



LOCAL CHURCH - LOCAL HERITAGE

Sanctuary UK

Second Consultation at Christ Church Spitalfields 17 October 2008

Background

A first Consultation at King's College Cambridge in April 2008 affirmed the concept of Sanctuary UK but failed to get to the point of establishing a working model. In the final session at Cambridge it was resolved that another concept-sharing opportunity should be offered, this time involving heritage stake-holders more actively, to see if they might be able to provide a capacity-building dimension to the discussion. To this end, the offer of Christ Church Spitalfields as a venue seemed appropriate and generous.

Attendees

Email invitations went out to around 550 people, mainly clergy or other representatives of heritage church buildings, and also to some specialist agencies. All Diocesan Secretaries were asked to promote the event in their relevant publications, and some did. Display advertisements were taken out in the Church Times and the Church of England Newspaper. 80 signed up for the event; attendance on the day was 70 (Appendix 1).

Consultation Programme

The Consultation was advertised as an 'extended lunchtime' event, beginning with coffee at 11am for an 11.30 start and concluding at 3pm. Lunch was provided free of charge, courtesy of a generous sponsor. The programme may be found at Appendix 2.

1. Welcome

Andy Rider, Rector of Christ Church and a Trustee of Sanctuary UK, welcomed everybody to the church. He introduced his neighbour, the artist Tracey Emin, who spoke for a few minutes on how much she valued the proximity and ready accessibility of the church as a quiet place of inspiration in the bustle of the East End. Her contribution was warmly applauded.

2. Context setting

Helen McGowan, Secretary of Sanctuary UK, introduced herself as someone heavily involved in church heritage issues through the English Heritage-funded Divine Inspiration project. She said that in her experience it wasn't enough to resource local heritage management through the mechanisms of top-down agencies; it was rather to dare to inspire and empower local 'ownership'. Sanctuary UK had introduced the possibility of a topsy-turvy world where communities were allowed to take real responsibility for their own heritage and, by so doing, encourage a much wider constituency of concern. She gave a brief report on the Cambridge Consultation and spoke of her hopes for the day.



Tracey Emin RA

3. Keynote

Jonathan Evans OBE, Company Secretary of Royal Mail Group and a Sanctuary UK Trustee, introduced the Consultation's keynote speaker.



Sir Roy Strong

Sir Roy Strong, whose 2007 publication "A little history of the English country church" had inspired a marathon lecture tour, spoke of his anxieties for the Church of England's heritage stock. Referring to the three most influential church guide writers of relatively recent times, Pevsner, Betjeman and Simon Jenkins, he argued that each had conditioned us – in different ways – to wanting to 'preserve' rather than 'conserve' our churches. He was convinced that, as nearly all our ancient churches were examples of constant reinvention, adaptation was the only appropriate principle to ensure their survival given the inevitability of culture change. He found the plethora of over protective heritage organisations, each with their own preferences, bewildering and counter-productive. He urged that there should be a single initiative which abandoned the heritage-in-aspic mentality and worked instead to ensure that the good examples of adaptation which did exist became the norm.

In the subsequent question and answer session the following points were made (*RS* Sir Roy Strong):

Crispin Truman: Encourage adaptation, and free churches up for change.
Ralph Barnett: Who should take a lead with this kind of strategy in the parishes?

RS: Is there room for another society? It's doubtful the vested interests of those which already exist would allow radical change. But there's hope at the grassroots.

Adrian Harbridge: churches (and DACs) are already doing good stuff.

Chris Stone: Rural 'crisis issues' apply too in urban areas.

RS: There is a ripple effect in coming to terms with the heritage challenge. Impressed by the Dean of Oxford's provision of a theology at one of Sir Roy's lecture events. The process of change is itself transformative.

4. Sanctuary UK

Jonathan Evans introduced Canon Lawrence Mortimer, Chairman of Sanctuary UK, to speak to the theme of the day Local Church – Local Heritage.

