

Concerts & Drama

St Lawrence Church, High Street, Abbots Langley, WD5 0AS Spring Concert Series on Saturdays throughout May with refreshments available half an hour beforehand. **6th May** at 11am - Tom Winnepenny (Organ); **13th May** at 11am - Stratton & Southern family; **20th May** at 7.30pm - The London Central Fellowship Band of the Salvation Army; **27th May** at 11am - Local Vocals (Parmiter & Francis Coombe). Tickets £5 adult (children free) are available on the door. For more details call 01923 261795 or www.abbotslangley.org.uk.

St Owen's Church, Bromham MK43 8LL Cantamus sing Music for a Spring Evening', Sacred and secular music. **Saturday 13th May** at 7.30pm. Adults £8, Child U16 free. Tickets at the door. Reservations by phone 01234 825454 or (eves) 826551

St Mary's Church, Ashwell. The Ashwell Music Festival takes place from **Thursday 18th to Sunday 28th May.** Young Musicians Concert & Complimental choral scholars on **Friday 19th** at 8pm, Kiki Dee and Carmelo Luggieri are the headlining act with An Acoustic Journey on **Saturday 20th** at 8pm. Ashwell & Friends on **Sunday 21st** at 7pm. Festival Evensong on **Sunday 28th** at 6.30pm. For full details and tickets visit www.ashwellmusicfestival.org. Booking office 01462 743289.

St Mary's Church, East Barnet EN4 **8XD.** Spring into Summer Sunday Concert series. **21st May** - Organ Recital by Andrew Sheranian; **25th June** - Arboey String Quartet; **25th July** - Entfield Brass Band. Concerts at 3pm, tickets £5 including programme. Refreshments available. www.smeb.org.uk

All Saints Church, Clifton. An Evening with Peter Howarth - **Saturday 3rd June**, 7.30pm. Peter is lead singer with The Hollies, a long-time singer and guitarist with Cliff Richard and started in the London West End show The Roy Orbison Story. Join us for an intimate solo performance. All profits to church funds. Tickets are £15 available from Terry & Anne Sullivan on 01462 817491

SeeRound Online Events May 2017/04

St. Swithun's Church, Sandy. Concert by the Award Winning Hitchin Band in aid of The Leprosy Mission. **Saturday 3rd June** at 7.30pm - Admission £5 by ticket or on the door. Contact Organiser Colin Osborne on 01767 682032 for further information.

St. Thomas's Church - Stopsley LU2 7UL. Luton Male Voice Choir Charity Concert on **Saturday 10th June** at 7.30pm. Tickets £8 including refreshments. Raffle. Contact Clive Wheeler on 07804 733222 or cliverbert2001@yahoo.co.uk.

St. Peter's Church, Berkhamsted Bridgewater Sinfonia concert on **Saturday 17th June** at 7.30pm. Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Ravel and Tchaikovsky. Tickets £15 in advance, £16 on the door; U18s free. Available from Aitcheson, 154 High St Berkhamsted, from www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk. Enquiries 01442 873205.

Open Days & Festivals

Luton Roma Trust at Stopsley Community Primary School, Hitchin Road, Luton LU2 7UG. 'This is our story - this is our song!' Come and hear our UK Travellers and Eastern European Roma tell their amazing, moving personal stories of life. **Saturday 6th May**, 11am-2pm with a free pizza lunch. Parking on playground free.

The BRAVE Trust at Rovers Middle School, Burns Road, Royston, SG8 5EQ BRAVE Trust Open Evening. Come along and find out how the Trust supports Christian Teaching in local schools and hear from schools workers and trustees. Light refreshments. **Monday 8th May** 7-8.30pm.

St. Michael's Church, Chenies. Opera Tonica are putting on Merrie England at in aid of the Church restoration fund, on **Saturday May 13th.** The May Queen arrives at 7pm for the fun and merriment. Tickets are £10 to include refreshments. Phone: 01923 284665.

The Abbey Church of St. Mary & St. Helena, Elstow. Choral Evensong in the Feast of St Helena on **Sunday 21st May** at 6.30pm. sung by Abbey Singers.

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Preacher is the Bishop of Bedford. And Silent Eucharist available 7.30pm every evening from **Monday 29th May until Friday 2nd June, and Saturday 3rd June** as part of Thy Kingdom Come.

