

The Ride and Stride 2008

Takes place on the 13th September.



• *This could be you!*

The first ever Ride happened in the year of founding of the Trust but before the Trust was founded! It was limited to the Linton Deanery and was organised, partly, to provide riders from Suffolk with a greater choice of churches to visit. However cyclists from churches in Linton Deanery raised £1000 by their own efforts.

During the inaugural meeting of the Trust at the Ely Maltings, using the now time honoured formula of splitting the proceeds between the Trust and the participating churches, Pamela Lady Wedgwood received a cheque for £500 for the Trust.

The 2007 Ride raised about £31,600 including Gift Aid of which £15,800 goes to the Trust. Sponsorship does not stop at people on bicycles. Manning the church and pursuing other novel fund raising activities can make it a much better day. So get your thinking hats on and try out some new fund raising activity!

Contact information is on our website or phone David Harrison 01223 290388

CHCT Grants 2007/08

In our last financial year the Trust has offered 21 grants totalling £69,000, following a very similar pattern to previous years. 85% have gone to Church of England churches and by value, 50% were for roofs and other major structural work, 25% for heating and electrical projects and just 6% for disabled toilets/access. The location of the churches supported was similar too, with half in Cambridge and South Cambs. districts, 20% in Huntingdon, 10% each in East Cambs and Fenland and a geographically unrepresentative 10% in Peterborough and the north of the county. The last seven months have witnessed even more emphasis on the south of the county with no applications from Peterborough and the north at all.

Indeed, Trustees are concerned that we have received only half the finalised applications this year compared to the equivalent 7 months in 2006/07 –despite the fact that some 70 application forms have been requested by congregations.

WREN grants are subject to strict rules imposed by Entrust (the regulatory body for landfill tax money) governing what work can be grant-aided. In broad terms, restoration, repairs and heating projects are eligible but not maintenance, decoration, reordering of pews or the building of new facilities, except those specifically for the disabled. When we introduced CHCT grants to supplement WREN money in 2004, Trustees decided to keep things simple and use exactly the same criteria as WREN.

Inundated with requests for help with new disabled toilets, in 2005 we decided to limit our grants for this purpose to £1,000 to retain enough grant money for urgent major structural repairs. However, with the clear decline in requests for help with repair projects and the long term need to increase support for church buildings by making them more useful to their community, we have reviewed our policy. Many congregations are developing ambitious new projects creating kitchens, meeting rooms, play areas and toilets, which, when sensitively done, should we believe be encouraged. We have therefore decided to widen the scope of CHCT grants to cover such capital projects and to increase CHCT grants to a maximum of £5,000. WREN grants can still only be offered towards the disabled toilet costs of such projects (but could be offered alongside a CHCT grant up to £5000). Trustees will review this change again next year.

Mindful also of the increase in metal theft from church roofs and to encourage PCCs to embrace Ecclesiastical Insurance's Smartwater initiative, Trustees have also specifically set aside some CHCT money in 2008 for grants up to 50% of the cost of Smartwater roof treatment.

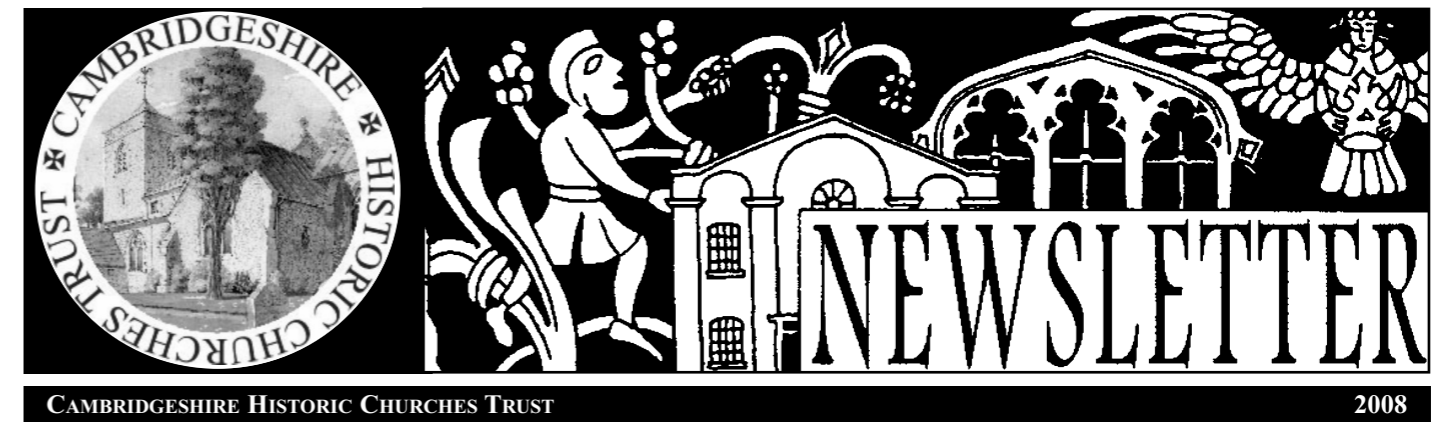
CHCT has now loaned a total of £1.74 million to 163 churches and chapels and currently has over £350,000 loans outstanding. So far, no congregation has defaulted.

