

# Interpreting Religious Heritage

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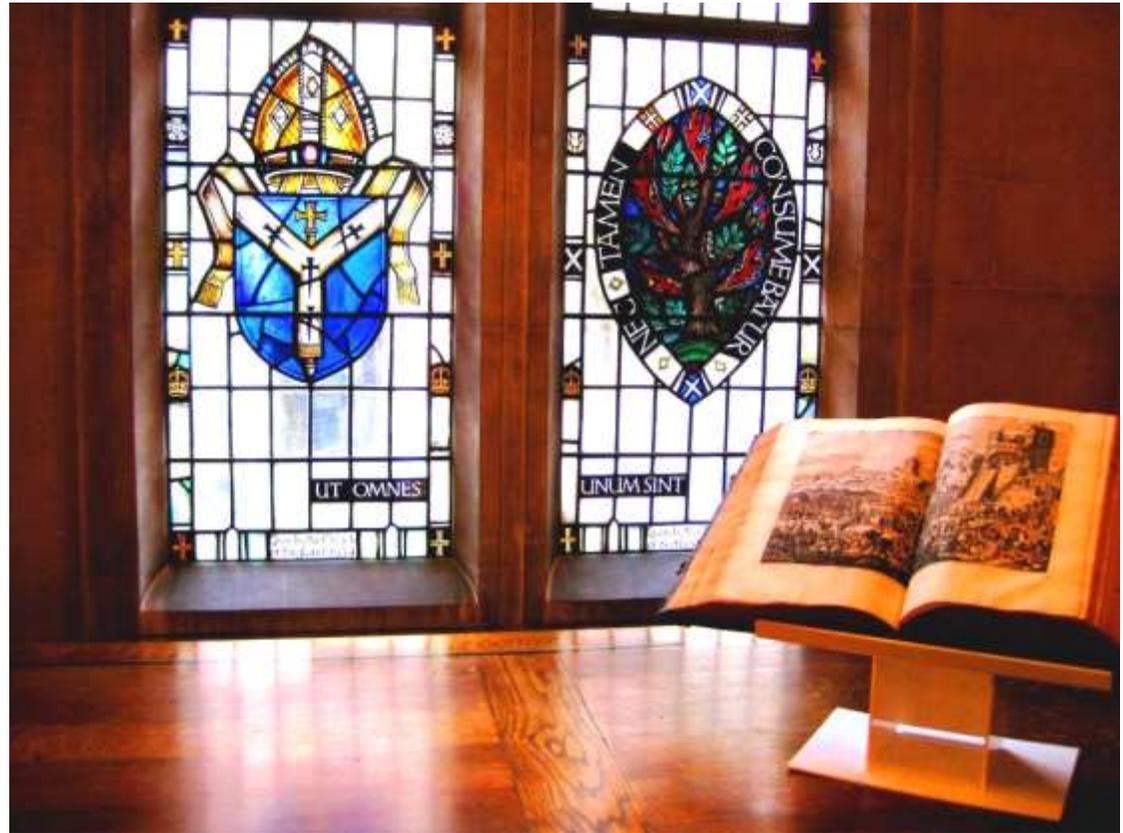
# Developing the Problem

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# Background

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- ❖ Churches are community centers and have been for thousands of years



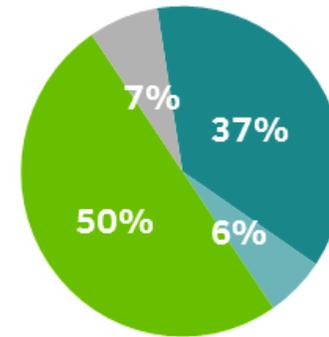
# Background

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❖ Need alternative methods to showcase the valuable heritage items

## Are British people religious?

*Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion?*



- Yes - Christian denomination
- Yes - Non-Christian denomination
- No
- Not sure/Don't know/Prefer not to say

*How religious, if at all, would you say you are?*



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April 2014

# The Problem

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- ❖ Churches are not being reached by the general public
- ❖ Lack of promotion of religious heritage items within churches

# Project Goal and Objectives

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# Overall Project Goal

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To improve the promotion and curation of and access to the religious heritage of the UK.