St. Mary's Church, Childwick Green, Harpenden Road, St Albans AL3 6JJ. 150th Anniversary Flower Festival **Friday 26th - Monday 29th May.** St Mary's will be open from 10am to 5pm every day with light refreshments available. Festival Evensong on **Sunday 28th** at 6pm.

St. Peter's Church, Benington, Nr. Stevenage: Annual Flower Festival - "Out of the Box" **Saturday & Sunday 24th-25th June** from noon to 5pm. Village Gardens open as well as Benington Lordship (extra charge). Lunches and teas available in the Village Hall and Hebing End as well as craft and produce stalls.

Ickleford Open Gardens - Sunday, 25th June, 2017 from 12noon until 5pm. A chance to visit several beautiful gardens, including Hitchin Lavender, Primros on the Lawn at Jennings Funeral Directors, and lunches and teas in the village hall. Free limousine available around the village. The church will be open. Admission £4 per person. Proceeds in aid of St. Katharine's New Building Fund and Room-for-All.

St. Lawrence Church, ARDELEY. Sat nav. SG2 7AG. Sunday Cream Teas with home made scones and cakes in picturesque village, dates **2nd July, 6th August & 3rd September.** 2.30pm - 5pm. Contact Wendy Waygood 01438 861260.

Talks & Courses

Equipping God's People
New Course Programme
For course dates and bookings, see downloadable programme in the ebundle or visit:
www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/find-a-course/

www.stalbans.anglican.org/news/seedround

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SeeRound Online Events May 2017/04

Thy Kingdom Come: the start of something?

For the last two years, Ascension Day has been different. It has heralded the start of 'Thy Kingdom Come', the Archbishops' call to prayer for new disciples of Christ for the ten days leading to Pentecost.

Thy Kingdom Come 2017 begins on 25th May. How will you and your church mark its start? What will you be doing during the ten days and will you come to St Albans Cathedral for the Pentecost Beacon Event?

Tell us what you will be doing, and when you've done it, tell us what you did. You can post details on our Thy Kingdom Come Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TKCBedHerts/> and encourage others with what you are doing or on www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/thy-kingdom-come/.

Ascension Day has traditionally seen beating the bounds, choirs singing from the top of church towers and (for the last 30 years or so) the Radio 4 Ascension Day Service from St Martin in the Fields which fills the church and has a large following on air and online. All of these can be vehicles for prayer - and include prayer at their heart.

Resources

The emphasis is on 'pray your own way' but a range of resources are also available. A 'Novena Pocket Prayer 2017', pictured, below left, is available for download or purchase. A novena, a form of prayer said over nine days, has a certain request or intention in mind. It's an ancient practice, recalling the constant prayer of Christ's disciples between Ascension and Pentecost in the Upper Room. This year's Pocket Prayers look at nine Bible stories of people who find themselves in an 'in-between' space: characters caught between moments of despair and thanksgiving; endings and beginnings, and seeing and knowing. These stories and their images, created this year by Canterbury artist Caleb Simmons, will be a springboard for prayer throughout Thy Kingdom Come. The booklets are suitable for personal and group use.

A 'pdf' download is available at: www.thykingdomcome.global/uploads/resources/TKC_Novena2017.pdf

Copies may be purchased from: www.cpo.org.uk/product.aspx?prod=C5267BT&cat=3745

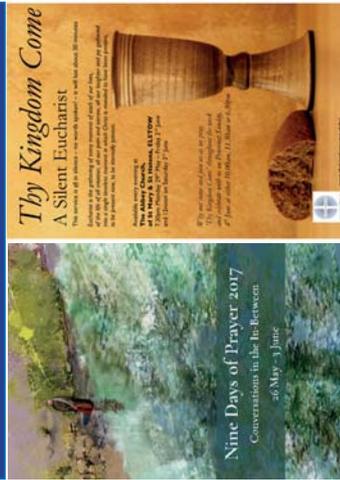
There are also other resources to download or buy at: www.thykingdomcome.global/prayerresources

During the ten days of prayer, one parish's idea for encouraging prayer is to hold a daily silent eucharist. Elstow Abbey's new incumbent, The Revd Paul Messam, has tried this out in his previous post and found it to be very fresh and powerful (pictured, far right).

