

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

# Autumn Newsletter

2020

## A Message from our Vice-Chair



### Our Vice-Chair of Trustees, the Revd Canon David Pritchard

“Change is in the air, but fear not” was the front page headline on the Trust’s Spring 2016 newsletter. Four years on the same headline is just as appropriate and in the intervening years the Trust has done its best to continue to meet its charitable objectives for the “preservation repair maintenance improvement upkeep and reconstruction of Churches in the County of Cambridgeshire”.

2023 will be a landmark year in the history of the trust – the Trust Deed was signed on 10th June

1983. With this in mind the trustees are starting to consider how best to celebrate this anniversary with gratitude for past success as well as plan for the future. With parish church finances under greater strain than ever, the call on trust funds is certain to be greater than ever; and the greater the trust’s financial resources the more the trust can help parishes in their important work of maintenance and repair.

In his Spring Newsletter report David Stazicker mentioned that after eleven years he will be standing down as Hon. Sec. in 2021. David’s work for the trust has been outstanding but as I’m sure you know without an Hon Sec the trust cannot function. A note about the position has been sent out to members by email and put on the website. I will be pleased to receive preliminary expressions of interest by post, phone or email – my contact details are on the website.

Finally, with Christmas just around the corner, do give serious consideration to giving Gift Membership to friends and family. Full details can found on the trust website at: [https://camhct.uk/wp-content/uploads/Gift\\_Membership\\_2020.pdf](https://camhct.uk/wp-content/uploads/Gift_Membership_2020.pdf)

**David Pritchard**  
Vice-Chair of Trustees and  
Chair of Executive Committee

The Trust is an independent charity whose primary task is to give financial help in the form of grants and interest-free loans towards the cost of repair and improvement of churches and chapels of all denominations throughout Cambridgeshire. Its funds accrue mainly from the annual Ride, Drive and Stride and from membership subscriptions. Members receive twice-yearly newsletters and other information about the Trust’s activities including an annual conference in the Spring and Sunday afternoon church tours in the summer. Minimum annual subscription £20 for up to two individuals at the same address, £50 for corporate membership for churches.

Hon Secretary: David Stazicker, The Willows, Low Bank, Mepal, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 2AU. Phone 01353 778129  
Email: [secretary@camhct.uk](mailto:secretary@camhct.uk).

Membership Enquiries: please send to Sue Holgate email [smholgate@outlook.com](mailto:smholgate@outlook.com)

For our formal Annual Report and Financial Statements visit [www.camhct.uk](http://www.camhct.uk) or ask the Secretary for a printed copy.

# Secretary's Report

**2020 has been a year unlike any in the Trust's history, or in living memory or a great deal longer. Our usual programme of events has been suspended, but that is a minor inconvenience compared with the upheaval and trauma suffered in the community as a whole, and compared with the impact of the pandemic on the churches in the county.**

During the Spring lockdown many churches maintained their mission by means of on-line services as well as their members' contribution to community efforts to support vulnerable people, and many have resumed "live" services since this became permissible, despite the restrictions and the practical precautions required. However, a chasm has opened in many churches' finances because of the loss of vital income from social and fundraising events. We took the opportunity to highlight this situation by submitting evidence to the parliamentary Digital, Media and Culture and Sport Committee, who have been conducting an inquiry into the impact of the pandemic on the heritage sector. While churches are faith, not heritage organisations, like other owners of listed buildings they have a duty to the wider community for the care of the "heritage assets" in their tutelage. We shall wait and see how strongly our case weighs with Government in comparison with other more economically conspicuous and revenue-raising parts of the "heritage sector".

Meanwhile, the work of the Trust has by no means been "on hold". Despite the problems they encounter, churches have continued to approach us with applications for loans and/or grants. It is heartening that they have not lost sight of this element of their responsibility when faced with such daunting challenges. More of this on page 4.

Our ability to meet these requests depends on our income, a large part of which comes from the annual sponsored Ride and Stride. We had feared that this year this would be drastically reduced. Fewer churches than usual were open and fewer people rode and strode than usual, but those who did so rose magnificently to the challenge, and it looks as if we shall have received about £20,000, some £5,000 more than in 2019. As usual, 50% goes back to nominated churches.

