



# PLACES OF WORSHIP & HERITAGE

## Places of Worship & Heritage

Across the UK, there are approximately 38,500 places of worship of all faiths and denominations.

Many of these are significant heritage assets and have great historical, architectural, and social importance locally, regionally and nationally. For this reason, approximately 20,000 are listed buildings by Historic England.

## Heritage Professions with Churches

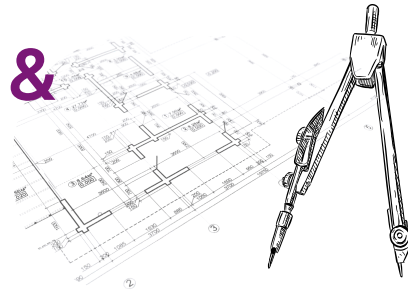
There are a broad range of professions who work with churches to help ensure their care, conservation, preservation, and development.

Within the Church of England, this ranges from staff working at the Church Buildings Council. It also includes Church Building staff members at diocese across England. These individuals support and advise volunteers at individual churches on what they should be doing on a wide range of things such as building projects, maintenance, compliance and permissions. Staff members also ensure that Parochial Church Councils are upholding their legal responsibilities when caring for their church.

Beyond national and diocesan teams, a wide range of heritage professionals work with churches to ensure that they are properly cared for. This ranges from architects, surveyors, conservators, and skilled tradespeople.

# HERITAGE PROFESSIONS WITH CHURCHES

## Architects & Surveyors

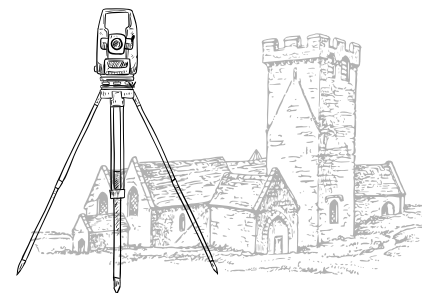


Architects and surveyors are integral to ensuring church buildings and churchyards are properly cared for.

They are often included in a wide range of projects at churches. This includes:

- Inspecting the church every 5 years to assess the condition of the building and advise on repair needs (known as Quinquennial Inspections).
- Creating specifications for repair works.
- Designing and advising on improvement projects. This may include reorderings, accessibility improvements, adding WCs, or introducing kitchenette facilities.

## Structural Engineers

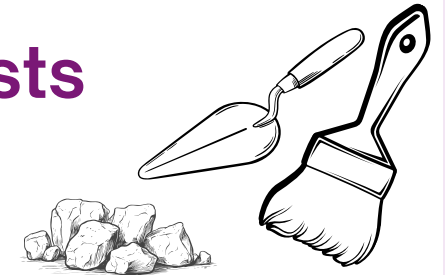


Structural engineers often work with churches when there are signs of structural instability.

They normally work with churches on a more ad-hoc basis and are generally only engaged after an architect or surveyor has recommended they consult a structural engineer.

Structural engineers' responsibilities include investigating the cause of the structural instability and advising on what measures need to be taken by the church.

## Archaeologists



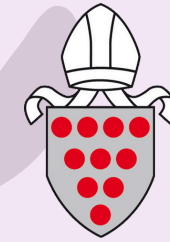
Archaeologists are normally involved with churches when the ground needs to be disturbed during building works. This is because the age of the sites means it is likely that human remains will be found during some types of building work.

Archaeologists may also be involved to help record the historic fabric of the building or churchyard. This is normally the case if historic fabric is being replaced or repaired.

Some of the tasks archaeologists will carry out at churches include:

- Watching briefs
- Archaeological evaluation
- Archaeological recording of fabric
- Archaeological excavations

# HERITAGE PROFESSIONS WITH CHURCHES



THE CHURCH  
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## Conservators

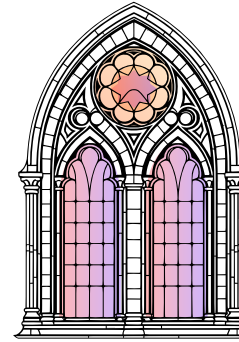


Conservators work with churches to clean, repair and restore items of particular cultural, historical, architectural significance.

Each conservator will have their own specialism, and they will work with churches to advise and carry out conservation work.

There are a range of items that conservators work with churches to repair and conserve. This includes books and manuscripts, monuments, clocks, bells and bell frames, monumental brasses and metalwork, organs, wall paintings, stained glass, textiles, church plates, and wooden objects.

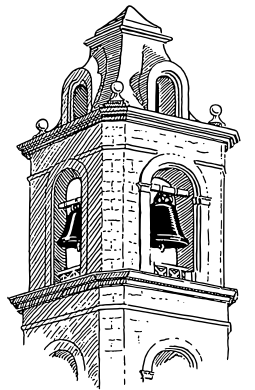
## Stained Glass Specialists



Stained glass specialists regularly work with churches to design, produce and restore stained, leaded, and decorative glass to ensure they are properly maintained.