Lawrence Mortimer's talk is reproduced in full as Appendix 3. Picking up on Sir Roy's general thesis, he argued that the local community's commitment to its 'own' building should be affirmed as the place where things happen,

and so the place which should normally be entrusted with control. Such a local association would be part of a national trust attracting subscription membership and offering a common identity and purpose. He encouraged lateral thinking on what the benefits of membership might be, and suggested that partnership with other organisations might channel capacity where it was likely to be most effective – towards the liberating of local energy.

Helen McGowan thanked Lawrence and asked that questions about Sanctuary UK should be prepared during lunch to be presented to the panel in the next session.

Andy Rider led in prayer before lunch.

5. Question Time

Jonathan Evans **JE** as panel chairman introduced members of the Panel. They were Diana Evans **DE** (Head of Policy English Heritage Places of Worship), Jeremy Dann **JD** (Lead Government official for ecclesiastical built heritage issues), Sir Roy Strong **RS** and Canon Lawrence Mortimer **LM**.

Jonathan Evans asked the first question from the chair:

Are we really facing a choice of whether to conserve or adapt? Or can we do both?

RS: Can do both - but less conservation and more ready to imagine changes of purpose for church buildings; need 'new century' thinking.

DE: Don't come at it from narrow perspective, listen to people. Good communications essential, work together to remove tensions, change happens where people listen and resolve issues.

JD: Stay with original use, but also use in different ways.

LM: Decisions best made locally – can't be done nationally.

JE: **Is therefore the essential point the need for a mind shift change, changing the default from preserving the past, to adapting for the future?**

RS: Yes

DE: Obviously there are problems with changes of use; but change can be effective; there's no fighting from bunkers on this

RS: Continuity very important and it takes a long time

Beverley Stark

Sanctuary UK has massive potential: media coverage essential – how is the concept to be beamed into people's living rooms (like TV's 'Restoration')?

RS: Not optimistic about media coverage. Maybe a CD to be made to help churches

JD: Religious output of BBC needs to be involved; changes already made to parish churches raise profile of the issues; lobby MP's

LM: This kind of event a starter to get people to think creatively. Once the idea's out there, we need to be ready for the negative backlash.



Question Time in Christ Church Spitalfields

Molly Poulter

Marvellous idea: but how to tap the public. Publications of different kinds?

DE: Power of the internet: Church Buildings Council has ideas. More accessible information: Churches need to take part in secular websites

Tony Bryer

Urban churches have had to face similar issues with resultant rationalization . Does there need to be an audit of 10,000 rural churches which might lead to some being handed over to their communities?

RS: Even if very complicated , doesn't need to be negative process.

JD: Analysis of what is out there would be helpful

DE: C of E PCCs decide on redundancy – other denominations do things differently. The Pastoral Amendment passed by General Synod means that part of the church can be 'leased out'. Buildings are not redundant but repositories of a large number of things and worship continues. Audit won't tell you complete picture. EH is conducting a survey of places of worship, as at present little information available. Need for the nation to understand our church stock. Dioceses do need an audit of their church buildings specifying their various uses and adaptations.

Bernadette Cunningham

Does Sanctuary mean to engage with property developers and banks to get projects going?

Sanctuary as such isn't primarily about money, though clearly a subscription-based structure will generate some funds. It's about every local community taking responsibility for its own heritage, so this kind of question might more appropriately be addressed to a local association seeking to address its particular challenge.

Phil Manning

What are current proposals for seed funding Sanctuary UK?

LM: Cambridge attendees paid £500 to par-fund today's meeting. At present Sanctuary's needs are adhoc funded by those who are keen to move it on to a point where it builds capacity. By definition Sanctuary has to be big, so at some point it will need committed funding. We're not there yet.

John Perks

Is it possible to get people to sign up before 3pm today to a working party to get Friends groups and national bodies to build capacity for Sanctuary?

DE: Parishes should be engaged in discussion.

JD: Forum could be a good idea

LM: There is an online forum but not well patronised.

RS: A national Association of Church Wardens would be a good idea.

Jonathan Evans encouraged further comments from the floor, which included:

John Heard

Sanctuary is already becoming a top-down organisation! - beware.

Bernadette Cunningham

It could be the one umbrella organisation to help the grassroots wade through the plethora of resources.

Donna McDonald

London Development Forum (Arts and Business) a good example.

