



ASSOCIATION OF  
FESTIVAL CHURCHES



# Festival Churches

Geoffrey Hunter



# FESTIVAL CHURCHES



- Background to Festival Churches
- Work of the Association of Festival Churches in 2020-3
- Project “2022” – helping and resourcing Festival Churches



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# Background to Festival Churches



- **2015** Church Buildings Review – coined a phrase that caught on
- **2017** The Taylor Review: Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals - *A grouping such as an Association of Festival Churches may also offer a beneficial means of supporting such initiatives.*
- **2019** changes to Canons B11, B14 and B39
- **2020** The Association of Festival Churches – Registered Charity 1191777
- **Charitable purpose:** *Bring together and bring support to Festival Churches and those supporting Festival Churches and those who are considering whether or not a church should become a Festival Church.*



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# Work of the Association of Festival Churches 2020-23



- Defining what it actually means
- Seeking case studies
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Planning bigger role-out, events, resources – a project
- Fundraising to professionalise our operation and make the project happen



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# The Definition of Festival Church



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- **Doing less, but doing it better** (in terms of public worship)
  - Replacing regular, formal worship with Occasional gatherings whose form will respond to local needs and opportunities
- **Adapting governance models to maximise local participation**
  - Enabling volunteers who have not previously been part of the church community to play an active role in managing the building

# Consultation events and feedback in June/July 2021



- Series of four online stakeholder consultations during the summer of 2021
- Over a hundred people attended
- 36 written responses to online feedback form



## Agenda

- 1 Welcome and Introduction – Sir Tony Baldry, Chair of Association of Festival Churches. 5 Mins
- 2 Context for Festival Churches – Dr Joseph Elders, Head of Church Buildings Strategy, Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, Church of England. 5 mins
- 3 What do Festival Churches look like in practice? – Outline of model with case studies - Wendy Coombey – Diocese of Hereford and Geoffrey Hunter, Head of Church Buildings and Pastoral, Diocese of Ely. 20 mins
- 4 Thoughts on the Mixed Ecology of Church – Rev Mark Betson – National Rural Officer, Church of England. 5 mins
- 5 Discussion and Q&A Session – 30 mins
- 6 Framework and Proposals for roll out of support for Festival Churches – including 3 year project proposal, to include stakeholder feedback on proposals. 30 mins
- 7 Final thoughts, next steps and close.



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# Responses to Consultation Events



**Main challenges** – people, resources, parishes, model

**Main opportunities** – community, open, engagement

**What can AFC do to help?** – case studies, resource, support

**Is AFC work programme set at the right level?** – 87.5% “Yes”

**What can you offer?** – churches, experience, appetite



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# Festival Churches Development Project



- 2022 AFC developed a fundable project to:
- Develop and offer a sustainable advice service to assist churches wishing to become Festival Churches.
- Identify existing resources, where they are missing, to create them.
- Add useful and engaging information to the AFC website.
- Collecting and evaluating case studies of FCs in action, demonstrating the breadth of the model within the C of E and ecumenically; identifying paths to success and key performance indicators.
- Exploration of the sustainability of AFC in the long term, including models of membership.



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# Festival Churches Development Project



- Successful grant bids to Benefact Trust and Buildings for Mission project
- Recruitment process early 2024
- Nigel Mills – Festival Churches Development Officer appointed 1 May
- Annual conference in November – more details shortly



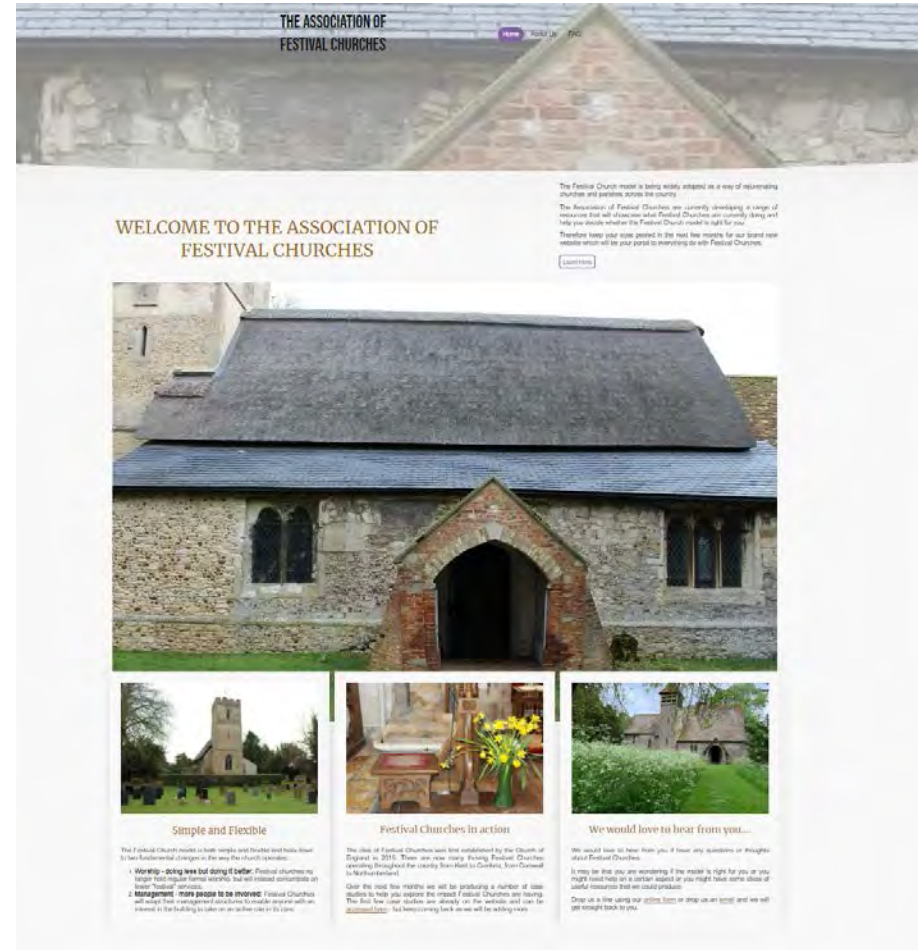
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# <https://www.festivalchurches.org.uk/>

