

## Say Church and smile! Local Trust launches photo competition

Does your local church make you smile? Does it stand proud, pull a crowd or shyly hide its charms, behind a row of swaying Sycamores? Perhaps it's home to a beautiful window, an ancient font or some other feature with a story to tell?

Whatever the treasure, inside or outside, the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust is inviting local people to get snapping and have their photos shared on the Trust's dedicated Instagram page. All pictures – along with a brief explanation of what makes their church special - will be entered into the 'Say Church and Smile' photo competition. Twelve winning entries will be selected by competition judge, The Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans, to appear in a special edition, 2018 calendar.

There are two competition categories, one for entrants aged 18 and over, the other for budding photographers still under 18. So, if you're busy dreaming-up holiday activities for youngsters, this is a perfect way to get outdoors and discover more about our stunning local heritage. Six winning entries from each category, will be chosen to appear in the calendar, with all proceeds supporting the vital work of the Trust, across the two counties.

The competition closes on 30 September 2017 and you can find further details on the Trust's website at <http://www.bedshertshct.org.uk> Alternatively, simply send your picture, along with your name, age and a brief explanation (in no more than 50 words), to [julie.day@giftedphilanthropy.com](mailto:julie.day@giftedphilanthropy.com).

*'We are surrounded by a wealth of beautiful churches here in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. Old and new, they make a visible statement about faith, heritage and the strength of our local communities,'* says Trustee, Archie Russell. *'The Instagram photo competition, is a chance for all ages to capture the architecture and artistry of the churches and chapels they cherish so much.'*

Why not get inspired and follow the Trust on Instagram @beds\_herts\_hct

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NOTES:

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust is a Registered Charity number 1005697. The Trust has helped hundreds of churches in both counties with grants to cover restoration, repair and development. For more information on the work of the Trust visit [www.bedshertshct.org.uk](http://www.bedshertshct.org.uk)

Churches in need of financial support for urgent repairs or development projects should contact the grants secretary Archie Russell via [grants@bedshertshct.org.uk](mailto:grants@bedshertshct.org.uk). All press enquiries please contact Julie on: [julie.day@giftedphilanthropy.com](mailto:julie.day@giftedphilanthropy.com) or 07808 157487.