

ST TORNEY' S CHURCH, NORTH HILL

CHURCH PLAN



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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 community(ies), 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 goals to support the sustainable use and care of the church.

Part A - Current Report

Church Introduction & Statement of Significance

The Church of St Torney is in the village of North Hill in Cornwall, situated on the eastern edge of Bodmin Moor approximately six miles (10 km) southwest of Launceston. This large impressive church with its tall granite tower is dedicated to St Torney, a Cornish Saint.

There is a Norman font in the church and it is thought that a church in some form has existed on the site since Norman times. The C14th chancel is the earliest part of the church but most of the building you see today, including the beautiful wagon roof and impressive arcading, dates from the C15th and early C16th century. The belfry contains six bells.

St Torney is the parish church associated with the manor and estate of Trebartha and its array of monuments, memorials and stained glass includes some diverse, fine, rare and significant examples. The impressive Trebartha monument in the south aisle features large scale monuments of Henry Spoure (who died in 1688 at ten years old) and his family. A second intriguing monument to another Henry Spoure features an incised and painted skull.

St Torney's and North Hill featured in Daphne Du Maurier's 1936 literary classic Jamaica Inn, and the Jamaica Inn itself is located a short distance from the village.

Current use (bookings) & voluntary activity

The last service at St Torney's took place on 17 March 2019, and in April 2022, St Torney's was placed into the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. After extensive essential repair and conservation work St Torney's will be open to the public in October 2024, with external work continuing until spring 2025.

Church Information

General Information:	
Open Churches Policy status:	Open
Local Community Officer:	Marie Leverett
Current projects:	None
Parking:	Parking available at nearby village hall or on road side
Building services:	Electricity and water
Churchyard:	Not owned by CCT
Ringable bells:	6 bells - not ringable
Organ:	None
Volunteering:	
Keyholder role:	Fulfilled
Key representative role:	Core group of volunteers and supporters
Fundraising roles:	Fulfilled
Stewardship/events roles:	Events team. Stewarding roles in progress
Research, interp & talks role:	In progress
Cleaning schedule:	Ad hoc, prior to events
CCT Items:	
CCT silver plaque:	Not installed, not due
CCT information board:	Due 2026
Oak post:	No
CCT freestanding board:	Not known
Wall safe poster:	Yes
CCT A board:	Yes
Gift Aid envelopes:	Yes
Visitor book:	Yes
Welcome table:	Yes
Children's explorer cart:	No
Children's trail:	No
Tourism/Marketing:	
Nearby attractions:	Bodmin National Park, Launceston Castle (English Heritage), at least three holy wells, the Jamaica Inn, Launceston Priory, and Cothele House (National Trust). The Cheeswring and Hurlers on Bodmin Moor. Museums in Launceston and Liskeard.
Social media presence:	Facebook page: St Torney's Church; Instagram sttorneysnorthhill
Church page on CCT website:	https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/visit/our-churches/noh
Regular feature parish news:	Not at present
Events/Activity:	
Services per year:	Christmas and Easter
Christmas memory tree:	Not currently

Heritage Open Days:	Not currently
Celebrate CCT Week:	Not currently
Ride & Stride:	Not currently
Champing:	Not currently
Retail:	Not currently
Health and Safety:	
Fire rated capacity:	100 when only south door in use – 200 when tower door (and possibly chancel door) in use and fire wardens briefed. Doors open inwards.
Seating capacity:	200
Site plan:	Yes
Roof alarm:	CCTV alarm system
CCTV:	CCTV alarm system
Individual item security measures:	None
Accessibility details:	Provided via CCT website
Risk assessment general:	Yes
Risk assessment fire:	Yes
COSHH listing:	None
Portable appliance listing:	None
Security Audit:	Yes
Pews:	Sound, no defects

