

Engage Awards

Here are details of some of the winning projects.



St Margaret's, Hemingford Abbots
The gravel path was a real block to some members of the community attending worship. A new surface allows easy access for wheelchairs and buggies alike and the new lighting provides that additional security.



St Mary's, Hardwick
People can be reluctant to remove fixed pews but the benefits are significant. The church can now offer the wider community space and the ability to host activities for a wide range of groups, all in such splendid surroundings.



All Saints, Cottenham
The space has been transformed both for worship and wider use. The level access and greater flexibility of the interior makes this a welcoming building for all.



St Mary the Virgin, Great Abington
Since installing toilets and a kitchen, St Mary's has witnessed significant growth in activities in the church and churchyard..



Holy Trinity, Great Paxton
This case brings together the worshipping and wider community in a marvellous project benefitting old and young alike as well as securing the tradition of full-circle ringing in Gt Paxton for the next generation.



Great Gransden Baptist Church
Providing an antidote to social isolation is part of this amazing project. By hosting a weekly café which attracts over 60 customers the church is tackling a real social need as well as demonstrating God's love to the wider community.



St Luke's, Cambridge
A tragedy was the catalyst in creating the Living Room, a safe, community space in St Luke's church. The result is described as a 'non-churchy' space which is both comfortable and non-threatening. A splendid use of a previously unused gallery.

Awards also went to St John's, Somersham who have installed a new heating system that will enhance the building as a venue as well as bringing comfort to regular worshippers, and St Mary's Buckden who have restored a public clock face long obscured by grime.

Grants Secretary's Report

Since our Spring newsletter was compiled, grants and loans totalling £21,100 and £50,000 respectively have been offered for repairs and improvements to churches - St Ives Free Church, St Swithun's Great Chishill, St Mary the Virgin Woodditton, St Mary Magdalene Ickleton, St Andrew Witchford, Holy Trinity Great Paxton, St Ives Methodist Church, St Mary the Virgin Gamlingay, St Peter Easton, St Michael Cambridge, St Peter Duxford and St Andrew Soham.

We also recommended the project at St Michael Cambridge for a National Churches Trust Partnership Grant, and the outcome is awaited. Of the sums awarded for grants, a total of £8,000 was for repairs, £1,500 for a stair lift, £6,000 for WCs and serveries, and £4,600 for roof alarms. Some churches who had not taken advantage of the roof alarm scheme supported by Allchurches Trust have subsequently found it necessary to install alarms and been awarded the reduced support which we are now able to offer.

Andy Clarke
Grants Secretary

RIGHT: Stairlift at St Ives Methodist Church



Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

Registered as a charity in England and Wales No 287486

Trustees

The Rt Revd Dr David Thomson (Chair) (to 23/09/18)
Sir Hugh Duberly KCVO CBE (Chair) (from 24/09/18)
The Revd Canon Christopher Barber (to 24/04/18)
Alan Churchar (Hon Treasurer)
Nicholas Grantham
The Revd Canon David Pritchard (Vice-Chair)
David Stazicker (Hon Secretary)
The Revd Simon Talbott
Alison Taylor

Executive Committee

The Revd Canon David Pritchard (Chair)
The Revd Dr Lynne Broughton
Alan Churchar (Hon Treasurer)
Andrew Clarke (Grants Secretary) (to Oct 18)
William Craven
Jenny Lowles (Membership Secretary)
Graham Pledger
The Revd Canon Annette Reed
David Stazicker (Hon Secretary)
Andrew Westwood-Bate (Publicity Officer)

Ride, Drive & Stride Treasurer
Nick Pallister

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Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

Autumn Newsletter

2018

Farewell and Welcome



**Our new Chair of Trustees,
Sir Hugh Duberly
KCVO CBE**

Most of you will know that after serving as a Trustee for nearly nine years and as Chair since 2016, the Rt Revd Dr David Thomson retired from these posts in September.

Bishop David served the Trust with outstanding energy and dedication, and his knowledge, learning and wisdom have been a constant help and reassurance to the Trust's officers. We have benefitted greatly not just from his superlative managerial skills but from his philosophy that the Church's architectural and artistic heritage can be a powerful aid to mission rather than an encumbrance. This is timely when disquiet is expressed at the highest level in the Church about heritage as an obstacle to access by people with disabilities. With sufficient ingenuity, ways can usually be found of reconciling these imperatives. Some 30% of the projects supported financially by the Trust over the past year or so, representing 48% of the value of grants and 80% of the value of loans awarded, have involved the creation or improvement of facilities. Even where these are not specifically aimed at creating better access for disabled people, compliance with the latest standards for access is a prerequisite for the various statutory approvals.

One of Bishop David's new initiatives was the Engage Awards scheme, giving acclaim to imaginative projects which engaged churches with their local communities. With the aid of sponsorship the winning churches have received modest financial prizes, but they have especially valued the recognition accorded by Bishop David's tours of the county to present the

awards in person on Ride Drive and Stride day. See page 4 for details of this year's winners and Bishop David's comments.

