

# **THE CHAPEL, YATTON**

## **CHURCH PLAN**

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### **Introduction**

### **Part A - Current Report**

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Details of short-, medium- and long-term actions agreed upon through Community Recommendations, assigned to community participants or Churches Conservation Trust staff



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## **Part A - Current Report**

### **Introduction**

The Churches Conservations Trust's strategy is to empower and support communities to care for historic places of worship, for the benefit of all. A sustainable CCT church is well used by its communities, generates sufficient funds for the maintenance that keeps it in a good state of repair and is able to raise funds for specific repair and improvement projects. Local Community Officers facilitate this through their work with the community to co-create Church Plans.

Church plans are a living document which combines information on the church's history, significance, maintenance and repair needs and the current use of the church, with feedback and recommendations from the community, and concludes with an action plan setting out agreed short, medium and long term actions to support the sustainable use and care of the church.

### **Church Introduction & Statement of Significance**

The chapel was built in the 12th century and was originally a parish church. Alterations were made to it during the 13th century. The north wall was rebuilt in the 16th or 17th century. In about 1600 the bellcote was added. The east end of the chancel was rebuilt in 1704, reusing a 13th-century window. It closed as a parish church in 1841 when a new church was built on a different site. Furnishings (altar, altar rail, chancel screen) were transferred to the new All Saints' Church. The chapel was restored during the 1970s by the Redundant Churches Commission (now the Churches Conservation Trust). It was declared redundant on 15 March 1971, and was vested in the Churches Conservation Trust on 20 September 1974.

Yatton Chapel is constructed in sandstone rubble with ashlar dressings and has a stone slate roof. Its plan is simple, consisting of a nave and chancel, and a bellcote at the west end. The bellcote is weatherboarded and has a pyramidal roof. The south doorway is Norman in style. It has a semicircular arched head decorated with chevrons, and a tympanum carved with a foliar design. To the right of the doorway are a double square-headed window, a small single-light square-headed window, and a larger single-light window with a pointed arch. In the east wall are two single-light round-headed windows, one above the other. At the west end is a two-light window with trefoil heads. Inside the church are two fonts. The original font, probably from the 12th century, is a damaged plain cylindrical bowl. The other font, dating from the 12th century, also has a plain cylindrical bowl and was moved here when the parish church of St Mary Magdalene in Brobury ceased to be used for worship.

### **Current use (bookings) & voluntary activity**

The Chapel currently enjoys permission from The Church of England for six Sunday services each year and an unlimited number of additional services on an occasional basis. No events have been recorded in the last three years.

Voluntary activity undertaken by volunteers includes:-

- Cleaning
- Remittance of wall safe and service funds
- Ad hoc reporting of building change

## Church Information

<b>General Information:</b>	
Open Churches Policy status:	Open
Local Community Officer:	Tracy Genever
Current projects:	Not at present
Parking:	None on site
Building services:	None
Churchyard:	Not owned by CCT, maintained by parish council
Ring-able bells:	None
Organ:	None`
<b>Volunteering:</b>	
Key holder role:	Fulfilled
Key representative role:	Fulfilled (remittances, CCT liaison, Volunteer
Stewardship/events roles:	Fulfilled
Research, interp. & talks role:	Fulfilled
Cleaning schedule:	Regularly led by volunteers in accordance with CCT
<b>CCT Items:</b>	
CCT information board:	Installed, requires updating
Oak post:	Installed
CCT freestanding board:	Not installed, required
Wall safe poster:	Installed, current
CCT A board:	Not installed
Gift Aid envelopes:	Provided
Visitor book:	Installed
Welcome table:	Maintains stock of current leaflets
<b>Tourism/Marketing:</b>	
Nearby attractions:	Ross on Wve attractions. The Market House. Wilton
Social media presence:	Trip adviser
Images on CCT website:	One of four