Ralph Barnett

Can't progress much further without capacity building. Networking and sharing of good practice. Skills are around and we need to tap them.

DE: By 2010 thirty English Heritage support officers are due to be in post within many of the Church of England dioceses. This scheme will obviously help with all this.

Jonathan Evans asked Diana Evans whether she personally thought there was any mileage in Sanctuary UK. She said that it was a free country!

Jonathan Evans thanked the Panel and the questioners.

Helen McGowan drew the Consultation to a close with a request that everyone should complete a feedback form. The results of the form are found in Appendix 4.

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Appendix 1

SANCTUARY UK PARTICIPANTS SPITALFIELDS 17 OCTOBER 2008

Last Name	First Name	Church	Post held
Ademola	Ade	Emmanuel London	Vicar
Ainsworth	Michael	St George-in-the-East London; London Diocese Church Buildings Council	Rector; Vice-Chair
Allon-Smith	Rod	Diocese of Durham	Diocesan Missioner
Barnett	Ralph	Norwich Diocese	Funding and Partnerships Officer
Bishop	David	Christ Church Spitalfields	General Manager
Bryer	Tony	Tove Benefice (Towcester, Greens Norton, Easton Neston, and Bradden)	Rector
Card-Reynolds	Charles	St Bartholomew Stamford Hill London	Vicar
Colin	Preece	St Mary's Ashford	Vicar
Collings	Graham	Living Stones	Associate
Cooper	Trevor	Ecclesiological Society	Chairman of Council
Crosbie	Andrew	St Bartholomew Stamford Hill London	Associate Minister
Cunningham	Bernadette	Thornsett Group plc; member Bethnal Green Mission Church	Director
Dann	Jeremy	Policy, Strategy and Resource Unit, Culture Team, Department for Culture, Media and Sport	Senior Policy Advisor
Davis	Brian	St Mary the Virgin Ashford	Chair of Fabric Committee
Delap	Tim	St Alfege Greenwich	Chair Planning Committee
Dixon	Chris	Ashford Borough Council	Arts Co-ordinator
Dobell	Tom	St Andrew's Wormingford	Chair of Friends
Drury	Joan	North Downs Benefice	Reader
Durran	Maggie		Church Buildings consultant
Evans	Diana	English Heritage	Head of Places of Worship Policy
Evans OBE	Jonathan	St Michael's Claverdon	Churchwarden; Sanctuary UK Trustee
Everett	Henry	St Mary Magdalene-in-Paddington and St Peter Paddington	Priest-in-charge
Farr	Ian	St Peter's Woolton Wawen	Trustee Wagen Trust
Feger	Alice	Ambo Architects	Architect
Ferguson	Alastair	St Mary Lastingham, Christ Church Appleton-le-Moors, Rosedale and Cropton	Incumbent
Frith	Michael	Doddinghurst	Member of Friends
Frith	Gill	Doddinghurst	Rector
Fuest	Carolyn	Christ Church Spitalfields	Director of Friends
Gilman	Derek	St Michael's Fobbing	Churchwarden
Green	Jay	St Barnabas Kensington	
Hall	Barry	St James and St John's churches Colney Hatch	
Harbidge	Adrian	Diocese of Winchester	Archdeacon of Boumemouth
Hawks	Jennie	Broads and Rivers Open Churches Project	Project Officer
Heard	John	St George's Gravesend	
Heath	Henry	Wormingford with Mt Bures and Little Horkesley	Priest in charge
Hunter	Geoffrey	Diocese of London	Church Buildings Support Officer
Irving	John	Churches Tourism Association	Operations Manager
Johnny	Anisa	Christ Church Spitalfields	Bookings Co-ordinator
Kennedy Scott	Peter	St Bartholomew's Groton	Former Chairman of Building Committee
Kholucy	Shawn	Churches Conservation Trust	retained Architect
Lander	Marion	St Andrew's Great Ilford	Churchwarden
Longbottom	David	Christ Church Isle of Dogs London	Lay Chair Deanery Synod
Manning	Phil	St Olave London	Church Manager
May	Jim	Diocese of St Albans	Pastoral and Advisory