# Research Objectives

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1

Determine how London churches are viewed as heritage sites

2

Explore how heritage sites in London curate and interpret heritage

3

Identify barriers that exist in terms of access to heritage sites  
for the disabled community

4

Determine the opinions of members of heritage organizations on the current state of  
religious heritage

# What We Did

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# Opinions of Stakeholders in Religious Heritage

1

- Interviewed church staff and administrators
- Interviewed representatives of religious heritage organizations
- Interviewed church watchers

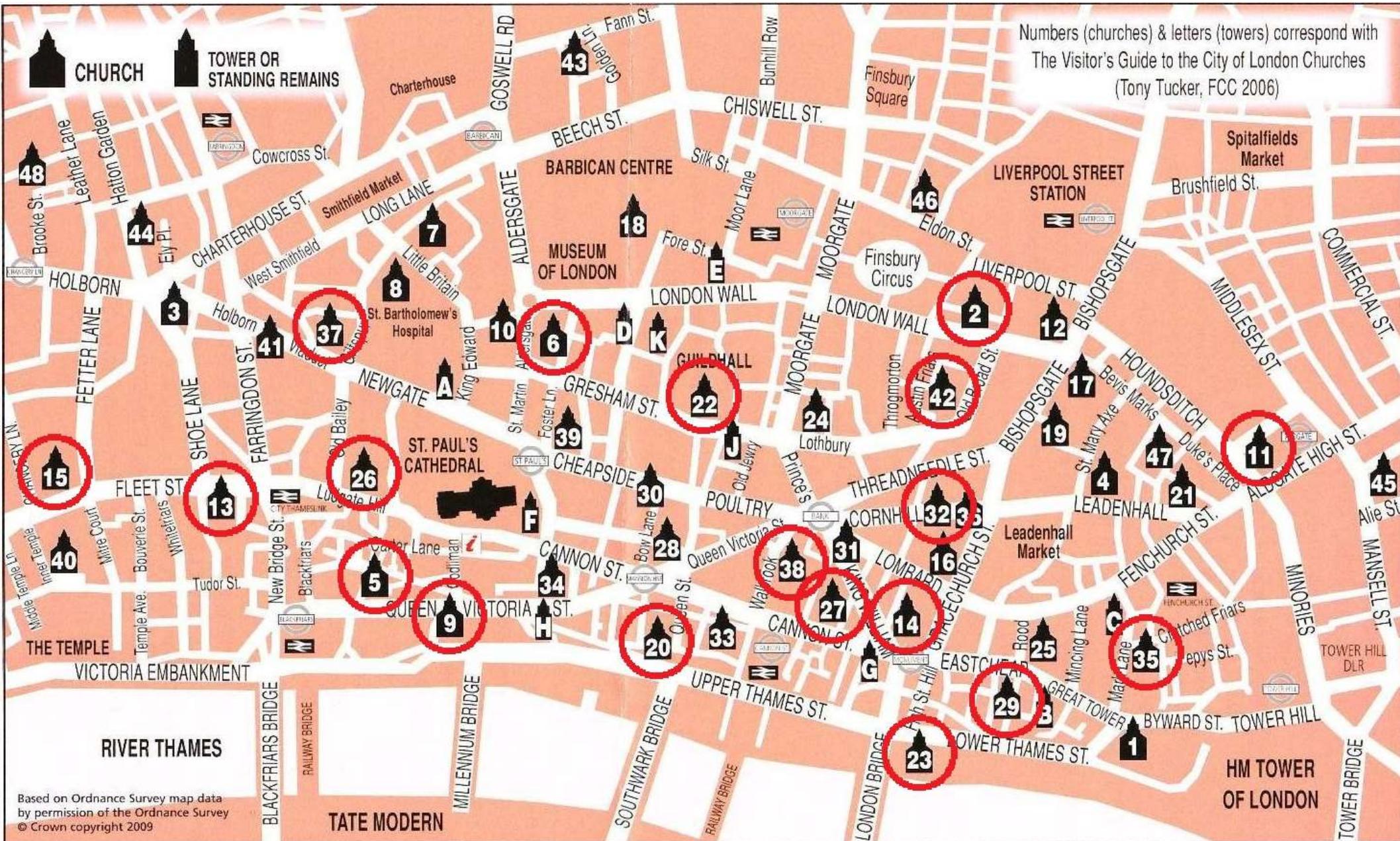


# Interpretation and Curation at Heritage Sites

2

- Performed site visits
- Analyzed locations using a site visit checklist





Numbers (churches) & letters (towers) correspond with The Visitor's Guide to the City of London Churches (Tony Tucker, FCC 2006)

