







#### The Churches Conservation Trust





### Storytelling & Interpretation

**CTA National Convention** 

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# Storytelling & Interpretation

- Human stories
- Building story
- How to choose?







# What makes a good story?

- 1. Well known locally / nationally; well documented; easily illustrated
- Involves famous character
- 3. Building has links with story/ film
- 4. Audience relate/ take something from
- 5. Suspense, narrative, choices, a crime!

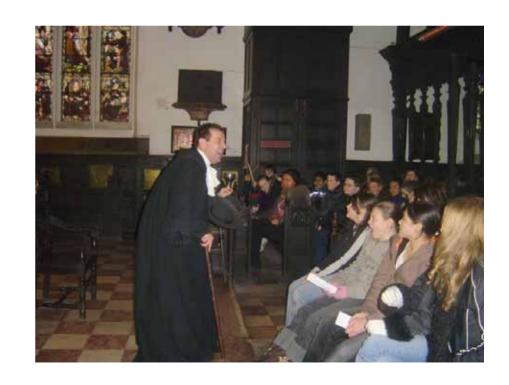






# How do you tell your story?

- Costumed professional actor
- ■Volunteer actor
- ■Volunteer story teller







### Practicalities of telling a story in church

- 1. Choose your space
- 2. Encourage participation
- 3. Use the whole building







### Who are your audience?

- 0 6's/ families; general interest group e.g. rambling club
- School group: probably 7 11's; Youth group e.g. Brownies
- Specialist group e.g. local history society





#### Add visuals

- 1. Items of costume for actor
- 2. Items of costume for audience
- 3. 'Contemporary' props
- 4. Modern props







### Involving your communities

- Older volunteers
- Intergenerational work
- Younger volunteers
- Specialists







# What skills might be needed?

- Able to speak clearly & make eye contact
- Able to establish rapport with audience
- Enjoy communicating!
- Feel passionately about building
- Have time to 'learn' story
- Be able to adapt story where necessary





### Avoiding pitfalls!

- Storyteller not up to the job, not available
- Competing for your audience's attention
- Audience does not have the time
- Audience does not have the attention
- Audience does not want to participate
- Audience is mixed-age





### Training

- 1. Directory of Storytellers -provides up-to-date information on storytellers working in Britain. 0171 359 9103
- 2. Sharing our Story A Practical Guide for Churches wishing to welcome visitors to their Church produced by The Christian Heritage of Northumbria. See Andrew Duff.
- 3. Past Imagined Stewart Alexander email: contactus@pasttimeimagined.co.uk





#### Contact details

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