Conservation reports

<p>Annualised maintenance costs (Exclusive of VAT):</p> <p>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 3.</p>	£5824
<p>Routine maintenance costs: (Per annum and exclusive of VAT):</p> <p>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 4.</p>	£1200
<p>Other maintenance costs total (Exclusive of VAT):</p> <p>Additional maintenance needs discovered during twice-yearly maintenance visits.</p>	£475
<p>Total medium term repairs:</p> <p>More expensive needs such as roof repairs and tower repairs which may require more involved fundraising and grant applications (costed and listed individually below).</p>	None at present
<p>Total long term repairs:</p> <p>Items which are known to require works in the longer term but which are not essential in the near future (costed and listed individually below).</p>	£70,000-400,000
- Repairs to the pews	£10,000-£50,000
- Ceiling joinery and replaster	£10,000 - £100,000
- Reslating of the nave roof	£50,000 - £250,000
<p>Total desirable repairs:</p> <p>Repairs which are not essential to the conservation health of the church but which might improve aesthetics or usability of the building.</p>	To be confirmed
Installation of toilets – location to be decided	To be confirmed based on design
Bells restoration	Unknown at present

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

North Hill		Church Code: NOH				
		2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
Visitors	Number of visitors	637	0	0	0	0
	Site Wallsafe per Visitor	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Trust Wallsafe per Visitor	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.19	0.00
Income		2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
	Box Collections	89	0	0	0	0
	Contactless Donations	181	0	0	0	0
	Text Giving	0	0	0	0	0
	Service Collection	140	0	0	0	0
	Service Fees	250	0	0	0	0
	Donations	4,232	25	2,652	0	0
	Events	306	0	0	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	5,197	25	2,652	0	0
Expenditure						
Total Conservation spend since Vesting (non maintenance)		1,269,369				
		2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
	Conservation	729,756	348,101	167,143	23,884	486
	Maintenance	139	0	0	0	0
	Electricity	1,417	115	0	0	0
	Gas	0	0	0	0	0
	Water	18	0	0	0	0
	Other	0	660	0	0	0
	Total	731,330	348,876	167,143	23,884	486
	Income less Maintenance	5,058	25	2,652	0	0
	Income less Expenditure	-726,134	-348,851	-164,491	-23,884	-486
Restricted Donation As of 1st April 2025		3,175				

NB: from March-Sept 2025, income from the Annie Garthwaite literary event on August 14th and associated donations generated £2561.50

Income less annualised maintenance 2024/25 -£766

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

Balances

The restricted balance is the amount of money which has been covenanted or restricted for expenditure at the church. Any expenditure needs to match the terms of the covenant under which the money was donated, for example, a term expressing that a donation is intended for roof repairs only.

Restricted Balance Report 1st April 2024

£0

Local Community Officer 's Summary

St Torney has been undergoing a major repairs programme after being vested with the Churches Conservation Trust in 2019. It will open to the public on 19th October 2024. One community open meeting was held in 2022, two were held in 2023 and one in July 2024 to explain the conservation work being carried out and to allow people to visit the church. Once the conservation work is completed the church will be open to the public and available for the community to use.

The village of North Hill has a local pub and a village hall. The village hall, which has regular Committee meetings and is where the Parish Council meet, can accommodate groups of up to 140 people, has a stage for performances, toilets, a kitchen, and a large car park. It is also the venue for an active programme of community activities, clubs and activities, including a table tennis group, a drama group, an arts and craft group, a playgroup and a companions group. The North Hill Local History Group was recently an active group in the village but is currently looking for members to take over the running of the group and website.

St Torney is an impressively large building and as such the annualised maintenance costs are high. Initial meetings with the community where ideas and feedback were gathered showed that people would highly value facilities such as electricity, kitchenette and toilets to permit maximum use of the space for community events and activities. Although the village hall has facilities it is only open when booked for events so facilities at St Torney 's would be accessible to visitors daily.

If it is possible for funds to be raised for toilets and a kitchenette St Torney could make an excellent site for Champing (see Appendix 5). This would help raise the significant funds needed to maintain the church moving forwards.

The next stage for St Torney is to find an active group who are happy to support the re-opening of the church with volunteering and support moving forwards. Help with cleaning and care, emptying the wall safe and maintenance checks as well as a fundraising group who could lead on events and activities (see Appendix 2) would give St Torney the best future. CCT Interpretation will be provided at the site as part of the vesting process following consultations with the community in 2022-24. In addition, one or two people who could offer local history talks and tours of the site would also offer the opportunity to open for events like Heritage Open Day or take tour bookings from local groups. Several community meetings were held with the community in 2024 to chat about volunteering/supporting the church once it opens.

