

FOR RELEASE ON TUESDAY 26TH APRIL 2011



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Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST

The Board of the National Churches Trust announced today that the Chief Executive, Andrew Edwards, will be leaving on 8th July 2011, after five years with the Trust.

“In five years the Trust has been transformed,” said Chairman, Michael Hoare, “We now combine grant-giving with a much broader range of support for the estimated 47,000 Christian places of worship across the UK.”

“Andrew’s energy and commitment to working closely with the Board to drive this transformation has been vital to our achievements, and we wish him well in his new role as Chief Executive of The Canterbury Gift – the charity that raises funds in support of Canterbury Cathedral.”

The Board is recruiting a new Chief Executive to lead the next significant phase in the Trust’s development, promoting and supporting church buildings of historic, architectural and community value across the UK.

Andrew Edwards said, “I have enjoyed leading an organisation that has achieved so much over the last five years. I am particularly proud of the recently published survey findings which establish new and up-to-date facts about places of worship. I am certain that the Trust will continue to go from strength to strength and I wish the team well.”

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Notes to Editors:

The National Churches Trust (registered charity number 1119845) 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 47,000.

The Trust 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 place of worship, but as centres of support and care, 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.

The survey recently published by the National Churches Trust establishes new and up-to-date facts about the state of the UK’s church buildings. The survey, the most comprehensive of its kind, found that these buildings play a key role in local life as venues for volunteering and community activities – but need support in undertaking repairs and maintenance. The survey was developed with the support of McKinsey and Company. The survey can be found at <http://nationalchurchestrust.org/explore-and-discover/national-survey.php>.