It is our good fortune that immediately upon Bishop David's retirement he was succeeded both as a Trustee and as Chair by Sir Hugh Duberly. Sir Hugh served as Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire from 2003 to 2017 and among his many other appointments he chaired the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance for several years. He therefore brings invaluable experience to the work of the Trust both in Church affairs and in a wide range of other areas, and we are extremely grateful to him for agreeing to assume the leadership of our Trust. We cannot expect him to be involved in the day-to-day administration of the Trust to the same degree as his predecessors, and we are fortunate that the Revd Canon David Pritchard, who has chaired our Executive Committee since 2016, has agreed to serve also as Vice-Chair of the Trustees and preside at any meetings which Sir Hugh is unable to attend.

Our assiduous and ever-helpful Grants Secretary Andy Clarke has also now left us. Despite his having given ample notice of his resignation we have so far not succeeded in finding a replacement. This post is at the very core of the Trust's work, helping to fulfil our basic purpose of contributing to the repair and improvement of Cambridgeshire's churches. Another member of our Executive Committee, Graham Pledger, has generously agreed to undertake the work on a temporary basis, but we urgently need to find a longer-term replacement. If you know of anyone who might be able to take this on, please let us know.

There is no doubt that Andy's effectiveness as Grants Secretary, and in particular his helpfulness to applicants, drew substantially on his prior and continuing experience as an officer of his own church of St Peter, Horningsea. His note which follows on page 2 was intended by him as an appreciation, from his local viewpoint, of the Trust's role in supporting local churches, but it can serve also to illustrate how that perspective fitted him so well to make his own major contribution to the fulfilment of the Trust's purposes.

David Stazicker
Hon Secretary

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.

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Email: secretary@camhct.uk

Membership Secretary: Jenny Lowles, Phone 01353 861674, Email members@camhct.uk

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

Secretary's Report

Our Trustees and Executive Committee members met together in April at an "Awayday" to consider where we ought to be in 2023 – our 40th anniversary - and how we should aim to get there.

We began by asking ourselves the obvious question – Is there a problem? There was general agreement that more churches face difficulties in maintaining their buildings, because of the decrease in congregations and in their ability to generate income, the prospective reduction in national grants and more onerous conditions to be satisfied, and the increasing demand for new practical facilities, which have to be provided to high standards. At the same time, the Trust's income, from which it provides grants, is falling, and there is no early prospect of this gap being filled by an increase in returns on capital.

To deal with these challenges we need to take action in several ways: raise the Trust's public profile and develop our communications including social media; recruit more members; re-think the Ride, Drive and Stride; work more closely with others including diocesan officers, in offering advice and help to churchwardens and other officers; and be as imaginative as possible in our grant-making in order to make best use of limited resources.

Meanwhile we have continued with our usual programme of informative events. The conference in April "What an Achievement" on heraldry in churches was well attended and received. The summer Sunday church tours led by the Revd Dr Lynne Broughton were again very successful, and we are also grateful to the churches who welcomed us and where applicable provided us with splendid teas. In August Lynne also led a visit by coach to Rochester, jointly organised by the Trust and the Cambridgeshire Association for Local History. It was good to see this annual event successfully revived after a lapse of two years. The results from the Ride, Drive and Stride on 8th September have yet to be assessed. See below, "Dates for your Diary", for future events.

David Stazicker
Hon Secretary

The view from Horningsea

When I first took on the role of Treasurer at Horningsea in the late 90's the PCC had embarked on tower repairs for which the sum of £10,000 had been set aside. Several years and £120,000 later the repairs were completed due to a generous grant from English Heritage and a grant and loan from CHCT. Soon after, the south aisle roof began to leak!

With another grant and loan from CHCT the roof, surrounding windows and chancel coping stones were all repaired (for some £130,000). Next came repairs to the chancel and north aisle (£40,000). On closer inspection the north aisle roof became a separate project - another £40,000 – aided by a National Churches Trust Partnership grant.

Our most recent project was to install a new servery and toilets. This opened up the back of the church for community use, to universal acclaim. We were especially delighted to receive an Engage Award from Bishop David.

CHCT loans have been critical to our success. Over the period we have taken out 4 large loans which have enabled urgent projects to proceed while fundraising continued, sometimes after the event.

Back in 2010 then-Chairman Richard Halsey enquired about me working for the Trust rather than the other way round! It was an offer I couldn't refuse.

Andy Clarke
Treasurer, Horningsea PCC



St Peter's, Horningsea

Dates for your Diary

Subscriptions are due on 1st January 2019. Please send cheques made out to Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust to the Membership Secretary, c/o the Hon Secretary's address (see foot of Page 1). Only those on email will be sent a separate reminder. OR consider setting up a standing order – see below.

Saturday 6th April 2019 - Annual Conference at Wolfson College, Cambridge – Music in English Churches 1450-1900. We are indebted to the Revd Canon Nicholas Thistlethwaite for his extensive help in organising this conference.

Sundays 12th May, 9th June, 14th July and 11th August 2019 - Church tours Itineraries to be announced later.

Saturday 17th August 2019 – Visit by coach to Southwell Minster and other notable churches, led by the Revd Dr Lynne Broughton.