There are many walking routes near the church and other heritage sites and organisations which we could link up with, such as the Jamaica Inn, the National Trust, and Bodmin National Park Authority. The church could also be promoted through inclusion on local walking or cycling routes or heritage trails (e.g trails, information and pilgrimage routes about nearby holy wells, including St Torney 's well). North Hill is on the Mary and Michael Pilgrims Way from the tip of Cornwall at Carn Lês Boel via St Michael 's Mount to Avebury connecting significant Christian and pre-Christian sites by foot

and bike. Walking routes could also be developed which link up with the other nearby CCT churches at Luffincott and Bradstone.

A CCT 3 panel noticeboard and 2 insert will be provided, upon which site specific health and safety and historical information, and details about upcoming events and local information will be displayed. Plus a panel for community use. Brown signage directing visitors to the church would be applied for after the vesting process.

Annually the Local Community Officer would complete regular mandatory checks and actions including annual Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) checks, visual electrical inspections, Fire Risk Assessments and Building and General Risk Assessments at St Torney's. In addition, the church would also receive two maintenance visits per year from CCTs specialist maintenance contractor and a detailed condition report from the allocated Architect.

Part B – Community Feedback 2023

Two community events were held at St Torney's during 2023 at which questionnaires were circulated asking for feedback on how people relate to the church and how it could be used once opened. Fifteen responses were received which can be viewed in Appendix 1. Casual feedback was also requested and has been combined with questionnaire responses to produce the feedback 'Community Ideas for future use of St Torney's' included as Appendix 2.

Part C - Community Recommendations

Community meetings during the vesting works:

As well as several open days at St Torney's during the vesting works, the LCO has had several community meetings in 2024 with people interested in getting involved in being a volunteer at St Torney's or helping plan the re-opening event on October 19th 2024.

On 23rd January about 20 people came along to a gathering at The Old School Inn for people interested in volunteering or supporting the Churches Conservation Trust at St Torney's once it re-opens to the public. The idea of a Christmas gathering in the church with music, mincepies and mulled wine was also discussed and there was interest from people in helping with cleaning, stewarding, fundraising and history tours. The feeling seemed to be that the community are happy for the church to be left open unless there are any problems.

On August 1st 2024 12 people met with the LCO at The Old School Inn to look at plans for the re-opening celebration and events moving forwards. The idea of a group called 'St Torney's Friends' was raised and proved popular and the idea of a bank account to hold a float was discussed. The LCO explained how the community can best support the CCT going forwards by paying in most of the money raised as either restricted to St Torneys or as general funds for the CCT which helps us best function as a charity. Money can also be raised for specific Community Initiative Projects and paid into the CCT using a specific code. An itinerary for the opening event has pretty much been agreed.

Another reopening event planning meeting was held with the LCO, Heritage Learning Officer (HLO) and the Conservation Projects Manager (CPM) at The Old School Inn on 19th September 2024. About

20 people came and further details were finalised with a whole day of activities planned for the reopening celebration on October 19th 2024.

Update: the opening event had over 100 attendees and was a wonderful celebration of the church and the conservation and repair works which have happened there.

Summary of Community Meeting 29th Nov 24

Attending: Local Community Officer. Heritage Learning Officer and 8 members of the community

Items discussed were:

1. Services & Events

Theatre: The LCO has had requests from two theatre companies to perform at St Torney' s this summer: 20th June for The Tempest and 30th August for Perseus and Andromeda, both evening performances. There were not many attendees at this church plan meeting and no one has yet committed to helping support these events but it was decided to go ahead with them as they would be a great opportunity to bring people into the church and raise money for the CCT.

Services: A Christmas Carol Service is planned for 19th December and it is also hoped that an Easter and a Harvest service will take place. There will be a community clean up before the Christmas service and decorations. The St Mary Magdalene Choir (who performed at the opening event) will be returning.

History Day: A history event was suggested as either a day or several different talks throughout the year. Suggestions were a talk on the Spoure monument and a talk on the social history of the area. The HLO suggested this could get better attendance if it formed part of another local event.

Cana Singers: someone who couldn' t attend the meeting suggested asking the Cana Singers back to perform and there was enthusiasm for this idea.

Arts/Crafts event: A craft fair event was discussed. Possibly getting different makers into the church for a day event in the summer.