In times like these we all have to hope for the best but be prepared for the worst. If circumstances permit, we shall go ahead with our Annual Conference at Wolfson College, Cambridge on Saturday 17th April 2021 "Timely Pointers to Heaven – Towers, Spires, Bells and Clocks". All but one of the speakers who were to appear in April 2020 have agreed to give their presentations then. However, we have to face the possibility that such gatherings will still not be permissible or that circumstances will for other reasons make a live conference unviable. We are therefore looking at the possibility of making the conference sessions available as a series of on-line lectures. Other organisations have been using this method with great success and have even expanded their audiences as a result. We realise that this would exclude those of you who do not have an Internet connection and we would have to find some other way of making the proceedings available. We shall have to decide early in the New Year whether or not we can hold a live conference, and will let you know then what we propose.

Likewise we are contacting the churches that we had planned to visit on our tours in summer 2020, to see if they are willing to "pencil in" equivalent dates in 2021. Whether those visits materialise will obviously depend on the state of the pandemic, and not only whether such activities are by then permitted, but whether our members feel confident to travel and gather without risk and most importantly of all whether the churches concerned feel able to welcome us. The latest news about these tours and about the planned visit to Oxford in August will appear in our Spring Newsletter.

Canon Pritchard on page 1 seeks a volunteer to succeed me as Hon Secretary. In addition, many of you will have gathered that our long-serving Publicity Officer, Andrew Westwood-Bate, has had to resign because of serious health problems. The Trust is greatly indebted to Andrew for his unstinting and assiduous service over many years, and we need a volunteer to undertake this rôle which is even more vital in the digital age.

As we reported in the Spring, Jenny Lowles also did not feel able to carry on as Membership Secretary. We hope that a new Secretary will be able to include this work as part of his or her responsibilities. Meanwhile I have been doing my best to

keep membership business ticking over. From 1st January until further notice please send all communications about membership to [smholgate@outlook.com](mailto:smholgate@outlook.com) or c/o 9 The Chase, Ely CB6 3DR.

Total membership currently stands at 176 individuals or pairs at the same address, and 142 churches. Our aim is to double our membership. Please see the message from our Vice-Chair on page 1 for how you can help achieve this.

**David Stazicker**  
Hon Secretary

## Yet Another Reminder

We now bank with CAF Bank, sort code 40-52-40, account No. 00031047. If you pay your subscription by standing order and haven't yet switched it to CAF, we'd be grateful if you would do so. This can be done on line, or by email or phone us for a form. And again, if you don't at present pay by standing order, please consider doing so.

## Dates for your Diary

**Subscriptions are due on 1st January 2021.** Please send cheques made out to Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust to 9 The Chase, Ely CB6 3DR. Only those on email will be sent a separate reminder. OR consider setting up a standing order, OR pay by bank transfer – see above for details.

**IF** circumstances permit, the following will go ahead :-

**Saturday 17th April 2021 – Annual Conference** at Wolfson College, Cambridge – Towers, spires, bells, clocks, sundials – details to be announced.

**Sundays 9th May, 13th June, 11th July and 8th August 2020 - Church tours** - Itineraries to be announced later.

**Saturday 21st August 2021 – Visit to Oxford by coach** led by the Revd Dr Lynne Broughton.

On the other hand come what may we shall do our utmost to ensure that **Ride and Stride** takes place in some shape or form on **Saturday 11th September 2021.**