Based on Ordnance Survey map data by permission of the Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2009

TATE MODERN

HM TOWER OF LONDON

# Churches We Visited

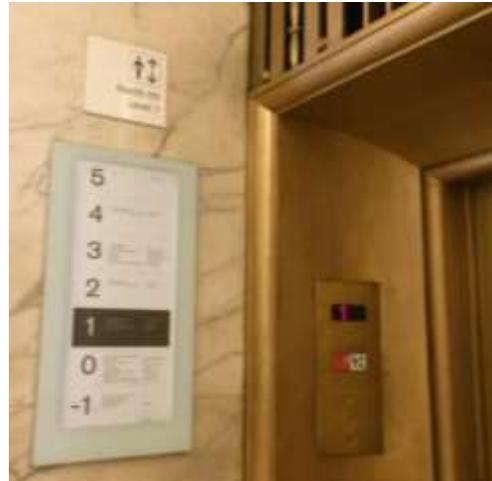
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All Hallows on the Wall	St. Dunstan-in-the-West	St. Michael Cornhill	Great St. Mary's Church
St. Andrew by the Wardrobe	St. James Garlickhythe	St. Olave Hart Street	Kings College Chapel
St. Anne & Agnes	St. Lawrence Jewry	St. Sepulchre	All Saints Jesus Street
St. Benet Welsh Church	St. Magnus the Martyr	St. Stephen Walbrook	St. John's Duxford
St. Botolph Aldgate	St. Martin Ludgate	Dutch Church	St. Peter's Duxford
St. Bride Fleet Street	St. Mary Abchurch	St. Paul's Cathedral	The Michael House
St. Clement Eastcheap	St. Mary-at-Hill	Westminster Abbey	Norwich Cathedral

# Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities

3

- Interviewed key individuals
- Analyzed visited locations with an access specific checklist



# Opinions of Members of Religious Heritage Organizations

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4

- Developed a survey with questions pertaining to the current state of religious heritage in the UK
- Sent survey to members of religious heritage organization



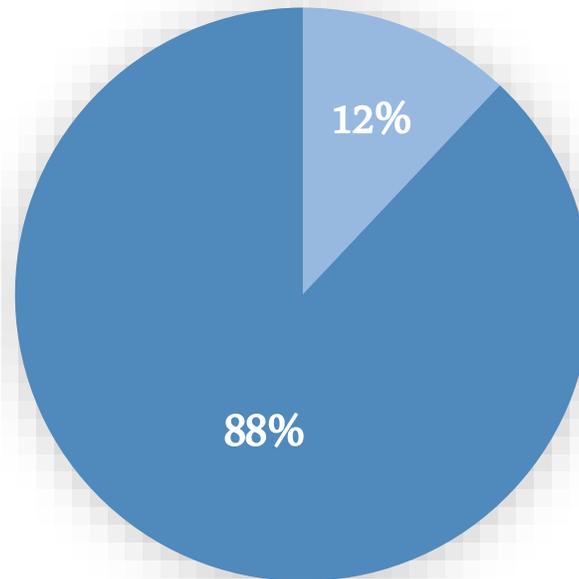
# Findings

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# Stakeholder Opinions of Religious Heritage

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Are churches being promoted well enough?

