

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales No 287486

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015

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The detailed financial statements for the year 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015
are set out in a separate document also available at www.camhct.uk

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Trustees and Executive Committee

Trustees serving during the year

Richard Halsey MBE (Chairman)
The Revd Canon Christopher Barber
Nicholas Grantham
Canon Julian Limentani
Dr John Maddison
The Ven Richard Sledge
(resigned w.e.f. 25th January 2015)
The Revd Simon Talbott
Alison Taylor
The Rt Revd Dr David Thomson
Richard Turpin OBE

Executive Committee

Richard Halsey MBE (Chairman)
Ron Dexter (Hon Treasurer)
Andrew Clarke (Grants Secretary)
David Stazicker (Hon Secretary)
Andrew Westwood-Bate (Publicity Officer)
Jenny Lowles (Membership Secretary)
The Revd Dr Lynne Broughton
William Craven
The Revd Canon Annette Reed

General Contact

David Stazicker, Hon Secretary
The Willows, Low Bank, Mepal, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 2AU
Phone : 01353 778129 email : secretary@camhct.uk

For more detailed information about the Trust's activities visit www.camhct.uk
where Newsletters can be downloaded

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2 Structure, Governance and Management of the Trust

The operation of the Trust is governed by the Declaration of Trust dated 10th June 1983. The founding Trustees and their successors were empowered to appoint new Trustees, and this power has been duly exercised from time to time so as to include a range of persons with knowledge and experience relevant to the Trust's objectives. The Trustees may delegate any of their functions (except those relating to investments) to a committee, subject to any lawful and proper directions as to the conduct of its business. The Trustees may appoint to, and remove from, any such committee any person whether or not also serving as a Trustee. An Executive Committee has accordingly been appointed to administer the day-to-day affairs of the Trust within overall policies and financial limits set from time to time by the Trustees. In making appointments to the Committee the Trustees endeavour to secure a range of knowledge and experience relevant to the Committee's business. The Committee's proceedings are reported to the Trustees, who meet twice yearly. The Executive Committee meets every two months. These arrangements are currently under review. Although it is not currently a statutory requirement, the Trust continues to obtain a formal audit of its annual accounts as specified in the Declaration of Trust.

3 The Trust's Charitable Objectives

The purposes of the Trust are "The preservation repair maintenance improvement upkeep and reconstruction of Churches in the County of Cambridge and or monuments fittings fixtures stained glass furniture ornaments and chattels in such churches and of the churchyard belonging to any such Churches". "Church" is defined as "any Church Chapel or other building used for public worship whether belonging to or used by the Church of England or any other religious body". As at the foundation of the Trust in 1983 the County included the district of Peterborough, which attained unitary local government status in 1998. It remains within the ambit of the Trust's activities.

In pursuit of these purposes the Trust awards loans and grants to churches to assist towards the cost of repairs, the creation of new facilities, precautions against metal theft and repairs to monuments. To raise funds towards the cost of grants the Trust participates in the annual countrywide sponsored event currently entitled "Ride and Stride". It also recommends such projects for the award of grants from national sources such as the National Churches Trust's Partnership Grants Scheme. It formerly awarded grants from the annual block funding provided by Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) under the Landfill Communities Scheme. The Trustees are also empowered to "do all such things as are permitted by law to the Trustees of a Charitable Trust and as are incidental to the execution of the trusts" and to "do all such lawful things as shall further the attainment of the objects of the Trust". In exercise of these ancillary powers the Trust organises conferences, meetings, visits and guided tours to increase the understanding of church buildings, their contents and their history. It also invites individuals and churches to subscribe as members of the Trust, with discounted charges for attendance at some events. Subscribing members receive periodic newsletters and other mailings about the activities of the Trust, and have the opportunity annually to attend a meeting or conference session at which the activities of the preceding year are reported and questions may be addressed to the Trust's officers.

The Trust encourages donations and legacies to its charitable funds but does not employ external fundraisers nor make unsolicited telephone calls.

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4 Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

5 Activities during the Year – General Overview

In furtherance of the objectives identified above the Trust has undertaken various activities during the year 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015. These are described in this and the following three sections of this report.

The Trust's wish to promote knowledge of the history and architecture of the county's churches was successfully met by the Church Tours and the Annual Conference listed below. These events are well attended with many regular participants, though the September trip around Cambridge attracted a slightly different group. It is always encouraging to welcome members of the congregation to our visit as they can often give our members extra, perhaps more anecdotal and personal comments, and so help to explain those more idiosyncratic things seen in places of worship!

