

Churches Conservation Trust - Wiltshire Wards

The Churches Conservation Trust was established by the 1968 Pastoral Measure: Ecclesiastical, Church of England law which is also approved by Parliament, and they celebrated their 40th birthday in 2009.

For over 40 years, they have played a unique role in national life. Without us, over 340 irreplaceable historic buildings might have disappeared entirely. Instead many have once again become the focus of active community life.

The organisation started life as the Redundant Churches Fund, a unique partnership between Church, State and the Charity sector, which came about because of the tireless campaigning of passionate church enthusiasts in the 1960s.

Most notable amongst these was Ivor Bulmer-Thomas who not only founded the Trust but also set up its sister charity '[Friends of Friendless Churches](#)', which to this day continues to save churches outside the remit of CCT such as those in Wales.

The 1960s were difficult days for historic churches. Many were falling into disrepair and some were threatened with demolition at a time when historic buildings were sometimes seen as an impediment to progress.

No mechanism or organisation existed for caring for churches where parishes felt they could no longer afford to keep going. If it hadn't been for the commitment of local communities and national campaigners such as Ivor, many of the historic churches we know and love today might have been lost.

The first church saved by CCT was [St Peter's, Edlington](#) in the coalfields of South Yorkshire. The church had had its roof and windows removed in an attempt to turn it into a ruin. It was a Grade I Medieval church in a disadvantaged area with few other historic or community buildings. It is now a highly valued community and arts building, regularly used by local schools and colleges.

For more information about the [Churches Trust](#) and what they do please visit their website.

Currently there are 21 Churches in the county of Wiltshire that are in the care of the Church Trust.

The information in this document is mainly sourced for the website of the Churches Conservation Trust above.

Maddington - St. Mary



Set in a shady churchyard, this lovely church lies at the top of a long footpath. It has a low west tower, a long nave, chancel and south transept, presumably for a family pew. A few small fragments remain from the Norman church and there were additions and alterations in succeeding centuries, much being done in the 17th-century. In 1853 the chancel was rebuilt and the whole church restored by T H Wyatt. Both nave and chancel walls are faced with flint and sandstone chequer work. Inside, over the tower arch, there is a large plaster cartouche of strap work enclosing the date 1637, which is said to refer to the erection of a now vanished gallery at the west end of the nave. The stained glass includes works by Alexander Gibbs in the south aisle.

St Mary's Church is a Grade II* listed building. It was declared redundant on 29 December, 1975 and vested in the Trust on 26 July, 1979.