Featured elsewhere:	Listed on Visit Hereford & Herefordshire Historic
<b>Events/Activity:</b>	
Services per year:	Not currently
Christmas memory tree:	Not currently
Heritage Open Days:	Not currently
Ride & Stride:	Not currently
Champing:	Not currently
Retail:	Not currently
<b>Health &amp; Safety:</b>	
Fire rated capacity:	60
Seating capacity:	No seating
Site plan:	Not available – estimated 24
Roof alarm:	Not installed
CCTV:	Not installed
Individual item security measures:	None
Accessibility details:	Provided via website
Risk assessment general:	Current
Risk assessment fire:	Current
COSHH listing:	Current
Portable appliance listing:	Current
Security Audit:	Current
Pews:	None, a couple of chairs are available

## Conservation Reports

<b>Annualised maintenance costs (Exclusive of VAT):</b> Annualised maintenance costs express the total costs of church maintenance divided by 25 years. Every forecasted cost which relates to the maintenance of this church over a period of 25 years is included. Any anticipated repairs are excluded. A list of typical maintenance tasks for any historic church, forecast over the period, is available to view at appendix 2	<b>£1,781.44</b>
Routine maintenance costs (Per annum and exclusive of VAT):	£552.00

These are included in the annualised maintenance costs and are the total cost of two maintenance visits per year. A list of the typical maintenance tasks for any historic church included in the twice-annual maintenance visits is available to view at appendix 3.	
<b>Other maintenance costs total (Exclusive of VAT):</b> <b>Additional maintenance needs discovered during twice-yearly maintenance visits, costed and listed individually below.</b>	<b>£715.00</b>
- Moss removal	£350.00
- Damaged church sign	£15.00
- Monitor structural movement of east wall	£350.00
<b>Total short term repairs:</b> <b>Small scale items of limited cost which could be fulfilled with minimal fundraising.</b>	<b>£2,750.00</b>
- Roof and ridge repairs	£2,750.00
<b>Total medium term repairs:</b> <b>More expensive needs such as roof repairs and tower repairs which may require more involved fundraising and grant applications.</b>	<b>£16,500.00</b>
- Timber repairs to timber bellcote	£7,500.00
- Patch pointing	£5,500.00
- Internal plaster and pointing	£3,500
<b>Total long term repairs:</b> <b>Items which are known to require works in the longer term but which are not essential in the near future.</b>	<b>£12,500.00</b>
- Assess the need for a lightning conductor and install if required	£5,000.00
- Boundary wall repairs	£7,500.00
<b>Total desirable repairs:</b> <b>Repairs which are not essential to the conservation health of the church but which might improve aesthetics or usability of the building.</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
All cost figures are estimates, exclusive of VAT and professional fees. VAT is charged at 20% of the total costs and can sometimes be recovered. Professional fees vary, but are either charged at an hourly rate or as a percentage of the total project cost. These are usually charged only on larger or more complex projects.	

## Income, Expenditure & Balances

Yatton		Church Code: YAT					
Visitors	Number of visitors		2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
			1,722	1,871	1,575	924	0
	Site Wallsafe per Visitor		0.05	0.03	0.03	0.13	0.00
	Trust Wallsafe per Visitor		0.07	0.07	0.07	0.19	0.00
Income	Wall Safe		2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
	Service Collection		87	55	45	124	118
	Service Fees		0	0	0	0	0
	Donations		0	0	0	0	0
	Events		40	14	500	0	0
	Third Party Hire		0	0	0	0	0
	Earned		0	0	0	0	0
	Grant		0	0	0	0	0
	Other		0	0	0	0	0
	Total		127	69	545	124	118
Expenditure	Total Conservation spend since Vesting (non maintenance)		30,974				
			2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
	Conservation		0	0	0	0	780
	Maintenance		1,172	908	801	979	276
	Electricity		0	0	0	0	0
	Gas		0	0	0	0	0
	Water		0	0	0	0	0
	Other		0	0	0	0	0
	Total		1,172	908	801	979	1,056
	Income less Maintenance		-1,045	-838	-256	-855	-158
	Income less Expenditure		-1,045	-838	-256	-855	-938
	Restricted Donation As of 1st April 2025		0				



**Churches  
Conservation  
Trust**

Income less annualised maintenance 2024/25 **-£1,654**

(Income from all sources, minus the annualised maintenance cost, as shown in the Conservation Report section above)

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## Local Community Officer' s Summary

This pretty Herefordshire church is well hidden on the edge of a local farm. Currently there is no use of the church other than a tourism site, and the farm currently has no tenant but the farm buildings are used for livestock.

