



From the Chairman

Where we are now

Like so many charitable trusts today, CHCT has had to re-consider what it does because our investment income has dropped and our paid-up membership declined. Faced also with a lower income from our main annual fund raising event, the Ride and Stride, Trustees decided in July to reduce the maximum levels of grants and loans we can offer to £3000 and £15000 respectively.

The Trust will continue to assist with funding new facilities, but fabric repairs will be given priority. Help with security measures will continue (see the article on Metal Theft) as will the dedicated £3000 budget for monument projects.

Where we want to be

We want to be better off and so help more places of worship in Cambridgeshire repair and improve their buildings for future generations to use and enjoy as we do now. We would like to double our membership to 600 individuals and parishes, so securing our regular income. If the Ride and Stride is to remain our main fundraiser, then we must revitalise it (see the Ride and Stride article). Trustees would also like to hold other fund raising events, like the Garden Party in 2008, but we need more willing volunteers to help put them on.

I think we can be proud of our existing activities; the conference (this year on



• *The charming monument to two children, Lionel and Dorothe Allington d. 1638. This and other fine monuments in Holy Trinity, Bottisham are the subject of a conserator's report part funded by CHCT.*

March 17th), the Church Tours (listed overleaf) and the AGM (on September 22nd 2012 at Little Paxton). But we

want more people to enjoy them and so bring greater benefits to the Trust and the churches of the county.

Can you help?

As parish churches are the main recipients of our help, we are looking for someone in each rural deanery to be the Trust's representative as a conduit for our work their area. It is not a fund raising role but about communicating our messages and distributing our material directly to the people who need it. Priests and churchwardens are busy people and although they can receive things like this Newsletter electronically, it might be better sent to someone else more specifically interested in looking after their building who we cannot hope to identify.

If you think you could help us in this way, then do contact me, 01353 645131, or the secretary David Stazicker 01223 778129 for a chat. We will also be approaching the rural deans and synod chairs to help us identify the right people.

Richard Halsey

People

We welcome Alison Taylor, former County Archaeologist and churchwarden of Cambridge the Ascension-St Luke, as a new Trustee and Jenny Lowles as our new Membership Secretary.

The trust is an independent Charity with a primary task to support the repair and restoration of places of Christian worship in Cambridgeshire. Its funds accrue from the annual sponsored cycle ride and are used to make grants and interest-free loans to churches. Support to the Trust is also given through Membership. Members receive advance notices of the Annual Conference and the summer afternoon Church Tours. Annual subscription is £20.

Secretary: David Stazicker, The Willows, Low Bank, Mepal, Ely, Cambs. CB6 2AU. Tel: 01353 778129
Email: secretary@cambshistoricchurchestrust.co.uk

Membership Secretary:

Mrs Jenny Lowles 01353 861574 Email: members@cambshistoricchurchestrust.co.uk

Publicity Officer: Andrew Westwood-Bate 01223 892430 Email: info@cambshistoricchurchestrust.co.uk

NEWS & VIEWS

Grants from Others

Scilla Latham, the Ely Diocese Church Buildings Support Officer, has compiled a very useful directory, the Church Funding Fact Sheet, available at www.cambsacre.org.uk and is organising a seminar on fund raising on 12 July at Somersham – all welcome. Contact her on 01353 865043 scilla.latham@cambsacre.org.uk

The AmeyCespa Community Fund (formerly Donarbon) provides grant funding of up to £20,000 on projects costing up to £150,000 and £40,000 for projects over £150,000 from landfill tax credits, anywhere in Cambridgeshire. But it is not just major projects that qualify. Recently, a collection of permanent fabric repairs resulting from the architect's quinquennial report (stonework, rainwater goods, re-glazing), organised into a single contract costing over £15,000 was offered a grant. Go to www.cambscf.org.uk/AmeyCespa-fund.html for details.

WREN continue to offer grants for major repair projects to grade I & II* churches costing over £50,000, in a scheme operated by the National Churches Trust. WREN's main grant scheme offers help for community facilities and amenities. All applicants must be within 10 miles of the WREN landfill sites at Buckden, Dogsthorpe, March or Milton in Cambridgeshire and Feltwell in Norfolk. www.wren.org.uk

From April, the Heritage Lottery Fund is making £30 million available for the last year of the Repair Grants for Places of Worship scheme; apply to the English Heritage Cambridge office as they administer the scheme. A new HLF only scheme runs from 2013.

