Developed by the National Sacred Britain Working Group, a partnership of representatives from the Churches Conservation Trust, VisitBritain, The Church of England, English Heritage, this strategy aims to make churches and places of worship a 'must see' part of exploring Britain's destinations. To realise this vision, the strategy sets out priorities for action over the next three years (2007-2009). Under the project acronym 'ASPIRE', the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has recently awarded a £50,000 Project Planning Grant to enable key items on the agenda to be taken forward. A project manager is currently being appointed. The Churches Tourism Association has also launched its new website. Go to <http://www.churchestourismassociation.org.uk/>. You will also be able to download a copy of the Strategy.

Since February 2006, the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division has held a series of meetings with the **Rural Division of Post Office Ltd** together with the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. In March, the Post

Office published a report setting out innovative ways of providing its services in rural areas. It is very interested in using churches as possible sites for delivering some of these services and several different models are being considered. We are now working with the Post Office to develop procedures and good working practice and from there national guidelines covering requirements and procedures for both the Church and the Post Office which will make it much simpler for such initiatives to happen in the future. Two Church of England churches, one in the Isle of Wight and one in Cumbria are working towards hosting outreach post offices. Both are hoping to open by April and their experiences will inform our work.

ViRSA, the **Village Retail Services Association** also attend our meetings with the Post Office as the potential for three-way initiatives is huge. Don't forget that there is £2million of start-up funding for new community-owned shops available over the next three years under the The Village CORE Programme which is being run by the Esmee Fairbarin Foundation in partnership with Co-operative and Community Finance. Church buildings can provide suitable sites for shops as well as being eligible to apply themselves. For more information go to: [www.virsa.org/villagecoreprogrammes](http://www.virsa.org/villagecoreprogrammes)

Cathedral and Church Buildings Division  
FEBRUARY 2007

## **BUILDING FAITH IN OUR FUTURE : KEY FACTS – TELL YOUR FRIENDS**

- A 2005 survey showed that **86%** of the population had visited a church building or place of worship in the previous twelve months, for reasons ranging from participating in worship to attending concerts or simply wanting a quiet space. This confirmed the levels recorded in 2003.
- The 2005 survey showed that **38%** of the population think the central taxation, local taxation, the National Lottery or English Heritage are primarily responsible for funding maintenance of church buildings. Asked who should be primarily responsible, the respondents naming those four sources rose to **46%**. (ORB 2005)
- **58%** agreed with the statement 'places of worship make our neighbourhood a better place to live' while **11%** disagreed. **72%** agreed with the statement 'a place of worship is an important part of the local community' while **11%** disagreed. Among respondents who claimed no religious allegiance, **38%** and **46%** respectively, agreed with the statements. (ORB 2005)
- **45%** of the country's Grade I listed buildings are maintained by the Church of England. These churches and cathedrals are largely supported by the efforts and financial support of local communities. Often, they are the focus of community life and service.

- In total, some **12,200** of the Church of England's **16,200** buildings are listed by the government as being of special architectural or historic interest.
- Three cathedrals are World Heritage Sites: Durham Castle and Cathedral, Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey & St Martin's Church, and Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church.
- Every year, around **12.5 million** people visit Church of England cathedrals, including **300,000** pupils on school visits. Three of England's top five historic 'visitor attractions' are York Minster, Canterbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.
- In 2003, Church of England parishes spent nearly **£101 million** on major church repairs. In answer to a question included as part of the annual Parish Returns, returns from parishes themselves indicated that the repairs still needed to their churches came to a minimum of **£378 million** of which **£328 million (87%)** was for listed churches. In the same year, the major sources of funding came to less than 40%. Therefore 60% was raised by local fund-raising.

English Heritage grants have effectively remained static since 1995. Had English Heritage been able to maintain its contribution to church repairs in real terms at its highest level of 1995 (when £14m was offered in grant), it would now be offering £19.5m rather than its current average contribution of £10 million per annum.

- Church of England churches along with other faith groups make a huge contribution to social action in their local communities. Within all the nine English Regions, surveys have been carried out to map the size and range of this contribution. A 2005 study of the economic impact of faith communities produced on behalf of the Northwest Regional Development Agency estimated that faith communities in the Northwest generate **£94.9 million**. This is made up of the estimated economic value of 45,667 faith volunteers contributing c.8.1 million hours of social and health care and working in regeneration initiatives (equivalent to 4,815 FTE jobs) applying a wage rate of £7.50 per hour, premises made available by faith groups for use of local community groups, and day visitor expenditure generated by faith tourism which also supported 215 FTE jobs.
- Church buildings in particular are a valuable resource to their communities. The Northwest 2005 study estimated that the 1,385 premises made available to local communities by faith communities in the Northwest generated £811,472 per annum. A 2004 survey carried out in Brighton and Hove found that out of the 55 community buildings identified by the survey as essential to the provision of over 300 community projects and services offered by faith communities, 47 were church buildings and halls provided by the churches themselves.

- A survey commissioned by the Association of English Cathedrals and English Heritage in 2004 found that visitors to cathedrals generate £91million in spend per annum and directly support 2600 jobs. This increases to £150 million in spend in the local economies within which they are located if it includes their procurement spend, their impact on visitor spend and associated multiplier effects. Cuts in Government funding meant that English Heritage was forced to reduce its grant-aid to cathedrals in 2004 to £1m per annum in repair grants. However, a new partnership with the Wolfson Foundation has meant that for 2007/8, 2008/9 and 2009/10 grant aid will rise to **£2m** per annum. However, cathedrals are currently spending over **£18m** annually on repairs and maintenance.
- Although, there has not yet been any research to determine the benefits to local economies of visitors to parish churches, we are seeing that initiatives set up to promote church tourism do have a positive effect on numbers of visitors. The North Yorkshire Church Tourism initiative ran for three years and in that time increased the number of annual visitors to the 285 participating places of worship by **120%**. Total number of visitors recorded for the year 2004/5 was 203,952.