After last year's application famine, we have received virtually double the number in 2014-15. That famine meant there was enough in reserves to offer nearly a quarter of a million pounds in loans up to £20,000. Trustees also decided to release a further £15,000 for extra grants, though by maintaining the £3,000 maximum, we were able to help nearly everyone who approached us. This extra activity may be partly due to greater familiarity with the HLF *Grants for Places of Worship Scheme*, the quite substantial grants being offered by the AmeyCespa Community Fund and WREN (derived from the Landfill Tax) and possibly to the Government's one-off scheme to fund roof repairs subsequently extended to a second round.

A good number of those projects were for heating and new facilities showing how many congregations are addressing the need to upgrade their buildings to secure both their congregations and uses in addition to worship. Following its Mission Action Planning, the diocese of Ely has

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Activities ... - General Overview *continued*

produced a new strategy, *People Fully Alive*. Although not primarily about buildings, it is encouraging a realistic view to be taken on the viability and use of the present range of churches. It is no secret that a number of rural churches, although much loved and appreciated, are infrequently used for worship and their small congregations are struggling to maintain them.

This is a national problem and other dioceses are looking at how to manage the overprovision of buildings, yet not entirely lose them (as often the only sustainable alternative use is conversion for housing which can be inimical to the quality and character of the building as well as unacceptable to many). In responding to the consultation on the strategy, Trustees regretted the loss of the Church Support Officer post but offered its help to assist individual congregations understand the issues facing them and so reach a solution for the building. The Trust is exploring with the diocese what role it might have in securing a sustainable future for the county's parish churches.

However, our contribution will depend on the availability and interest of Trustees and particularly its officers. After eight years, Richard Halsey is resigning as Chairman and after very many more years' service, Ron Dexter will be retiring from the post of Hon Treasurer as soon as a replacement is found. Our last founding Trustee, Julian Limentani is also to retire and our stalwart Church Tours guide of many years, Dr John Maddison will be moving out of the county. New blood is needed and like other voluntary organisations (including the churches of course) it is proving hard to find people prepared to commit to a continuous involvement – as distinct from giving occasional support.

That is the challenge the Trust faces over the next year, but Trustees warmly thank the hardworking officers of the Trust for another successful year of activities and for deftly managing so large a number of grants and loans.

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Award of Loans and Grants

During the year 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015 the Trust has offered the following loans and grants :

| | Loans | Grants | Recommendations to National Churches Trust |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| St Nicholas, Glatton | 13,000 | 2,000 | - |
| Holy Trinity, Hildersham | 15,000 | 3,000 | - |
| Methodist Church, Ely | - | 1,000 | - |
| St Kyneburgha, Castor | 12,000 | - | 5,000 |
| St George, Thriplow | 15,000 | 3,000 | - |
| All Saints, Pidley | 3,000 | 2,000 | - |
| St Mary, Guilden Morden | 10,000 | 2,500 | - |
| St Bartholomew, Great Gransden | 10,000 | 2,500 | - |
| St Matthew, Cambridge | 20,000 | - | - |
| St Mary Magdalene, Brampton | - | 1,000 | - |
| All Saints, Harston | 20,000 | 1,500 | - |
| Holy Trinity, Meldreth | 10,000 | 1,000 | - |
| St Mary, Cheveley | - | 2,500 | - |
| Methodist Church, Elton | 20,000 | 2,000 | - |
| Methodist Church, Histon | - | 2,000 | - |
| St Peter, Horningsea | 10,000 | 3,000 | - |
| St Mary, Great Abington | 20,000 | 3,000 | - |

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Awards of Loans and Grants continued

| | Loans | Grants | Recommendations to National Churches Trust |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| St Mary the Virgin, Fen Ditton | 20,000 | 2,000 | - |
| St Mary, Eynesbury | - | 1,000 | - |
| All Saints, Rampton | 20,000 | 1,000 | - |
| St George, Hatley | - | 1,000 | - |
| St Laurence, Diddington | 15,000 | 1,000 | 5,000 |
| St Leonard, Southoe | 10,000 | 3,000 | - |
| | 243,000 | 41,000 | 10,000 |

7**Other Activities**

During the year 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015 the following other activities took place : -