			Secretary
Maybury	Margaret	St Andrew's Bulmer, North Hinckford	PCC member
McGowan	Helen	Coventry Diocese Divine Inspiration project	Project Officer; Sanctuary UK facilitator/ Trustee
Moate	Gerard	Dedham Parish Church	Vicar
Mortimer	Lawrence	St Peter Wootton Wawen, St Michael Claverdon and All Saints Preston Bagot	Priest in charge; Sanctuary UK research/ Trustee
Newbery	Tamale	A Different View (working with CCT)	
Nice	Colin	St George's Gravesend	Chairman Development Committee
Orton	David	Holy Trinity Brompton	Treasurer
Page	Stewart	Wells St Cuthbert	Churchwarden; Sanctuary UK Trustee
Pank	Marion	St Andrew's Great Ilford	PCC Secretary
Payne	Rebecca	Cathedral and Church Buildings Division Church of England	Policy Officer
Peet	Michael	St Mary and Holy Trinity Bow	Rector
Perks	John	Repton St Wystans	Treasurer
Poulter	Molly	All Saints Ilcombe	Churchwarden
Richardson OBE	Jim	Bournemouth, St Peter's and St Stephen's	Team Rector
Rider	Andy	Christ Church Spitalfields	Rector; Sanctuary UK Trustee
Roberts	Mervyn	St Chad Bishop's Tachbrook	Priest in charge
Rollins	David	Corringham and St Michael's Fobbing	Priest in charge; Rector
Sandys	Sebastian	St John Bethnal Green	Community Premises Development Manager
Seabrook	Audrey	St John-at-Hackney	Secretary to Friends
Sherlock	David	St Mary's Newport and St Mary's Widdington	Secretary of Friends
Sherlock	Barbara	St Mary's Newport and St Mary's Widdington	Vicar
Simpson OBE	James	Working group for the Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland	Chair
Slade	Hilary	St Augustine's Broxbourne	Churchwarden
Springett	Robert	St Mary with Christ Church Wanstead	Rector and Area Dean of Redbridge
Stark	Beverley	Ironstone Villages Family of Churches; Deanery of Framland	Incumbent; Rural Dean
Stone	Chris	St George's Gravesend	Rector
Strong	Sir Roy		Keynote speaker
Truman	Crispin	Churches Conservation Trust	Chief Executive
Weeks	Jane	Churches Conservation Trust; Heritage Lottery Fund	Trustee
Whaite	Christine	Christ Church Spitalfields	Chair of Trustees
Whitehead	Susan	Christ Church Spitalfields	Volunteer tour guide
Woodward	Christopher	Christ Church Spitalfields	Trustee of Friends
Those who registered on the day			
McGee	Ruth	St John Chelmsford	
Gann	Jonathan	St John on Bethnal Green	
McDonald	Donna	St John on Bethnal Green	
Pilcher	Steye	Historic Chapels Trust	

Those who registered but weren't able to attend on the day are in red.

Second Consultation

17 October 2008

Christ Church Spitalfields

LOCAL church - LOCAL heritage

Registration and coffee from 10.45am

Those who have registered by email collect your participant's badge.

Those who haven't, please complete a registration form and pay £10.00.

11.30am Welcome to Spitalfields by Andy Rider, Rector

11.35am Helen McGowan, Secretary of Sanctuary UK, sets the scene

11.45am Keynote address: Sir Roy Strong, followed by questions

12.35pm Lawrence Mortimer, Chairman of Sanctuary UK, introduces the idea

1.10pm Lunch

Questions prepared and submitted for the afternoon's panel

1.50pm-3.00pm Jonathan Evans MBE, Company Secretary of Royal Mail Group and rural churchwarden, chairs a Question Time:

Panel: Sir Roy Strong, Diana Evans (English Heritage Places of Worship Policy Head), Jeremy Dann (Lead Government official for ecclesiastical built heritage issues) and Lawrence Mortimer (Sanctuary UK).

3.00pm Helen McGowan concludes formal programme. Feedback forms

Aims of the consultation:

to win wider exposure for the concept of Sanctuary UK, to encourage the contribution of creative thinking towards its development, to identify potential partners and to look for capacity-building resources for a next phase.

