

# Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

# Spring Newsletter

2020

## A Message from our Chair of Trustees



The Coronavirus Covid-19 emergency obliges us all to suspend much of our normal activity. We do not know how long this situation will last. However, it gives us an opportunity to reflect, and equip ourselves to meet the challenges, perhaps even greater than before, which will face us when the present restrictions have been lifted.

The Trust exists to help congregations and to meet the challenge of caring for the wonderful churches that are the legacy of our forefathers. To this end the Trustees aspire to include all those eligible, as members of the Trust.

When the time comes, as it inevitably will, for repairs or improvements, the Trust will then be on hand to support them with a Grant and/ or Loan and through its support help in the quest for grants from other bodies.

Please encourage your church to help us meet this aspiration, and subscribe as members if they do not already do so. It is through mutual support that we can be most effective.

**Hugh Duberly**

**If your own church isn't already a member, please encourage them to sign up. You can of course get it off to a flying start by donating the first year's subscription and, if you are a taxpayer, enabling the Trust to recover Gift Aid in addition. Visit [www.camhct.uk](http://www.camhct.uk) Membership for details.**

## Hon Secretary's Report

This newsletter was ready to go to press when the evident consequences of the Coronavirus outbreak began to get ever more serious day by day. That draft had literally to be torn up, and since then I have mentally composed and torn up new versions almost daily. Our thoughts, as officers of the Trust, are not only with our families and personal friends, but with all of you who are Trust members or have responsibilities for churches in our County. First and foremost we must all play our part in preventing the spread of infection and protecting those who are most vulnerable.

During the present closure we are all especially conscious that the church consists of the people, not the buildings. Our clergy continue to minister to us by the remote methods that technology now makes available; church members join with others in local communities to bring not only their prayers but practical help to support their vulnerable neighbours. That does not mean that the buildings no longer matter. They remain as a visible sign of the church's presence. They will be an even more important resource than hitherto when eventually we are able to renew social contact and resume their use both for prayer and for other activities that bond local people together. Meanwhile, income from collections and fundraising events is drastically reduced, but wear and tear continues and it will perhaps become even more important to think about improvements to enable churches to engage with a wider public. The rôle of the Trust in offering loans and grants will be more vital than ever. Membership subscriptions are now our main source of income. Hence the message from our Chair of Trustees urging as many churches as possible to join.

*continued on page 2*

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.

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

Email: [secretary@camhct.uk](mailto:secretary@camhct.uk)

For our formal Annual Report and Financial Statements visit [www.camhct.uk](http://www.camhct.uk) or ask the Secretary for a printed copy.

## Hon Secretary's Report *continued*

Alan Churchard has now served as Hon Treasurer for four years, guiding us expertly through the increasingly bewildering jungle of regulations that govern the affairs of charities. He had originally intended to serve for five years but personal circumstances have obliged him to review this. We have again been extremely fortunate in recruiting a successor, Canon Tim Walters, who is a lay member of Ely Cathedral Chapter with extensive experience in the financial and voluntary fields. He will be taking over from Alan at the end of June.

Alan has generously offered to become Independent Examiner of the Trust's accounts from the financial year 2020-21 onwards. To do this he must totally stand aside from involvement in the Trust's affairs, and he will therefore be resigning also as a Trustee with effect from 30th June. Once more we are fortunate in that our incoming Treasurer Canon Walters has agreed to serve as a Trustee, as also has the Revd Canon Nicholas Thistlethwaite, former Precentor of Guildford Cathedral, who has already rendered great service to the Trust by organising the 2019 Annual Conference. In addition, the Revd Tim Thompson has agreed to act as Ride and Stride Treasurer.

I have now been the Trust's Hon Secretary for eleven years. Next year I shall reach an age at which, as the psalmist acknowledges, even those of us blessed with good health no longer have our former energy. That will also be a good moment to hand over to someone who can bring a fresh mind to the administration of the Trust's affairs as we prepare for our fortieth anniversary in 2023. I shall be very happy to continue undertaking some tasks for the Trust, and there will be the opportunity to reconsider the allocation of activities between our various office-holders, but 2021 will be the right moment for me to hand over the core duties of Secretary. Experience in filling other vacancies shows that it is advisable to give ample notice.

