

THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE FUND

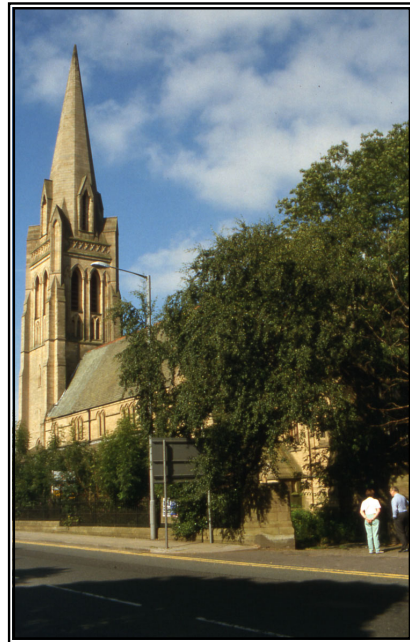
CASE STUDY

North West England

For 25 years the Architectural Heritage Fund has helped voluntary organisations regenerate historic buildings, creating community and education facilities, workspace and homes. This has often been a catalyst for further regeneration. We have supported relevant voluntary groups with grants, loans and advice on more than 700 projects to date. This is an example:

Rescue and regeneration of a northern mill-town: Nelson, Lancashire

The Heritage Trust for the North-West is making great efforts to maintain the character of what many would regard as a typical traditional northern mill town, containing terraced houses and cobbled streets. Like many other similar towns in the region, it has social problems linked to high unemployment. St. Mary's Church, in the centre of the Conservation Area, is the only listed Anglican church in the Borough of Pendle. It was declared redundant by Blackburn Diocese in 1989, sold, and has lain empty ever since. The local authority wishes to clear most of the surrounding housing, against the wishes of many inhabitants, most of whom are from the town's substantial Asian population. The trust has acquired the church, which it intends to return to community use. It has also purchased the school for workspace and community facilities, and one of the houses. It also has plans to restore other dwellings and rejuvenate local commercial premises. By preserving the historical integrity of the town, the trust believes that it can involve the whole community in its regeneration, thereby reducing social tensions, minimising exclusion, and engendering a sense of community.



Organisation: *Heritage Trust for the North-West*

Contact:

Grade II listed church, in St. Mary's, Nelson Conservation Area

Architectural Heritage Fund assistance: £218,250 loan offered in 1999, £15,000 Project Organiser Grant in 2000

The Architectural Heritage Fund – Registered Charity No 266780

We provide grants, loans and advice to voluntary organisations regenerating historic buildings.

Further information is available from:

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