Pre-programme briefing:

visit www.sanctuary-uk.org.uk for a web-based introduction and downloadable documentation.

How to get there: Christ Church Spitalfields is opposite the revived Spitalfields Market area (Brushfield Street) on the corner of Commercial Street and Fournier Street, a short walk from Liverpool Street and Aldgate East Underground stations. www.spitalfieldsvenue.org/location

With many thanks for the support and hospitality of the Rector and Staff of Christ Church Spitalfields

Appendix 3

LOCAL CHURCH – LOCAL HERITAGE

Talk by Canon Lawrence Mortimer at the second Consultation of Sanctuary UK Christ Church Spitalfields 17 October 2008

I am a country parish priest. It doesn't do to be humble about it. I am a professional (I use the word loosely...) preacher, worship leader, chairman, governor, trustee, listener, counsellor, after-dinner speaker, school assembly clown, celebrator of family life, shoulder to cry on, butt of jokes, intermediary, reconciler, friend, legal negotiator, community politician, decision-maker, facilitator, group leader, human resources officer, administrator, desk-top publisher, database manager, marketing and communications director, parish magazine epistle writer, media spokesperson, trainer, teacher, discipliner, boss – oh yes, and I manage three heritage church buildings which, without a degree of significant commitment on my part, will fall down.

Many of you are already calculating what I've left out and thinking, blimey he's got it easy – not least I dare say because I've only got three churches. Yes well. That's temporary. The deanery plan requires that it will soon be seven. Even then, Sir Roy from Herefordshire and fellow Sanctuary Trustee Jennie Hawks from Norfolk may feel that Warwickshire isn't yet part of the real world: that the crisis for us is only just beginning. And as for the city... It's great that today we have such a strong representation from London churches because, on the face of it, Sir Roy's rural observations aren't obviously relevant and yet you're here. Where there's population bulk, a heavy demand for the occasional office and esoteric liturgy, the building is relatively safe. Expensive yes, but hardly expendable, though of course there are probably simply too many of them. But that really is not the point. It would be tragic in the extreme if our response to Sir Roy's two-year *tour de force* of tub-thumping was to treat the rural heritage emergency as somehow different in kind from the multiple emergencies which variously beset us as we try to identify appropriate resources to create and sustain an authentic 21st century Church.

Sanctuary UK is all about what kind of Church we want. It's about the agenda General Synod seems so adept at avoiding. It's about the word on the ground, the priorities which miraculously transform small traditional defensive congregations into small vibrant missionary congregations, the learning on the hoof of what actually constitutes a Christian community in a christianly-illiterate environment. Sanctuary UK is an affirmation of the obvious, namely that God still works where two or three are gathered together. That doesn't make them perjoratively 'parochial': it makes them the Body of Christ. Now with two or three gathered in increasingly unlikely places, we have begun to take risks with fresh expressions of church. An inevitable extension of this development is how our church buildings are themselves set free.

So far, so predictable. All this has been said in the excellent report *Building faith in our future*, and there are some here who had a hand in its production, or in the many publications which have followed it, and are probably sceptical of today producing anything new.

To cut to the chase, and to say stuff in a way that might give the Question Time a bit of 'edge' – not my normal parish priestly way of going about things, you understand – Sanctuary UK takes Sir Roy at his word and says Give these buildings back to the communities which built them. That way, the buildings have a better chance, and the Christian mission has a better chance. Sanctuary UK goes further: it says let those communities which take responsibility for their local heritage be part of a national trust which benefits from a common brand and subscriber base, a trust which is perceived as being more to do with heritage than church membership, and yet is attractive in its own right precisely because of its spiritual capital. Let responsibility for the building be taken over by a local association of the national Sanctuary UK trust.

Follow this logic through and ultimately it is entirely conceivable that by 2050 a Christian cell church buys worship-time in the community's local heritage holy place. That may be over-egging the scenario for some people here, who are suddenly feeling very sensitive about the apparent loss of 'their' building, but we do need to take the long view, given undeniable - and fast - changes in worship practice and attendance.