Ride, Drive and Stride
Saturday 14th September 2019.

Membership

The Trust's total membership at 30 September stood at 306 consisting of 189 individuals, of which there were 36 joint members living at the same address, and 117 church or corporate members. We welcomed nine individual members and nine churches. One church and 7 individual members resigned. Overall we have seen another slight rise in membership.

If you are wondering what to give a relative or friend for Christmas, how about buying them a year's membership of the Trust? You don't have to be a mathematical genius to work out that if all our members did this our membership would double. Forms are now available and will go out with this Newsletter.

A reminder that 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 email or phone us for a form. And again, if you don't at present pay by standing order, please consider doing so.

Jenny Lowles
Membership Secretary

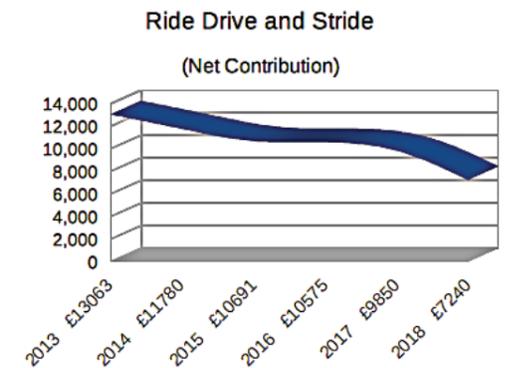
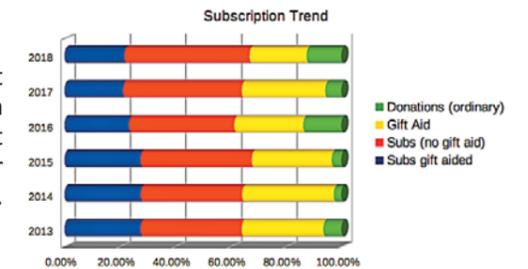
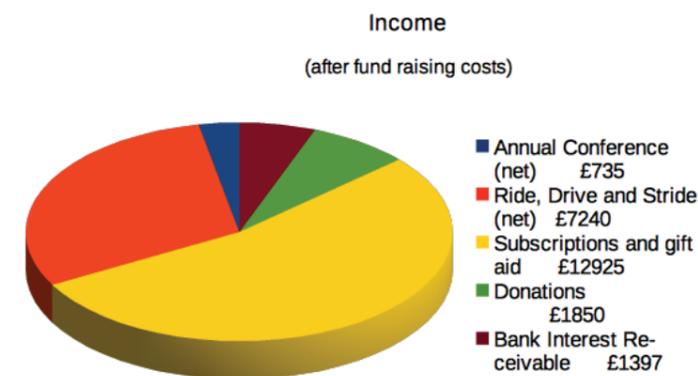
Financial Update

We make concessionary loans to churches to help them maintain and improve their buildings. Loans come from the pool of cash on deposit and repayments are put back into it. Concessionary loans are interest free and usually repayable over a four year period. We have an unimpaired credit history and repayments are almost always made within a month of them being due. Churches applying for concessionary loans are usually provided with the loan requested.

Grants to churches are absolute gifts of money for our charitable purposes. The amount made available for grants is the net income actually received in the previous year; the net income received in one year is distributed by grants the following year. Thus, we always live within our means but it also means "no income, no money, no grants".

Incoming resources

Subscriptions and donations are from individuals and churches. Gift Aid, an important element, is included in this category. Although membership slowly increases, the amount individuals give under Gift Aid is declining year after year. A subscription or donation made under Gift Aid increases the value to us by 25% as a result of the tax credit. Corporate membership subscriptions are increasingly important to us.



The Roof Alarm Appeal Fund operated in the 2017 calendar year. We helped 25 churches with grants of £2,500 each to install roof alarms. AllChurches Trust Limited, the holding company of Ecclesiastical Insurance, gave us £1,000 per church and we put in the £1,500.

The net revenue (contribution) from the annual sponsored Ride Drive and Stride event has been very important to us. However, it is seriously in decline. Ride Drive and Stride used to be our main source of income. Subscriptions and donations, particularly corporate memberships, have taken on that importance.

Outgoing resources

Other than the special fund for roof alarms, in our last financial year, we paid other grants to 12 churches totalling £31,000. We gave over £80,000 loans to 8 churches. The Trust incurs minimal amounts of management and administration expenses.

We now have facilities for online giving with Stewardship.org.uk (give.net) and with CAFonline.org (Charities Aid Foundation). We prefer subscriptions by standing order and online banking for grants and loans. Please consider a bank standing order to our CAF Bank account. If you've not changed from NatWest, please change to CAF Bank.

Management and administration costs continue minimally.

A special plea concerning Gift Aid. So long as you pay enough income tax to cover the tax credit on your charitable donations, you are eligible to make a gift aid declaration. It is so important to us to increase the amounts you give by 25% at no cost to anybody, except HM Revenue and Customs. It seems a waste not to make the Gift Aid declaration if you are a tax payer.

The latest Annual Report and audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2017 are available on our website camhct.uk. The Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018 will be published on both our website and the Charity Commission's in due course.