## New website now live!

- Advice/information
- Case studies
- Events
- Further development of website during 2024



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# Festival Churches

Geoffrey Hunter

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Email address: [nigel.mills@festivalchurches.org.uk](mailto:nigel.mills@festivalchurches.org.uk)







THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# Churches - A soft target?

Dr. David Knight, Head of Church Buildings, Church Commissioners





## Soft skills for harder targets

- ❖ Where would you choose to commit a crime?
  - ❖ Well maintained or neglected?
  - ❖ Visible or obscured?
  - ❖ Easy or tricky route to vehicle?
  - ❖ Greeted or ignored (when building staffed)







## Slow down a potential incident

- ❖ Make church a place to come to for positive reasons
- ❖ A friendly welcome is a deterrent
- ❖ What is online about your church?



# Security at the Abbey

This page details the security and safety measures we have in place so you can fully enjoy your visit to the Abbey.

## Our security team

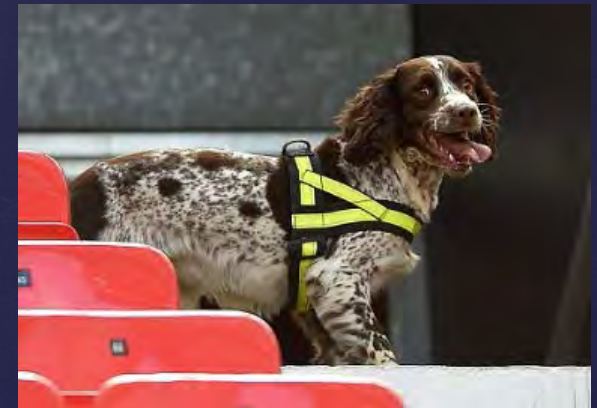
The Abbey's Beadles, our dedicated security team, are on site at all times to keep our visitors, worshippers and staff safe.

Not just a friendly face, they are professionally trained to carry out checks around the building and the grounds day and night, of those entering the Abbey, and to look out for anything suspicious. Our team also work closely with the police and have state-of-the-art technology to assist them.



# NEW SNIFFER DOGS IMPROVING SAFETY AT ABBEY ON MATCH DAY

14 February 2020





## Make friends of neighbors and the police

- ❖ Help neighbours to be eyes and ears for the church
- ❖ Invite police to events at the church and to become familiar with the building
- ❖ Give confidence to spot the unusual (photographing cameras not the nave)

# Martyn's law – how aligned with what we want to do?

The bill is about keeping the public safe when gathered in your church

Requirement that should be in place

Responsible person when there is an event

## **New concepts:**

Keeping people safe inside, rather than outside

## **New requirements:**

Standard tier terrorism evaluation

Enhanced tier risk assessment and security plan.



# PLAN

Complete the 6-task plan

An evaluation must be completed to ensure that your premises is prepared for an attack. Providing the details set out for each of the six tasks will result in your 6-task plan. The tasks do not reflect the order in which they should be triggered in the event of an attack, and it may not be appropriate to complete all tasks. Each attack will generate a different response and completing a plan will enable a more effective response to be launched.

**Task 1** - Plan to warn people on the premises that an attack is taking place

**Task 2** - Plan to lockdown your premises

**Task 3** - Plan to evacuate your premises

**Task 4** - Plan to call the emergency services and relay the necessary information

**Task 5** - Use available first aid and fire safety equipment

**Task 6** - Consider how you can make your neighbours or local network aware of your plan and alert them of an attack

**Record all the relevant actions on the template.**

Invacuating – can I lock church from inside?





# PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS PROTECT THE PUBLIC PROTECTUK



Welcome to our dynamic platform, committed to equipping organisations with the necessary tools and insights to navigate the ever-changing landscape of protective security and effectively evaluate and mitigate terrorism risks.



NATIONAL  
COUNTER TERRORISM  
Privacy settings ICE





# E-LEARNING

Learn the importance of counter terrorism and security through our e-Learning.

If you are starting on your security journey, the Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) Awareness e-Learning package is a good place to start.