Now of course if effective responsibility for a local heritage building did fall to a local association beyond the PCC all sorts of controls would need to be in place, just as they are at present. I for one can't imagine the law being changed much within half a century, so everything would have to be signed off by the PCC anyway and go through the usual faculty channels. But there would be a very significant difference.

Let me say at once that some of my best friends are DAC members... and that I have had nothing but courteous correspondence with English Heritage... But, in the end, the words 'de minimis' say it all as far as the experience of most of us is concerned. We are talking about institutional patronism. However nice we all are, and we are Christians after all, talk with any vicar, PCC, churchwarden, Friends group, (well almost any!), and the language of resentment and frustration very quickly presents itself. The keepers of local heritage are at best patronised, at worst they see their best efforts perversely blocked, often despite scandalously expensive feasibility studies. And it's here that we need to begin to talk and question and argue, not because we differ about the need for control, but where that control should be primarily sited.

The assumption is that it should be at the top; we are after all talking about our national heritage. Well, actually, no we're not. Not primarily. We're talking about my village church which was built because it had to be bigger and better than the church down the road because the sheep had turned up trumps or the lord of the manor was on the right side of the battlefield. Now that same building is situated among a motley collection of dormitory residents, captains of industry, retirees from manufacturing plants, young families from a variety of faith backgrounds and none, and there seems no good reason why they shouldn't do what they like with it as their predecessors have done. Unless you're an archaeological fundamentalist, or have a nerdish fixation with a particular period of historical architecture, it's actually quite hard to destroy a church building.

As Sir Roy makes clear in his book, virtually all the churches we care for have been wrecked at least twice, in the Reformation and the Civil War. Some might want to add the Tractarian episode. One of my churches was knocked down completely in the 19th century – twice - because they didn't like the way it turned out the first time. It's a super place and not just because it managed somehow to cling on to its 15th century tower. Another of my churches was totally ramshackle until a local architect decided as a hobby to turn an Early English ruin into a pastiche Norman tunnel. It's a gem, now housing Burne Jones windows, and offering the best view in the rural Midlands. My third church is a Saxon Minster, the oldest church in Coventry diocese, achingly beautiful and a total nightmare. We've set up a Trust to deal with it, like many of you. Our greatest opportunity came when someone obligingly set fire to the Chancel and we suddenly had the money George Gilbert Scott lacked and sympathy in the right places. The Chancel is now our main worship area, and much valued as a place for contemplative prayer.

Sanctuary UK is – as a concept – the natural depository of such stories. It provides an arena of control, not at the top, but at the bottom. It is the place where local church heritage is celebrated, enjoyed, explored, where it is funded by subscribers who suddenly find their holy place is a living place, their own place, matching their experience of the world in general but adding some dignity, some mystery. As we see in many of the existing multi-purpose developments, the church building becomes again – as in the days of Church Ales – a focus of fellowship and fun.

This consultation is looking to do two things:

Firstly, to encourage creative thinking from the parishes about how such a national trust might work. All of us are pretty competent at organising ourselves locally, through a PCC Fabric or Appeal Committee, a Friends Group, or a Building Trust. The fact that we rarely talk to each other about how we go about

things is moderately bizarre – often it seems to be something to do with our not wanting to brag about our successes or showing up our relative failures. If all of us, yes I mean our existing multifarious groups, if all of us became associations of a single national trust, then the benefits are fairly obvious. While we could still carry on doing stuff in our own sweet individual way, we would share a common brand, discover models of good practice, boast as much as we liked in our in-house publication, and seek advice from our peers as much as from our perceived superiors. The wide marketing of the brand (say, Sanctuary UK) would raise our own particular profile, and give us some mainstream respectability beyond the anoraks of those who ‘like churches’. But we’ve got to want to do it. We’ve got to believe that our church building really ought to be the responsibility of the wider community. We’ve got to be vulnerable enough to see this process as quite literally a fresh expression of church.

And then we’ve got to want people to belong to it. Not to church, that’s the proper agenda of the PCC, but to a national heritage trust. Somehow we have to find ways of persuading our neighbours in every parish in the land to part with £30 to belong to this colourful and purposeful charity. What’s in it for them? The National Trust costs £46 and offers a lot. What have we got apart from access to the most magnificent buildings in the land which are free admission anyway? Why should anyone want to join Sanctuary UK?