# Financial Update

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2020

	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds	Unrestricted Funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
<b>INCOME</b>					
Conference 2019	-	-	-	0	2338
Subscriptions Gift Aided	-	-	2,935	2,935	3,365
Gift Aid	-	-	3,056	3,056	3,349
Other Subscriptions	-	-	7,027	7,027	7,412
Donations & Legacies	-	-	1,125	1,125	242
Sponsored Ride and Stride	-	8,043	8,426	16,469	15,951
Bank interest receivable	-	-	1,051	1,051	1,860
Investment income	-	-	3,722	3,722	-
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Total Income	0	8,043	27,342	35,385	34,517
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<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<i>Charitable objectives</i>					
Grants due to churches	-	1,000	1,000	2,000	31,600
Costs of church tours	-	-	-	-	-
Contribution to Ely Diocese for Buildings Support Officer	-	-	-	0	1,000
<i>Fund raising activities</i>					
Conference	-	-	-	0	1,845
Ride and Stride share to churches	-	8043	-	8,043	7,901
Ride and Stride expenses	-	-	228	228	1,030
Engage Awards	-	-	-	0	925
<i>Administration and management</i>					
Independent examination	-	-	428	428	602
Subscriptions and conference attendance	-	-	82	82	20
Public Liability insurance	-	-	342	342	342
Printing	-	-	500	500	961
Postage and stationery	-	-	39	39	300
Miscellaneous (Website, Room Hire, and Bank Charges)	-	-	286	286	299
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Total Expenditure	0	9,043	2,905	11,948	46,825
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Net income (expenditure) before investment gain s (losses)	0	(1,000)	24,437	23,437	(12,308)
Unrealised investment gains (losses)	-	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-
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Net movement in funds	0	(1,000)	4,437	3,437	(12,308)
Transfer between funds in the year	-	4,600	(4,600)	-	-
FUNDS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	-	400	467,246	467,646	479,954
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FUNDS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	-	4,000	467,083	471,083	467,646
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## Grants Secretary's Report

In all our buildings grants, we ask that the church architect or equally approved professional always supervises the work and issues a certificate of satisfactory completion. Amongst other things, it ensures that variations to the contract can be properly dealt with. At St John the Baptist, Somersham, the variations to (a standard) re-leading the south porch roof doubled the project cost; a number of rafters had to be replaced and repaired as well and having someone to manage this proved essential. The grant aided work is now almost finished.

Since the Spring Newsletter, we have awarded some of our largest grants to three "High Priority" cases. They were at All Saints Croydon, (structural movement particularly in the Chancel over the Downing vault), All Saints Morborne, (failing Collyweston slates on the nave and aisles) and St Mary's Whaddon where the church has been without permanent roof coverings to the nave and aisles since June 2019 when all the lead was stolen.

There have been other grants and loans as well to more "Maintenance" type work. These were at St Peter ad Vincula Coveney, (render, plaster and windows), Holy Trinity Great Paxton, (internal plaster), St Peter Wilburton (High Level repairs to stone and leadworks), All Saints Landbeach, (North Aisle and Chancel stone and render repairs) and St Andrew West Wrating, (Nave and Chancel stonework repair).

St Giles, Tydd St Giles, also benefitted from a loan; they had started work and found that they would also like to repoint and repair the south wall of their Lady Chapel in an ongoing contract.



• All Saints' Morborne



• St John the Baptist, Somersham



• St Mary, Whaddon

"Fixtures and Fittings" also had a sympathetic ear at our meetings. St Peter Ely now has a new gas boiler to heat their church and although St Michael and All Angels Chettisham are still struggling to fund their organ repairs, a small grant offer has started their fundraising.

For our progress throughout the year, please follow us on our website at <https://www.camhct.uk/grants/>. This web page shows the particular awards and is updated after every meeting.

**Graham Pledger**  
Grants Secretary

## Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

Registered as a charity in England and Wales No 287486

### Trustees

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The Revd Canon David Pritchard (Vice-Chair)  
David Ball  
Nicholas Grantham  
David Stazicker (Hon Secretary)  
The Revd Simon Talbott  
Alison Taylor  
The Revd Canon Nicholas Thistlethwaite  
Canon Tim Walters (Hon Treasurer)

### Executive Committee

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The Revd Dr Lynne Broughton  
William Craven  
Graham Pledger (Grants Secretary)  
The Revd Canon Annette Reed  
David Stazicker (Hon Secretary)  
The Revd Tim Thompson (Ride & Stride Treasurer)  
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