

The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance Annual Open Day
Wednesday 6th December 2017
The Big Update

St Albans Conference Centre, Leigh Place, Baldwins Gardens, Holborn
EC1N 7AB (www.stalbanscentre.org/)

Programme

09.30 Arrival and tea and coffee

10.00 *Welcome and brief review of the past year* - Trevor Cooper, Chair, the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance

10.10 *'Crossing the Threshold' – a resource for anyone contemplating major changes to a place of worship* - Becky Payne, Development Director, the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance

10.15 *A brief overview of developments within DCMS related to heritage policy and places of worship* – John Glen MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Arts, Heritage and Tourism, DCMS

10.30 *Austerity, Atheists and Angst: What Future for Church Buildings?* – Becky Clark
Director Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, Church of England

11.00 *Interpretation: creating a visitor experience at your church* - Anne Fletcher, Fletcher Teckman Consulting and Spencer Clark, ATS Heritage (for Association of Heritage Interpretation).

11.30 Tea and Coffee

11.45 *'Moving Mountains: If people won't come to our buildings....'* - Graham Fender-Allison, Resourcing Worship Team Leader, Mission and Discipleship Council, Church of Scotland

12.15 *Community development resources for churches* - Jonathan Gordon-Farleigh, Director, Stir to Action

12.45 Lunch

13.45 *Tales from the Inner City, a look at a small selection of Toxteth churches* – Ian Simpson, Heritage Officer, Diocese of Liverpool

14:15 *Your Big Update – an opportunity for anyone to tell us about anything that's worth sharing – no more than 3 minutes!*

14.35 *Postcard to the Future from Living Stones* – Susan Rowe

15.05 Grab cup of tea and bring back to chair

15.15 *The Strategic Action Plan for Historic Places of Worship in Wales* - Christopher Catling, the Secretary, Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

15.45 *Supporting your communities: a presentation from the Big Lottery Fund* – Alice Grimes, Portfolio Policy Officer, the Big Lottery

16.15 Discussion and concluding remarks followed by tea and latest finish at 16.30

Speakers Biographies

Christopher Catling, the Secretary, Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. Christopher chairs the Welsh Historic Places of Worship Forum, which is made up of representatives of the main faith groups in Wales. The Forum's aim is to help congregations respond effectively to the challenges they face in maintaining historic places of worship. He is also Secretary (Chief Executive) of the Welsh Royal Commission and Co-Chair of the Historic Wales Steering Group, which encourages collaboration between Cadw, the Royal Commission, the National Library and the National Museum in Wales.
<https://rcahmw.gov.uk/>

Becky Clark is Director of Churches and Cathedrals at the Church of England and Secretary of the Church Buildings Council and Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England. She trained as an archaeologist and has an MA in Heritage Management from the Ironbridge Institute and an MBA from Warwick Business School. Becky previously worked for English Heritage in the planning policy team and Chief Executive's Office, and before that at the National Trust's Stourhead estate. She is Treasurer of the Society for Church Archaeology. Becky grew up in Birmingham and now lives in London, where she attends a local Baptist church. <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/>

Spencer Clark, Director, ATS Heritage. Specialist in developing on-site interpretation and visitor experiences for heritage venues. In the last 10 years ATS Heritage (ATS) has delivered the most ambitious and large-scale audio and multimedia guide solutions in the UK, with thousands of multimedia guide devices in operation entertaining millions of people. ATS is honoured to collaborate with venues including St. Paul's Cathedral, Bletchley Park, National Portrait Gallery, Westminster Abbey, Royal Collection Trust and many major English Heritage and National Trust properties. In addition to audio/multimedia guides, the company produce a range of multimedia and digital solutions as part of HLF projects include websites, apps and film production. <http://www.ats-heritage.co.uk/>

Trevor Cooper has had a long-standing interest in church buildings and their future. Some years ago he wrote *How do we keep our parish churches?* and he jointly edited *Pews, benches and chairs*, looking at the history of church seating, and discussing its future development. He has recently edited *For public benefit: churches cared for by Trusts*, an Ecclesiological Society publication. He has been an external member since 2002 of the HE Places of Worship Forum and its predecessor, and sat on Southwark DAC between 2003 and 2013. He is Chairman of Council of the Ecclesiological Society, and Chair of the HRBA.