Signatures in the visitor book indicates popular support for the church and for The Churches Conservation Trust from tourism.

The unique location and quietness of the venue could be attractive to pilgrims and this element could be marketed. It is also a popular hiking area and many visitors are walkers. We need to ensure it is promoted by local tourist information sites.

## Part B – Survey

### Summary of consultation responses received by end August 2020

Following distribution of fifteen questions through our standard church plan questionnaire in summer 2020 to existing Churches Conservation Trust correspondents, (together with an invitation for correspondents to share the survey and associated Church Plan Part A), no response was received for **The Chapel, Yatton** by the deadline of August 30th. An example of the survey is in appendix 1.

## Part C - Community Recommendations

Church planning meeting 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026. LCO (TG) and 2 volunteers via Zoom.

Church and churchyard

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The church has greatly benefitted from the regular attention of the local volunteers who have kept it clean and tidy. They have also planted daffodils in the old animal troughs outside to make the place look cared for.

A sign is still needed at the top of the driveway and the LCO has gained permission from the farm manager at J P F Clay Farms.

The volunteers also felt that the visitors would benefit from a couple of additional chairs in the same style as the present ones. They will look out for these. And the addition of a thoughts and suggestions book for visitors to write in alongside the visitor book.

The LCO will look at a grant application to purchase a bench for the outside area.

### **Events**

This is a very quiet place which makes it so attractive to passing walkers. There were 24 visitors in the book over the Christmas week.

It has been listed in Trip advisor, Visit Herefordshire and the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust website to ensure those visiting the area consider walking to the church. We aren't sure how well sign posted the footpaths are and this will be checked out.

The benefice vicar has been unwell, so the volunteers will attend Yatton All Saints to find out more as it would be nice to hold some kind of religious service there.

**Yatton Church Planning Meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Attending TG (Local Community Officer) and 2 volunteers via telephone. Plus recent conversations with local area volunteer.**

### **Churchyard**

This small area is no longer maintained by the farm which is currently uninhabited. The Area Volunteer has cut the grass in June which is much appreciated.

### **Events**

No events have taken place. The volunteers did write to the local church vicar about the use of the chapel but received a negative response. Lack of access by vehicle make this a difficult place to arrange public events without the agreement of the landowner.

Discussed the registering of the site with Small Pilgrim Places Network to bring in more visitors.

### **Local community**

The chapel has benefited from the attentions of 2 local volunteers and looks cared for. We have no knowledge of the plans for the farm's future and access by car is via the farm track so an agreement with the estate owner, Perrystone Estates, around access would be useful.

### **General comments**

Signage to the chapel is not evident from the road which makes finding it difficult to find by car or on foot. The chapel is, however, on a public footpath.

Seating has been provided in the church by the addition of 4 chairs donated by the volunteers. An outside bench would benefit walkers and make it a nice location for a picnic.

**Yatton Church Planning Meeting Held - December 2022, Attending GS (Local Community Officer) et al.**

### **Churchyard**

Churchyard is very well maintained by the farm owners.

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## Events

Detailed discussions took place and agreed that it would be great for the church to be used more for services and events.

## Local Community

Neighbouring estate own the farm that borders onto the church.  
For any activity and services to be held, permission would need to be sort from the farm owners.

## General Comments

Inside of the church is maintained by the Area Volunteer.  
Very limited access to the church by vehicle, also can be difficult to find.  
Decent number of visitors to the church, who are mainly walkers.  
Low maintenance costs at this site.

## Part D - Action Plan

### Community Actions

#### Short term actions (to end July 2026)

- JW to make contact with local incumbent and see if they are interested in holding a religious activity at the chapel.
- Install a notebook for visitor thoughts
- Put snowdrop bulbs in the churchyard

#### Medium term actions (to end Dec 2027)

- Check signage in local footpaths especially from Yatton All Saints.
- Get additional chairs for inside the church similar to those in there already
- Explore marketing the church to the local community via newsletters

#### Long term actions (to end Dec 2029)

- Investigate suitability of church for more regular religious use or pilgrimage.
- Discuss potential for regular church related features, parish newsletter and inclusion of church updates in parish council meetings.
- Consider means for increasing footfall and consequent donations.

