

St Thomas in Newcastle was designed by John Dobson

A task team is setting out to transform the futures of historic churches across the North East.

Thanks to National Lottery players, a team of volunteers and professionals – who have worked with more than 200 places of worship over the past six years – will use their expertise and creativity to build sustainable futures for some much-loved and vulnerable buildings.

[quote=Ivor Crowther, Head of HLF North East]“Places of worship are among our most historic buildings, with so many stories of architectural, social and community heritage behind them.” [/quote]

The Inspired Futures project is led by the Church of England Dioceses of Newcastle and Durham and has just been awarded more than £220,000.

Key points

- Six priority churches will be supported to develop robust business plans, build on fundraising opportunities and explore ways to get local communities involved with their heritage
- A heritage trail will be created to link the six historic buildings and tell the story of Christian heritage in the North East
- Twelve other churches will receive a helping hand and mentoring from the team

- People working in places of worship across the region will have the opportunity to take part in a training and skills programme – from web development to caring for collections

The six priority churches include two on the ‘At Risk’ register, a site dating back to the 9th century and an Arts and Craft movement church noted for its elaborate carved woodwork and exquisite stained glass.



Some of the Inspired Futures team

Task team inspire futures of historic churches