We were relieved when the Government decided to continue the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme that re-imburses

some of the VAT paid on church repair projects. However its operation has turned into a nightmare for church treasurers, as there is no guarantee of how much of the claim will be paid until the end of the quarter in which it is made. Just 45.9% was paid on claims submitted in the last quarter of 2011. Our advice is that you shouldn't budget for receiving back any more than 50% of the VAT you pay and to try to cover all the VAT with loans (including from CHCT) before work begins. www.lpwsceme.org.uk

Both www.churchcare.co.uk/funding and www.nationalchurchestrust.org/supporting-you/overview give information on other national grant giving trusts.



• *Work begins at Horningsea, offered a £3,000 grant and £10,000 loan*

CHCT grants

CHCT offers grants up to £3000 and loans up to £15000 for repairs to the fabric of historic churches (which do not have to be listed). We also offer grants and loans for installing new facilities like lavatories and kitchens and rewiring and heating projects. We do not offer grants for work in churchyards, redecoration, liturgical re-ordering or new works of art. CHCT also offers grants of 50% up to £1000 for work to protect metal roofs, such as access for the application of Smartwater and the installation of alarms approved by your insurer and we set aside £3000 each year for grants towards the repair of important monuments, including significant churchyard table tombs.

Please contact the Grants Secretary, Andy Clarke 01223 861314 to discuss your project before you apply.

Church Tours

Sunday 13th May

Parson Drove, St John the Baptist
Wisbech, Friends' Meeting House
Wisbech, St Peter & St Paul

Sunday 10th June

Buckworth, All Saints
Molesworth, St Peter
Catworth, St Peter

Sunday 8th July

Great Eversden, St Mary
Little Eversden, St Helen
Toft, St Andrew

Sunday 12th August

Abbot's Ripton, St Andrew
Little Stukeley, St Martin
Great Stukeley, St Bartholomew

Each tour starts at 2.30 pm at the first church named. On arrival at the third and final church, our hosts are kind enough to provide us with tea, and toilets are available. Those who wish to can stay after the tour of the final church, for a short service of Evening Prayer, or join the congregation for their evening service if there is one. There is no charge for participation in these tours, which are open to all, but those attending are asked to donate generously to the churches visited, and especially for the teas. Directions will be posted on our website and printed in leaflets nearer the time of the tours.



• *The Pathfinder Memorial Chapel, Offord Cluny, commemorating members of the 35-635 Pathfinder Squadron based at nearby RAF Gravelly. Visited by members in June 2011.*

EVENTS

Metal theft

It is difficult enough to keep church roofs and gutters in good condition without having the metal covering stripped off by selfish thieves. The government is working towards better regulation of the scrap metal industry (driven more by the damage inflicted by the theft of copper cabling than church roofs) but the Church of England's Church Buildings Council is campaigning for more action and faster implementation.

To this end, they are asking us all to write to our MP and press on them the damage being done to communities as well as to the buildings. There is nothing like a local example affecting voters in their own constituency to make an MP think harder about a topic, so if your church has suffered, get writing!

More information

The Churchcare website has an excellent page devoted to this subject, with much practical advice and links through to many useful initiatives. <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/building.php?CDOD>

Ecclesiastical also has much helpful advice on its website, especially Theft of metal guidance notes. www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmatters/churchguidance/churchsecurity/theftofmetal/index.aspx

Self-help

There are many simple and inexpensive things that a congregation can do, such as

- putting a decent padlock on the vehicle entry to the churchyard
- making it difficult to get on to the roof by moving dustbins and water butts away from the walls and locking away ladders
- applying Smartwater
- painting downpipes and fuel tanks with anti-climb paint

Just walk around the building and pretend you are a thief to see what needs to be done or ask your neighbourhood police team or crime prevention officer to visit and advise you.

This might seem like a lot of effort now, but it is a great deal easier to do and less time consuming than dealing with a stolen roof and all the consequent physical damage and congregational distress.

CHCT grants and loans

The Trust will consider offering a grant of 50% (up to £1000) of the cost of installing an effective alarm that meets your insurance company's requirements or the cost of applying 'Smartwater'. Our reduced financial circumstances doesn't allow us to help as many congregations in this way as we want, but we may be able to offer a loan to enable you to get the work done quickly.

Competitions

The Church Monuments Society will award a prize of £500 for the church guide book or leaflet which provides the best guide to that church's funerary and other monuments. The closing date is 30 June. See www.churchmonumentsociety.org

Guidance

English Heritage has published new guidance on Caring for historic graveyard and cemetery monuments and Metal theft. See their website www.english-heritage.org.uk/

Ride and Stride

Participants raise money by getting sponsorship for every place of worship they visit by cycle, bus or on foot on Ride and Stride day (8 September 2012). The money raised is then split between the Trust and the place of worship they nominate. If the sponsorship is gift-aided, then the Trust can further benefit – by over £4000 in 2011.

