

THE SCOTTISH REDUNDANT CHURCHES TRUST

Established in 1996, the Scottish Redundant Churches Trust (SRCT) is an independent charitable trust that takes into ownership nationally important places of worship of all denominations in order to safeguard them for the benefit of their communities and the people of Scotland. The SRCT receives no statutory funding and is dependent on grants, donations and legacies for the running of the organisation and for the maintenance and repair of places of worship in care.



What does the SRCT do?

The SRCT works in partnership with communities to repair and regenerate churches so they can be used and enjoyed by local people and visitors. Worship continues on an occasional basis and other non-religious uses are introduced. Where appropriate, part of a building may be sensitively adapted in order to serve a particular need or to generate income.



CASE STUDY – ST MARGARET’S CHURCH, BRAEMAR

About Braemar

- Small rural community of 500 in north east Scotland in Cairngorms National Park
- Area of outstanding natural beauty, rich in wildlife, popular for outdoor pursuits
- Known for the Braemar Gathering and the Royal Family at Balmoral Castle
- A community in decline – high % older residents and second home owners
- Significantly underperforming as a visitor destination with few quality attractions
- Attracts budget coach tours - low-spend visitors detrimental to local economy
- Community wants to regenerate itself as a vibrant creative place to live and visit



About St Margaret’s Episcopal Church

- Built 1899-1904, designed by Sir Ninian Comper
- Prominent location in the centre of Braemar
- Category A-listed building of national importance
- Contains stained glass of high quality and other significant artefacts designed by Comper
- On the Buildings at Risk Register since 2003
- Closed for worship due to poor condition
- Episcopal Church wishes to dispose of the church



Finding renewed purpose for St Margaret’s – a feasibility study

Working with the Prince’s Regeneration Trust and the community, the SRCT is looking for a viable future for St Margaret’s. The proposal is for an Arts Hub and home for the Scottish Fiddle School, and for the church to be the creative lynchpin in the wider development of Braemar as an arts destination of international stature. A series of events have been piloted to considerable acclaim. The new use would protect architectural significance, give public access, and allow occasional worship to continue. Ownership by the SRCT and operation by a community trust would secure the future of a building of national importance and bring economic and social benefit to Braemar.