SeeRound Online May 17/04



The Ascending Christ, by Henry Phillips, at St George, Leitchworth



www.stalbans.anglican.org/news/seedround

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The Diocese of St Albans in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Luton & Barnet

You're joking. Not another one!

"You're joking. Not another one?! Oh for God's sake, I can't, honestly – I can't stand this. There's too much politics going on at the moment. Why does she need to do it?" In a television news clip seen by millions, Brenda from Bristol summed up the response of many of us on learning about the forthcoming General Election. (If you're one of the few who escaped it – Brenda not the General Election - click here) (And let me say sorry right now to be sharing the taking in vain of the Lord's name on the hallowed pages of SeeRound). After an election two years ago and the bitterly divisive referendum of 2016, do we really need to go to the polls again this year?

Well, whether we agree or not with the Prime Minister's decision, there's not much we can do to change it; the election will happen on June 8th whether we like it or not. The question becomes what do we do about it – book an all-inclusive break to avoid it all on the plains of central Mongolia or get with the programme and engage with what's happening. Certainly, the election will determine much of what happens in our lives for the next five years and, through controlling who will lead on negotiations about Brexit, will impact on us all long after that. What might our response as Christians be? I think we have to be involved for a number of reasons. Here are just five that were cited back in 2015 (at those heady days) by President of the London School of Theology, Krish Kandiah:

1. Voting publicly recognises that we submit to the authority of the political system in our nation as established by God. (Romans 13:1-7)

Breaking News
Archbishops' election letter to parishes available from midnight 5/5 on www.stalbans.anglican.org/electionletter/

The team at Parish Buying are increasingly concerned by reports of parishes being approached by external energy companies, who appear to mislead them regarding Parish Buying Service using fabricated facts and figures. The Parish Buying Service was set up by the Church of England to save parishes money, and to protect churches from companies who may not have their best interests at heart. They wish to avoid situations where churches have signed up for something they may later regret.

A clergyman was approached by one energy broker that tried to persuade him to leave the Parish Buying Energy Basket. The company had been recommended on the basis that they had saved churches a lot of money compared to the Parish Buying scheme. Upon investigation, not only had the broker falsely stated renewal prices relating to the Parish Buying Energy Basket, but they had also used incorrect consumption figures to inflate the "saving". The correct comparison showed that rather than being £4,500 cheaper over 3 years, they were in fact £10,200 more expensive than Parish Buying.

Parish Buying's position is that they have always encouraged parishes who have good reasons for using other suppliers to continue to do so. Their advice is to proceed with caution. If a quote seems too good to be true, it probably is.



Dr Michael Beasley
Bishop of Hertford

The Diocese of St Albans in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Luton & Barnet

Clergy Appointments

Canon Christopher Beales has retired and been appointed Canon Emeritus
Linda Bond, presently Vicar in the benefice of Bromham with Oakley and Stagden, will be retiring to Northamptonshire at the end of June.
Donald Brewin, presently retired with PTO, has also been appointed Canon of the Diocese of Boga, the Province of the Anglican Church of Congo.
Kaushal David, presently Curate in Training at St Mary's Church, Nantwich in Chester diocese, is to become Assistant Curate with responsibility for the benefice of Totternhoe, Stanbridge and Tilsworth.

Mary Fane de Salis, presently Curate in Training in the benefice of Clothall, Rushden, Sandon, Wallington & Weston, is to become Vicar of the benefice of Holwell, Ickleford and Pirton.

Jairo Nyaongo, presently Assistant Curate in Training in the benefice of Mill End and Heronsgate with West Hyde, is to become Vicar in the benefice of Augustine, Limbury in Luton.

Diana Young, presently Assistant Curate in the benefice of St John-at-Hampstead, is to become Vicar in the benefice of Woburn Sands.

Canon Peter Wadsworth has retired and been appointed Canon Emeritus.

Celebrating 50 years as lay leader

Reader Nick Alexander recently celebrated 50 years of service, having been Admitted and Licensed at Ripon Cathedral on Saturday 15th April 1967. At a specially adapted Choral Evensong service at Christ Church Little Heath last month, he (bottom row, centre) was joined by (L-R back row) Revd Dominic Newstead, Revd Alan Harding and Revd Hugh Walker, and Revd Louis Spring (below left) and Richard Osborn (right).



