

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

# Autumn Newsletter

AUTUMN / WINTER 2022

## From the Chairman...

# NEIL McKITTRICK

**It has been a real pleasure to have been elected Chairman of the Trust in succession to Sir Hugh Duberly who retired after having served the Trust and many other organisations in Cambridgeshire faithfully and diligently over many years. On the behalf of all of us I thank him for his calm and reassuring presence at the helm of CHCT.**

I have eased my way in by getting to know some of you and availing myself of the opportunity to join some of the church tours over the summer; the tranquility of Steeple Gidding and the angels on the nave roof [on a scorching hot day] at Outwell being 'stand outs'.

Perhaps I should tell you a bit more about myself.

It may or may not be an advantage that I am not a member of the clergy or an architect but I do claim a lifelong interest in churches and church life. I grew up in Ely in the fifties and early sixties and my family worshipped at St Mary's. I was fortunate to obtain a 'free place' at King's School and was confirmed by Bishop Hudson in the Cathedral in March 1961.

After legal training I lived in different parts of the country including the NE where as a man in his late twenties I embarked on the first of three churchwardenships [each in a different diocese] at St Cuthbert, Darlington, a fine Early English foundation. Much later when my wife and I moved to Peterborough, I became a warden at St John the Baptist in Peterborough, and still later at St Mary, Orton Waterville, the parish in which I live.



You will appreciate that although I worship at Peterborough Cathedral more often than anywhere else, I do take a keen interest in parish ministry and give my full support to those who wish it to flourish. Our parish church is literally and figuratively at the very centre of our community.

I am a solicitor by training but have been retired for some years. It was judicial work rather than private

*Continued on page 2*

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 membership subscriptions and from the annual sponsored Ride and Stride. Members receive twice-yearly newsletters and other information about the Trust's activities including in normal times 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.

Administrator: Sue Holgate, 9 The Chase, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 3DR. Phone 01353 668438

Email: [admin@camhct.uk](mailto:admin@camhct.uk).

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

## From the Chair contd.

practice that attracted me and in 1989 I was appointed the first stipendiary magistrate for Middlesex, although it is said that Henry Fielding [author of 'Tom Jones'] had a brother who was one such in that era. I ended up as a circuit judge for over eleven years successively in Peterborough and in Ipswich.

All charities are still trying to return to some sort of normality after the pandemic and I am very keen to hear from any member who has suggestions to make as to how we might improve our income streams. We remain heavily dependent on 'Ride and Stride' which has been a remarkable success story over many years and we must hope it will continue to be so. This year it followed just two days after Queen Elizabeth's death and we can all understand why some potential participants might have been disinclined to take part during that very sad period. Let us hope we can return to it next year with added vigour and I do encourage as many of us who are able to help with it in whatever capacity you are able and persuade others to do so.

The Wolfson College event has been booked for 1st April 2023 and further details of that will be available soon: watch this space.

A 'must save' for your 2023 diaries is Tuesday 27th June at 5.30pm when CHCT will celebrate its 40th Anniversary with Choral Evensong in Ely Cathedral at which the Bishop of Ely has agreed to preach. This service will give thanks for the foresight of the original trustees and for all those who have expended their time and talents to support the Trust along the way. Many churches and chapels will have been the grateful recipients of funding to carry out important works. The need goes on. That event will provide the opportunity not only look back with gratitude but look forward to try to ensure that the Trust will remain adequately funded to take future projects to fruition. Do look out for people who may wish to attend the service and who may be persuaded to become members.

Finally this : it is obvious that many people do considerable work for and on behalf of the Trust and I thank them sincerely for all they do.

I like to think I am approachable but if anyone has any suggestions on how we might take the work of the Trust forward, I would be delighted to hear. I promise I will listen!

With best wishes,

**Neil McKittrick**  
Chairman

## Annual Conference and Church Tours

**It was good to resume a "live" Annual Conference in April, and the hall was well filled for a very informative series of presentations on "Radiancy Divine – Light and Heat in Churches". The 2023 Conference, on Saturday 1st April 2023, will again be at Wolfson College, Cambridge and will be on the theme of Imagery, Wall Paintings and Screens. Look out for further details in the New Year.**

This summer's church tours were also a welcome return to normality and were well attended despite on one occasion the scorchingly hot weather. Next year's will be on Sundays 14th May, 11th June, 9th July and 13th August. Details will be in the Spring newsletter.

**David Stazicker**

## Looking for a worthwhile gift for someone for Christmas?

Please take out Gift Membership - remember, the recipient doesn't have to be local, but the more local members we have the better. Be inspired by 10 year old Caleb Nicholas (see Ride and Stride report) who cycled 19.12 miles this year and 'had a good day for a good cause'. Yes, CHCT offers something unique for all ages. Well done Caleb! Visit the website (<https://camhct.uk/>) or contact the membership secretary ([members@camhct.uk](mailto:members@camhct.uk)) today!