This really is the big question. With the most extraordinary number of local heritage assets in the world at our disposal, is it beyond us that we can’t think laterally enough to capitalize on it? How about a few government freebies – like wedding or funeral fees, or cathedral admission charges, being refundable to Sanctuary UK members? Such off the wall suggestions are actually politically rather more plausible than expecting any response to the Bishop of London’s general appeal to government as the Olympics loom and the national debt heads for Mars. Yet it’s in that unlikely appeal to government we are led to believe our hope lies – up there - when all our experience, energy, resource is actually at the bottom, in the parishes.

Secondly, in terms of what we hope for today – and the last thing before lunch!

Sanctuary’s first consultation at Cambridge in April concluded that – after 24 hours’ solid if enjoyable work – Sanctuary UK had not achieved its aim of graduating to become a ‘model’ which might invite membership. The concept remained ‘only’ a concept. But that ‘only’ had acquired an authority, and had moved the idea on to the point where a significant number of people were saying, this idea must not be allowed simply to disappear as all of us go home to our busy ministries and appeal campaigns. Hence today, the second consultation within six months.

But now things do need to move on, if they are to move at all. Sanctuary UK ‘is’ a very large mailing list, an enthusiastic non-paying membership of around 50, and a board of trustees of five. We have never wanted to be yet another consultant in the already crowded A and E department of church heritage. All that we offer, and we believe it’s all-important, is another perspective: namely, that whatever grand schemes are devised on high they will be as nothing compared with the £60M-worth of schemes that are invented year in year out down below in the towns and villages, suburbs and cities of our land. That’s the area of growth and that’s where there needs to be investment. Sanctuary UK needs partnership and it needs capacity building. Among the important and much valued organisations who have taken serious time out to engage with us today are those who have the power to decide what happens next.

Those of us on the board of Sanctuary UK have no pretensions. We all have day jobs. We are fully aware that much of what I have said would *in principle* be endorsed by, for example, the English Heritage Inspired campaign, and would *in practice* be very close to some of the work undertaken or proposed by the National Churches Trust, the old HCPT. But Sanctuary UK has touched a nerve, which such bodies need to respond to. Not just a nerve. Sanctuary UK represents the nervous system of the local churches’ not unimpressive record of heritage care. What we need now is the brain and, above all, the imagination, to help the Body of Christ and the communities our churches serve, to function humanly and divinely – now! – and well yes, for ever and ever Amen.

Appendix 4

Feedback (from forms submitted immediately - other returns expected)

Rate your overall enthusiasm for Sanctuary UK at present on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is 'totally non-plussed' and 10 is 'Where do I sign?'

Scale	Number of respondents
1	0
2	0
3	0
4	2
5	7
6	2
7	4
8	7
9	1
10	3

Seems to offer good basic philosophy – needs principles for development clarifying

A great idea

Still on the fence

What, for you at present, would be the big sticking point in a 'bottom up' approach to dealing with our church heritage?

I fully support the bottom up capacity building and community widening principle of S UK, they are crucial. What you need to drop is the notion of a 'National Trust', which is a top down idea. Instead I think you need to talk about a national grouping/umbrella/ support functions, which builds on what already exists.

To overcome parishes resistance to change

Fragmented view from local groups. A significant group against ant change. Definitely must be Christian led as well as community led

Who sets the criteria for distribution of money?

Apathy, people too busy

Finding people to make it work!

Not really sure but food for thought

I can see the need for Sanctuary UK and the gap at local level that it seeks to fill especially around the empowerment of local groups and I would be able to support the wish to meet that need. However I am still undecided about the specific value that Sanctuary UK will bring above that of strengthening Friends groups by setting up a network and support for this already existing set of groups. I feel that this is more achievable and definitely needs doing.

Lack of funds and workers

Dissemination of ideas and vision to grass roots: establishment of local diocesan organisation and national individual membership.