We encourage every historic church in need of financial help with any relevant projects for which they have received tenders, to apply for a grant without delay, using our website cambshistoricchurchestrust.co.uk to download the application form or by calling Kevin Doyle on 01487 840834.

We are here to help and have money available NOW! Please spread the word, particularly northwards!

Kevin Doyle
Grants Secretary

www.cambshistoricchurchestrust.co.uk

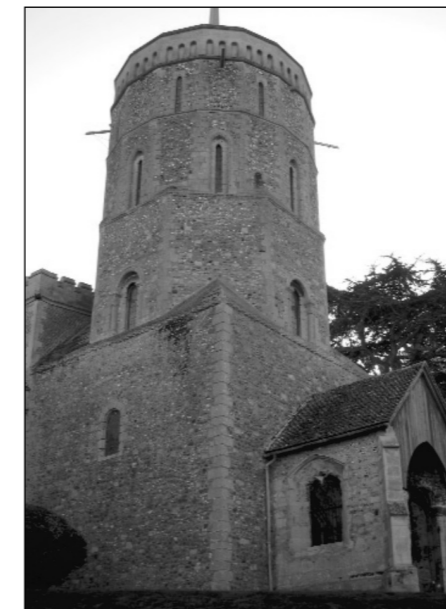


From the Chairman

I AM very honoured to be appointed as your new Chairman, especially in the Trust's 25th anniversary year.

The Trustees have decided to celebrate the anniversary with a service of thanksgiving at St Mary's church Swaffham Prior on June 8th and we are very pleased that the Bishop of Ely will be present. All members are invited, but to help us manage the afternoon, could you please let the Secretary know by the end of April if you intend to come? Further details will be given at the Annual Conference at Wolfson College on April 26th when we will celebrate the county's riches. This year's Annual Report will also celebrate the Trust's success in helping the historic places of worship of Cambridgeshire and the hugely helpful role that WREN has so willingly fulfilled.

The needs of congregations have changed over the years, so although helping with repairs remains our priority, we are starting to offer



• *St Mary's church, Swaffham Prior.*

grants to fund facilities which will give the buildings a future by making them more useful. The Trust can only do this with your support, through events like the Ride and Stride and from expanding our membership. Please help to make what we can of our anniversary celebrations to show the people of Cambridgeshire that we deserve their support to help maintain the ecclesiastical heritage of their county.

Richard Halsey

The future...

A 25th Anniversary is the opportunity to take stock, by reviewing what you have done over the years and to think about what might need to be done in the future. There will be an account of our first 25 years in the 2008 Annual Report, but the following outlines the recent history of national grants and where the CHCT fits in.

It is not often appreciated that individual congregations, and not the denomination, have always had to find the money to repair their church or chapel. The Church of England in particular is seen to be 'wealthy' because the Church Commissioners own so much farm land and property. However, they pay for all the clergy, many pensions and national activities. The new buildings and restorations of the 19th century were mainly paid for by patrons and the local gentry (often including the minister himself!).

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• *A Pilgrim's Cross against St. Peter's Wimblington, recipients of a £10,000 loan in 2006.*

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. It also gives grants from Landfill Tax Credits made available through Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN).

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 £10.

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By the early 1950s, there were serious concerns nationally for the state of repair of parish churches, especially in the countryside. The Pilgrim Trust challenged the Church of England to do something to help struggling congregations and the national Historic Churches Preservation Trust was created in 1953. Soon, individual county trusts were started, to encourage local churches to apply to HCPT and to provide some seed corn funding to match their grants.

Government grants for repairs to historic buildings began in 1953 too, but 'places of worship in use' were excluded because all the denominations wanted to retain their exemption from any State control of their buildings. The 1968 Pastoral Measure enabled the Church of England to declare surplus churches redundant and sell or demolish them, unless they were of such special interest that they were vested in the Redundant Churches Trust (now the Churches Conservation Trust) funded by Church and State. Other denominations simply demolished their unwanted buildings, though the growing interest in Victorian architecture often made this controversial. The large numbers of redundancies and the fear that many more were in the pipeline, led the Churches in 1973 to ask the State to make funding available for repairs(as all denominations were facing big bills as Victorian buildings decayed). In return, the Church of England agreed to revise its faculty jurisdiction to give the (taxpaying) public a greater say in how their historic churches were managed.

In August 1977, State Aid for Places of Worship in Use was introduced and was immediately overwhelmed by applications! The budget rose far higher than the £1 million per year requested and by the time English Heritage took over the scheme in 1984, it was over £5 million (about £11 million in 2008 values, less than today's EH £10 million budget.) More county trusts began but the CHCT was unusual in only offering loans; these seemed to enable churches to put work in hand faster and so take up the English Heritage grants before inflation drove up the costs.

In 1996, the first Joint Grant Scheme funded by EH and the Heritage Lottery Fund began, as did the Landfill Tax that has produced so much funding for those historic buildings within the catchment areas. Finally, the VAT levied on repairs started to be returned under the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme introduced by Gordon Brown in 2002.