#### Actions complete (to end June 2023)

### Local Community Officer Actions

#### Short term actions (to end July 2026)

- Apply for grant to fund bench seating outside
- Arrange for sign to be made and placed at top of the lane
- Organise regular meetings with the community.

#### Medium term actions (to end Dec 2025)

- Engage in regular and on-going communications with the community, also support them as required.

#### Long term actions (to end June 2027)

- 
- Investigate suitability of church for hire to increase usage and income.
  - Consider means for increasing footfall and consequent donations.

**Actions complete (to end January 2026)**

- Volunteer numbers have increased
- Make contact with the Perrystone Estate/Clay Farm to find out future of the farm and access to the church for vehicles.
- Explore increased signage on roadside for visitors
- Speak to Small Pilgrim Places Network about putting Yatton Chapel on their website.
- Market the church in the area through Visit Herefordshire
- Explore the options for outdoor seating

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## Appendix 1: Summer 2020 Questionnaire

This is the first of fourteen questions in the survey - thank you in advance for working through each one. First of all, we need to know if you're completing the survey on behalf of an organisation or writing in a personal capacity (If you're writing on behalf of an organisation, please use the text box to let us know which one. Thank you!)

Which church are you writing about? (Don't worry, you can complete additional questionnaires for other sites if you like!) Please state the location and dedication, as in 'Sapperton, St. Kenelm's'. Thank you.

People are involved with our sites in so many different ways. In your own words, please describe your relationship with the church building.

Some people are actively involved at the churches we look after together. If you're part of this group, tell us about your involvement. Cleaning, attending services and fundraising are just a few of the most frequent activities we share, but we'd appreciate as much detail as you might be happy to provide.

In your own words, and having reviewed 'Part A' of our church plan (sent to you by email with the invitation to this questionnaire), please describe a perfect outcome for our work together at the church. What would you like to see happen in terms of community involvement and other use of the building?

Bearing in mind the repair liabilities and running costs described in the report you've read, what challenges do you anticipate for a sustainable future at your church?

Thinking about local life away from the church, which other community projects or activities are you aware of that could combine with our work to protect the church for the future?

Here are two questions together... Could increased use of the church benefit the community? How would this increased use benefit the church itself?

What do you think are the most important conservation priorities at your church? For each or all of these priorities, please also let us know about any ideas you have for addressing them.

Income and expenditure for the church is detailed in 'Part A' of the report we sent you. Addressing conservation priorities will entail finding new ways to raise funds. Tell us about any ideas or opportunities you have identified for raising additional income at the church.

What do you think might be the best ways to get started with any fundraising activities you have suggested?

If you don't already, would you be interested and available to take part in future fundraising activity?

Almost done! We'd like to invite you to join us in a group discussion about the church later this year, either in person or through 'phone / video conference. Would you be willing to join the discussion?

Last question! Is there anything else you'd like to share about your interest in the church which we haven't asked you already? Otherwise, thank you again so much for reflecting on the future of the church through your answers.

## Appendix 2: Typical Maintenance Tasks Forecast for A CCT Church Over 25 Years

The list below gives examples of items that CCT needs to maintain in its churches. Some items on this list will not relate to this church but give guidance as to the typical items we cover. These estimations are based on the cost in 2020, please note we are not able to predict inflation costs and therefore these are not included.

A specific report is created for each church every nine years by an experienced and trained building inspector. This details the repair needs of the building and lists the repairs required according to their priority. Please contact your Local Community Officer if you wish to see this report.

