



War memorials can often be found inside churches and in churchyards. Inside churches they can take many forms, including plaques, stained glass windows and church furniture. In churchyards, they are often monuments and lychgates. Usually the diocese, parochial church council or parish council will take responsibility for their maintenance.

The following information maybe of use to anyone planning a project which involves a war memorial located inside a church or churchyard.

Listed churches and war memorials

If a church is of a denomination that has a government recognised development/planning control system, it is exempt from the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990. This is known as 'ecclesiastical exemption'.

Exemption only applies to:

- buildings whose primary function is as a place of worship
- objects or structures attached to the building exterior or within its grounds

Denominations which have a government recognised development/planning control system include:

- Church of England
- Church in Wales
- Roman Catholic Church
- Methodist Church
- Baptist Union of Great Britain
- Baptist Union of Wales
- United Reform Church

These churches can still be listed by English Heritage but the controls of the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990 do not apply. This means that listed building consent does not need to be applied for, but that certain works will still need planning permission from the local planning authority.

All other denominations are subject to the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act of 1990 and must apply for listed building consent.

Redundant churches

If a church is going to close it is important that the war memorials are either relocated or that the new owner of the church building will take responsibility for them and, ideally, allow public

War Memorials Trust 42a Buckingham Palace Road London SW1W 0RE

Telephone: 020 7233 7356/ 0300 123 0764 **Fax:** 020 7834 0202/ 0300 123 0765

Email: conservation@warmemorials.org **Website:** www.warmemorials.org

Registered Charity Commission Number: 1062255

© War Memorials Trust, 2009

access for commemoration. Until the church is deconsecrated, permission will still be needed from the diocese before war memorials are removed.

Ideally, war memorials should be relocated within the local area so they can continue to be valued and used by the community. Please see War Memorials Trust's 'Relocation of war memorials' helpsheet for further information. If you are concerned about the closure of a church in your area containing war memorials, please contact your local planning authority and the Conservation Officer at War Memorials Trust.

Funding for war memorials in churches and churchyards

- **War Memorials Trust**

The Trust runs a number of grant schemes which can help with the restoration and conservation of war memorials of all types across the UK. Further information is available at: War Memorials Trust, 2nd Floor, 42a Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0LA, T: 020 7233 7356/ 0300 123 0764, E: conservation@warmemorials.org, W: www.warmemorials.org.

- **DCMS Memorial Grant Scheme**

This scheme allows groups to reclaim VAT on works to war memorials. The scheme is restricted to charities and religious groups that are exempt from registering as charities. Faith group applicants must be formally constituted. Further information is available at: Memorials Grant Scheme, PO Box 609, Newport NP10 8QD, T: 0845 6006430, W: www.memorialgrant.org.uk.

Further advice

War Memorials Trust would recommend contacting the property department of the relevant denomination (e.g. Church of England, Roman Catholic Church, etc) for further advice.

The following organisations may also be of help:

- **Council for the Care of Churches (Church of England)**

Churchcare, Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, Archbishops' Council, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ, T: 020 7898 1866, E: enquiries.ccb@c-of-e.org.uk, W: www.churchcare.co.uk

- **Churches Conservation Trust**

1 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9EE, T: 020 7213 0678, E: central@tcct.org.uk, W: www.visitchurches.org.uk

- **Historic Chapels Trust**

St George's German Lutheran Church, 55 Alie Street, London E1 8EB, T: 020 7481 0533, E: chapels@hct.org.uk, W: www.hct.org.uk

- **The National Churches Trust**

31 Newbury Street, London EC1A 7HU, T: 020 7600 6090, E: info@nationalchurchestrust.org.uk, W: www.nationalchurchestrust.org.uk

- **Friends of Friendless Churches**

St Ann's Vestry Hall, 2 Church Entry, London EC4V 5HB, T: 020 7236 3934, E: office@friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk, W: www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

Please note that this helpsheet is intended to offer informal advice and is a distillation of experience. The information contained in this helpsheet is not exhaustive and other sources of information are available.