

# Project dashboard

TRANSPORTED

## The Lightships

Inspire, consult, build, empower, deliver

Lead: TransportedLauren@litc.org.uk  
Strand: Creative Consultation

When: May 2014 to November 2014

Where & what: 13 churches and 14 locations

Key people: Francois Matarasso - Artist, Church Wardens. Arts Engagement Worker - Lauren.

### Features for success

- The Transported team 'were brilliant', Lauren in particular. Francois couldn't have asked for better support. They knew a lot about the work and quickly connected to the villages
- As a 'Creative Consultation' - the project was based on listening to stories/ memories/ feelings about the church, what matters to people and what they want to do next
- The book - the end point of the consultation process was something tangible that can outlive the project itself
- Celebration Events - a great end and book launch

### Learning and challenges

- Cost and capacity - The project took about twice as long and a greater budget than planned, so may not be replicable
- Accessibility of the website created and lack of email addresses - many community members do not access the internet. As a result the website became a public-facing 'telling of the story' and people had to be written to
- Church Wardens were crucial in brokering relationships with community members.

### Beyond 2014

In 2015 Transported has consolidated taster sessions to five art forms which were preferred by the community. Taster sessions are planned for March / April informed by audience surveys. Conversations with Waterstones and local sellers are taking place about stocking The Lightships in store as well as with Amazon online.

### Drivers - How the project came about

Transported had not yet worked with any of the 14 villages and wanted to complete consultation with all villages in Boston and South Holland by beginning a dialogue with the communities about what they might be interested in. It was a creative commissioning process. 'People in the villages didn't need the project' (Artist). The artist's idea was based around the importance of churches in the community - lots of people care about churches without being 'church goers'.

### Delivery - What the project did

This principally involved people who have a connection with the churches and chapels in the 14 villages that Francois worked in. They were not necessarily part of the congregation. An underlying idea / principle of the project is that those involved are co-producers of the work. Meetings with the community were set up by Francois or Lauren (AEW), with support from Church Wardens. Francois recorded conversations with people and from that he ended up with approx 80-90k words of transcripts. The heart of The Lightships book is entirely the words of the people that Francois met; edited into a big conversation, with nothing added. Community events have been held to celebrate the work and gift those involved with a book. The book has been published 100 given to each church for

### Difference made - Why it was done

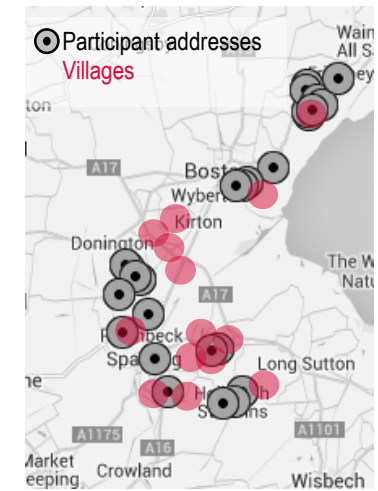
1. People feeling valued and that their life, experience, village, and what they care about is valued. 'That is the strength of a book. In the world we live in books pertain a significant value and status. Something in a book is deemed to be important. It can be of significance'.
2. Possibly financial - Each of the churches will get 100 copies to sell at flower festivals and to visitors. Transported are using the church as a mechanism to distribute the books to give them a return (the church will keep the money and it will go into church funds). If the book sells (it is also listed on Amazon)...Transported will recoup a certain amount of money (sale of £5 per book).
3. People from the communities see their churches in a different light - more people have visited them as a result and may use them again in the future.

120 people consulted in *Bicker, Cowbit, Fishtoft, Gosberton, Holbeach St Marks, Moulton, Moulton Chapel, Moulton Seas End, Pinchbeck, Quadring, Sutton St James, Swineshead, Whaplode, & Wrangle*

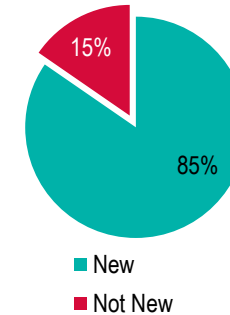
169 people at celebration events in 4 villages (providing this data)



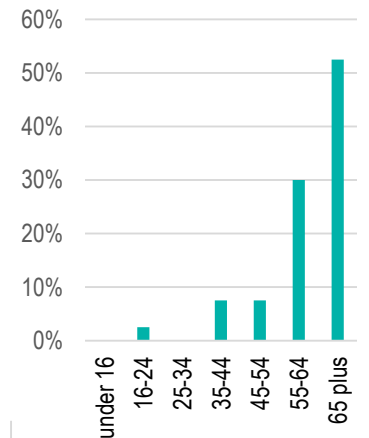
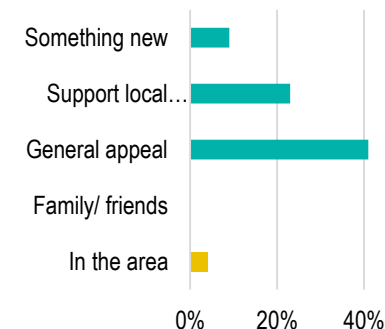
Image from The Lightships



Most were new, and this was an older age group



As a celebration, few attended by chance and all recommend



100% of people would recommend