Another benefit is visiting churches and chapels, which may already be opening for Heritage Open Day that takes place on the same weekend. We also encourage churches to provide a drink and biscuit to refresh their visitors, but understandably, some can only participate by making the signing-in page available.

In 2011, a remarkable £24329.08 was raised by 78 participating churches and chapels in the 14 Church of England deanery areas as follows;

Deanery	No of churches	Total raised £
Bourn	7	2308.50
Cambridge	3	1410.00
Ely	7	2051.00
Fordham & Quy	7	1526.00
Granta	5	1479.50
Huntingdon	15	4196.50
March	1	55.00
North Stow	8	4436.00
Peterborough	1	89.00
St Ives	7	1852.84
St Neots	3	616.00
Shingay	8	2997.10
Wisbech	1	71.00
Yaxley	5	1240.00

This is a fantastic achievement and the Trust and nominated congregations are really grateful to all those who took part, whether by cycling, striding or by welcoming people to their church on the day (sponsored by the hour, of course!) Without their effort, the Trust simply could not offer as much financial help as it does.

The variations between deaneries and the congregations involved is obviously due to the enthusiasm of individuals but also to the ability of CHCT to make the value of the Ride and Stride more widely known. This is why we are asking for more deanery representatives to help CHCT and congregations to make Ride and Stride that much better and so directly help the county's places of worship. If you think you could help and would like to know more, then please contact the Chairman, 01353 645131 or Secretary 01353 892430.

Our Grants in 2011



• *Thorney Abbey, where the Trust has offered a grant and loan to meet over half the shortfall needed to match the EH/HLF grant for the nave roof.*

The Executive Committee meets every two months to consider new applications for CHCT grants and loans. Our industrious Grants Secretary Andy Clarke prepares a sheet that tells the Committee about the project costs, the applicant's current financial position and the other grants that have been received or applied for.

Our maximum grant is currently £3000 per project (sadly reduced from £7000 from July 2011). That sort of sum doesn't sound to be of much help when a project is costing tens of thousands of pounds, but when linked with a loan up to a maximum of £15000, the Trust's contribution can mean that we have met the shortfall on the project cost and work can get underway. It is so heartening for people to see a project starting, especially if they have been working away at it for some time; interest flags if nothing seems to be happening. The following 2011 offers demonstrate how our policy of aiming to meet the shortfall works.

We visited All Saints Offord Cluny on one of the Church Tours last year, but as we were there in June, members can be forgiven for not knowing that £13000 needed to be

spent on the heating! The photo of the Pathfinder Memorial Chapel and its remarkable 2010 window might jog memories. Heating work doesn't attract many grants but the parish had raised £7000. By offering a grant of £5000, the Trust had nearly met the shortfall.

Another heating project is at St Margaret Fletton, now a modern suburb of Peterborough but from the evidence of its Anglo-Saxon sculpture, a religious centre for centuries. The Trust has offered a maximum grant of £3000, which is most of the shortfall on a project costing £18000 for an air source heat exchanger system.

Another type of job that doesn't attract many other grant givers is the repair of floors, especially wooden pew platforms. At St Peter's church King's Ripton the platforms had collapsed; having repaired one half, the parish came to CHCT for help and our £5000 grant and loan of £2500 met the shortfall on the £15600 costs. It might be 'a rough building' in Pevsner's view, but it is listed grade II* and has a mediaeval gable cross and delightful hood stop carvings.

Even on large projects that attract substantial grants from the English Heritage/Heritage Lottery Fund scheme, a CHCT grant/loan combination can be crucial. The congregation of Thorney Abbey face a bill of £227,000 to renew the nave roof and gutters. Even with an EH/HLF grant of £151,000 and their fundraising, they still had £31000 to find when they applied to us. With a maximum grant and loan totalling £18,000, CHCT has met over half that shortfall.

In 2010 and 2011, we have offered 35 grants totalling £97000 and loans of £220,000. 26 were for fabric repairs (inside and out), 5 for heating projects, 3 for new facilities and the Bottisham monument conservation report completes the tally

Dates for the Diary

12 July **Funding seminar** at Somersham, organised by the Diocese of Ely and Cambs ACRE 01353 865043 scilla.latham@cambsacre.org.uk

22 September Our **AGM** at St James Little Paxton, where the tower will be open for the brave to climb and short talks will be given on the bells, the monument to JB Papworth 'architect to the King of Württemberg' and their successful *Church for Tomorrow* project.