[Accessing e-Learning and frequently asked questions](#)

Thank you for your attention

[david.knight@churchofengland.org](mailto:david.knight@churchofengland.org)



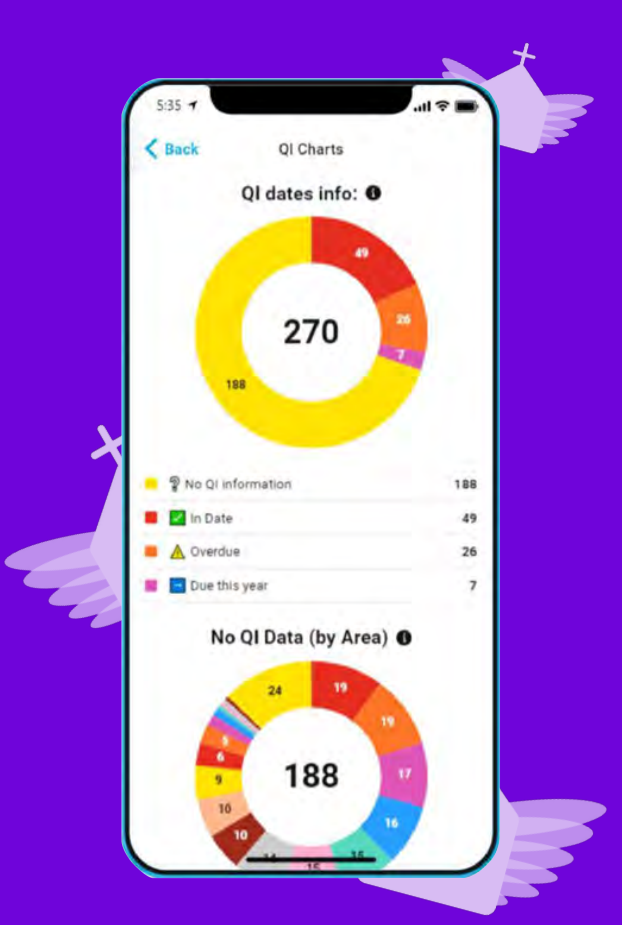
# Cherubim

Accessible tech to support  
custodian-led action for the  
sustainable use of historic  
religious buildings

**collect / connect**

**HRBA Big Update 2024**







# historic heat

hiccups · habits · hacks



THE DIOCESE OF  
**SHEFFIELD**







# connect

collaborating with the Diocese of Sheffield to support 100 historic churches on their net zero journeys



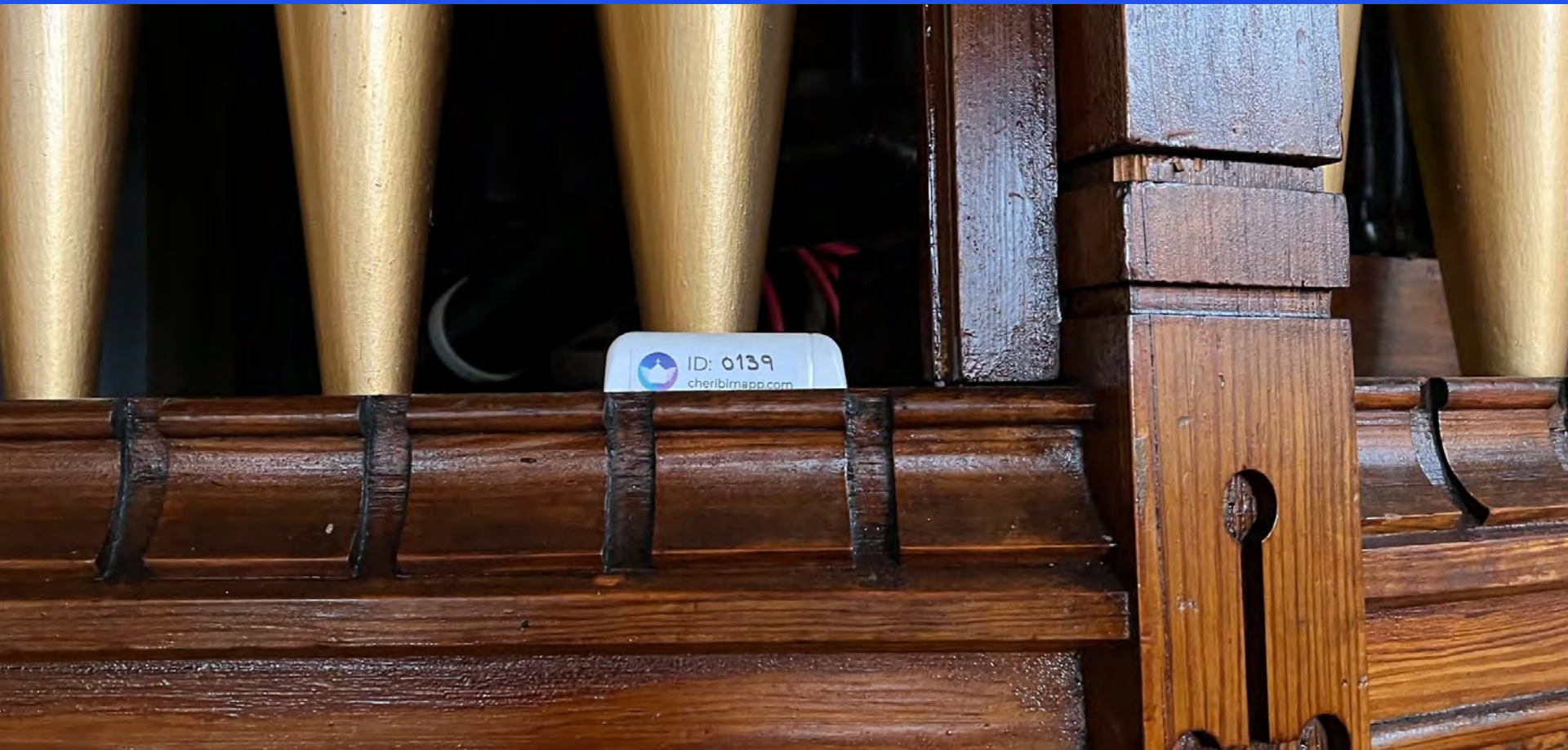
THE DIOCESE OF  
**SHEFFIELD**





# collect

environmental monitoring sensors report air  
temperature & relative humidity every 8 - 10 minutes