2. Interpretation and Learning

The HLO explained her role as focusing 50% on schools and 50% on children/adults/interpretation. The interpretation plan for St Torney' s will be shared with the community.

3. Conservation and maintenance

Conservation do not want beeswax to be used on the pews at St Torneys. There was a query around using it on the lectern though which is very worn at the base. There was also a question around whether the community can paint the new floor in the old vestry area (east end of north aisle).

Summary of Community Meeting 3rd March 25

Attending: Local Community Officer and 15 members of the community

Items discussed were:

1. Services & Events

An **Easter service** is planned which will be held on Easter day, Sunday 20th April, at 6pm. Various ideas were shared re music and content. A cleaning day will be held before the service and there is also a plan to decorate the church with flowers.

The theatre shows were discussed with **The Tempest** coming up on June 20th. It was decided that the village hall will sell drinks beforehand in the hall and that there will be an interval where people can purchase wine in the church.

A volunteer has organised an **Annie Garthwaite literary event** for August 14th which will be publicised widely with the aim of selling 100 tickets.

2. Champing

The idea of having Champing at St Torney was discussed. It is an idea championed by the CCT whereby visitors book to sleep at a participating church, with bookings having the support of a Champing Assistant.(Update: not deemed suitable until there is a toilet at the church).

3. Toilets

No one at the meeting currently had capacity to lead or support a community project to install toilets. It was thought to be a good idea but maybe one to pursue later unless there is a group of people who could help push this forwards. Conservation suggested that the old vestry area is the best place to install the toilets due to drainage, but the community seemed keener on placement externally in the old boiler room. Funding an architect to carry out an options appraisal (which would cost about £2000) would be the first step in pursuing toilets and possible placement.

4. Conservation

The question of whether the floor can be painted the same colour as the door to the upper porch was discussed. Conservation would like it to be a colour that visually recedes against the new plaster and surrounding floor or just a brown to match the other pew platforms. Due to the current floor covering it could mean that any new paint won't adhere well and may fail. This could probably be removed with some white spirit. It may be possible then to do a trial patch and check that the paint adheres okay.

Community Meeting: 1st May 2025

Attending: Local Community Officer and 12 members of the community

Items discussed were:

1. Services & Events

The next event coming up is The Tempest by This Is My Theatre on June 20th. Various actions were agreed (see below). A cleaning day was arranged for **Weds 18th June at 10:30**.

From the 6th-15th June is the CCT's first Celebrate Your CCT Church campaign. Communities can take part by holding an event at their church. It was agreed that next year would be better to take part in this.

Plans for the Annie Garthwaite event are going well and tickets are starting to sell.

There was unanimous interest in asking the St Mary Magdalene Choir back for Christmas with the date to be confirmed depending on their availability.

2. Toilets

Everyone was agreed that a toilet/s at St Torney's would be really useful for events and we have two pledges of £500 each which can be used for the Options Appraisal. The unanimous preference was for a toilet in what was the boiler room, rather than building a pod in the open plan area at the east end of the north aisle. The group were very keen to keep the open plan nature of that area for catering, exhibitions and events. Conservation had indicated this would be a trickier siting due to levels so more input is needed on next steps.

3. Interpretation

There is a delay in getting the interpretation material installed after a restructure at CCT and a new member of staff taking over interpretation. They will do an audit of what is already in the church, see where the Heritage Learning Officer got to and have some main themes to share in the next few weeks. It should be installed later this year (hopefully autumn). There is also a plan to tour our climate change display (which resulted from a project in Shrewsbury) which will come to North Hill early August until mid September 2025.

4. Conservation

The chancel tiles were discovered to be in a bad state when the rug was lifted and were repaired as an extra. There are three stained glass windows in the south aisle still to repair. There is sadly not enough budget to repair the bells. Conservation are happy for the timber floor where the vestry was (east end of north aisle) to be stained darker but due to the coating put on it by the contractor it is advised to try a trial area in case it doesn't adhere.

Community Meeting: 4th August 2025

Attending: Local Community Officer and 12 members of the community

Items discussed were:

1. Services & Events

The This Is My Theatre performance of The Tempest in June was very well attended and enjoyed. There were queries around whether the sound could be improved but no conclusion was reached on solutions. The group normally erect a stage but the filming taking place in the church meant they hadn't erected it. Hence it would normally be easier to see the actors.