Since this newsletter started to be compiled, our long-serving Membership Secretary Jenny Lowles has also tendered her resignation for personal reasons. Hearty thanks are due to Jenny for her punctilious performance of this essential role. Another vacancy to fill. Meanwhile please address membership communications to me.

**If you, or someone you know, might be willing to take on the interesting, rewarding and eminently worthwhile role of Hon Secretary to the Trust, please get in touch – [secretary@camhct.uk](mailto:secretary@camhct.uk) .**

**David Stazicker**  
Honorary Secretary

## Membership

Membership numbers have changed little in the past year. As emphasised by our Chair of Trustees and our Hon Secretary on page 1, we are especially anxious to increase corporate church membership, and our goal is to enrol every church in the county. We are equally keen to increase the number of individual members, and one way of doing this is by existing members making a gift of membership to a relative or friend. The period leading up to Christmas may be the most obvious time to think of this, but people have birthdays and other significant anniversaries at other times of the year, so there are plenty of opportunities. Forms can be downloaded at [www.camhct.uk](http://www.camhct.uk) and will also be available at the Annual Conference and the church tours.

Also on our website is a Banker's Order form. Needless to say, it saves us considerable time and effort if members pay their subscriptions by this method rather than by cheque. A few of you who do pay by Banker's Order are still doing so to NatWest, and it would be immensely helpful if you were to switch this to our account with CAF Bank. Please email [members@camhct.co.uk](mailto:members@camhct.co.uk) for the necessary form, or ask the Hon Secretary (contact details on page 1) to post you a copy. Payment was due on 1 January for 2020 so if you have yet to renew your membership, please let us have payment as soon as possible.

**Jenny Lowles**  
Membership Secretary

## Ride and Stride

At the time of writing we hope that this important annual fundraising event will be able to go ahead at least in some form on September 12th. In 2019 it produced a total of £16,469, compared with £16,618 in 2018. After the return of churches' own share the net gain to the Trust is £8,426 as against £8,717 the previous year. The Trust will recover £2,220 in Gift Aid (£2,478 in 2018). It is welcome news that the decline in income has almost halted, and indeed the number of churches participating went up from 44 to 47, but this is not enough. As we have observed before, we need to break the vicious circle by which churches receive few visitors and are discouraged from opening in subsequent years, and participants therefore find fewer churches open and are discouraged from participating again. Hitherto our list of churches has given no indication which of these will be open on the day. Our present intention, dependent upon how the emergency develops in coming weeks, is to contact churches in order to compile a list of those that will be open, thus encouraging more people to take part with confidence that they will find churches open, and these churches equally confident that they will receive a good number of visitors.

# Grants

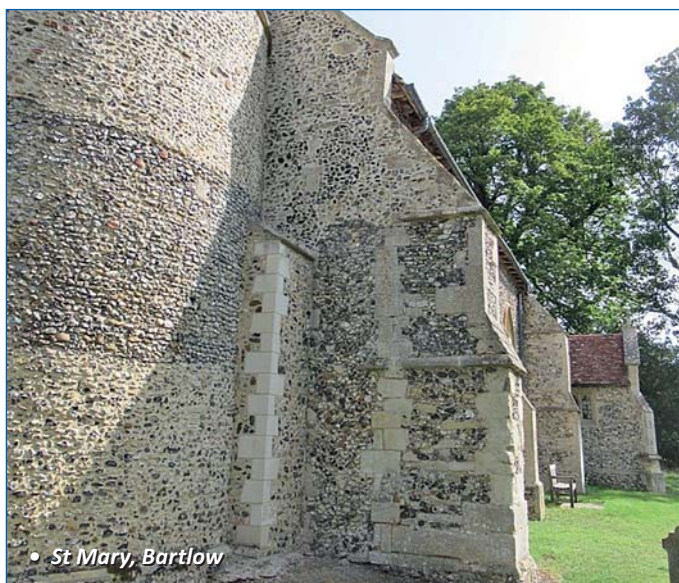
Lead thefts continue unabated it seems, and replacing stolen lead with terne coated stainless steel coverings\* is now becoming the norm; this winter CHCT grants totalling £6,000 were awarded to Great and Little Stukeley who have both been trying to cope with life under tarpaulins for some time now. (\*The generic name of this lead/tin coating is taken from the French word 'terne', meaning 'dull'.)