## A Message from the Administrator

**We have recently received a generous bequest from one of our past members for which we are very grateful. Bequests are an immensely valuable source of capital for the Trust. If you are interested in remembering us in your will in this way, please be in touch with me at [admin@camhct.uk](mailto:admin@camhct.uk) and I will let you know further details.**

**Sue Holgate, Administrator**

# Ride and Stride

## From Canon Annette Reed Ride and Stride Saturday September 10th, 2022

A very big thank you to everyone to took part in the annual CHCT Ride and Stride on Saturday September 10th – and indeed to those who used their imagination to try something a little bit different.

Let's start with a mention of David Pritchard, Vice Chair of CHCT, who decided to spend time at an organ console rather than on a saddle. David pledged to attempt a sponsored "hymnalong" at his parish church of St Leonard's, Little Downham and he strode along to the organ bench at 10.00am on September 10th and played until 1.00pm. He raised over £400.00 which is shared between CHCT and St Leonard's.



This year's Ride and Stride was launched in Great Paxton Churchyard.

PCC member Graham Bevan was riding for the third consecutive year for CHCT and his home church of Holy Trinity, Great Paxton.

In 2021 and this year he was also accompanied by neighbour Alisdair Kennedy.

220 villagers sponsored Graham and Alisdair and they visited 78 places of worship over two days in Cambridge and surrounding villages.

Over the past three years Graham and Alisdair have raised £8,424.00 shared equally between CHCT and Holy Trinity church.



*Graham Bevan and Alisdair Kennedy in Great Paxton Churchyard.*

Jayne White posted pictures of her Ride and Stride around churches in South Cambridgeshire on September 10th. The churches she visited were:

Holy Trinity, Meldreth, All Saints' Shepreth, All Saints' Barrington, St Laurence Foxton, St Mary's Fowlmere, the Methodist church in Fowlmere, St George's Thriplow, St Margaret's Newton, All Saints' Little Shelford, St Edmund's Hauxton, Harston Baptist Church, All Saints' Harston, Melbourn United Reform Church, Melbourn Baptist and All Saints' Melbourn.

Well done Jayne and to everyone who took part in the annual event which supports churches and chapels with grants and loans for church projects.

If any of you have pictures from the day, please do share them on the CHCT Facebook Page!

We will give updates on the total amount of sponsorship monies collected when these become available.



*Jayne on her Ride and Stride journey*

## From Caleb Nicholas Aged 10

**On Saturday, 10th September, my brother, sister, dad, and I went on the Ride and Stride in Cambridgeshire.**

We first went to St. Andrews Oakington. At the church we saw Marion Cleaver getting the snacks and drinks out for the riders. While we were there, we had a chocolate bun. Also, Marion gave me a Tunnocks biscuit for the journey.

On our arrival at St. Andrew's Church Swavesey, we were welcomed by a kind man who took us up the tower and we watched and heard the Tenor Bell strike 12:00. After lunch at Fen Drayton lakes, we went to St. Ives Parish Church. Here we saw a model bell! It was very realistic and could actually ring. After that we carried on the route to St. Mary's Fen Drayton.

When we arrived in Fen Drayton, we had to ask where the church was! On finally finding the church, it was nice to see free bottles of water for riders to take.

When we got home having cycled 19.12 miles, we were very tired, but had had a good day for a good cause!



*Melbourn United Reform Church*

# Grants



In the Spring Newsletter, I reported that grant and loan applications were well down with only nine applications for the year 2021/22. With two of the six meetings already held for 2022/23, the situation shows some slight improvement with six applications already.

However, of the grant/loan contracts sent out, only two of these have so far been signed and this is perhaps the real indicator of work about to get underway. One is Cambridge, St Paul, where a number of high level masonry repairs have been identified from a Quinquennial Inspection. The other is Southoe, St Leonard, where important tower works, including the provision of a belfry floor, are necessary before the PCC can tackle the much larger project of providing new toilet and kitchen facilities around the base of the tower.

Of works reported last time, the bells at Great Chishill, St Swithun, have now been augmented and rehung whilst the vestry windows at Wisbech, St Peter and St Paul, have been restored. For more pictures of Wisbech and the specialist contractor's estimate for the work, see our website Home Page <https://camhct.uk/> and click on "Read More".

**Graham Pledger**

Grants Secretary



- A** *Great Chishill, St Swithun, Bell augmentation*
- B** *Southoe, St Leonard Belfry from below*
- C** *Wisbech, SS Peter and Paul, Vestry South Window Completed*
- D** *Cambridge St Paul, Parapet with failed pointing*

## Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

Registered as a charity in England and Wales No 287486

### Trustees

His Honour Neil McKittrick (Chair)  
The Revd Canon David Pritchard (Vice-Chair)  
Canon Tim Walters (Hon Treasurer)  
David Ball  
David Stazicker  
The Revd Simon Talbott  
Alison Taylor  
The Revd Dr Nicholas Thistlethwaite  
Geoffrey Hunter

### Executive Committee

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

### Administrator

Sue Holgate

[www.camhct.uk](http://www.camhct.uk)