The Annie Garthwaite event tickets are selling well and plans for on the night were discussed including sound and parking. Perseus and Andromeda is also coming up in August by Quirk Theatre.

The carol service with St Mary's choir, poems and scripture readings, is scheduled in for 9th December 2025.

Music on the Moors are visiting to see if St Torney's would make a good venue for their festival.

The Levowan Choir will hopefully visit in 2027.

2. Toilets

A member of the community has been in touch with Cornwall Council Building Control and they have said any project to install toilets at St Torney will need to be led by a principal designer. We will need to submit a set of working drawings which comply with building regs. They have also said any design will have to be wheelchair accessible.

The Boiler House is the preferred location of the community who would lead and fundraise for the project if it went ahead. The main question is whether the sewerage levels will work from the boiler house location so some more preliminary investigation is needed. Other possible ideas for toilets were raised as alternatives including buying a portalo, septic tank, composting loo. Further discussions will be had at the next meeting as no consensus was reached on the best way forward.

3. Interpretation

The LCO presented the latest information from our Heritage and Interpretation Officer as feedback is sought on her proposal for the interpretation message to be 'A community of craftspeople supporting the church and one another'. The interpretative features will be a vesting book (chronicling the restoration work), a handheld walkaround guide (standard CCT features) as well as church specific suggestions (for comment) of: noticeboards in the porch, a wooden removable base around the font representing craftspeople, an audio guide narrated by Neville Northey Bernard, a timeline of the church, an interactive piece bringing attention to the themes of grief and loss, an outdoor trail. The proposal will be sent out for wider consultation in the community.

The work done by a supporter in creating a digitally restored copy of the roll of honour was acknowledged and there was appreciation and thanks for this work. The original roll of honour will be stored at the church (parvise room suggested) for now.

A temporary display about climate change consisting of several pop up banners has been placed in the church for the next couple of months.

4. Conservation

The final bits of work still continue with windows still being removed for conservation. Work to renew the chancel north window stone mullion is currently underway with the stained glass window returning soon after. This means the church is still becoming more dusty than would be expected. Hopefully less cleaning days will be needed going forwards.

The path to the church has gravel ready to be laid, which has been organized by the community.

Community Meeting: 27th Oct 2025

Attending: Local Community Officer and 13 members of the community

Items discussed were:

1. Services & Events

There is a **Christmas Carol Service** planned for **9th December at 6:30pm (doors 6pm)**. A **cleaning session** will take place on **Monday December 1st at 10:30** and a **decorating session** on **Monday 8th December 10:30**. Volunteers welcome. The question of needing a sound system support was raised and is a question which keeps coming up. A possible local solution is being investigated.

Other community events in the planning for 2026 are:

Easter Service – April 5th 6pm

Courtney Walters male voice choir – April 25th (details tbc)

Cream tea as part of Celebrate your CCT Church Festival 5th-14th June (date tbc)

Heritage Open Days event 11th-20th September (date and details tbc)

The CCT are also organising a Historic Church Tour for 8th September 2026. The tours are advertised nationally and are annual fundraisers for the CCT. More details will be available soon.

There is also the possibility of taking part in Music in the Moors festival but this is not yet confirmed.

A discussion was had around whether anyone would be interested in being a steward and talking to visitors about the church during the busier summer months. This could be explored/trialed during Heritage Open Days.

2. Toilets

It was agreed that a decision about whether to go ahead with a project to install toilets is only possible if an Options Appraisal is carried out by a qualified professional, so the community have all the information needed to make a decision. It has been established that this will cost £2000 and £1000 has already been pledged to help pay for this. An Options Appraisal will establish whether the levels would work to put a toilet in the old boiler house which is the preferred location of the group who would lead and fundraise for the project if it went ahead. There was unanimous agreement that this work needs to be carried out before further decisions can be made. At this point there is nobody in the group wanting to lead on a project to install toilets. This hopefully won't be a barrier at this investigative stage but will need some thought if capital works are considered the next step.

3. Interpretation

The LCO presented the latest interpretation plan to the group which will also be circulated to all interested parties. There was general support from people who had read the plan (more detail in the notes from 4th August 2025 above).

