



Building Faith Key Facts

Did you know?

- Surveys in 2003 and 2005 both showed that 86% of the population visited a church building or place of worship in the previous twelve months, for reasons ranging from worship to concerts or simply wanting a quiet space. (ORB 2003 and 2005)
- In 2005 38% of the population thought central taxation, local taxation, the National Lottery or English Heritage are primarily responsible for funding maintenance of church buildings. Nearly half (46%) thought these four sources should be responsible. (ORB 2005)
- The CofE maintains 45% of the country's Grade I listed buildings, largely supported by congregations and local communities.
- Some 12,200 of the Church of England's 16,200 churches are listed as being buildings of special architectural or historic interest.
- Three major churches are World Heritage Sites: Durham Castle and Cathedral, Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey & St Martin's Church, and Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church.
- Every year, around 12.5 million people visit Church of England cathedrals, including 300,000 pupils on school visits. York Minister, Canterbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey are in the England's top five historic 'visitor attractions'.
- In 2003, Church of England parishes spent nearly £101m on major church repairs. Parishes estimated that repairs still needed to their churches came to £373 million of which £323 million (87%) was for listed churches.
- In the same year, the major sources of funding came to less than 40% of this total. Therefore 60% was raised by local fund-raising.
- English Heritage grants have effectively remained static since 1995. Had English Heritage been able to maintain its contribution to church repairs in real terms at its highest level of 1995 (when £14m was offered in grant), it would now be around £19.5m.
- Churches and other faith groups make a huge contribution to social action in their local communities. Within all nine English Regions, surveys have mapped the size and range of this contribution.
- A 2005 study on behalf of the Northwest Regional Development Agency estimated that faith communities in the Northwest generate the equivalent of £94.9 million, based on the value of over 45,000 faith volunteers contributing over 8 million hours of social and health care and regeneration initiatives (equivalent to 4,815 FTE jobs) applying a wage rate of £7.50 per hour, use of premises made available by faith groups for use of local community groups, and day visitor expenditure generated by faith tourism which also supported 215 FTE jobs.
- The 1,385 premises made available to local communities by faith communities in the Northwest generated £811,472 per annum.
- A 2004 survey in Brighton and Hove identified 55 community buildings for the provision of over 300 community projects and services offered by faith communities; 47 of these were church buildings and halls provided by the churches themselves.
- A 2004 survey commissioned by the Association of English Cathedrals and English Heritage showed that visitors to cathedrals directly generate £91million in spend per annum and directly support 2,600 jobs. This increases to £150 million in spend in the local economies if indirect effects - their procurement spend, their impact on visitor spend and associated multiplier effects - are included. From 2005 they receive only £1 million per annum in repair grants - but currently spend £11 million annually on repairs and maintenance.
- Initiatives set up to promote church tourism increase numbers of visitors. The North Yorkshire Church Tourism initiative ran for three years and increased the number of annual visitors to the 285 participating places of worship by 120%. Total number of visitors recorded for the year 2004/5 was over 200,000.

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