Item	Method & Purpose	Cycle/ Yrs	Estimated Cost per visit (present day levels)	Cumulative Estimated Total Cost After 25 Years (2020 values)
Drains, rodding	Below-ground drains can be blocked by debris which stops the rain water dispersing properly and potentially leading to water backing up and overflowing. To prevent this they require rodding and cleaning even ten years.	1	£ 39.00	£ 975.00
Soakaways, inspection and clearance of silt build-up	Soakaways consist of a large pit filled with gravel of varying sizes which act as a filter to allow rainwater to slowly seep into the surrounding ground. Over time material carried into the soakaway in the rain water fills in the gaps and slows the rate of dispersal which can lead to water backing up and potentially damaging or even flooding the church	10	£ 600.00	£ 1,500.00
Mansafe hatchway system	Man safe systems are steel cables or anchor points which are fixed to the roofs of churches to allow people to safely access and work on the roof. As these systems are used for safety it is a legal requirement that they are tested every year for loose fittings or damaged cables.	1	£ 360.00	£ 9,000.00

Lightning conductor testing	Lightning conductors are required to be checked every three years to make sure that they are still performing correctly and will be able to disperse a lightning strike effectively. Metal thefts have often targeted lightning conductors and they may need replacing.	3	£ 480.00	£ 4,000.00
Organ maintenance	Organs are complex machines built using numerous natural materials which can be damaged by moisture, heat and animal attack. It is recommended that organs are checked every year to carry out minor repairs and to be re-tuned as required. Regular servicing can also reduce the likelihood of large unexpected repair bills.	1	£ 140.00	£ 3,500.00
Fire extinguisher inspection	Fire extinguishers servicing checks that the fire extinguishers are functional and maintaining adequate pressure for use in an emergency. Note the CCT only provides fire extinguisher in churches which are either stewarded, used for Champing™ or have significant timber items.	1	£ 166.00	£ 4,150.00
Electrical periodic inspection testing	Electrical tests ensure that the electrical system of the church is both safe and fully functioning. The test will check all elements of the system and highlight any concerns.	5	£ 350.00	£ 1,750.00
Replacement of electrical fittings	As items are highlighted as faulty through periodic testing and maintenance visits they will need to be replaced.	15	£ 1,500.00	£ 2,500.00
Replacement of lamps	General wear and tear - Bulbs require regular replacement. Note LED bulbs will be used where possible	2	£ 250.00	£ 3,125.00
Heating installation, servicing	Annual servicing of the heating system to ensure the efficiency and safe working order of the boiler etc.	1	£ 384.00	£ 9,600.00
Roof alarm, servicing	Roof alarms require annual servicing to check that the system is in good working order and to replace minor parts such as the batteries in sensors.	1	£ 316.80	£ 7,920.00
Rainwater goods, redecoration	All external rainwater Goods (RWG) require redecoration as they are in exposed locations and are exposed to significant amounts of water. The redecoration significantly extends the lifespan of the RWGs and ensures that they are working correctly and are securely fixed in position.	7	£ 1,560.00	£ 5,571.43

Internal & external ironwork redecoration	Redecorating the ironwork prolongs the life of the item and improves the aesthetic of the church. The redecoration of ironwork also provides a good opportunity to inspect the item for damage.	7	£ 1,500.00	£ 5,357.14
External joinery, redecoration	Redecorating external joinery prolongs the life of the item and improves the aesthetic of the church. The redecoration of ironwork also provides a very good opportunity to inspect the item for damage.	7	£ 1,875.00	£ 6,696.43
Window repairs	Minor repairs to the windows such as broken panes of glass, replacement of glazing bars, mortar repairs or lead work repairs are important to exclude the weather and birds and other animals.	5	£ 350.00	£ 1,750.00
Bell maintenance	Bells require ad hoc inspection and minor maintenance to fixtures and fittings	5	£ 235.00	£ 1,175.00
Condition inspection report, all specialists	We have a 9 yearly architect or surveyors inspection plan. When the survey is undertaken all elements of the church will be inspected and a prioritised plan for all required repairs will be created.	9	£ 450.00	£ 1,250.00
Roof overhaul	Roofs require constant minor maintenance with a major overhaul every seven years	7	£ 2,500.00	£ 8,928.57
Clock maintenance	An annual service of the clock with minor repairs and checks to ensure good timekeeping	1	£ 140.00	£ 3,500.00
Tree inspection	A five yearly inspection of all the trees in the churchyards we are responsible for to check for defects and enable us to plan for any required works.	5	£ 225.00	£ 1,125.00
Churchyard maintenance	Grass cutting and minor trimming of plants and bushes etc.	0.5	£ 200.00	£ 10,000.00
Overheads	Office costs to support maintenance planning etc.	1	£ 20.00	£ 500.00
Staff Costs	Staff costs incurred in preparing the required inspections and reports	1	£ 97.00	£ 2,425.00