They primarily work with churches to conserve and repair existing stained glass. However, they can also be commissioned to design and install new designs into existing window openings.

## Bell Founders & Hangers



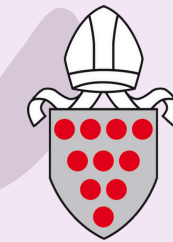
Bell founders and hangers often work with churches to preserve and maintain church bells.

Bell hangers most commonly work with churches as they specialise in installing and maintaining bells and associated fittings such as the bell, frame, bearings, and ropes.

Bell founders work with churches on a more ad-hoc basis. They are responsible for casting, restoring, and tuning bells in a bell foundry. Churches typically work with bell foundry's when they wish to commission a new bell or have an existing one restored.

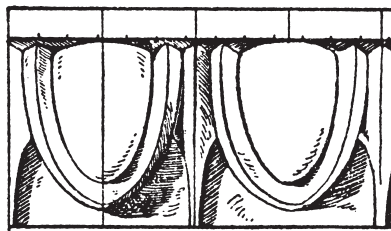


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## Heritage Plasterers



Heritage plasterers work with churches to repair, conserve, and replace plaster finishes, lath and plaster walls and ceilings, and architectural mouldings.

They can work with different types of materials, such as lime plaster, to repair and replace external and internal plaster work.

As heritage plasterers are involved with a wide variety of work, they can often be involved with both repair and improvement projects at churches.

## Wall Painting Specialists



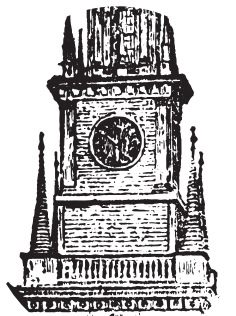
Wall painting specialists work with churches who have or suspect they have wall paintings.

They typically work with churches to restore wall paintings and advise on their conservation and effective maintenance.

They may also work with medieval churches who are planning to redecorate or repair their internal walls. As many wall paintings have been concealed over time, wall painting specialists use their technical knowledge and skills to advise on whether there are concealed wall painting and how to recover them.

## Clockmakers

Clocks require periodic repair, servicing, restoration, and conservation.



Clockmakers (also known as horologists) work with places of worship to ensure church clocks are properly conserved and continue to work.

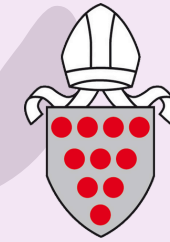
## Organ Builders

Pipe organs are considered a significant part of a church's heritage. Due the complexity of the instruments, organ builders work with churches to advise on repairs, tune, rebuild, restore, and maintain church organs.



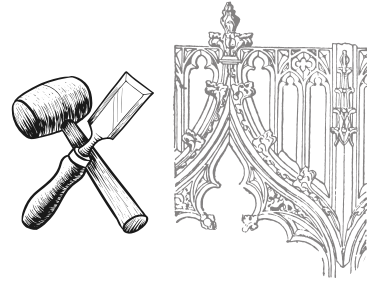


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## Stonemasons

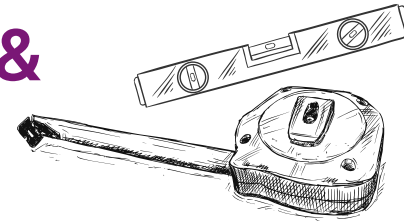


Stonemasons perform an important part of conserving and repairing stonework on church buildings and churchyard structures.

They most often work with churches to restore existing areas of stonework that have gone into decay. This typically involves restoring old stonework or cutting new stonework to replace material that cannot be restored.

On occasion, they may also be involved with new works such as church extensions.

## Carpenters & Joiners

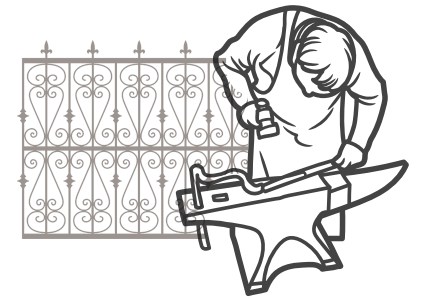


Carpenters and joiners work with churches to repair and conserve features made of timber.

The vast array of timber in churches, means specialist conservation carpenters and joiners are often employed by churches to conduct restoration and conservation work.

Carpenters and joiners are also often involved with a wide range of improvement works. This can include altering pew benches during a reordering, creating bespoke cupboards to hide a kitchenette, or manufacturing custom storage units.

## Blacksmiths



Blacksmiths typically work with churches to conserve and restore the wide range of historic metalwork found at these sites.

Like stonemasons, carpenters, and joiners, they work with churches on a more ad-hoc basis. They are typically appointed when a piece of historic metalwork needs to be restored.

They may also be engaged to create new furnishings and fittings for a church.