It was noted by the LCO that the North Hill community and supporters have raised £4630.20 towards the annualised maintenance costs for St Torney so far this year (April 1st-Sept 30th 2025) which is an amazing result.

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 2nd February at 10:30am** in the Village Hall at North Hill.

Community Meeting: 2nd Feb 2026

Attending: Local Community Officer and 13 members of the community

Items discussed were:

1. Services & Events

There are several events being planned with dates set for the following:

Easter Service April 5th 18:00 (cleaning morning 31st March 10:30)

Courtney Walters Male Voice Choir April 25th (time tbc)

Music on the Moors 18th July (details tbc)

The Cursed Ring (by Quill & Inklings Theatre) 27th August 18:30

It was decided that follow up meetings would be held to discuss the finer details of the Male Voice Choir preparations and the Music on the Moors with dates for these meetings being set by the community. Support is needed for a buffet for the male voice choir and for organising cakes for the Trebartha Gardens opening as part of Music on the Moors. The LCO is also planning a Historic Church Tour which will visit St Torney's, St Nonna's in Altarnun and St Mary's in Launceston on 8th September. The Historic Church Tours are planned by LCOs as an annual fundraiser for the CCT.

2. Conservation Update

The new vesting works are almost finished. All the monuments are back, the Cornish Building Award is up in the porch and the window in the chancel completed. Our maintenance contractor is finishing with the new vesting works by March 31st and our Conservation Project Manager and architect are visiting on Weds March 4th for an inspection.

Stone for the sink unit worktop has been chosen with help from a volunteer.

Toilet:

After conferring with the architect there are several areas of work needed to move the project along:

- 1)An Options Appraisal/Feasibility study
- 2)Where to put the drain
- 3)Obtaining permissions (e.g South West Water, Listed Building consent, faculty)

The architect doesn't want us to spend money on an Options Appraisal if the levels won't work to get a toilet in.

The architect will carry out a levels survey as part of the new vesting visit on 4th March. That will then inform us whether the boiler house can be used and whether we want to progress. The next stage of works (obtaining permission from SWW, design scheme and proposed drainage run, submit application for Listed Building Consent, preparing a Schedule of Work and construction drawings including the specification of fittings and finishes that can be priced by a contractor) can then be looked at and would cost £2500-£3000.

Conservation will try and get a quote from a contractor (has to be one approved by SWW) for the excavation works to help give us an idea of overall costs.

3. Interpretation

Wayside Design, who are carrying out the interpretation for CCT, visited St Torney's in January and plans have changed slightly. There is detail in the notes from 4th August 2025 (see above) about the plans, with the main change being that it was decided that the font base is too damp for a display on craftspeople. Instead a removable cover introducing the theme will be placed on the top of the font and the information about craftspeople will be located around the church on movable boards.

Wayside Design are also inviting the community to contribute to the planned memory tree. Thoughts and messages will be collected from the community, which will be stamped onto copper leaves at a workshop supported by the art group (all welcome). Following the workshop, the leaves will be available to hang on the tree in the church (once installed).

3. Finance/money for events

People had previously discussed the best way of holding money for events and whether to set up a bank account. The LCO gave a brief summary of the new Friends Group Policy (which can be read here [CCT-Guidance-Notes-for-Friends-Groups-Jan-2026.pdf](#)). Supporter groups which hold bank accounts are being encouraged to set up as incorporated charities. The group was not keen to do this and the LCO indicated that housekeeping pots are in the process of being set up so CCT can hold money for groups which they can then claim expenses from.

Since the meeting a housekeeping pot for St Torney's has been set up. Money will need to be put into it to claim money back out.

5. Rodd memorial

Feedback on the proposed installation of a memorial tablet in memory of Evelyn Mann, Hope Morsehead, Eleanor Lloyd, and Diana Glossop, all formerly of Trebartha Hall was given. They were the last members of the Rodd family to reside at Trebartha and a group of Rodd family relations would like to erect a memorial for them. People were generally supportive in principle with some concerns on the wording, look and location, as well as concerns that the need to raise funds for the fabric of the building could be overlooked if the focus of the family is on funding the memorial.

