

## National Church Awards 2024

**In 2024 the National Church Awards have been inspired by the work and legacy of Lord Patrick Cormack, a champion of church buildings, who dedicated his life to helping to keep them open and in use.**

He was a Trustee of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust from 1972-2004, our youngest ever Trustee. He remained a Vice President of the National Churches Trust until his death in 2024. He was also an active member of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings, Lincolnshire Churches Trust, the Council for British Archaeology, the Historic Buildings Council, Heritage in Danger, and a member of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts.

He was a member of the Church of England, Rector's Warden and 'Parliamentary Warden' of St Margaret Westminster, and churchwarden at St Mary Enville, and from 2018 until his death he was Deputy High Steward of Lincoln Cathedral.

Lord Cormack was one of Britain's longest-serving parliamentarians, with a combined total of fifty-four years in the Palace of Westminster. Through his time in the Houses of Commons and Lords he campaigned and spoke out for churches.

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## Open for Visitors Awards

Every church has a story to tell. They are treasure houses of heritage, history and community, ready for visitors near and far to enjoy. Most were built to be at the heart of their communities, to be busy and used by all. In every corner of the UK, we love seeing how churches, chapels and meeting houses are providing a wonderful welcome to visitors and how they're sharing their building with others.

Opening your doors is one of the easiest things you can do but it sends a clear message that churches are for everyone. It also enables visitors to see the ongoing need for care and conservation. By sharing your stories, architectural history, social heritage and more you are helping the wider public understand and care for these amazing buildings. By organising events and open days, you engage with the public.

This award celebrates people and teams who are at the forefront of sharing the value of churches. You just need to be able to tell us about the fantastic work you do to open your doors and tell your stories, helping us to promote and speak up for churches. You don't need to be open every day, or have volunteers on hand. Many churches create a warm welcome with little financial cost. We can't wait to hear about what your church does!

Your nomination will be reviewed by an expert panel.

We will award one winner in each of the four UK nations.

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### Timeline

- Submit your nomination by **Saturday 31 August 2024**
- We will be announcing the results at the National Church Awards ceremony at Lincoln Cathedral on Tuesday 22 October 2024



## Making a nomination

**You can find the form to submit your nomination here:**

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/impact/awards/open-visitors-awards>

We recommend that you prepare your nomination in a separate document before copying and pasting it into the online form. This will help you to make best use of the character limits for each question, whilst ensuring you tell us everything you want us to know.

**You will need to email at least 5 images.**

- If possible, please rename them with the name of your church; this will help us to match them to your entry
- Please include photos of your team at work, or of the activities that your good work enables
- You can also send a link to a film, if you have one
- Please email them to [sarah.crossland@nationalchurchestrust.org](mailto:sarah.crossland@nationalchurchestrust.org)

You will receive an email with a link to enable you to amend your nomination up until the closing date.

**Below are the questions, so that you can prepare your answers offline.**

- Some questions are mandatory (marked with an asterisk).
- Some character limit, which is listed here.
- Most of the questions relate specifically to this award. But there are some general questions about your church at the end. These help us to get an impression of your ethos, we will also use them if you agree to be considered for the Church of the Year.

### Church of the Year

The Church of the Year award is the pinnacle award at the National Church Awards that celebrates a church that fulfils its potential and makes a mark on its community and beyond. It should be a shining example of a sustainable church – one that is relevant, looked after, in good repair, in use and open for all.

We realise it's sometimes hard to raise yourself up and say that what you do is wonderful. But, churches, chapels and meeting houses across the UK do brilliant things, and using 'Church of the Year' helps us to shed light on that.

Vibrant and valued churches are open for worship and well supported, have an effective team that cares for them and engage well with volunteers. They offer a warm welcome to visitors, offer great spaces for community activities, and tell their stories in brilliant ways. This is what makes churches sustainable. You might not be there yet, but we want to hear how you are doing.

The winner for our Church of the Year is chosen from the winners of the other categories at the event. The judging panel will review your submission to the other categories in order to decide a winner.

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## Questions

### About the church, chapel or meeting house

- Name of church or chapel \* (50 character limit)



- Address of church or chapel \* (150 character limit)
- Postcode of church or chapel \* (15 character limit)
- Denomination \* (50 character limit)
- Is the building listed. If so, please state the grade \* (50 character limit)
- Is the building on the Heritage at Risk Register \*

### Contact details for the main and second contact for this nomination

- First contact name \* (50 character limit)
- Phone number \* (50 character limit)
- Email address \* (50 character limit)
- Second contact name \* (50 character limit)
- Phone number \* (50 character limit)
- Email address \* (50 character limit)

### About your welcome and storytelling

- How do you speak up for churches; how do you share what wonderful places churches, chapels and meeting houses are \* (1500 character limit)
- Why is being open important to you \* (250 character limit)
- How often is your church open outside worship; do you simply open the door, or do you have volunteers on hand or open when you have special events \* (250 character limit)
- How many visitors do you receive each year (let us know if this is an estimate) \* (250 character limit)
- How do you create a warm welcome and engage with people when they visit \* (750 character limit)
- How do you tell your stories or interpret your heritage \* (750 character limit)
- Do you use any innovative or new techniques \* (250 character limit)

### About your team

- Who is involved in creating your welcome to visitors, telling your stories or running events and how do you work as a team \* (1500 character limit)
- What's the best thing about being involved in welcoming visitors \* (750 character limit)
- How do your activities contribute to the need for environmental sustainability or seek to reduce the building's carbon footprint \* (750 character limit)
- Please tell us anything else about engaging with visitors or speaking up for churches that you think has not been covered but you would like us to know \* (750 word limit)

### About your church, chapel or meeting house

This section is about the church more generally, as we would love to know more to help us create compelling stories to share. It will help us to get a wider picture of your ethos and activities.

- What makes your church special \* (750 character limit)
- What's your ethos and what's important to you \* (750 character limit)
- What kind of activities are you involved in, what difference are you making and what are you most proud of \* (750 character limit)
- How do you encourage people to get involved and engage in your activities \* (750 character limit)
- Brief description of your building's heritage / architecture \* (750 character limit)
- Your building in numbers (include opening times, congregation size, number of services and community activities) \* (750 character limit)

