

# Inspired!

A FUTURE FOR HISTORIC PLACES OF WORSHIP

OCTOBER 2008

This autumn sees the launch of our new funding stream for historic places of worship Support Officers. There is already considerable interest from across the country in what has become the central theme of the *Inspired!* campaign. We look forward to working in partnership with as many other organisations as possible to deliver long term help for congregations in caring for our nation's historic places of worship.

## Supporting people, sustaining buildings: the role of an historic places of worship Support Officer

English Heritage would like to see the task of looking after historic places of worship made easier for congregations by the wider provision of so-called 'Support Officers' who can work alongside congregations and give them access to a wide range of skills and advice.

We can offer funding for partner organisations to employ Support Officers on 3-year contracts. Such posts are likely to be found most useful in dioceses or other denominational bodies, but we will consider applications from any organisation with a role in using, managing or conserving numbers of listed places of worship.

There is no standard job description for a Support Officer, because the need for this sort of capacity-building work varies so widely between different denominations and parts of the country. Posts will be tailored to fit the circumstances of each partner to achieve our common aim of providing a sustainable future for places of worship.

The overall aims are:

- to help individual congregations, and in particular those identified as priorities for support, to understand, maintain and make best use of their buildings
- to help dioceses and similar bodies to take a strategic approach to the use and conservation of historic places of worship

In general, we would expect the main results to be:

- An agreed local strategy for the long-term management of historic places of worship
- An action plan for the buildings identified as priorities for support
- Improved confidence within congregations to manage and maintain their buildings
- An increased flow of external funding to congregations for the upkeep of their buildings
- An increased appreciation of the value of historic places of worship in the wider community

For more information, including a specimen job description, go to our website, [www.english-heritage.org.uk/inspired](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/inspired)

English Heritage is currently part-funding three Support Officer posts, each with a different role:



In the diocese of **Coventry**, our funding is supporting the *Divine Inspiration* project which helps parishes to understand their church's heritage and make their buildings open and welcoming to visitors.

In the diocese of **Exeter**, a Conservation Officer has been employed with our support, to advise parishes on the repair and reordering of their buildings, helping them to find appropriate professional advice and funding for projects.

In **Brighton and Hove**, a project officer has been employed by the diocese of Chichester, with funding from English Heritage, to find new uses for church buildings that were earmarked for redundancy in a recent pastoral review.



ENGLISH HERITAGE

## Theft of lead and other metals

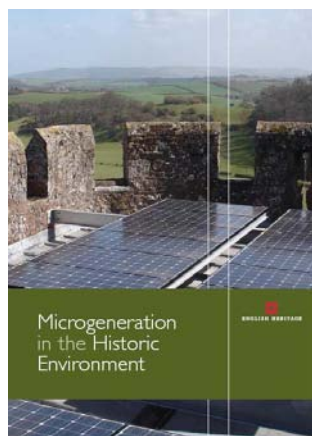
English Heritage has this month issued specific guidance on the subject of thefts of metal from historic buildings and sites, a problem which has intensified recently, particularly in relation to lead roofs on churches.

We are extremely concerned about the problem and acutely aware of the burden it places on congregations looking after historic places of worship. Our new Technical Advice Note gives guidance on responding to lead thefts and advice on prevention. It mainly concentrates on lead roofs on churches, but the guidance will be relevant to other metals and buildings.

Prevention of potential theft is obviously paramount, but advice is also given on dealing with its unfortunate aftermath. We are grateful to Ecclesiastical, the major insurer of church buildings, for working constructively with us on this issue.

For a copy of the guidance, please refer to our website.

## Renewable energy



*Microgeneration in the Historic Environment* is a new guidance note setting out our policy on proposals for installation of microgeneration equipment at historic sites of all kinds.

Many congregations are keen to be environmentally responsible by reducing energy use and increasing numbers are now also looking to generate their own energy. Places of worship and the land surrounding them present opportunities for installing equipment such as solar panels to generate energy on a small scale, but such developments can have impacts on the historic environment.

Copies can be obtained by calling Customer Services on 0870 333 1181 (Product code 51391) or can be downloaded from [www.helm.org.uk](http://www.helm.org.uk).

Advice on how to apply for consent for such work should be sought from the appropriate diocese or denominational body.

## Repair grants

In the latest round of repair grants, announced in July, English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund have jointly offered a total of £6.87million to 71 grade II listed places of worship.



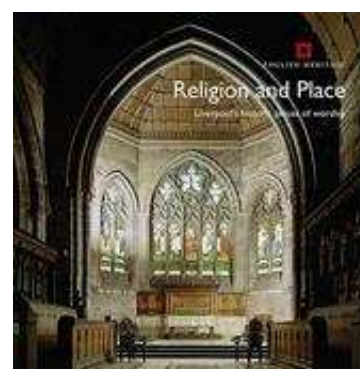
*All Saints church, Wainfleet All Saints in Lincolnshire, which has received a grant offer of £107,000 towards urgent nave roof repairs*

Details of how the scheme works and how to make an application are available on our website.

## Places of worship in Liverpool

Religious faith dominates the skyline of Liverpool and the cathedrals, churches, chapels, mosques and synagogues are constant reminders of the part played by religion in the city's history.

A new publication from English Heritage describes the cultural and architectural importance of these buildings and how they have functioned at the heart of their communities



*Religion and Place: historic places of worship in Liverpool by Sarah Brown and Peter de Figueiredo, published by English Heritage*

*Religion and Place* is one of six new books that have been published to celebrate the historic buildings and landscapes of Liverpool and mark the city's year as European Capital of Culture.

Places of Worship Policy Team  
English Heritage  
1 Waterhouse Square  
138-142 Holborn  
London  
EC1N 2ST

Telephone:  
020 7973 3267  
E-mail:  
[churches@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:churches@english-heritage.org.uk)  
Or visit:  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/inspired](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/inspired)

