

## Church Tours 2026

With the great help of Samuel Pedlar, one of our trustees, we are working through the list of churches that had originally been identified by David Stazicker however the list remains a work in progress. I have already circulated the four dates for your diaries and I now list the dates and churches concerned obviously at the date of this circulation. You will receive a circulation nearer the time noting any changes. The churches for which arrangements are in place are noted in CAPITALS

### Sunday 10th May :

St Mary The Virgin Great Shelford CB22 5EL  
St Peter BABRAHAM CB22 3AQ  
St Mary and St Andrew Whittlesford CB22 4NY

### Sunday 14th June :

St Peter Snailwell CB8 7LZ  
St Margaret Chippenham CB7 5PP  
St Peter Fordham CB7 5NR

### Sunday 12th July :

St Peter OLDHURST PE28 3AF  
St John the Baptist WOODHURST PE28 3BN  
All Saints ST IVES PE27 6DH

### Sunday 9th August :

St Mary Longstowe CB23 2UU  
St Helena and St Mary Bourn CB23 2SJ  
St Andrew Caxton CB23 3PL

Neil McKittrick

## Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

Registered as a charity in England and Wales No 287486

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The Revd Canon Annette Reed  
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**Administrator**  
Sue Holgate

## Cathedral Service 2026

I have written to Bishop Sarah inviting her to lead a service for members as part of Choral Evensong at Ely Cathedral on a date to be fixed in late August/early September. When she replies we will fix a date and circulate details.

I have also written to Bishop Dagmar thanking her for her support for CHCT and wishing her well as she prepares to take up the role of Bishop of Edinburgh in the Episcopal Church of Scotland.

With best wishes to you all.

**Neil McKittrick - Chairman**  
Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

## AGM 2026

We have decided, with regret, to postpone the Annual Conference which was scheduled for 11th April because it has not been possible to develop and complete the programme in the time available. However, we have decided to hold the AGM with a Speaker on **Saturday 18th April at 10.30am at the Ely Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Ely.**

There will be formal reports from the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer then after a break for refreshments we will be delighted to welcome Holly Robinson, Historic Church Buildings Support Officer for the Diocese of Ely who has agreed to give a talk:

‘How Our Buildings Shape Us’

She will be known to many members and we are delighted she has agreed to take this on. There will be the opportunity to ask questions of Holly at the end of her lecture.

It is expected that the meeting will be over by about 12.30pm and no lunch will be provided. Parking in Chapel Street is very limited and you are strongly recommended to use one of the city centre car parks, or use public transport.

There will be no charge for this meeting which is open to all members and those interested in the Trust. It would be helpful if you could let Sue, our Administrator, know if you intend to come, to help with catering. [admin@camhct.uk](mailto:admin@camhct.uk)



2026

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN



### David Stazicker BEM - RIP

**‘It is only when the tree has fallen that one appreciates its full size’ This could so easily have been said of David who though not large physically made a huge contribution to the work of CHCT over many years. We shall always be in his debt.**

**There he was organising conferences and church tours, and making telling contributions to the work of the trustee board [and of course to a number of other organisations to which he was devoted]. It is hard to believe that he walked 11 miles on Ride and Stride Day to raise money; that just over a month later he was diagnosed with the cancer from which he died about a month after that. His funeral at Mepal, and particularly at his memorial service at Ely Cathedral in January people came from far and wide to rejoice in his long and fulfilled life and support his beloved Elizabeth and family. There was a man.**

## Appeal

David’s death has created a gap which we need to fill as best we can, acknowledging that it may take some time. We need your help and your skills in a number of ways. Please do not feel shy about coming forward ; we need you to give time voluntarily either as a member of the executive committee or without any formal designation whatsoever, to assist, especially in one or more of the following roles :

**[i] Organiser of the 2027 Annual Conference**

**[ii] Organiser of the 2027 Church Tours**

**[iii] A Lecturer on one or more of the Church Tours 2027**

**[iv] Someone to work alongside our excellent Grants Secretary Graham Pledger with a view to replacing him when necessary.**

Training for each of these functions will be given and responsibilities may be shared where necessary to lighten the load . Sometimes many hands genuinely do make light work.

If you would like to express an interest please contact Sue Holgate at [admin@camhct.uk](mailto:admin@camhct.uk) for an informal chat please speak to either Nicholas Leigh-Smith at [vice.chair@camhct.uk](mailto:vice.chair@camhct.uk) or me.

My email address is [nam1492@btinternet.com](mailto:nam1492@btinternet.com). Thank you in anticipation.

**Neil McKittrick**  
Chairman

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.