Welcome Joy!

On Wednesday 26th April, a packed church at St Mary's Eaton Bray witnessed the Revd Joy Cousins licensed by Bishop Alan as the new Vicar of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough. Joy was previously Priest in Charge of High Hoyland, Scissett and Clayton West in the Diocese of Leeds. She trained for the ministry at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. Prior to ordination in 1992 she worked as a Youth Worker in London and Sheffield. Joy is married to Dave, a Yorkshireman who enjoys cricket and real ale. They have a dog, Barney, and both enjoy walking. Joy and Dave are settling in at the Vicarage in Eaton Bray.



Walkern confirmations following Fresh Expressions services

Ten youngsters and adults from St Mary's Church Walkern, were recently confirmed by Bishop Alan as a direct result of Fresh Expressions Services. The candidates, along with their families and friends, joined with eight more candidates and a church full of joyful worshippers at St Mary's Baldock. One family, Mark, Claire and Francesca, said: "We were excited to be confirmed together as a family, to broaden our knowledge and experiences within the Church and to take the next step in our journey together". Looking to the future; the new members, youngsters and adults will be nurtured and supported by fellowship groups in Walkern and Stevenage.



A Runner and Reader

Among the many determined souls running this year's London Marathon was Anthony Archer, until the end of April, Chair of the Council for Discipleship and Ministry. Anthony is a member of the General Synod and a Reader so is used to a life of preparation for big moments, but his journey from running 5K to 26.2 miles was accomplished in just 20 weeks of training. That itself suggests a certain amount of determination and perseverance, known to be essential qualities for both marathon running and Christian life. It is often said that the final four miles of any marathon are down to willpower, physical stamina having deserted most people by then.

Anthony ran for Mencap, wearing the blue 'Headstrong' banner of the campaign for mental health fronted by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry. He raised over £8500.

Donations are still being accepted at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/awavmim2017>

Anthony's reflection on his achievement - finishing after severe cramp at the 14th mile in 6h 32m, is: "I now know why the London Marathon is on so many people's bucket lists! It was the most exhilarating experience and I am grateful to all those who helped me to do it. Getting fit has huge benefits and the process gave me masses of time to reflect, think and pray. If I can become as disciplined spiritually as I needed to be physically, then I really will have achieved something. Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us (-Hebrews 12:1c). He hasn't given up on another attempt.



Photo: Leif Keiswill



MarathonFoto

Canon hears starting gun

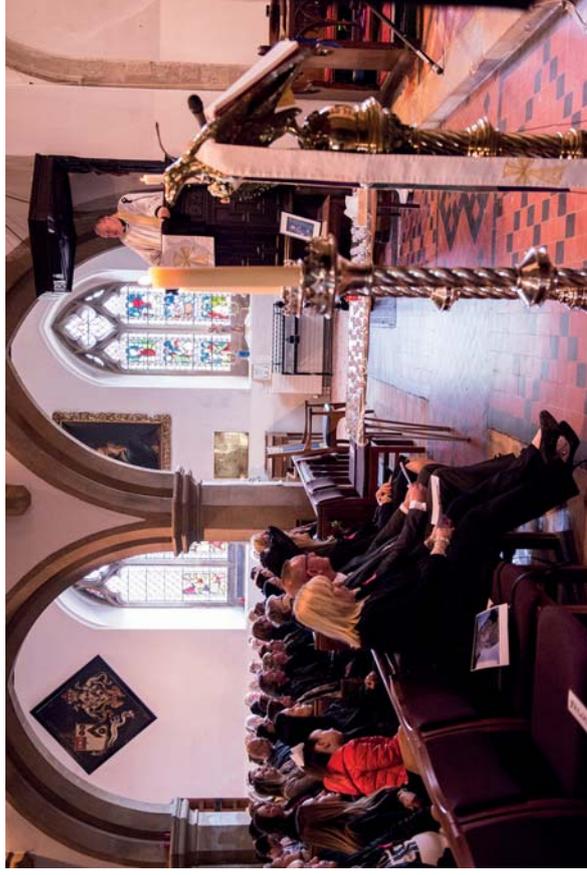
Canon Dave Middlebrook, (left) Vicar of St Luke's Church Watford, was recently captured at the finish line of the local 10k fun run about a week after the London Marathon...

or fifty-one weeks before the next one! SeeRound Online thinks he looks so relaxed at the end of 10k that he would be starting from a very good position were he to contemplate this move, as would other 10K fun runners, given Anthony Archer's example (above).