Graham Fender-Allison, Graham Fender-Allison is the Team Leader for the Church of Scotland's National Resourcing Worship Team, the team responsible for providing resources to the whole Church of Scotland relating to prayer, music, preaching, participation and the use of space in contemporary worship. He is also the Secretary to the Committee on Church Art and Architecture – the Committee who oversee all applications for alterations to the interior of places of worship. His background is primarily in community development, theology and facilitation – with a particular focus on how liturgy and buildings shape the way we gather.
http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/art_and_architecture_resources

Anne Fletcher, Director, Fletcher Teckman Consulting (for Association of Heritage Interpretation),; A former Head of Interpretation at Historic Royal Palaces, Anne has 25 years' experience offering expert advice and support in the field of heritage interpretation. She specialises in creating entertaining and educational interpretation at heritage sites and has a great deal of experiences with churches and cathedrals. Interpretative planning for HLF applications and mentoring throughout the process are also areas of expertise. Anne has won a *Design Week Award* for her work at St Paul's Cathedral and an *Interpret Britain* awards for her work for the Archbishop of Canterbury opening Lambeth Palace to the public for the first time. Anne is a member of the Association of Heritage Interpretation.
<http://www.ahi.org.uk/> Annefletcher@hotmail.com.

Jonny Gordon-Farleigh is co-founder of Stir To Action, a nonprofit organisation that publishes a [quarterly magazine](#) on new economics, runs workshop programmes across the UK, and supports communities

through local economic development. He is currently working on a pilot project – [Unlocking the Next Economy: Churches and Community Enterprise](#) — to use church buildings for community enterprise in the South West of England, with plans for a national conference and campaign in autumn 2018. As part of this project, they've produced an [illustrated toolbox](#) to support communities to work together, engage their local community, explore legal structures, and identify the appropriate forms of finance.
<https://www.stirtoaction.com/>

Alice Grimes, is Policy Officer at the Big Lottery Fund, the largest community funder in the UK. Last year, they distributed £700m to 12,000 projects, using money raised by National Lottery players. She joined the Big Lottery Fund as a Policy Officer for the England team in January 2017. Her role involves engaging with internal and external stakeholders to develop the priority areas for Big Lottery funding, supporting staff with delivering the People in the Lead vision and exploring how they can make their funding work better for people and communities. Alice is also the Rural Policy lead for England and working to integrate learning from conversations with their rural stakeholders into their thinking going forward. Prior to the fund, Alice worked as a bid writer for a national substance misuse charity. <https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/>

Becky Payne was the Policy Officer within the Church of England's Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, for seven years, promoting the potential of church buildings as a resource for the whole community and working in partnership with government at all levels, with the community and voluntary sector and with other specialist bodies such as the Plunkett Foundation and Post Office Ltd, to realise that potential. Becky now works as a freelance consultant and researcher on sustaining historic places of worship through wider community use. She has undertaken research work and evaluations as well as consultant contracts (among others) for the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic England, Germinate: the Arthur Rank Centre, the National Churches Trust, the SPAB Maintenance Co-operative Project, the Diocese of Oxford and the Diocese of London. <http://www.hrballiance.org.uk/>

Susan Rowe is a former Trustee of *Living Stones*, the Church and Community Trust. Her association with the charity began when, in 1998, she became Chief Executive Officer of *Rural Churches in Community Service*, a company set up to run one of the church projects funded through the Millennium Commission and championed by *Living Stones*. Since 2001 Susan also undertook several projects for *Living Stones*. Prior to entering the world of churches and rural regeneration, Susan worked in urban regeneration for Nottingham City Challenge, a government funded holistic urban regeneration initiative, and Nottinghamshire Computer Training Centre, a public / private sector partnership to give unemployed adults IT training, having previously spent 20 years in computer software development. Susan is also a Reader (Licensed Lay Minister) in the Southwell and Nottingham diocese.

Ian Simpson MBA CBIFM, Heritage Officer, Diocese of Liverpool Ian is the Diocese of Liverpool's Heritage Officer, a position in which he has helped many of the Diocese's churches secure grant funding (£5m to date) for major repair projects. He runs training courses on maintenance and fund raising, and advises churches on everything from welcoming visitors and tourists to eradicating dry rot and Japanese knotweed. Ian sits on the Liverpool Diocesan Advisory Committee. He is a Trustee of the Churches Visitor and Tourism Association and an Associate Member of Future for Religious Heritage. In his spare time Ian enjoys travelling throughout Europe. An active member of a Liverpool church, his other interests include local history, railways and craft beer. Website: <http://www.iansimpson.eu/>

How to find the venue:

St Albans Conference Centre is at Leigh Place, Baldwins Gardens, Holborn, London EC1N 7AB

Underground: it is a very short walk from Chancery Lane tube station and can be reached on foot from Holborn, Farringdon and Kings Cross stations.

Buses: The following buses all pass within a short distance 8, 22B, 25, 45, 46, 17, 171A and 243. For more information call 020 72221234

By Car: There is no car parking available at the venue (except for those requiring disabled access, by prior arrangement). NCP sites are at Shoe Lane, Saffron Hill and Snow Hill

More information about the venue at www.stalbanscentre.org ; <http://stalbancentre.org/location/>

Any queries please email Becky on hrb@theheritagealliance.org.uk or ring her on 0207 2330 900; or **on the day** 07903 135 893