# connect

workshops encourage people to envisage positive, comfortable futures in their buildings







# connect

historic heat hiccups, habits & hacks ensure we learn from history & share what has worked & what hasn't

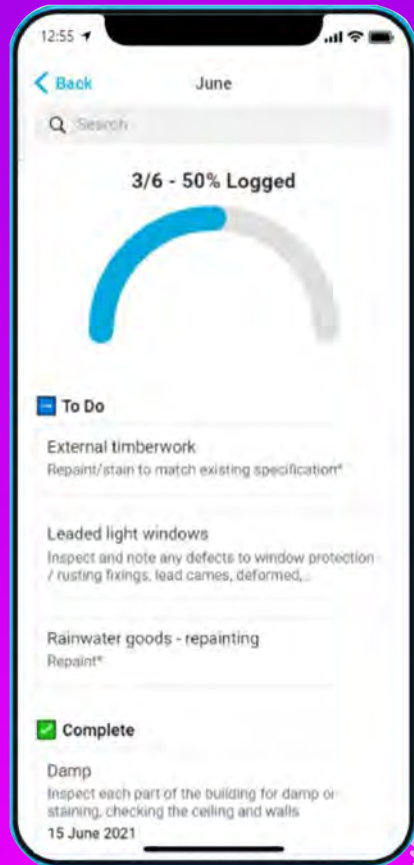
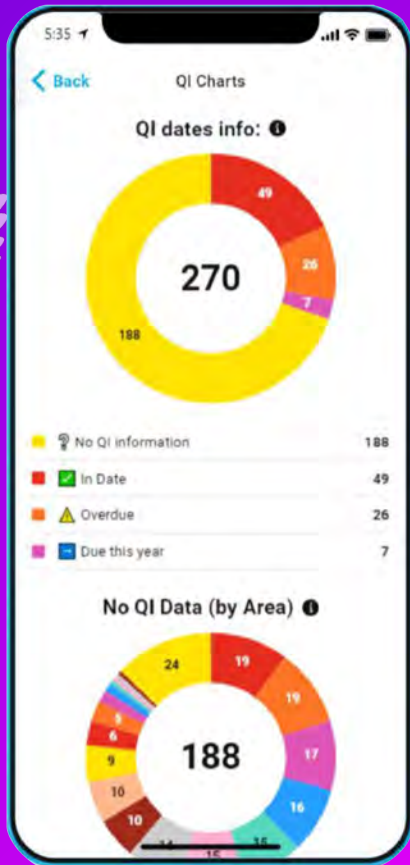
thermal breaks:  
screens  
curtains  
rugs  
to reduce  
radiant  
heat loss

good  
ventilation  
to avoid  
damp

appropriate  
clothing &  
effective use of  
fabrics to ensure  
comfort







**Resources**

MAINTENANCE  
Resources focusing on maintenance

**4 MIN**  
Roofs - How to Main...  
A quick intro to church roof maintenance  
👍👎🗨️ [Not reacted]

**4 MIN**  
Exteriors - How to M...  
Quick video intro to maintaining church...  
👍👎🗨️ [Not reacted]

**4 MIN**  
Interiors - How to Ma...  
A quick video on maintaining your church...  
👍👎🗨️ [Not reacted]

**4 MIN**  
Building Services - H...  
A quick introduction to maintaining church...  
👍👎🗨️ [Not reacted]

my.cheribimapp.com



# collect

my.cheribimapp.com creates a digital collaborative space which promotes maintenance and sustainability action



## Cheribim

Hi Katie - great to see you today! Enter your shared workspace to get started ↓



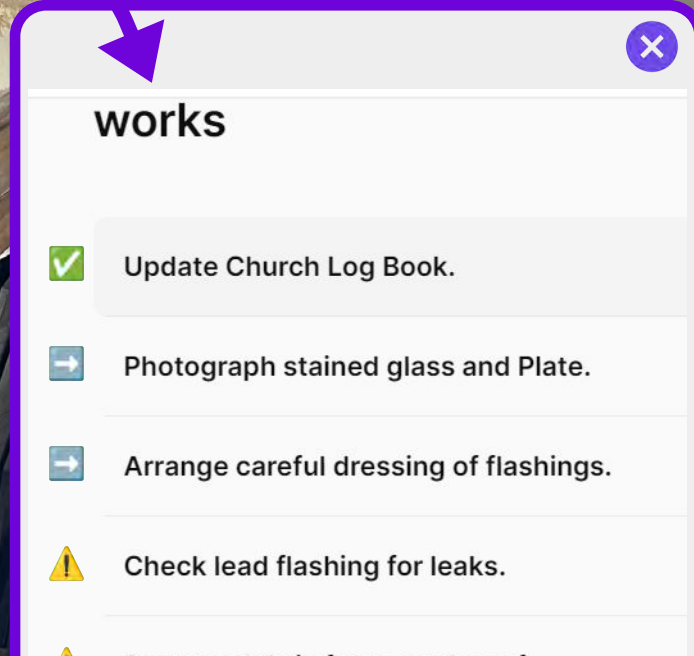
your shared workspace >





# connect

complete routine maintenance tasks with the help of  
[my.cheribimapp.com](https://my.cheribimapp.com)