Kathryn Alford - previously Living God's Love Vision Enabler and a member of Diocesan Synod has already entered the Richmond Park Marathon taking place this month.

We will bring you her story in a future edition of See Round. Meanwhile, go like the wind, Kathryn.

Bushey community joined by worldwide fans for George Michael Memorial Service



Pop musician George Michael, originally from Bushey, died suddenly on Christmas Day, 2016. Fr Neil Kelley, Rector of Bushey, heard the news when he was walking his dog on Christmas afternoon and saw messages appearing on Facebook. They all expressed shock and a need for somewhere to go and some means of expressing grief. His response was swift. He posted a message saying 'St James will be open for you. Come.'

On Boxing Day and the days following scores of people visited St. James's Church, Bushey to light candles, pray and ponder, and share their common grief at this premature death. George went to school in Bushey and so many people who knew him and his family from his school days were particularly saddened.

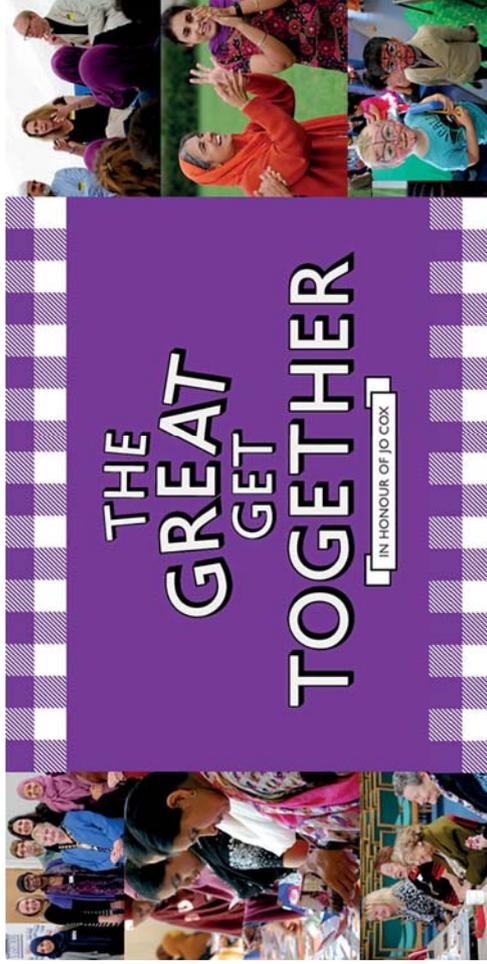
A local resident and fan, Tracey Willis, formed The George & Michael Appreciation Society of Bushey to keep George's memory and music alive and in conversation with Fr Neil,

the idea of a memorial service for fans to express their grief was born.

Over three hundred and twenty attended the service on 30th April, including some from Spain, Switzerland and Malta. There was a large local contingent who still had personal memories of George as well as knowledge of his music. Fr Neil said: "This service was an occasion for everyone to come together to remember the person he was. The Church of England is there to welcome all people in times of joy or grief to help them express and understand their emotions and to give thanks."

In his appreciation, he spoke of George Michael's music and his charitable acts, many unsung until after his death, saying "we will never know how many lives he impacted" and he ended reflecting on how, having given more of himself to others than to himself, he hoped George was now receiving the eternal tender loving care of God.

Great Get Together in memory of Jo Cox, MP



The Church Urban Fund's Near Neighbours programme is inviting Churches, faith groups and community organisations to team up with them to host street parties, picnics and bake-offs in tribute to the late MP Jo Cox. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbi have backed the move.