**The total cost over 25 years for this example of a typical church is £107,598.57 (exc. VAT)**

**The average yearly cost for this example of a typical church is £4,303.94 (exc. VAT)**

## Appendix 3: Typical Maintenance Tasks Forecast - (Twice-Annual Maintenance Visits)

Item	Method & Purpose
Gutters, downpipes and gully clearance	Gutters, hoppers and downpipes are easily blocked by leaves and debris both windborne and dropped by birds which can lead to overflowing and water damage to the building.
Roof, inspection & replacing slipped/missing slates/tiles	Over time some slates/tiles or the pegs/nails which hold them will reach the end of their useful lifespan. When this happens it will allow slates to move from their correct position which can let rain in to the building and potentially poses a risk to visitors as the slate/tiles can fall.
Vegetation, control of growth	Overgrown vegetation against walls and buildings can hold moisture against the building potentially causing damage and some plant species are invasive. Vegetation can also obscure the building hiding potential damage and can provide shelter for vermin such as mice.
Tower stairs & boiler room steps, sweeping	Leaves and other debris can build up on steps which could lead to accidents if people slip. Regular sweeping reduces the risk for potential accidents.
Principal steps and paths, clearance	Leaves and other debris can build up on steps which could lead to accidents if people slip. This is especially the case for churches with trees in the area. Regular sweeping of the steps reduces the risk for potential accidents.
Wall Safe, servicing	Servicing of the wall safe helps to ensure that the donations can be easily collected and also checks to ensure that there hasn't been an attempt to steal from the safe.

## Appendix 4: Typical Champing™ Arrangements and Related Income

Champing™ is the exclusive overnight hire of a church to visitors. Camp beds and chairs are set up inside the church, along with tea making provisions, battery lighting, and cushions and blankets to give guests a cosy stay. Guests book online through the Champing™ website [www.champing.co.uk](http://www.champing.co.uk) and these bookings are related to local contacts so everyone knows when visitors are staying. A local member of staff sets out equipment for the night and removes all gear each morning. Guests have exclusive access to the church between 6.00 p.m. until 10.00 a.m. so visitors can enjoy the church during the day.

Champers don't expect much in the way of facilities and understand that these are ancient buildings. For most churches we've installed eco-loos either inside or outside in wooden cabins. We don't allow candles but provide battery lanterns and fairy lights. As most of our churches don't have heating we only operate Champing™ between the end of March and the end of October, and we recommend Champers bring warm sleeping bags and extra blankets. We also supply bedding and breakfasts but this option isn't available at all churches. Most Champers will eat out locally or may bring their own picnic.

For those churches without electricity we provide a gas camping stove and we also provide amply bottled water for Champers and all visitors to use.

Typically Champers are couples and families. Some of our churches are large enough to welcome groups of up to 16 people. We are dog-friendly, and child-friendly. Many Champers appreciate the history, architecture, and unique features of their surroundings, and come to learn about the building and its locale through this unique accommodation. We offer those staying for the first time a free CCT membership so they can learn more about our work and consider support for The Trust after their visit.

You can evaluate typical income which derives from Champing™ in the table below.

Church	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Langport, Somerset	£10,47	£2,766	£3,810	£3,128	£7,748	£4,938
Emborough, Somerset	/	£2,024	£1,378	£2,625	£5,270	/
Chiselhampton, Oxfordshire	£10,156	£2,696	£5,864	£1,705	/	/
Wolfhamcote, Warwickshire	/	£3,001	£2,214	£1,624	£4,763	£5,924
Holme Lacy, Herefordshire	/	£4,369	£4,759	£1,004	£7,501	£4,144
TOTAL	£20,628	£14,856	£18,025	£10,086	£25,282	£15,006