We were pleased to hear of some progress at St Stephen's, Etton; they have now managed to re-roof the north aisle, but couldn't raise sufficient funds for the south aisle as well and have had to split the contract. A further £3,000 has been awarded to St John, Somersham who have recently found rain coming through their porch roof.

Repointing the tower is being planned for St Andrew, Great Staughton and a grant of £3,000 along with a loan of £20,000 has been awarded to help start their fund raising. Masonry repairs have now been completed at St Bartholomew, Great Gransden (see photo) and also St Mary, Bartlow (see photo); I do hope that you agree with me that both repairs look rather splendid now.



• St Bartholomew, Great Gransden



• St Mary, Bartlow

In the last Newsletter, I reported on the near completion of work at St Clement's, Cambridge on Bridge Street and I know some of you have been to see it already. This further photo shows the final completion of Phase 1, so do go along you wheel chair users and try the lift out for yourselves.



• St Clement, Cambridge

For our progress throughout the year, please follow us on our website at <https://www.camhct.uk/grants/> This web page is updated after every meeting of our Executive Committee.

**Graham Pledger**  
Grants Secretary

## Annual Conference

**Timely Pointers to Heaven**  
Towers, spires, bells and clocks



**Saturday 17th April 2021**  
**The Lee Hall, Wolfson College,**  
**Cambridge CB3 9BB**

There was no option but to postpone this year's conference scheduled for 18th April. The good news is that most of the speakers have agreed to appear instead next year, when accommodation had already been booked ahead. Delegates should all have been contacted, offering a refund of fees, with other options either to carry the payment forward to next year, guaranteed against any price increase, or to donate the money to the Trust, if possible Gift-Aided.

## Church Tours

In 2019 these tours continued to be well supported and highly informative, spreading knowledge and understanding of our county's churches and their importance as places of worship over the centuries and as repositories of craftsmanship and the history of the communities in which they stand.

Clearly this year we must abandon the May and June tours. As the trajectory of Covid-19 infection, and the likely development or relaxation of control measures, become clearer, we will have to decide whether to resume the tours in July or August. We shall contact our members to let them know once we have reached a decision.

The Revd Dr Lynne Broughton and Chloë Cockerill had between them again kindly agreed to lead the tours. We are immensely grateful for the time and effort they contribute not just on the day of the tour but in research beforehand. Our thanks are also due to the churches we visit, particularly those who are kind enough to provide us with teas at the end of each tour. The itineraries for the July and August tours, if they go ahead, will be as follows :

<b>12th July</b>	Hamerton Steeple Gidding Little Gidding	All Saints St Andrew St John the Evangelist
<b>9th August</b>	Elm Upwell Outwell	All Saints St Clement St Peter

As before, each tour starts at 2.30 pm at the first church named. On our arrival at the 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 each tour.

## Visit to Oxford

**Saturday 15th August**

Our coach trip last August to Southwell Minster and St John the Evangelist, Corby Glen, again led by the Revd Dr Lynne Broughton, was a joint enterprise with not one but two other organisations, the Cambridgeshire Association for Local History and in addition the Huntingdonshire Local History Society. This triple partnership proved so successful that a larger coach had to be hired than had originally been booked, and this Trust has acquired at least one new member as a result of the event.

This year, again in similar collaboration, we have planned to visit Christ Church, Oxford, which uniquely doubles as a Cathedral and as a College Chapel, with opportunities to visit some of the other places of intense interest in the city.

If circumstances permit the visit to go ahead, full details and a booking form will be circulated later.

### 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  
Alan Churchard (retiring on 30th June)  
Nicholas Grantham  
David Stazicker  
The Revd Simon Talbott  
Alison Taylor  
The Revd Dr Nicholas Thistlethwaite  
Canon Tim Walters (*Hon Treasurer from 30th June*)

#### Executive Committee

The Revd Canon David Pritchard (Chair)  
The Revd Dr Lynne Broughton  
Alan Churchard (*Hon Treasurer to 30th June*)  
William Craven  
Graham Pledger (Grants Secretary)  
The Revd Canon Annette Reed  
David Stazicker (Hon Secretary)  
The Revd Tim Thompson (Ride & Stride Treasurer)  
Canon Tim Walters (*Hon Treasurer from 30th June*)  
Andrew Westwood-Bate (Publicity Officer)