*Opposition to change to building eg removal of pews
Want to support this and carry it forward from a concept to an 'organisation'*

Whether solid safeguards were in place to protect our spiritual heritage

Unlike the National Trust – not sure that there is enough in the scheme for members subscribing though shared info between churches would be most helpful

Difficulty of getting together a local S group in a poor urban area

Failure in communication and networking – the apparently constant need to reinvent the wheel

Difficulty to see that the 'offer' is sufficiently attractive.

Avoiding church bureaucracy

Dealing with the resistance for change in the PCC and congregation

We already have very capable and forceful local traders who have 'taken control' of problem and used the wrong materials (emulsion, cement etc)

The government has been longing to remove Faculty Jurisdiction and ??? 'listed building consent' which would turn our churches into museums. Too many examples of 'local initiatives' and this point would be proved.

Various 'authorities' wanting to retain a tight control over decisions, rather than see them as opportunity to release things forward

That people seem willing to do and act and yet the panel seem not to want it – surely in dioceses people can at least spread the word and collate the projects?

The lack of overall national (or even diocesan) strategy regarding the number of church buildings, how many are needed, and how ministry in them can be maintained

Loss of local control

The relationship with SAFE and the PCC

I think that we might all become very enthusiastic and still find that the Heritage Bodies are a major hindrance to adaptation

Our local community in a poor multi cultural, multi ethnic, anonymous part of London! S UK at the moment feels a bit more rural

What, for you, would be the next step? i.e another consultation, a conference, a partnership arrangement?

Conference – there is a need for workshops and networking opportunities to develop ideas, plan next steps and identify gifts and resources

The narrowness of personal interest not realising what damage can be done by an uneducated and unfocused action however well meaning it may be. Not realising that 'my' church is a notional cultural asset

A business plan in draft form- so that there is something concrete to discuss (happy to help) Graham Collins

A more local consultation with local Diocese Conference

Support with non church goers

Diocesan conference to promote ideas and attract discussions and support

Not sure

Small groups to move things forward

Not sure what is meant by 'partnership arrangement' but I think a conference of all interested parties might make a lot of sense

Some parishes actually being involved in the scheme so that we can see what it looked like in the real world

Wait and see. More discussions and information gathering

A clear business plan with members which convince me that a SAFe would be more effective than a friends organisation

Getting news to Diocese and Bishops is a very good way of enhancing rural mission

Working party to take forward.

Setting up a working group towards national conference and high profile launch.

Co-ordination. This needs to be a national and not something left to individuals diocese/areas to operate as a mere networking machine.

Some kind of dialogue required with partnership organisations but we need to clearly set out what is our distinctiveness and vision

1.launch first with vision 2.promote this vision and attract membership

Conference perhaps?

Uncertain

Find out more about Sanctuary UK and hold a parish meeting to try and sell it

Detailed 'terms of arrangements' with opportunities and safeguards duly noted. Then discuss with EH and Victorian society etc and get them on side

Possibly a regional consultation, and or a partnership arrangement – publicity – a cd type approach? Could there be a trial for development focussed on just one diocese?

If Sanctuary UK could give you one thing to make your church's future more secure what might it be?

Helpline/capacity building/consultancy/discussion forum for parishes but would need to have high profile so good media coverage.

Access to a new source of funding and volunteers

A national website, good magazine to promote ideas

Support on how to find funding bodies and examples of churches that have gone through the process

3.5 million – but failing that some training in engaging with business sector and sharing good practice

The credibility and climate to set up a local friends/sanctuary unit

Advice and consultation from experienced experts

A trusted support system and listening ear

The assurance that spiritual objective remain the priority

Collate a shared database from churches throughout the country

A sense of engagement with the experiences of other parishes in similar situation

Support with best practice and networking/sharing ideas

Information to display on church noticeboards

You mean apart from £5,000 000? !!

Money

Sharing of good practice – on a website?

Advice on how to make changes that would open up community to adaption

Make its point without knocking those who have been working hard to maintain and enrich churches

A set of key questions to be asked and a series of specific possibilities and ideas to explore; how/who to network with over issues?

Support

The support of a national body, committed to flexible use of church buildings for what we do locally

Don't know yet!

Advice and expertise in what to do

Strategies and organisation for Local 'Friends' groups and working agreements for partnerships