

Protecting our heritage



Churches have been integral to this country's history and development. They play a central part in today's community. Indeed, they have recently been recognised as icons of England by the Government-funded ICONS project that seeks to discover what people value about their English heritage*.

More than 80% of people in Britain go into a church or place of worship each year and 60% believe a place of worship makes their neighbourhood a better place to live.**



These responses show that churches, far from being museum pieces, are living, breathing communities, central to their neighbourhoods and making possible much needed and welcomed local facilities of all kinds.

The Diocese of Manchester has proactively created the Historic Church Buildings Officer post in partnership with English Heritage, combining project management with a passion for mission to make listed buildings sustainable, a unique model within England.

Our messages are simple. We seek to:

- Celebrate church buildings and recognise that they matter to people
- Demonstrate how church buildings contribute to the community
- Seek partnerships to maintain our heritage, at risk without support and better funding.

We invite support from:

- Government Departments
- Regional Development Agencies and Local Authorities
- All our partners – English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, national amenity societies, and many others.



*The ICONS project, launched in January, is funded by Culture Online, part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. ICONS has attracted more than 350,000 votes for the nation's favourite icons and more than half a million people have visited the ICONS web site. The iconic status of parish churches was recognised in the third tranche of icons announced in August 2006.

** According to an Opinion Research Business survey published in January 2006. In a similar survey in 2003, ORB found that four out of 10 Britons think that local churches should receive funding from the State.