



First ever national Church survey

March 2010

The National Churches Trust is launching a survey of the churches, chapels and meeting houses in the UK, the first of its kind.

The National Churches Trust Survey 2010 will include buildings of every Christian denomination, of all ages and conditions, to understand how they are maintained, repaired, funded and used by their local communities. It will aim to create a national picture of the current status of these places of worship.

The survey can be found online and will launch in April 2010 at <http://survey.nationalchurchestrust.org>

All churches, chapels and meeting houses in the UK are encouraged to submit their information. The online survey includes guidance as to how to fill it in, and technical support is offered.

The National Churches Trust, formerly the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, has designed the survey in close co-operation with heritage organisations, Christian denominations and those that look after churches.

The survey offers a unique opportunity for communities with responsibilities for a church building to share their successes and raise any concerns. By understanding the experiences of communities across the UK, it will also offer practical assistance by encouraging churches to discuss their experiences.

Andrew Edwards, Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust, said: "A single, national survey will make a considerable difference to our understanding of church buildings across the UK. These buildings are important, not just as places of worship but also as centres of local life. This survey is seeking to capture the contribution they make to our heritage and our communities."

Further questions about filling in the survey can be addressed to Charlotte Walshe at nationalchurchestrust@surveylab.co.uk or The National Churches Trust, 31 Newbury Street, London EC1A 7HU.

For media enquiries please contact David Lasserson at Brunswick Arts: NCT@brunswickgroup.com 020 7936 1271

For further information about the National Churches Trust visit www.nationalchurchestrust.org

Notes to Editors:

The National Churches Trust is the only national, non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting and promoting church buildings of all Christian denominations across the UK, of which there are an estimated 45,000.

It is independent of Government and Church Authorities, giving grants, raising funds and offering practical assistance to churches, chapels and meeting houses of historic, architectural and community value – not only as places of worship, but as centres of support and care for all, as venues for social, cultural and educational activities, and as sites of local history and identity.

The National Churches Trust was created from two long established charities that have worked for almost two centuries to protect and preserve Britain's churches. It aims to keep these buildings at the heart of community life.