



Inspired North East

SUPPORT OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR: I

Name	David Lovie and Andrew Duff (job share)
Job title	Inspired North East Development Officer
Start date	12 th April 2010
End date	11 th April 2013
Employer	Newcastle Diocesan Board of Finance
Line Manager	The Venerable Peter J A Robinson, Archdeacon of Lindisfarne
EH contact	Kate Wilson, Inspector of Ancient Monuments/Team Leader
Objectives	To support the appreciation, conservation, development and promotion of church buildings as community, cultural and spiritual heritage assets in the area covered by Newcastle Diocese.

Work plan or specific objectives for this year

1	Communications: Project identity; Project Website; Regular news bulletins.
2	Awareness and Training: Launch event; 5 introductory events (target 100 participants); Deliver 5 training/capacity building events.
3	Advisory tools and resources: Identify and/or develop resources for Parishes; Prioritise and deliver 3 'resource toolkits' based on available models.
4	Casework: Project database; Devise priority system; Deliver support to 15 churches and 'Vision workshops' to 4 churches;
5	Networking: Links to parishes, regional organisations, national C of E church building services, etc.; networking with other POW Support Officers
6	Budgets, monitoring and governance: Monitoring and reporting to regular Project Steering Group meetings; Managing and extending the budget.

ASSESSMENT OF THE YEAR

General comments:

All the objectives/targets listed above have been completed, achieved or exceeded during 2010/11, not because they were too modestly drawn-up originally, but because, being well experienced and working closely together, we were able to 'hit the ground running' from Day One. We have also received much valuable support, encouragement and recognition from a wide range of agencies and individuals too.

In addition, we have been able to beneficially explore other related subject areas/topics such as Tourism/regional church building strategy, comprehensive maintenance schemes, POW at risk, renewable energy, and church visitor trails, all in conjunction with other local, regional and national heritage organisations.

Project work at individual places of worship:

Name of place of worship	Nature of project; achievement to date
14 Places of Worship	Project working at them includes Vision Workshops and planning (4), Planning Programmes (6), Funding/Repair planning (3) and Visitor development (1). Most are 'work in progress' and range from 10% to 70% complete.

Funding secured

i) for individual places of worship

6 Places of Worship	6 grants totalling £15,5000 from Headley Trust
Scremerston, St Peter	3 Matching grants totalling £10k

ii) for your organisation's work generally

Newcastle Diocesan Board of Finance	£18,080
Event income and sponsorship	Ecclesiastical Insurance (£500), Church Urban Fund (£200), Northumbria Historic Churches Trust (£500), Planning Workshop income (£260), Durham Diocese (£1,000) and Crossing the Threshold event income (£1,465), totalling £3,935.

Training course/conferences organised (include number of attendees, feedback received etc.)

1	Planning Workshop (9.10.10); 32 attendees; very positive feedback.
2	'Crossing the Theshold' (22.3.11); 135 attendees; very positive feedback.
3	2 x Faith in Maintenance courses (22.5.10 and 17.7.10); 26 and 35 attendees; positive feedback.
4	Renewable Energy Workshop (11.3.11); 17 attendees; positive feedback

Dissemination – publications/websites

1	Publications: leaflets introducing the project; business cards; monthly articles in Diocesan newspaper; all funded 'in-house'
2...	Websites: had initial basic website up-and-running within weeks of starting; new dedicated project website covering Newcastle and Durham dioceses designed ready for launch in April 2011

Number of places of worship advised

On site	14
By telephone/email	20

Unresolved issues or problems encountered:

The tasks facing parishes may be beyond their current capacity. This is sometimes dependent upon the health and capacity of just one or two key people.

The clarity of the current EH Places of Worship At Risk programme is causing concerns.

Uncertainty over the availability of local and national public funds is discouraging parishes from planning maintenance and development programmes. EH/HLF rules over use of church funds also mean that funds saved towards church improvements are often required to meet urgent repairs, at the expense of investment in improving wider use and sustainability of church buildings.

Given the importance of historic churches within the wider heritage sector in this region, we are concerned at the generally weak perception of the cultural and visitor access potential of churches amongst tourism and cultural agencies in the North East.

LOOKING FORWARD

Year 2: objectives for year two

1	Communication: launch the newly re-designed website: develop new advisory content, and monitor use.
2	Awareness and Training: another FIM course in west of Diocese (Hexham now on 27.9.11); develop 'Working with your Architect' event with SPAB; workshops on Repair Grants for churches with EH; other topics for training include metal theft, setting up a Friend's Group and 'how to apply to funding sources'.
3	Advisory Tools and Resources: link any resource development with proposed training programme and making full use of new website.
4	Casework: emphasis on completing committed project work rather than the development of new work opportunities; advice on site and via telephone/email to continue.
5	Networking: on-going but with increasing involvement with Tourism strategy/agencies to raise the quality and profile of church visiting and heritage interpretation.
6	Budgets, monitoring and governance: with structures now in place, just on-going.

Year 3: will the post continue? If not, what alternatives are in place?

The aim is for the project in the Newcastle Diocese to continue beyond the initial three years supported under the 'Inspired' programme, with funding from the Diocese supplemented by additional fundraising, to be defined in a project review during year three.