The LCO also let the group know that she is nominating them for Team of the Year in the CCT's Volunteer Awards. There are many different categories and anyone can make a nomination: [CCT Community Supporter and Volunteer Awards Nominations 2026](#) The award ceremony is Thursday 5th June 2026 (early evening, time tbc) when the shortlist and winners will be announced.

The next meeting is May 11th at 10:30.

Part D - Action Plan

The most up to date action plan setting out agreed short, medium and long term goals for both the Local Community Officer and the Community to support the sustainable use and care of the church.

Community Actions

Short Term Actions (to end July 2026)

- JA organising cleaning session before Easter Service on Tuesday 31st March at 10:30. Volunteers needed.
- Community booking forms needed for Easter Service (JA) and male voice choir (JU)

Medium/Long Term Actions

- Support with fundraising to commission an Options Appraisal
- Trial area of open plan boarding with darker stain if wanted
- C sharing upcoming events on church Facebook page + pushing events in local Facebook groups (ongoing)

Actions complete

- MA to look into possible solution to sound system for Christmas Service
- JA organising cleaning session and decorating session before Christmas Service 2025. Volunteers needed.
- Community booking form for Christmas Service 2025
- SLP leading on Annie Garthwaite event and organising support for various tasks
- JA organising cleaning day before Annie Garthwaite. Volunteers needed.
- JU to buy TENS license and organize wine for Persues and Andromeda
- C to take on St Torney's Facebook page and share The Tempest and other upcoming events + push events in local Facebook groups
- K volunteered to do a sketch plan of where the toilets could go in the boiler house
- Volunteers to create Risk Assessment to cover events this year
- JU to buy TENS license and organize wine for The Tempest
- JA organising cleaning day before The Tempest and Annie Garthwaite. Volunteers needed.
- Various people to help with putting up posters for The Tempest
- JA main contact for Easter cleaning Day
- B to lead on Easter service and filling in booking form.
- SLP main contact for Easter 25 flowers gathering
- B led on Xmas service and filled in booking form.
- S to investigate history day
- C to explore the idea of an arts day at St Torneys. This is on hold for now as people focus on other events this year

Local Community Officer Actions

Short Term Actions (to end July 2026)

- Support with the toilets Options Appraisal. First step to check internally we can go ahead with this investigative phase without it being a community initiative project (update: we can go ahead with initial investigative works)
- Gain input from Conservation on next steps for toilet project (the community are keen to use the boiler room – will the levels work?) **Update 27/10/25:** the plan is to fundraise to commission preparatory works from the architect. The project code within CCT is **CNR177**).
- Liaise with community about interpretation plans

Medium/Long Term Actions

- None as yet

Actions complete

- Find out more about whether there are plans to apply for bell repairs internally or whether it is a community project (update: would be a community project).
- Ask conservation when windows will be put back in.
- Send SLP parking signs and photography form
- Pass on promo ideas to TIMT (What's On Cornwall, Radio Cornwall and Launceston Life)

-
- Support two theatre events (The Tempest and Perseus and Andromeda)
 - Find out what happens when alarm goes off (update: *The alarm is a cctv system which is monitored by a receiving centre who check that the alarm is going off due to a person rather than a bird etc. Then the receiving centre will call the people on the list (currently CCT Staff) until they manage to get through to someone. If it sounds, we don't expect the community to do anything apart from let us know where possible. The alarm company can switch it to a silent ring if it keeps going off unexpectedly.*)
 - Call out to cleaning volunteers in next mailout
 - Support community with events risk assessment
 - Contact conservation re lighting (done – awaiting response)
 - Ask conservation re using beeswax on lectern and what the situation is with painting the raised wooden platform in the old vestry area (update: beeswax on the lectern is fine. Re the floor a colour that visually recedes against the new plaster and surrounding floor or brown to match the old boards next to them.)
 - Send M volunteer forms
 - Send The Tempest posters/banners
 - Follow up internally with the idea of Champing at St Torneys (update – not currently deemed suitable as there is no toilet. Therefore a toilet at the church would need to be pursued first)

Appendix 1: Results of Summer 2023 St Torney Questionnaire

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

We live adjacent to the church, sharing a boundary wall. It is something we see very close up every time we go into the garden.

An interest in ecclesiastical architecture and living near the church.

Recently moved to the village.

Historical interest.

Primarily was a place of worship for us but it is a building that stands as a historical reminder of village life.