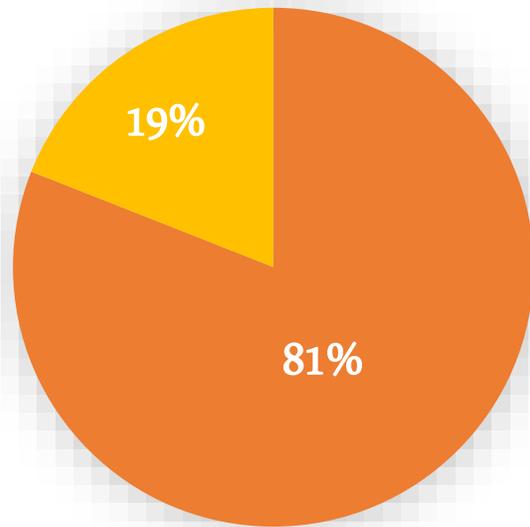


■ Being well represented    ■ Not being well represented

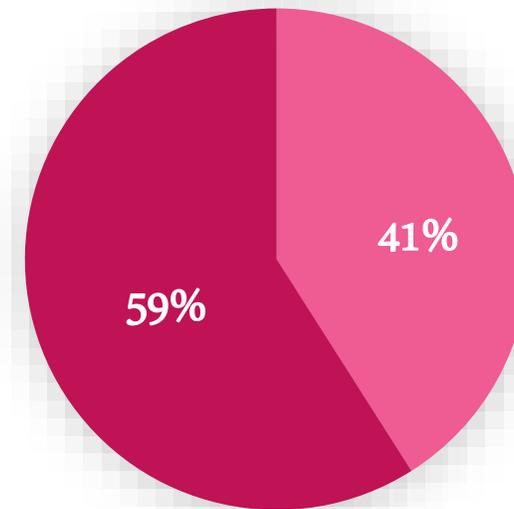
# Stakeholder Opinions of Religious Heritage

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## Use of Technology in Churches



## Type of Technology

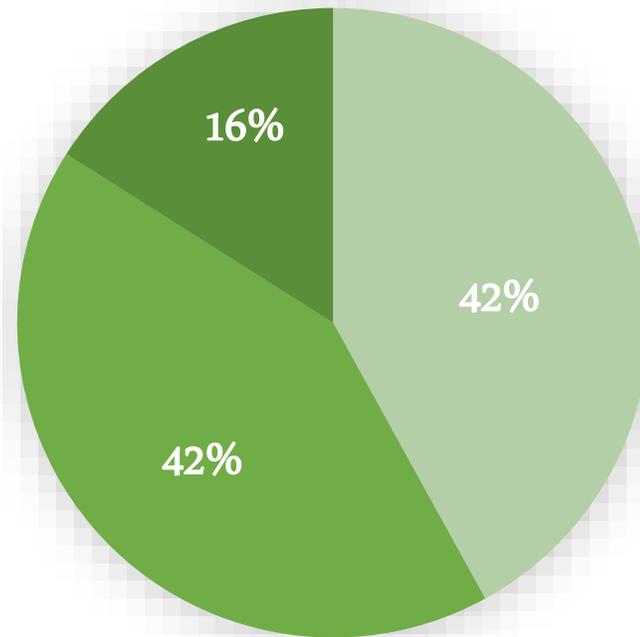


■ Support the use of technology   ■ Oppose the use of technology   ■ All types of technology   ■ Non-intrusive technology

# Stakeholder Opinions of Religious Heritage

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## Accessibility for People with Disabilities

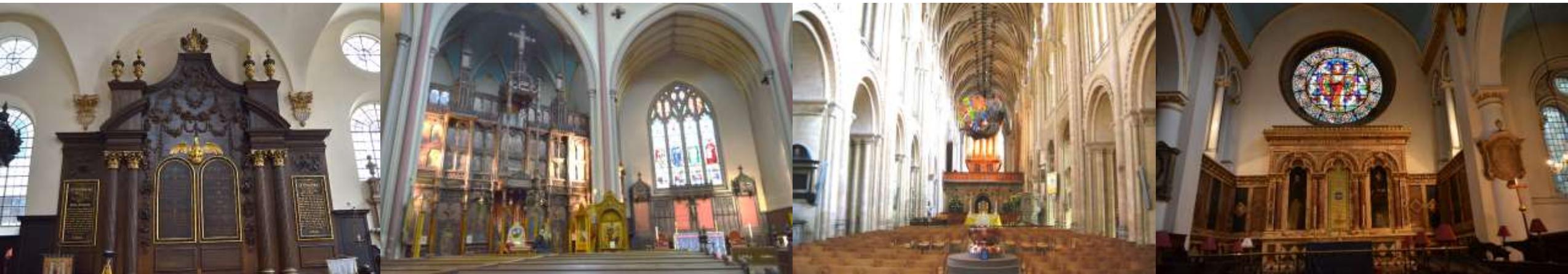


■ Temporary changes   ■ Permanent changes   ■ Remain current state

# Stakeholder Opinions of Religious Heritage

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Survey responses aligned with stakeholder opinions.