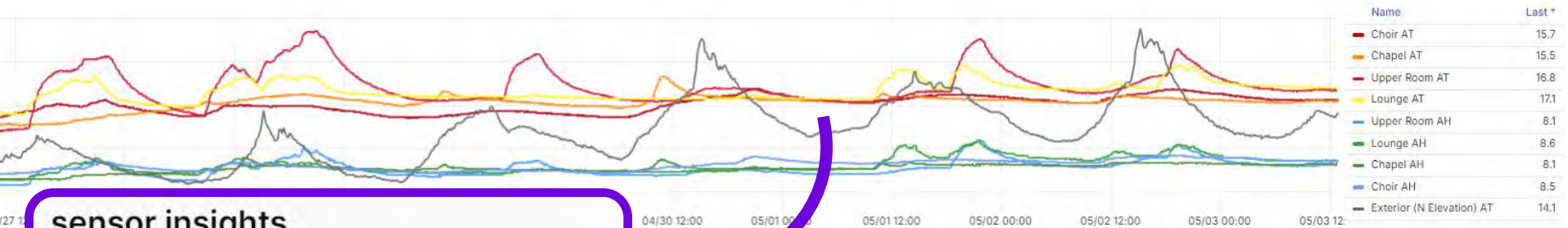
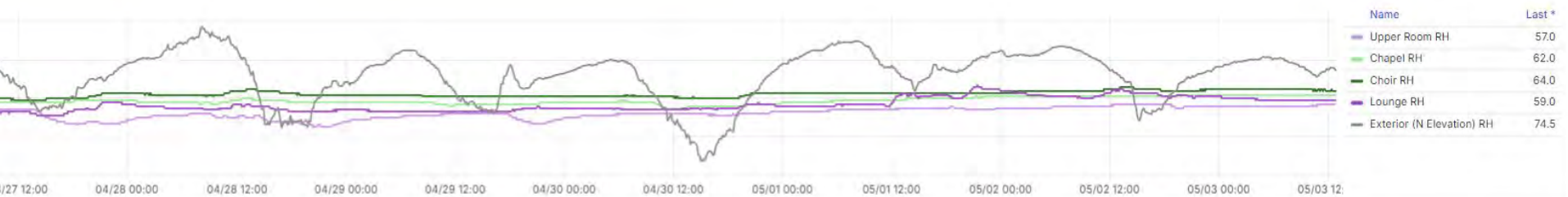






# connect

access environmental sensor data about your building on your phone, tablet or laptop & share with others



## sensor insights

⚡ see where your building ranks amongst the quickest to gain and lose heat across the Diocese

heat gain  
amongst slowest

heat loss  
quite quick (top half)



