

## MAPPING VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS WORKING IN ECCLESIASTICAL HERITAGE

BUILT ENVIRONMENT FORUM SCOTLAND  
125 PRINCES STREET, EDINBURGH TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2016

The purpose of the mapping event was to develop a shared understanding of the work being undertaken by voluntary sector organisations in the field of Scotland's ecclesiastical heritage and to help identify how best to meet the demonstrable need of places of worship for support in a range of areas, and the resources necessary to deliver that support.

The concept arose following a funding fair organised by Scotland's Churches Trust, Scottish Redundant Churches Trust, and Built Environment Forum Scotland which demonstrated a significant requirement from congregations for information, training and support in a range of areas.

Building a clear picture of the current activity and capacity within the voluntary ecclesiastical heritage sector is an important first step in understanding whether this requirement can be met by existing organisations working either individually or in collaboration with others.

### ATTENDANCE:

Scott Wham	Church Buildings Renewal Trust
John Gerrard	Church Buildings Renewal Trust
Edwina Proudfoot	Scottish Church Heritage Research
Ian Holland	Scottish Church Heritage Research
Stuart Beattie	Scotland's Churches Trust
Andrew Calder	Scotland's Churches Trust
Victoria Collison-Owen	Scottish Redundant Churches Trust
Alison Robertson	Scottish Stained Glass Trust
Meredith Macbeth	Scottish Stained Glass Trust

### APOLOGIES:

Helen Bowman	War Memorials Trust
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### FACILITATOR:

Euan Leitch	Built Environment Forum Scotland
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The following is a record of the information gathered and the agreed actions.

ORGANISATAION: **Scottish Redundant Churches Trust**

STAFF: 1

VOLUNTEERS: 200

WHAT DO YOU DO: Take former churches into care (7).

ASPIRATIONS: Generate a surplus income to increase capacity and broaden skills becoming more entrepreneurial and offering support to community owned former churches.

FUNDING: HES and other trusts.

ORGANISATION: **Scottish Churches Trust**

STAFF: 2 (P/T)

VOLUNTEERS: 70 volunteers (governance, advisors and local)

WHAT DO YOU DO: Preservation, Promotion and Understanding of church heritage supporting 1300 churches. Grant giving on behalf of other funders.

ASPIRATIONS: Increase role of churches within communities, provide a voice for church buildings. Improve capacity and help congregations move from repair to maintenance programme.

FUNDING: Membership and other trusts.

ORGANISATION: **Church Building Renewal Trust**

STAFF: 0

VOLUNTEERS: 15

WHAT DO YOU DO? Advocacy for maintaining churches in use, finding new uses. Organises annual conference.

ASPIRATIONS: Broaden beyond West of Scotland base, develop website and provide educational and practical resources. Professionalise organisation of events.

FUNDING: Church of Scotland, Glasgow City Council and Conference.

ORGANISATION: **Scottish Stained Glass Trust & Symposium**  
STAFF: 0  
VOLUNTEERS: 100+ and 250 on mailing list  
WHAT DO YOU DO: Research and record stained glass in Scotland and add to database, advocacy for at risk stained glass and support churches with advice. Lobby Scottish Parliament.  
ASPIRATIONS: Move from amateur to professional through employing staff and improve organisation infrastructure to increase capacity.  
FUNDING: Membership and Church of Scotland

ORGANISATION: **Scottish Church Heritage Research**  
STAFF: 0  
VOLUNTEERS: 20  
WHAT DO YOU DO: Record all places of worship in Scotland to provide church heritage information at local level for education and wider understanding of the local built environment, working with local groups and volunteers.  
ASPIRATIONS: Complete the project (3000) with trained staff and an Edinburgh base.  
FUNDING: Church of Scotland and donations.

#### OBSERVATIONS

Lots of volunteers with skills and expertise but a fragile resource.  
Remarkably few staff.  
Capacity an issue.  
Lot of activity but with a low profile.  
3 membership organisations.

#### WORK WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Scottish Civic Trust  
Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland  
Scottish Local History Forum  
National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies  
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings Scotland  
Buildings at Risk Register

#### WHAT WOULD HELP

SCHR volunteers can help SCT  
SCT offer to promote and distribute other orgs info  
Websites should be linked.  
Contacts should be shared for training/speakers  
\*Could the Future for Religious Heritage 2018 Conference come to Scotland?  
Work in schools  
\*Form forum/network/alliance

Improve links with all denominations

## **CONCLUSION**

While individual organisations can pursue some of the above in offering assistance and links, the group agreed two priority actions to follow the meeting:

1. Victoria Collison-Owen agreed to follow up on finding out the possibility of the Future for Religious Heritage 2018 Conference being in held Scotland to act as a catalyst for attention on Scotland's religious heritage and a goal for organisations to collaborate towards.
2. It was agreed that BEFS, SCT and SRCT would further investigate the creation of a forum/network/alliance of organisations with an interest in religious heritage the purpose of which would be to improve communications between organisation, help each other work more efficiently, and provide a collective voice.