

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

# Autumn Newsletter

AUTUMN / WINTER 2021

## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

*(An extract from the report given online to members on 20 April. A recording of the report can be viewed on the website at <https://camhct.uk/members-meeting-20-april-2021/>)*



**The Trust has been operating for most of the last 18 months by Zoom as it is the only way we could get together in any sense. It has been a difficult time for the churches the Trust seeks to support. The fundraising which usually taps into the enthusiasm of people for their local churches has been largely suspended and the impact on finances has been dire. But this has not deterred churches from embarking on ambitious programmes of repair and improvement. As reported by our Grants Secretary, we have been able to award several grants and loans over the last six months.**

Where do we get the money to help our churches? Firstly, the loans form a rotating fund using the capital that we've built up in the Trust's early years, and as

money comes back in from loans we have made, then that can be loaned out again.

The income to pay for the grants comes largely from two sources. Firstly there are the subscriptions paid by you, our subscribing members. For some time we have required churches to become members as a condition of receiving loans and grants which helps finance future requests for help. We are most grateful to all our members.

Our second source of finance is our annual sponsored Ride and Stride, the funds from which have unfortunately been declining, apart from 2020 when we raised over £20,000. Unfortunately, our annual conference and summer tours of churches have not been able to take place again this year and we have instead given on-line talks.

The Trust was founded in 1983 and 2023 will be our 40th anniversary. To celebrate this landmark there will be a Service in Ely Cathedral on 27 June 2023 and the Bishop of Ely has kindly agreed to preach. We hope this will be followed by a social gathering and we hope that as many members as possible will be able to join us.

Finally, since we last met in 2019, our Treasurer Alan Churchard has retired and I'm delighted to say we've appointed Tim Walters to replace him. Tim comes from Croydon, a church that has been helped by the Trust on several occasions, he is on the Bishop's Council Finance Committee and is a Chapter Canon of Ely Cathedral. We are very grateful to him for accepting this appointment.

**Hugh Duberly**

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.

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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.

## From the Vice Chair

### How many gift memberships have you given?

In a year when Christmas presents may well be in short supply, 2021 is definitely the year for all members to go online and give Gift Membership to families and friends wherever they live in the world. Why? Because the Trust is now into delivering lectures/talks by Zoom and placing them on the website where they can be viewed at any time of the day/night. Of course the main reason for giving Gift Membership is to benefit the work of the Trust! The link to the Gift Membership section of the website is: <https://camhct.uk/membership/give-a-gift-of-membership/>

### A New Trustee

The Trustees are delighted to announce the appointment of Geoffrey Hunter as a trustee.

Geoffrey currently heads up the Ely Diocesan Church Buildings and Pastoral Department with overall responsibility for the operation and smooth running of the Department and the support and services offered to clergy, church volunteers and their professional advisers.

Geoffrey joined the diocese in April 2016, having worked for the Diocese of London since 2006 in a variety of roles, and acts as a central advocate for churches wishing to re-imagine their buildings through projects of re-ordering and extension. Geoffrey spent five years as a churchwarden himself, at Thorpe Market in the Diocese of Norwich. Since 2012 he has been a member of the National Church Buildings Council and is also a trustee of the Association of Festival Churches.

Geoffrey is a history of art graduate of the Courtauld Institute of Art and also holds an MSc degree in Conservation of the Historic Environment and an MBA from Cranfield University. He is a member of the Association for Studies in the Conservation of Historic Buildings and the Norfolk Churches Trust. Outside work, Geoffrey is an amateur musician and enjoys playing with old cars.

David Pritchard

### Ride and Stride 2021

We will not know the outcome of this year's Ride and Stride until the end of the year. Having seen an improvement in 2020 we hope 2021 will prove to have been as good, if not better. I thank R&S team for putting their 'shoulder to the wheel' as 2021 was the first year of using the online booking/information sections of the new website.

## Events

As most of our readers will recall, since the start of the first Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020 we have not been able to hold our usual events in person. We had to abandon our Annual Conference 'Timely Pointers to Heaven' looking at towers, spires, bells, clocks and sundials, planned for that April. We entertained some hopes of running it instead in April this year, but again that proved impracticable. We were lucky that most of the speakers were willing to deliver their papers as a series of monthly on-line lectures from May to September. Like other organisations in a similar situation we found that this had one advantage in that it enabled us to reach some members from wider afield who would not have been able to attend a conference in person in Cambridge. Recordings of four of the five lectures, and a precis of the other, are available on our website at <https://camhct.uk/news-and-updates/>. We are again hoping to resume holding a 'live' conference in 2022 and have reserved the usual accommodation at Wolfson College, Cambridge for Saturday 2nd April. Look out for details.

Our other activity that was frustrated by Covid was the set of monthly summer Sunday church tours from May to August. Likewise we had hoped to revive these tours in 2021 but restrictions were still in place during much of the summer and it was clearly premature to do this. We shall make arrangements to resume in summer 2022 and hope that the situation then will be favourable enough for us to go ahead. Meanwhile in the coming months we hope to assemble 'virtual' tours of some local churches. Again, look out for details.