A place to come and sit and reflect.

Admire the focal point, although I consider the tower austere when you come up from Chapel Hill. To come to as a place of peace and quiet reflection. We farm in the village and the tower is a distant feature from many of the fields.

A beautiful part of the fabric of the village.

Married here, daughter christened - has been my church all my life. Primarily though I am interested in its history, design, memorials.

I love to feel the history of the building.

I was a regular church goer. I feel at peace in here.

2. What would you like to see happen in terms of community involvement and other use of the building?

It would be good to see it used for as many things as possible. Suggestions are farmers market, musical concerts, a kitchen so refreshments can be served, a holiday let perhaps in the tower in conjunction with the landmark Trust – this would really put it on the map and might get TV coverage.

Services as required. Concerts. Discussion groups.

Fundraising events for the upkeep of the church ie teas, fete, art exhibitions etc.

Local schools given historical tours. This would hopefully give or spark their interest – they are the future generation.

Would like to see it used for village events, but also perhaps a music festival similar to the church at Endellion at Trelights holds each year when artists perform from everywhere.

Use for village events. Library. Craft workshops. Art exhibitions. "Champing".

Concerts and music, monthly films. The height internally would be brilliant re acoustics. Could a communal choir start here? Flower festivals. Organ playing.

Weddings, funerals and occasional services – Easter, Carol service etc. All manner of community activities – music concerts, art exhibitions, Easter/Christmas market.

I would like to see a committee take on the running of events. We need a person of vision and organisation skills.

Funerals, marriages, Literature Festival, art exhibitions, music gatherings, parties, lectures, talks.

For village activities – e.g. displays, shows, plays etc.

I would like the building to be alive again for the community.

3. What challenges do you anticipate for a sustainable future (where repair liabilities and running costs are met) at St Torney?

Such a large building will have considerable costs. Local people will contribute if a suitable scheme can be found. The [Laitham?] family have previously offered to help pay for maintenance.

The established church excludes a majority of the population. Supporting the building is way beyond people's financial ability.

Funds.

Raising funds.

How do we get funding?

Money.

Lack of commitment, enthusiasm, time, money.

A small village with elderly population. Heating costs, no kitchen, no toilet.

Keeping everyone interested and involved.

Raising money and keeping people interested.

I think huge churches just used for worship are unsustainable but open for community events it could come alive.

4. 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?

This would work better if Coad's Green were also involved. There is a problem at present in that they don't seem to like cooperating at present.

A people's choir. A helpers group for maintenance and gardening.

Art groups could display their work here.

Perhaps a music festival which would attract audiences from further away and would embrace the funding for the future.

Events in the Village Hall..

Local history meetings, films about local places in Devon and Cornwall. A place to buy home made cakes, pickles fortnightly or so.

Working together with the Village Hall.

Local Theatre, art/history groups, children.

May have competition from the Village Hall.

Join forces with the Village Hall and utilise both buildings.

5. Tell us about any ideas or opportunities you can think of for raising additional income at St Torney's

Use for as many things as possible.

Sponsored activities. Tours (paying) of other nearby churches.

Making the church available for private events.

Paid tours.

Perhaps inviting authors or similar to give a lecture combined with poetry readings and /or music.
Possibly tribute band evening.

Craft Fairs, Coffee mornings, Concerts, Talks and lectures, Murder Mysteries, Art exhibitions, Book Readings.

Tower tours.

Tourist historical tours. History meetings.

Concerts, book festivals, café, lunch club.

Organise another talk by Jo Maddingley and she suggested to me an [armorials?], glass of wine etc – happy to organise an event.

Meetings for discussions/debates.

Invite musicians of any genre to perform here.

6. Is there anything else you'd like to share about your interest in the church which we haven't asked you already?

History group are researching those who reside in the graveyard.

Would just like to see the church open and used as a community space.

Use noticeboard – don't do email – only knew about today through speaking to someone.

I'd love to learn to ring church bells.

Lots of the history.

A place to sit and contemplate.

It's an important part of our heritage and I would be sad...

Appendix 2: Community Ideas for future use of St Torney' s
Gathered at community events during 2023



Appendix 3: Typical Maintenance Tasks Forecast - 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 **£4303.94** (exc VAT)

Appendix 4: 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 5: 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 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