### Upper Room







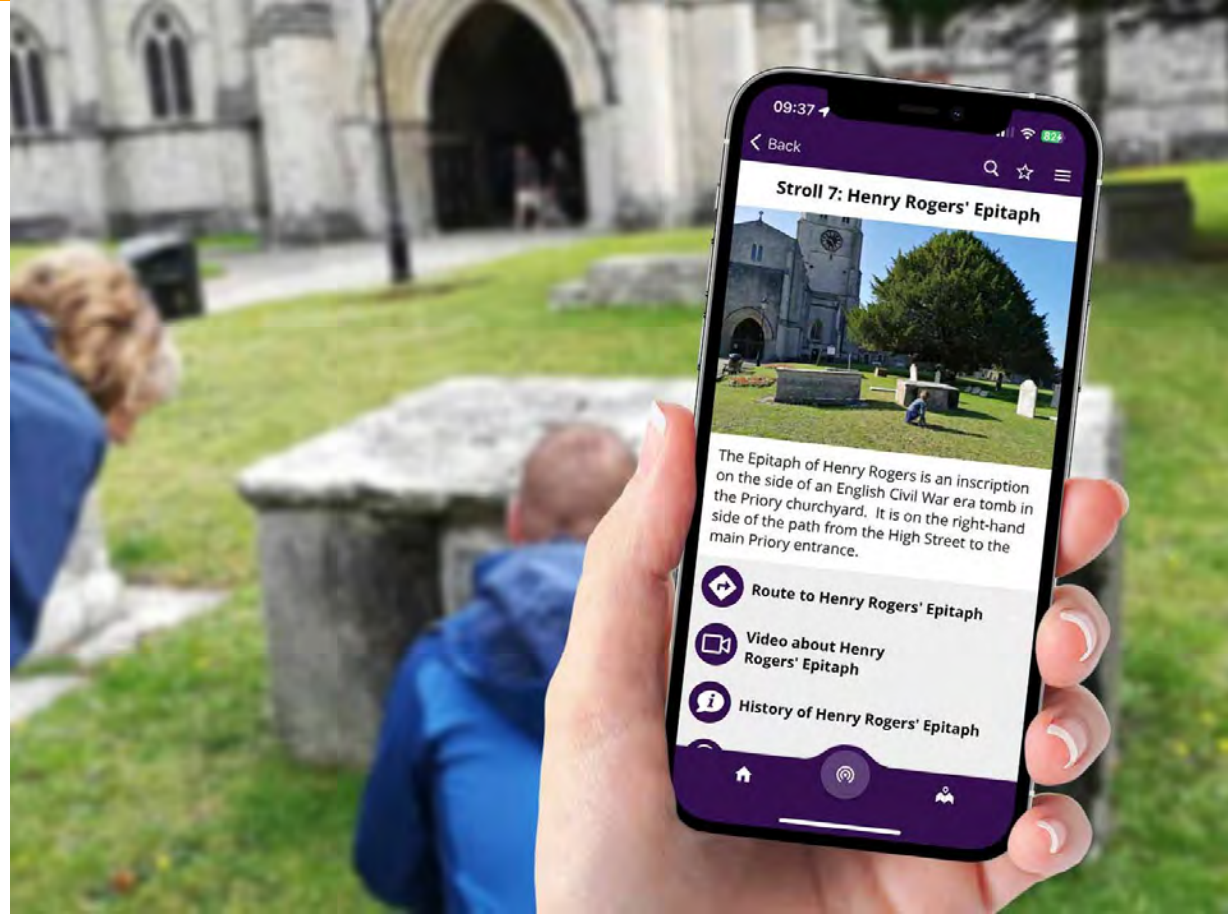
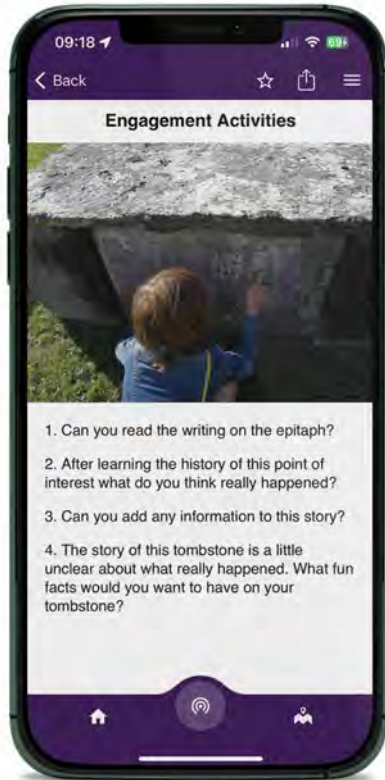
(((situate)))

situate.io



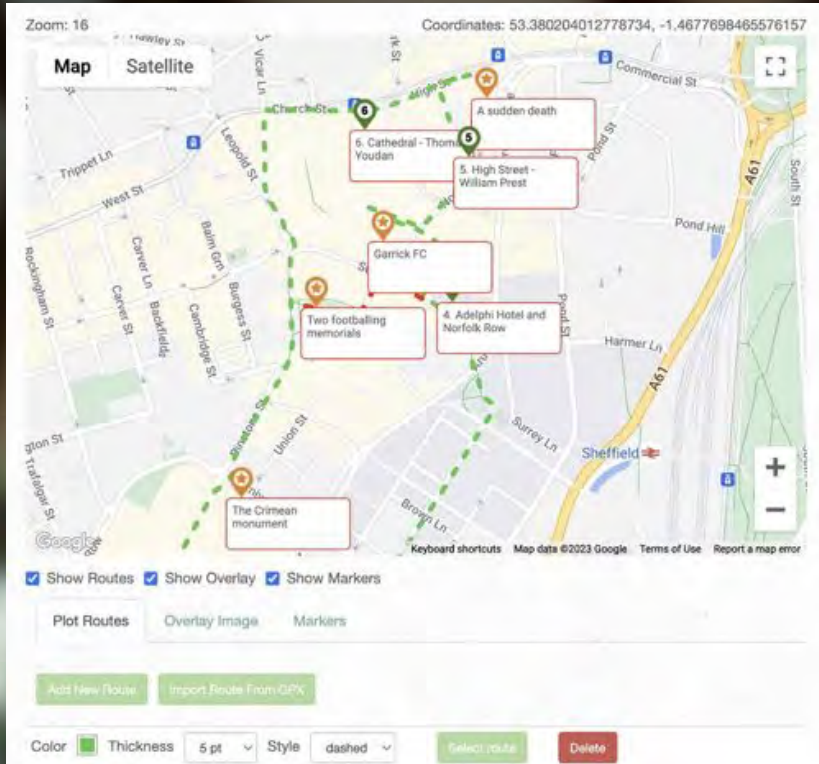
# connect

create & manage your own digital apps to help people discover & spend time in your spaces



# connect

location-triggered content works using GPS, Bluetooth or NFC technology which is non-invasive





# connect

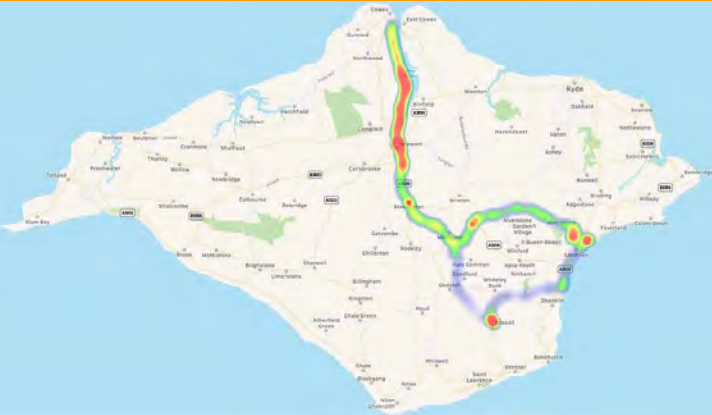
create heritage visitor guides, audio tours, walking and cycling trails for different audiences



