

SCT

Sustaining
Scotland's
Places of Worship



Newsletter October 2021: **Some practical advice from SCT**



SCT wants to support our members in every way possible and this includes other practical areas and such day to day matters as welcoming visitors, researching history and securing your church.

SCT Trustee, Dr Brian Fraser, pictured above, was Director of Scotland's Churches Scheme (SCS) from 1997 until merger with the Scottish Churches Architectural Heritage Trust (SCAHT) to form the SCT we know today.

SCS published several leaflets which are still very relevant (even taking into account that the internet was not as prevalent then) and thus on the next page are some links to the PDF versions. They are also available as printed copies which we would be glad to send to you. They show that we are keen to support our members and friends in so many other practical areas in addition to Fabric / Concert Grants and publicity for your church on the SCT website. Next year we hope very much to revive the Gathering where our Patron, the Princess Royal, will be invited to talk at this major event of the SCT year. We also hope that The Lord Lyon of Scotland, Dr. Joseph Morrow CBE, QC will be able to give his talk: "Signs of Faith - Ecclesiastical Heraldry and The Lyon Court Public Registers" sometime in 2022. Seminars similar to the Repair & Maintenance

seminar of 2020 and talks on various subjects are planned.

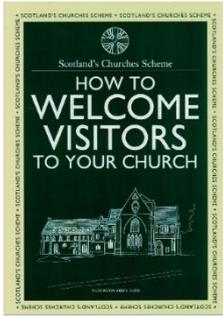


Also looking forward, to December of this year, and wanting, as ever, to involve our supporters - would you like our help in promoting your church a little over the winter? For our Christmas Newsletter, on a slightly lighter, seasonal note we are seeking some photos of member churches in the snow! If you were able to email these to office@scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk together with up to 50 words of your choosing, then we hope that would help in raising local awareness of your church. Do not be concerned about size or resolution since our software will convert to the required format. The deadline for contributions is Friday 19th November to enable us to publish by around the first or second week of December. It is hoped that readers will continue to peruse the newsletter throughout the Christmas holidays. This may also be a good opportunity to log into your account and update details for the online profile of your church web page on our site.

15 North Bank Street, Edinburgh EH1 2LP info@scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk 0131 225 8644

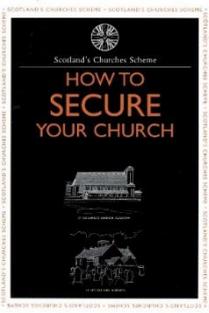
We would love you to forward or circulate this newsletter to members of your congregation. You may print copies as you wish or we can send these by post. Thank you for telling others!

**PLEASE CLICK ON EACH LEAFLET COVER
IN TURN TO OPEN IT IN A NEW WINDOW.**



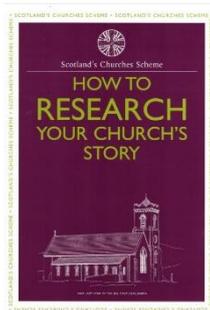
The purpose of this leaflet is to offer practical help to any church wishing to improve its welcome to visitors or to review its arrangements for opening the building and organising such a welcome. By offering simple, practical

guidelines, we hope to suggest steps you can take to ensure that visitors do feel welcome and that they enjoy the experience of exploring your church. Much of the advice offered is straightforward and can be implemented quickly and at virtually no cost.

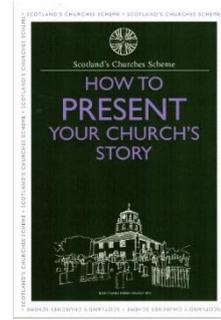


Open churches are the safest ones. Buildings used by people on a regular basis and displaying a high level of activity, are less likely to be targeted by vandals. Police statistics indicate that a church is much more likely to suffer

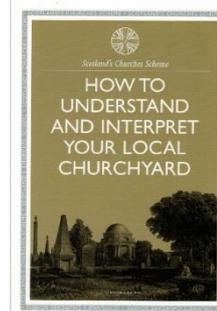
criminal damage if it is locked and seldom visited. Yet security remains the biggest single concern for those wishing to open their churches, whether they are rural or urban buildings.



Depending on your resources, you can either employ a professional social historian or architectural historian to do the job for you or set about the task yourself.



Visitors to your Church; people in your area and community; school pupils; members of the congregation: How can you tell them your Church's story in ways that are interesting, challenging and fun?



Churchyards are the stone libraries of our heritage. Wandering within their grounds delights even the most casual visitor with an evocative sense of place. Churchyards may attract visits from people with a special interest in genealogy, archaeology, social history, architecture, art history, geology and nature. By identifying your local churchyard's features and special qualities you can help all visitors make the most of their experience.

Please disregard information, especially references to contacts etc, that is clearly outdated! All the above leaflets are available online and we can also send copies through the post, free of charge, depending on stock.

Perhaps members of your congregation would be particularly interested in the leaflet on churchyards? Feel free to copy it as the need arises.

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