David Stazicker

## Administration & Membership

In May this year I was appointed as the Trust's **Administrator** on the retirement of David Stazicker. His will be a hard act to follow but I will do my best! Fortunately he is continuing to organise our Sunday afternoon summer church tours and the Annual Conference.

I am also the **Membership Officer** and I just wish to remind you that the new Membership year starts on 1 January 2022. Many of our members pay their subscription by Standing Orders which makes the administration so much easier and for which I am most grateful. If you wish to set up a Standing Order the Trust's bank details are CAF Bank; Sort Code is 40-52-40; Account Number 00031047.

Sue Holgate

# Financial update 2021

Since the Trust was founded in 1983 it has offered more than £3,000,000 in interest free (concessionary) loans and over £1,000,000 in grants for works of repair and improvements to places of worship across Cambridgeshire, supporting local communities.

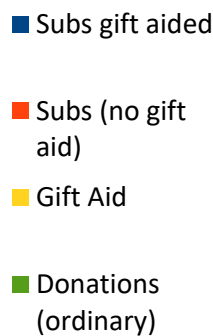
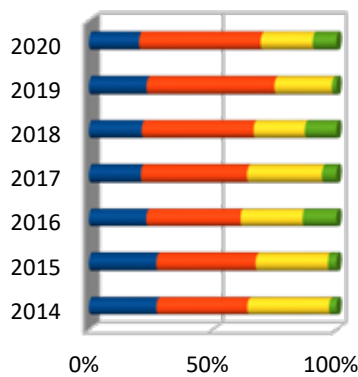
We make concessionary loans to churches to help them maintain and improve their buildings, often to make them more relevant to the community. Loans come from the pool of cash on deposit and repayments are put back into it. The loans are interest free and usually repayable over a four-year period. We have an unimpaired credit history and repayments are almost always made within a month of them being due if not sooner. Churches applying for concessionary loans are usually provided with the loan amount requested.

Grants to churches are absolute gifts of money for our charitable purposes. The default amount made available for grants is the net income received by CHCT in the previous year; the net income received in one year is usually distributed by grants the following year.

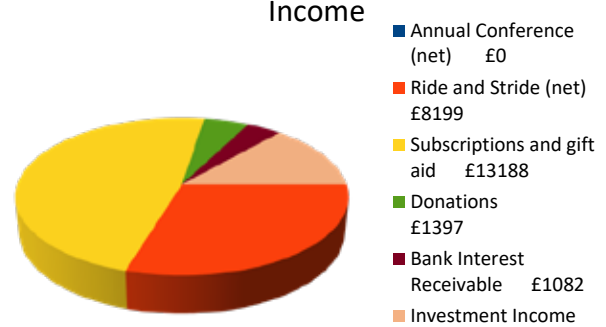
## Incoming resources

Subscriptions and donations are from individuals and churches. Although membership numbers have dropped slightly during the pandemic, the amount individuals give under Gift Aid is also declining year on year. A subscription or donation made under Gift Aid increases the value to us by 25% as a result of the tax credit. Whilst corporate (church) membership subscriptions cannot be subject to gift aid, an individual making the membership subscription for the church membership could increase the value to the Trust by 25% by making it subject to Gift Aid. membership subscriptions cannot be subject to gift aid, an individual making the membership subscription for the church membership could increase the value to the Trust by 25% by making.

### Subscription Trend

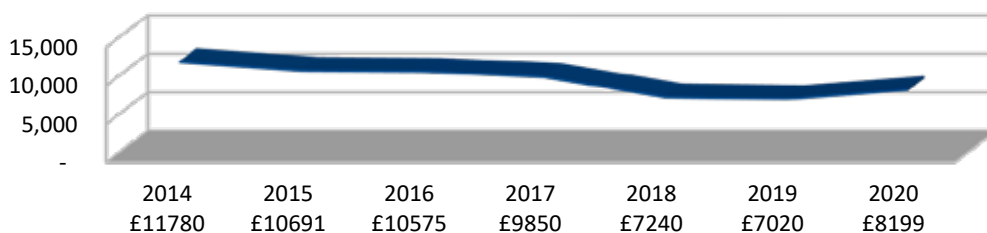


### Income



The net revenue (contribution) from the annual sponsored Ride and Stride event has been a critical source of income. Subscriptions and donations, particularly corporate memberships, have taken on that importance because of the decline in the income from Ride and Stride.

### Ride and Stride



## Outgoing resources

In our last financial year we paid grants to churches with the total undertaken of £16,500. The Trust incurs minimal amounts of management and administration expenses.

We moved some of our free reserves under investment management with CCLA during the year. This has had the positive result of generating additional income of £ 3,722 in what was a difficult period for investment returns. Please consider a bank standing order to our CAF Bank account. If you've not changed from NatWest, please change to CAF Bank.