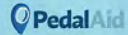


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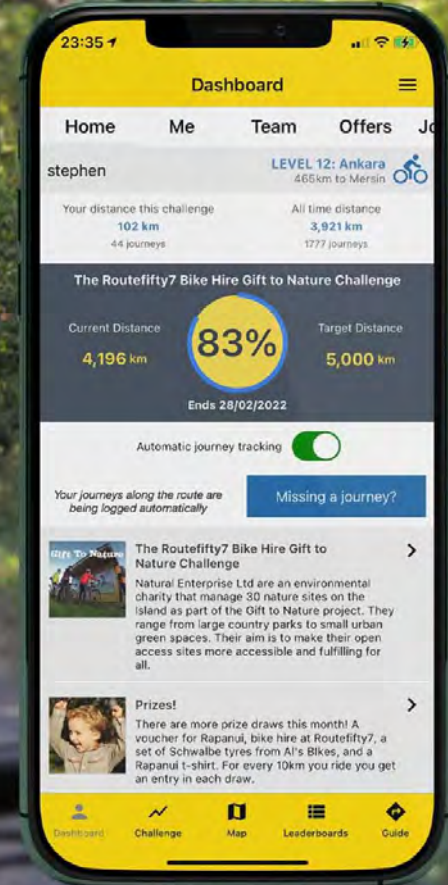
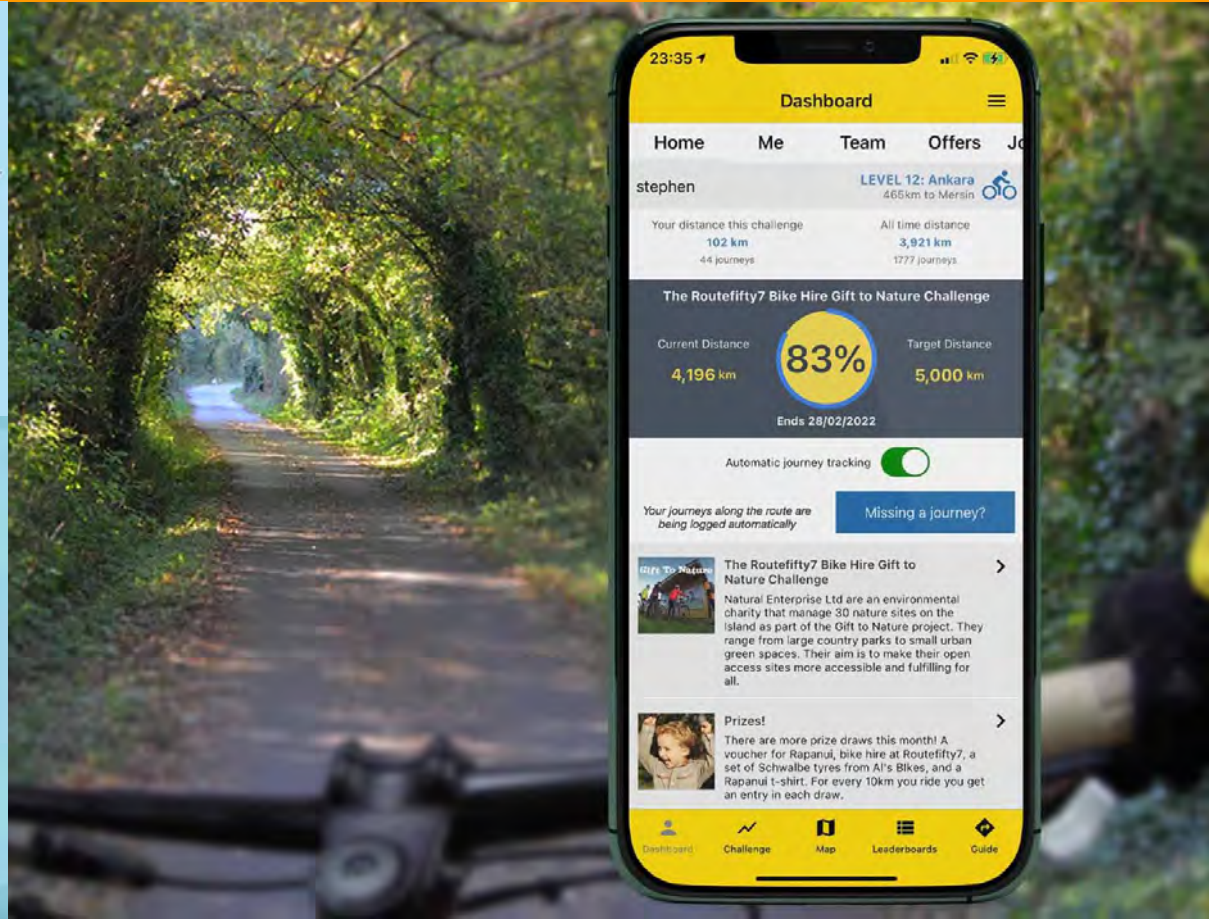
gather insight & analytics about visitors & how they are making connections between your places