Annual Conference at Wolfson College, Cambridge Saturday 9th May 2015

This event on the theme “The Search for Significance: Writing about Churches” was well attended and yielded a net profit of £182. It included a session in which subscribing members received a report on the preceding year’s activities and had the opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Church tours

Sunday 12th July to Walpole St Peter, Tilney All Saints and Terrington St Clement

Sunday 10th August to Westley Waterless, St Mary the Less, Great Wilbraham, St Nicholas, Little Wilbraham, St John

Saturday 13th September (coinciding with annual “Ride, Drive and Stride” and Heritage Open Days) walking tour of churches in central Cambridge and Jesus College Chapel, with opportunity for participants to obtain sponsorship

Sunday 10th May to Stuntney, Holy Cross, Little Downham, St Leonard, Coveney, St Peter ad Vincula

Sunday 14th June to Sutton (near Biggleswade, Bedfordshire) Tadlow, St Giles, Hatley St George.

8**Sponsored Ride, Drive and Stride**

This annual event, which in the year 2014-15 took place on Saturday 13th September 2014, is currently the Trust’s principal source of income. In common with other historic churches trusts in other parts of the country, Cambridgeshire has seen a gradual decline in participation and income from this event over the last few years. As recorded in the accounts, this event raised £20,438 of which £9,547 was paid over to individual churches.

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9 Membership

As described in part 2 of this report, the Trust invites individuals and churches to subscribe as members, at an annual cost of £20 and £50 respectively. Individual membership entitles up to two people at the same address to the relevant benefits. The administrative costs arising from the membership scheme are very modest and the bulk of the subscription income is available in aid of the Trust's core charitable objectives.

The Trust's total membership as at 30 June 2015 stood at 278 consisting of 187 individual members (of which there were 32 joint members at the same address) and 91 corporate or church members. This is a slight fall in numbers compared to 2013-4. We have welcomed 14 individuals, 12 churches and a Buildings Preservation Trust as new members since 1 July 2014. There have been 8 resignations and 9 members, who were either in arrears or were not paying the correct subscription, have been removed.

As reported last year, most members pay via Standing Order and the number paying by cheque has fallen to below 40. Any current member who is prepared to switch to payment by Standing Order is encouraged to complete the form available on the website or to contact the Membership Secretary direct – contact details are shown on the front page of this report.

10 Charities Act 2011 - Public Benefit

The Trustees are aware of the requirement to report on the Charity's public benefit, and the Charity Commission's guidance on the matter.

The Trust's objectives are set out in part 3 of this report. The Trust's predominant activity is the award of loans and grants to churches to assist with the cost of works falling within those objectives, as detailed in the following Financial Statements and Notes. As detailed in parts 5 and 7, it also organises tours of local churches, and occasionally those further afield, guided by specialists in architectural history and iconography, and conferences addressed by specialists on matters within the Trust's objectives. In so doing it is fulfilling several of the purposes specified in the 2011 Act : the advancement of religion, by assisting churches to maintain their buildings in a fit state for worship, and to improve facilities so as to encourage attendance; the advancement of community development, by assisting churches to adapt their buildings for wider community use; and the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage, by supporting the conservation of buildings and artefacts of architectural, artistic and historic interest, and by spreading knowledge and understanding of those buildings and artefacts.

The Trust's loans and grants are available to all denominations, the local tours are free of charge irrespective of membership of the Trust, and other activities are available to members and non-members alike. Although assistance to any individual church may chiefly benefit its own regular worshippers, churches almost invariably welcome all comers to their services, and if a church is not regularly open at other times keys are usually available to visitors on request. The benefits arising from the Trust's activities are accordingly available in all cases to a wide section of the public, without express qualification, and in many respects to the public as a whole, without exclusion of people in poverty.

In considering applications for financial assistance, the Executive Committee has regard to the relative urgency of the works, the relative architectural, artistic or historic significance of the buildings or artefacts, the other resources available, the size and means of the worshipping community, and where applicable the benefit to the wider local community, thus investigating rigorously the various aspects of public benefit which may accrue from the proposed works.

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II Reserve Policy

The overheads of the Trust are minimal as no staff are employed, so a specific reserve is unnecessary.

The surplus funds of £83,000 are available for Grants (£26,000) i.e. the net income for the year plus £2,000 not allocated in the year to 30th June 2015 and £3,000 for grants for memorials. The balance of £54,000 plus £69,000 due to be repaid in the next financial year will leave £123,000 for interest free loans.