# Grant Secretary's Report



**Please tick all photos with roofs.**



**Did you get 7 out of 9? If so, then read on.**

In the Autumn 2025 Newsletter I reported that, with a high demand for our grants, we had found it necessary to create a 1 to 8 priority ranking with Priority 1 being stolen lead replacement, leaking roofs, unsafe windows, decaying or unsafe masonry and faulty electrical wiring. Now, three quarters of the way through our 2025/2026 financial year and £23,000 already awarded in grants, the overwhelming majority of our 16 awards are for exactly that.

St Stephen's, Etton, of course, have been thinking about nothing else for the past six years. It was in 2019 that they had their aisle roofs lead stolen, the copper nave roof damaged and ridge tiles from the slated chancel also stolen.



**Etton, St Stephen, damaged Chancel roof in 2018**

I am pleased to report that the last piece of work to now be finished is the chancel roof.



**Etton, St Stephen, Chancel Roof completed in 2026.**

But all is not good news. Unfortunately, with the sudden closure of the Government Grant Scheme, the nearly £7,000 VAT bill cannot now be reclaimed. And St Stephen's are not alone. Our Lady of the Assumption and English Martyrs, (OLEM), in Cambridge started major works to the tower and south aisle last May, currently estimated to be over £1,000,000 and no doubt will be experiencing even worse problems. On their website they are still over £100,000 short. Bassingbourn, St Peter and St Paul, were perhaps luckier although I understand that it was a race to complete the re-ordering work and reclaim the VAT. The church reopened on Sunday 1st March and you can read all about this on our front page "Featured Project". See

<https://camhct.uk/> and clicking "Read More".

You can view all of our grants and loans for the current year on our website, see <https://camhct.uk/grants/> (Our interest-free loan offers this year currently stand at £112,000.)

Of the four eligible but unaffordable grant applications made this year, I am pleased to report that Linton, St Mary, (CHCT Priority 4), were able to raise funds locally to complete their new gas boiler work and Orwell, St Andrew, (CHCT Priority 8), decided to take out one of our loans to investigate easier disabled access into their church. That leaves just two applications – Cambridge GSM, (CHCT Priority 7), and Stuntney, Holy Cross, (CHCT Priority 5), - currently unfunded this year.

Cambridge, Great St Mary's are seeking funds to re-order their front pews. In their grant application to CHCT they stated – "We need to offer better accessible central seating for wheelchair users for services and events. They currently have to sit in the side aisles. We would like to be able to host larger orchestral and choral, educational and other cultural events more effectively. To facilitate this, we would like to adapt the front two pews on each side of the centre Nave, to make them movable to other locations in the church when necessary."



**Cambridge GSM Scott Pews.**

Stuntney, Holy Cross are seeking funds to restore their 12th century stone font. In their grant application to CHCT they stated "In brief - repairs to our ancient font that is unstable and unsafe to use - it very easily wobbles. We want to see the font repaired for use with the community. The font is probably C12, according to the listing, however, Pevsner considers that it is 18th, or at least completely retooled in the C18. On top there is a C17 cover. The bowl appears to be of Barnack being very shelly indeed; it measures 3 feet in diameter. The base also appears to be very ancient. The central baluster also appears old."



**Stuntney Holy Cross Font**

It is hoped here that the PCC might be more successful with a specialist grant for monument restoration through the church of England's "Grants for historic church interiors and churchyard structures."

see <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/our-conservation-grants/grants-historic-church-interiors-and-churchyard-structures#na>

**Graham Pledger**  
Grants Secretary.

## Finance Report March 2026

The accounts for the year ended 30 June 2025 have been prepared for approval at the AGM on Saturday 18 April 2026.

There was a surplus for the year of just over £18,000 but this includes a legacy of £7,500 which has been transferred to the investment portfolio. The investment portfolio showed a small reduction in value during the year so the overall reserves of the charity have remained broadly steady over the last few years.

Generally the Trust retains a capital balance which generates an income which with the donations and Ride and Stride allows the ongoing grants each year to be funded. Around £150,000 of the overall capital is not specifically invested but is earmarked to provide interest free loans to churches to fund larger projects.

For the six months to December 2025 the income from Ride and Stride was lower than previously so the grants for the current year have been reduced to remain within the overall objectives above. Fortunately the investment income has held up so the overall deficit for the first six months is less than £2,000.

A new initiative has been launched which is an online Church tour. The hope is that this will result in donations which will replace the income lost from Ride and Stride.

The accounting records of the Trust have now been moved to QuickBooks online which should result in a saving in fees paid to the previous external providers.

**Paul Skipper, Hon Treasurer**  
March 2026