Near Neighbours is encouraging people to take part in the Jo Cox Foundation's 'The Great Get Together' between June 16 and June 18 – an opportunity to stage the biggest street party across the country since the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

The three days of events will mark the first anniversary of Jo's murder on June 16, 2016, while working in her constituency of Batley and Spen. Jo, who spoke of how we have more in common than that which divides us, campaigned tirelessly for a fairer, kinder and more tolerant world. Her murder sparked an outpouring of grief and solidarity in the UK and across the world.

Paul Hackwood, Executive Director of Church Urban Fund, said: "Jo cared deeply for others and her life was a shining example of her vision - that we have more in common than divides us. This message is dear to the

heart of the Near Neighbours programme and its work to address unmet need and promote integration and social cohesion in communities. There can be no better way to pay tribute to Jo and to honour her life's work than to take part in the Great Get Together."

Near Neighbours has been bringing people together in diverse areas across the country since 2011. It supports projects including the One Roof night shelter for rough sleepers in Leicester, run by seven faiths or denominations, football tournaments bringing Christians and Muslims together and the Catalyst leadership programme for young people highlighting the positive contribution that multi-religious and multi-ethnic diversity makes at all levels of society.

It is hoped that Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Humanist groups will all take part in the events. The Great Get Together was launched by Jamie Oliver and the Duchess of Cornwall in February this year.

For more information on how to co-host an event with Near Neighbours, please see: <https://www.cuf.org.uk/ggt-about> and for more about the Great Get Together please see: <http://greatgettogether.org>.

Thank you again!

I am delighted that the Board of Finance accounts for 2016 show that parishes contributed just over £390,000 extra in parish share payments than in the previous year. Contributions received for 2016 represented 95.33% of the amount requested which itself was an increase of 0.58% over 2015. We are truly blessed in having so many people who are committed to giving for the work of spreading the gospel throughout our diocese. The cost of providing and supporting parochial clergy was a bit more than £13.2m which was 90% of total unrestricted expenditure. Every single pound given in parish share went to help provide that support. In other words, we are entirely dependent on the parish share to provide parish priests. We are most grateful for the sometimes sacrificial contributions that parishioners have made

Overall, the Common Fund had a surplus of just over £73,000 which is a bit less than one half of one percent of our expenditure; in other words we just about broke even. Setting the budget becomes more of a challenge each year and the Board of Finance is mindful of the tensions in many places in the diocese: we do try to take account of



David Nye
DBF Chair

the amount that can reasonably be asked in terms of parish share whilst at the same time attempting to resource ministry in all its forms, including training sufficient people for the medium term.

2016 was a year when we able to do more of what God wants us to do: preaching and teaching and ministering to others. Let's pray that we can

do continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ throughout this coming year.

There for refugees since 1945



Christian Aid was set up by British churches in 1945 to support hundreds of thousands of refugees who had lost homes and possessions in the Second World War. Since 1957, Christian Aid Week has raised funds for this vital work that still continued in the aftermath of the war.

For 60 years, tens of thousands of dedicated volunteers have come together for Christian Aid Week each May to raise vital money for those most in need. It is a great expression of Christian witness across the country. Thanks to everyone who gives, Christian Aid has been there for refugees, providing essential food, shelter and legal assistance. A new film clip: Theodor Davidovic: The refugee who never forgot brings this home: www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HmU-Oil5h4&feature=youtu.be contact: Adrian.Whalley.Awhalley@christian-aid.org

Changes to grant schemes for church buildings

The Heritage Lottery Fund's Grants for Places of Worship Scheme is coming to an end in August 2017.

The money currently available under the scheme will in future be available through the 'Our Heritage' strand of lottery funding. What will change is that it will cease to be ring-fenced for listed places of worship.

The Church Buildings Division of the Archbishops' Council advises that many churches that would have applied for funds up to £100k can relatively easily transfer to the Our Heritage Scheme. This fund does not have a capped annual budget but responds to need. Overall the requirements for applicants and the chances of success are roughly equivalent to GPOW. The main difference is that Our Heritage is a one-stage scheme and so there is no development phase. They suggest that churches in this category consider transferring to this scheme with immediate effect. This will free up the remaining £16.6m in the GPOW scheme this year for churches with £101k-£250k projects.

From September, these churches will have to apply to the more complex Heritage Grants Scheme which requires a higher level of documentation than GPOW and has different outcome requirements. Heritage Grants projects often include repairs but not usually as the central factor.