# Curation and Interpretation of Religious Heritage Items

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## ❖ In Museums



# Curation and Interpretation of Religious Heritage Items

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- ❖ In larger well-known churches



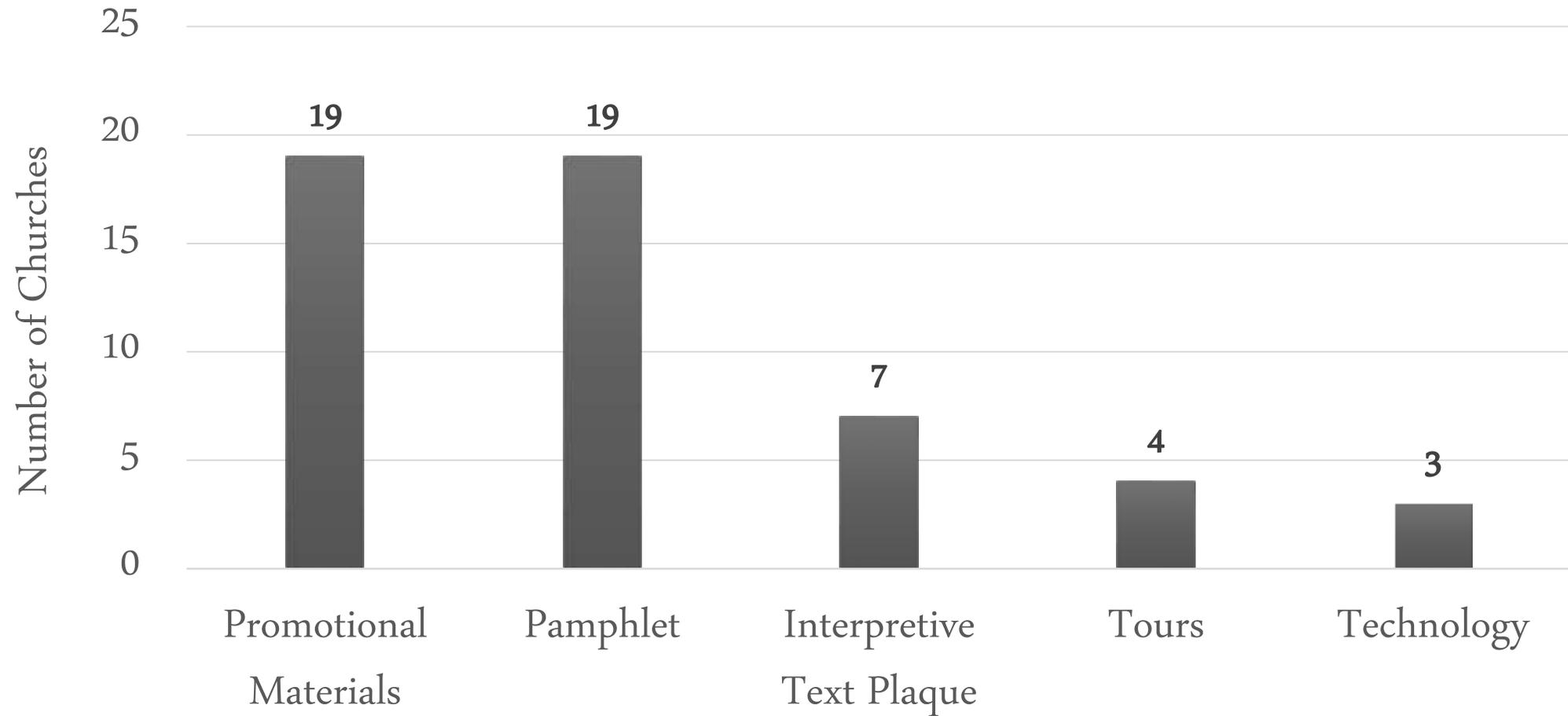
# Curation and Interpretation of Religious Heritage Items

