

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

Spring Newsletter

2023

From the Chairman

'O Be Joyful in the Lord, all the earth'
This year of all years we have a great deal to be joyful about.



• Neil McKittrick, Chairman

On 6th May we have the Coronation of King Charles with all that implies for us and for our families and friends. But in the world of the Trust we have a great deal to celebrate both before and after.

On 1st April at Wolfson College we will enjoy our Day Conference on the theme, 'Imagery - Wall Paintings and Screens' and we shall learn a great deal from the acknowledged experts David Stazicker has worked so hard to bring together. We shall have a great opportunity to discuss both formally and informally this important subject. If you have yet to book, please use the link attached. <https://camhct.uk/event/imagery-wall-paintings-and-screens/>

The standout occasion for our celebrations is the Choral Evensong to be held in Ely Cathedral on 27th June at which the Bishop of Ely has kindly agreed to preach. This will

give us all the opportunity to give thanks for the 40 years - to the month - since our Trust was set up and to look with hope and with confidence to the continued success and re-invigoration of the Trust for the next 40 years and beyond. Many churches and chapels have had the opportunity to benefit from grants and loans to improve or repair their buildings but we could always do with more individual members and indeed those churches which, for whatever reason, are not members of the Trust. Do you know anyone who would enjoy being a member or a church which has not signed up? Please put them in touch - and we will be launching a Legacy Campaign at Ely - more details then.

I have been looking at the Trust Deed sealed in June 1983 and signed by Lady Wedgewood, Richard Sledge, Robert Walker, and Robert Van de Weyer and one can only admire the

foresight and vision of these four whose idea was then backed with a Trust Fund of £50. So many have been so grateful for their research and determination all those years ago. Let us continue to build on all their work!

In that same year the BBC screened a documentary about Ronald Blythe, who died in January a few weeks after his 100th birthday. I have been catching up with it on iPlayer. He was a great writer, churchman, and observer of rural life against the constant evolution of the world outside. His column in the Church Times, 'The Word from Wormingford' often reflected the world through the church seasons. Ten years and more ago he joined the annual Little Gidding Pilgrimage and his piece about it encapsulated perfectly the people and places he met on that day. May he rest in peace.

Finally, don't forget our programme of visits to parish churches in the Summer. Plans are well advanced and details will be circulated shortly.

May your year be filled with joy and delight.

Neil McKittrick

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

For our formal Annual Report and Financial Statements visit www.camhct.uk or ask the Administrator for a printed copy.

Annual Conference and Church Tours

Our Annual Conference, as usual at Wolfson College Cambridge, is on Saturday 1st April on the theme “Imagery – Wall Paintings and Screens”. If you haven’t booked already and you see this Newsletter in time, full details and booking arrangements are at <https://camhct.uk/event/imagery-wall-paintings-and-screens/>.

Our church tours this summer will visit:

Sunday 14th May	Hildersham West Wickham Balsham	Holy Trinity St Mary Holy Trinity
Sunday 11th June	Stibbington Water Newton	St John the Baptist St Remigius 3rd church to be confirmed
Sunday 9th July	Haddenham Witcham Sutton-in-the-Isle	Holy Trinity St Martin St Andrew
Sunday 13th August	Whaddon Arrington Croydon	St Mary St Nicholas All Saints

As usual, each tour will start at the first named church at 2.30 pm. At the third and final church our hosts are kind enough to provide us with tea and a WC is available. For those who wish to remain after the tour we either conduct our own short form of Evening Prayer or join the host church for their evening service if one is scheduled.

The May, June and August tours will be led by the Revd Dr Lynne Broughton and the July tour by William Schenck, a longstanding Trust member and Ely Cathedral guide. We don’t charge for participation in these tours but we ask those attending to donate generously to the churches we visit.

David Stazicker

MEMBERSHIP

Membership numbers have remained fairly static over the last year. Churches’ need of financial help from our grants and loans is undiminished and is likely to increase and membership subscriptions is one of two sources on which we depend to pay for these. We would therefore encourage you to help us recruit more members and perhaps make gifts of membership.

It is helpful if members take out a Banker’s Order and details of this are on our website. For those who pay annually by cheque or bank transfer may I remind you that subscriptions are now due. Our bank details are CAF Bank sort code 40-52-40; Account number 00031047. Cheques for £20.00 individual or £50 church membership may be sent to The Treasurer, CHCT, c/o 9 The Chase, Ely, Cambs CB6 3DR.

Thank you.

Sue Holgate
Administrator

Grants



• Soham St Andrew's lead



• Soham St Andrew's from the South East

The most exciting news for this Newsletter is that Grade I listed Soham, St Andrew's has been successful in their grant application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and, with the Amey Landfill Tax grant and the CHCT grant and loan, the PCC are planning to re-roof the north and south transepts starting in May. The leadwork here is particularly bad with holes, tears, slippage and failing lead rolls. There will be associated stone repairs, repointing, timber, gutter and downpipe repairs too, so hopefully, this will go a long way to help remove St Andrew's from the "Buildings at Risk" register.

The scaffolding is now down at Cambridge, St Paul's and the loose and dangerous high level stonework is once again secure.

Elsewhere, Longstanton, St Neots, Landbeach, Great Paxton, Boxworth and Woodditton are all hoping to start work shortly. Unfortunately, work at Morborne, Kingston and Southoe has all been delayed because of the need to work with bats. For them, there are it seems only two periods in the year to work. They are mid- September to November and January to April, not ideal times for working with slow setting lime mortars.

For details of all our recent grants and loans, see our web page at <https://camhct.uk/grants/> You will find the date for our next meeting there too.

Graham Pledger
Grants Secretary



• Cambridge St Paul's BEFORE repairs



• Cambridge St Paul's AFTER repairs

A NEW TREASURER FOR CHCT

Following the resignation of Tim Walters as a Trustee and Hon. Treasurer we are delighted to let you know that Susan Pope has been appointed as Tim's successor.

For many years Susan served as a non-residentiary chapter canon at Ely Cathedral and was Diocesan Secretary for St Albans diocese. Before then she held posts at Cambridge as a college Fellow and Bursar and as Assistant Treasurer and Head of Property Services for the university.

WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING ON SEPTEMBER 9th?

We very much hope you will be doing something for 2023's **RIDE AND STRIDE** which, as you know, is CHCT's annual fund raising event.

You don't have to be able to Ride; you don't have to be able to Stride. If these are difficult or impossible then please do something else – a sponsored anything in fact!

Please ensure your local church/parish/community starts planning now so that as many churches as possible are open for visitors.

Help your hardworking Executive Committee members by ensuring your clergy, PCC members, parishioners and friends are aware of the date – monies raised can be shared 50/50 between the trust and the local church.

To get involved contact: **The Revd Tim Thompson**
r-s-treasurer@camhct.uk

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)
David Ball
Geoffrey Hunter
David Stazicker
The Revd Simon Talbott
Alison Taylor
The Revd Dr Nicholas Thistlethwaite
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William Craven
Graham Pledger (Grants Secretary)
The Revd Canon Annette Reed
The Revd Tim Thompson|
(Ride & Stride Treasurer)
Susan Pope (Hon Treasurer)

Administrator

Sue Holgate