CO<sub>2</sub> Saved



CO<sub>2</sub> saved  
7,733 Kg





# Cheribim

Accessible tech to support  
custodian-led action for the  
sustainable use of historic  
religious buildings

**katie, amy or stephen@  
cheribimapp.com**

**in**  **f**



# Using trails to encourage visitors





# The first tourism activity?

- They are found in urban, rural, coastal and even underwater settings
- Trails can be around one building, a village or town or even internationally
- They might be on a theme or simply join geographically linked places
- They can be travelled by foot or by other modes of transport
- Trails could use new technologies, be a paper map or anything in between

**Many popular trails are based on ancient pilgrim or trade routes and hiking pathways.**

**#Coosmonaut**

**#MyGiantAdventure**

**#Pilgrimage**

**#SlowTravel**

**#HeritageTrail**

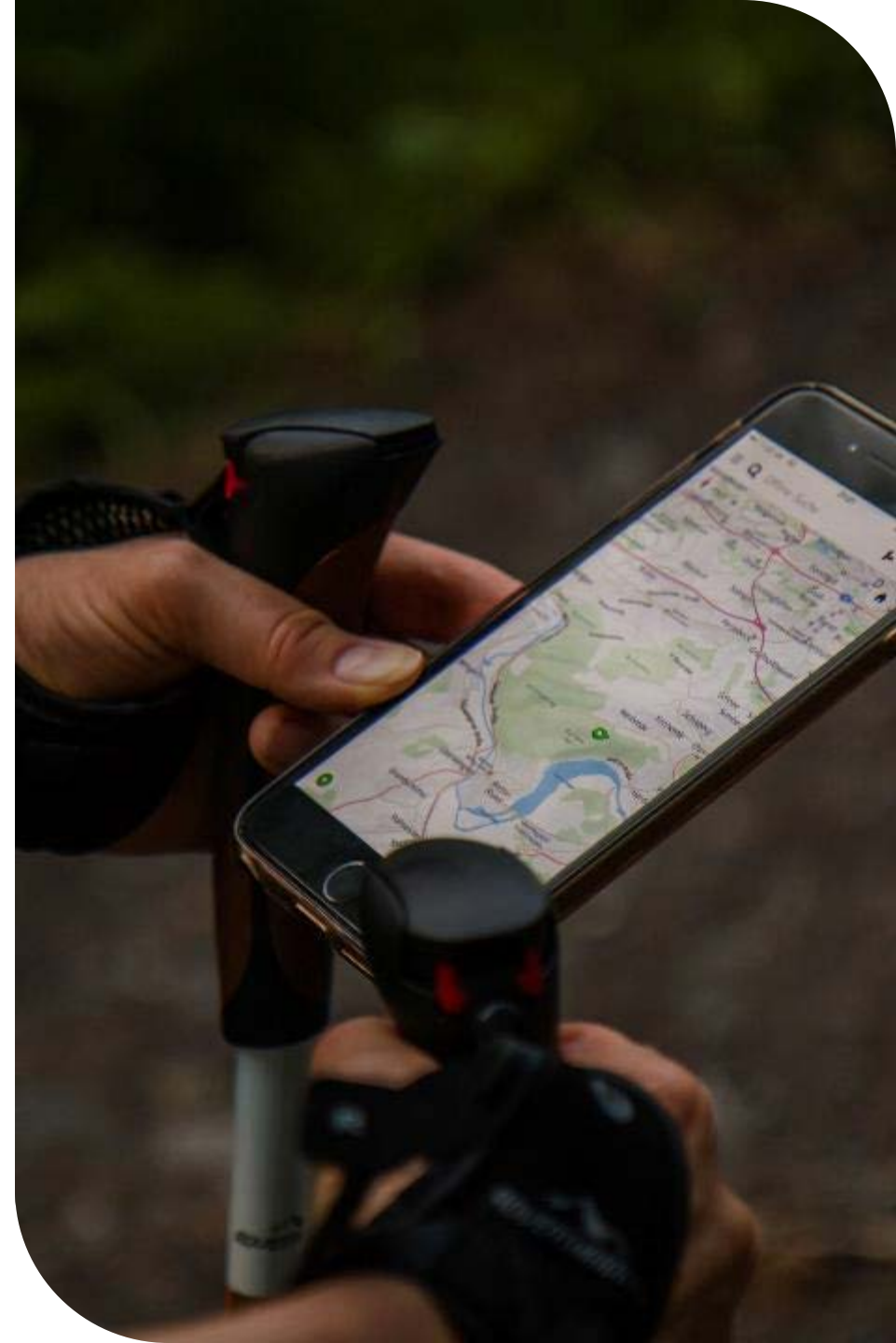
**#IlwybrauCymru**

**#StepIntoSpring**

**#nc500**

**#MissionPilgrim**

**#Walkshire**



# Reaching new audiences

- A church, chapel or meeting house can be a key visit along a route, a stop off for lunch or just a dry spot in the rain
- Often, encouraging a visitor to take one extra step off their route is easier than enticing them into a whole new journey
- For the travel trade they can be a brilliant extra stop in a booked itinerary



# The world reveals itself to those who travel by foot

: Werner Hoerzog