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## ❖ In City Churches



# Interpretative Methods Used in Churches



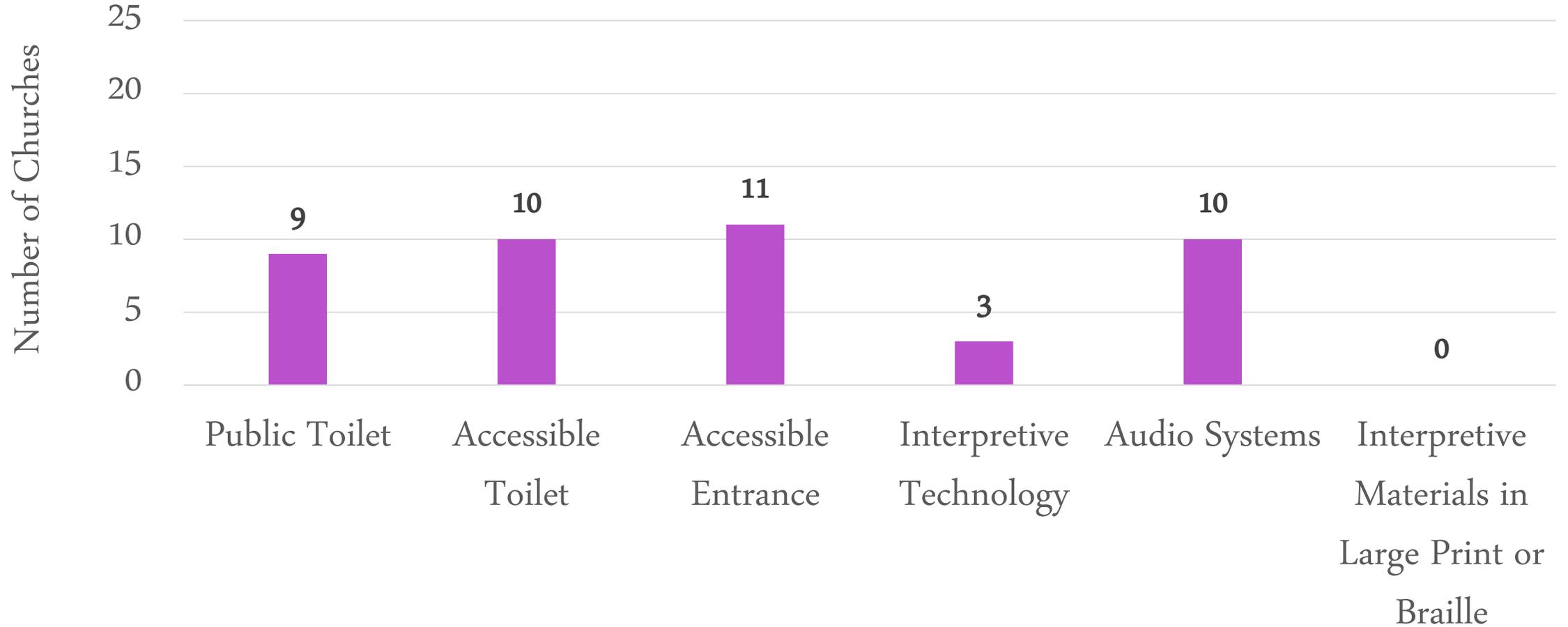
# Access to and within Churches

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- ❖ Physical access
- ❖ Intellectual access
- ❖ Lavatories
- ❖ Alterations to buildings

# Accessible Features of Churches



# Recommendations

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# Recommendations to the City Church Administrators and Clergy

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1. Measures to *increase* church resources.
2. Creation of or *improvement* upon existing interpretive materials.
3. Provisions to *improve accessibility*.
4. Community programming to *reach out* to a wider audience.



# Recommendations to the Friends of the City Churches

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1. *Adaptation* of the role of the Church Watcher
2. Measures to *increase footfall* in the city churches
3. Measures to *improve communications* within the organization



# Recommendations to All Religious Heritage Organizations

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1. Better *promotion*

2. *Networking and collaboration* between religious heritage organizations for better outreach



Historic Religious Buildings Alliance  
*a group within the Heritage Alliance*



# Acknowledgements

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1. Jennie Hawks
2. Prof. Dominic Golding and Prof. Patricia Stapleton
3. Dr. Julian Litten, Dr. Penny Granger and John Brydon
4. Liz Simpson and the Trustees of the Friends of City Churches
5. The Church Watchers
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7. City Church Clergy Members and Administrators
8. Klaus Miesenberger
9. All who gave us their time and advice from the following organizations:
  - Churches Conservation Trust
  - The City of London Access Team
  - The Victoria and Albert Museum
  - Historic Religious Buildings Alliance
  - The Diocese of London
  - National Churches Trust

*Any questions?*

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