Please consider Gift Aid. You are eligible if you pay enough income tax to cover the tax credit on your charitable donations. It is so important to us.

Tim Walters

# Grants

Since our Spring 2021 Newsletter, the new CHCT website has been launched and, (after first registering with us), Grant Applications can now only be made online.

See <https://camhct.uk/grants/>

It is a bit like filling in a self-assessment tax return; you are prompted for supporting documentation and you do not have to complete the application all in one session. However, I understand that to use this option, you do need to save an automatically generated link address and then save it or insert your email address for it to be sent to you.

We are currently working on a database of historic loans and grants but, at the moment, the Grants page is only displaying a text describing the most recent grants and loans awarded.



*The Revd Felicity Couch and Bishop Stephen at Croydon church following rededication of the chancel.*

If there ever was a good time to make this change, it was probably the right time because applications over the summer have slowed right down. I am told that the National Lottery Grants for Heritage projects are becoming increasingly harder to get and they are it seems very inflexible too. We were pleased to offer one of our highest loans and grants to St Peter and St Paul, Wisbech



*All Saints and St Andrew, Kingston – arcade wall paintings at risk.*

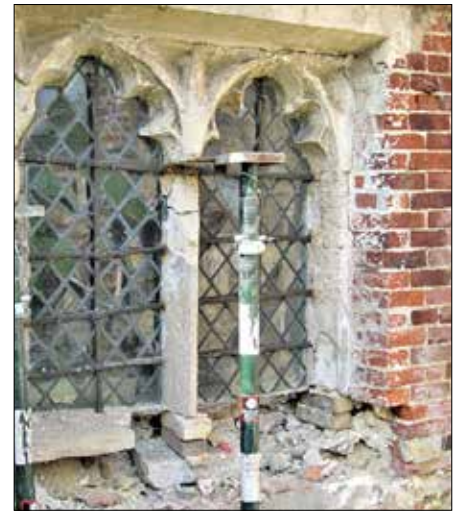


*All Saints, Elton – The old boiler house soon to be replaced?*

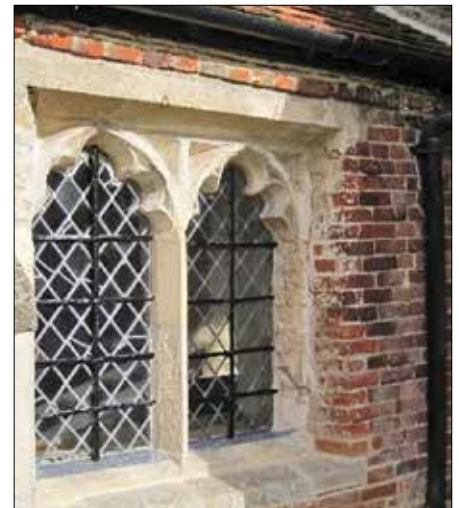
who, having been awarded a National Lottery Grant, found that they couldn't top it up when additional urgent work to the Vestry windows was discovered and the National Churches Trust, being over-subscribed, couldn't help them either.

All Saints and St Andrew, Kingston are, like Wisbech, on the Historic England Buildings at Risk Register, but they were rejected in their National Lottery application to replace falling nave ceiling plasterwork and aisle roof repairs. Recognising the importance of the arcade wall paintings, (recently consolidated), CHCT offered to grant aid and loan last May when it was hoped to start work this September. However, a combination of delay due to the presence of bats and other funders slow in making offers, the work is likely to slip to September 2022.

Long timescales between offering grants and loans and the work starting on site is becoming quite the norm. It was in January 2019 that we offered a grant and loan to All Saints, Elton for a new extension on the north side of the church to replace their present boiler house. They are still fund raising for this, but in the knowledge that the project is unlikely to go ahead in our current financial year, (ending 30 June 2022), have agreed to release their grant and loan for the present time to help us fund



*All Saints, Croydon: South Aisle Window, Before and After*



as many Cambridgeshire Churches as possible.

Perhaps the greatest progress in these difficult times has been made at All Saints, Croydon. Not only have two windows been repaired on the south side, with a CHCT grant and loan, but the Chancel is now in use again after Historic England funded the crypt scaffolding beneath the Chancel floor.

**Graham Pledger**

## Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

Registered as a charity in England and Wales No 287486

### Trustees

Sir Hugh Duberly CBE KCVO (Chair)  
The Revd Canon David Pritchard (Vice-Chair)  
David Ball  
Nicholas Grantham  
David Stazicker  
The Revd Simon Talbott  
Alison Taylor  
The Revd Dr Nicholas Thistlethwaite  
Canon Tim Walters (Hon Treasurer)  
Geoffrey Hunter

### Executive Committee

The Revd Canon David Pritchard (Chair)  
The Revd Dr Lynne Broughton  
William Craven  
Graham Pledger (Grants Secretary)  
The Revd Canon Annette Reed  
The Revd Tim Thompson (Ride & Stride Treasurer)  
Canon Tim Walters (Hon Treasurer)

### Administrator

Sue Holgate