



## What's it all about?

The Future for Christ Church and Discover Christ Church! projects share the joint ambition of realising Christ Church's potential to become a thriving community hub fit for C21st.

With grants awarded, a significant contribution from the sale of the Lambert Rooms and very generous community donations, we are well over 80% funded for the two projects with £99,000 left to raise.

The Future for Christ Church project will deliver essential amenities for the first time, including toilets, a kitchen, office storage and flexible open spaces to enable different forms of worship and a variety of community activities. We have already secured a number of grants and very generous community donations. We continue to actively fundraise to secure the outstanding sum that will enable this project to proceed.

The Discover Christ Church! project is a complementary secular project that is delivering the repair and restoration of key heritage features including stopping the leaks damaging the woodwork and electrics in the tower, restoring our spire clock and nave walls and wall paintings, and a new energy efficient adjustable lighting system. Key to the project's success is a parallel strand of inclusive community engagement inspired by the heritage of this fine grade 2\* listed building. This project is fully funded thanks to generous grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Bradford on Avon Preservation Fund and Pilgrim Trust and community donations.

Recent community activities have included:



### May 2023:

About 350 people came to our Coronation celebrations that included a pop up café, a range of stalls, a teddy zip wire down the aisle and the launch of our Discover Christ Church! project.



Bradford on Avon  
Town Council



Garfield Weston  
FOUNDATION



+  
Community  
Donations

**June 2023:**

Biodiversity surveys of our churchyard with the whole of Year 5.

Teacher feedback included value of being out in nature, and quietly waiting for wildlife contributing to mindfulness, exploring new skills and the benefits of hearing the enthusiasm and expertise of a professional ecologist.



**July 2023 Community Open Day**

Despite a howling gale, about 260 people came to enjoy our hospitality and discover recently found heritage resources.

Supported by a team of 19 volunteers whose feedback included:

"A resounding success"

"So lovely to see a lot of new faces of all ages"

"Children brought their families to share what they're doing to help biodiversity"

**October 2023**

People of all ages came together to celebrate the restoration of our spire clock to its gleaming and golden glory.

Amazing press coverage, including of Rev. Tessa's blessing of the clock - with 3 days of snippets on Ben Prater's BBC Radio Wiltshire morning show, articles in the Wiltshire Times and we were the top item on BBC Wiltshire news page for an entire weekend.





**Volunteers** of all ages are key to the success of our project and include people from both the church and wider community.

For example in addition to a significant number of members of the Christ Church congregation, St Laurence Secondary School film, graphics and photography students are and the ideas of young people of all ages is informing our programme of community activities. While members of Climate Friendly Bradford and the Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust have contributed their time and expertise.

With the hard work and skill and community outreach delivered by our Discover Christ Church! Community Outreach Officer Becky Strike, the true potential of Christ Church to better serve the needs of our wider community is becoming apparent. We have a growing list of groups and organisations keen to use the space, including for example:

- Groups supporting the mental health and wellbeing of across a range of areas including for example anxiety, bereavement and eating disorders
- Bradford on Avon Youth drop in sessions
- Bradford Choral Society
- Dementia Action Alliance – joint activities planned with Christ Church School

**Grants and donations to our projects are as below**

<b>Project: Discover Christ Church!</b>	<b>Target: £285,360</b>	<b>Funding secured</b>
Community Donations		11,199
Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust		7,500
ChurchCare & Pilgrim Trust (Wallpainting Survey & Report)		900
ChurchCare & Pilgrim Trust		4,000
National Lottery – Heritage Fund		239,761
Bradford-on-Avon Town Council		2,000
PCC Investment Trust (agreed by PCC)		20,000
<b>Project Total:</b>		<b>£285,360</b>

**Project: Future for Christ Church Target: £333,229**

	<b>Funding secured</b>
Community Donations	16,901
Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust	10,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	20,000
Bradford-on-Avon Town Council	2,000
Benefact Churches Trust – General Grants	5,250
Beatrice Laing Trust	5,000
Medlock Charitable Trust	20,000
PCC Investment Trust (agreed by PCC)	150,000
<b>Project Total:</b>	<b>£233,356</b>

**Essential and Urgent Tower Pinnacle Repairs**

Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust	£4000
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**Thank you to all our supporters!**

**We are well on our way and the future is looking bright – just the ‘small’ matter of a £99,000 funding gap to fill.**

**Any donations, ideas or offers of help gratefully received!**

If any questions, please call Stephen Pike, Church Warden on 01225782537 or 01225 Discover Christ Church! Project Coordinator Gillian Ellis-King on 07746623945 or email [admin@discoverchristchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@discoverchristchurch.org.uk)