Current initiatives

The overall sum available from national pots has diminished in real terms since 2000. In October 2004, the Church of England launched Building Faith in the Future drawing attention to the huge potential of parish churches to be adapted for wider community use. The General Synod asked Government to fund 50% of repairs to listed places of worship (and more if they had a community use). In May 2006, EH launched its Inspired! campaign aimed at helping congregations to help themselves, asking Government for £26.5 million over three years to introduce grants for maintenance and historic places of worship officers to assist congregations in organising repairs and new facilities. New money has yet to come from Government, but EH is hoping to implement some aspects of Inspired! next year.

In July 2007, the HCPT was incorporated into a new National Churches Trust, to champion the role of historic churches; raise a substantial core fund and to encourage a more professional approach to the care of historic places of worship. With the Churches Conservation Trust it is creating the proactive Cumbria Churches Trust with a small paid staff, an interesting model for other county trusts. Such help will be useful to the other denominations also with too many buildings, often in the wrong place for today's communities.



• Inside St Mary's church, Swaffham Prior.

Some Roman Catholic dioceses are commissioning surveys of their historic churches and most United Reform Church Synods have regeneration strategies. The Methodist Church remains the only denomination to employ a national full time conservation officer.

What next?

Church buildings have always been adapted for changing patterns of worship but we have surely learnt that the contribution of each generation is of value to the next, so must identify and cherish what is of significance. Change can be threatening to some but without active local support based on greater use, the buildings will not survive for us all to use and enjoy.

Public interest in history and historic buildings has never been higher, with television programmes and books like Sir Roy Strong's Little History reaching millions. But we need to translate that into active local support - the clergy cannot be expected to run building projects and congregations need good advice as well as money to secure a future for their buildings.

Just as our original trustees envisaged, it is surely the role of the CHCT to be the proactive link between the national and the local, to support and guide congregations in keeping their precious buildings in use and in good repair to pass on to future generations. Hence our decisions to help with more 'new facility' works and lead protection. Do let me and the other trustees know what you think about this and what you think our future role should be – and try to get some new members to join so that we can do even more!

Richard Halsey
Chairman

www.cambshistoricchurchestrust.co.uk

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust Annual Conference 2008



In our Anniversary year we bring you a very special Annual Conference that pulls together all our various reasons why we are involved in and love and care of our historic churches. It also brings to you a group of important speakers that are made up of both old friends and new. Please will you make it known as widely as possible and encourage everyone to come along and join us in:

‘A Passion for Churches’

on Saturday 26th April 2008 at Wolfson College, Cambridge

Chair: Dr John Maddison

9.30	Registration		
10.00	Pamela, Lady Wedgwood	‘Mad about Wall Paintings’	President of the Trust, scholar and broadcaster
11.00	Coffee		
11.30	Robert Walker	‘Summoned by Angels’	founder and for many years Secretary of the Trust, conservation officer and historian
12.30	Lunch		
2.00	Richard Halsey	‘Monks, Priests and Parishes’	Our new Chairman of the Trust and former Head of Places of Worship Strategy at English Heritage
3.00	Tea		
3.30	Dr Carola Hicks	‘The King’s Glass’	Author of the new book of the same name, art historian, broadcaster, former curator of the Stained Glass Museum and editor of the Trust’s ‘Cambridgeshire Churches’
4.30	Depart		

For more details about the conference visit our website or contact:
info@cambshistoricchurchestrust.co.uk or 01223 892430

CONFERENCE FEES:

CHCT members (excluding Lunch)	£15.00
Non-members (excluding Lunch)	£20.00

Lunch in the Wolfson College Dining Room

This has proven to be very popular over the last two conferences and we intend to continue this. It is a great chance to meet and chat to old friends and chat about the conference. It will cost £12.50 and will include this year a main course and a sweet.

Church Tour Dates 2008

Sunday 11 May:
Haslingfield All Saints, Harlton The Assumption of the BVM, Comberton Saint Mary

Sunday 15 June:
Alwalton Saint Andrew Orton Waterville Saint Mary Orton Longueville Holy Trinity

Sunday 13 July:
St Ives All Saints, Houghton Saint Mary, Hartford All Saints
Saturday 26th July 2008

Joint visit by CHCT and Cambridgeshire Association for Local History to Lincoln Cathedral. This will leave from the Trumpington Park & Ride and Barton Road, Ely. Guide will be Dr Lynne Broughton. Cost CALH/CHCT Members will be £20 each, Affiliated Members £22.50, Non-Members £25.00

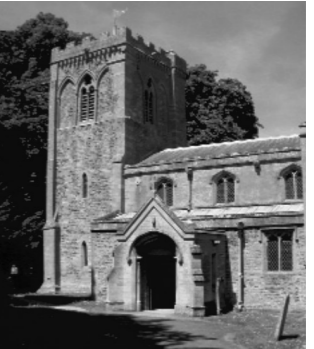
Sunday 10 August:
Cheveley Saint Mary, Woodditton Saint Mary, Kirtling All Saints. As usual each tour starts at 2.30 pm at the first named church. The tours will be lead by the Revd. Dr. Lynne Broughton and Dr. John Maddison.



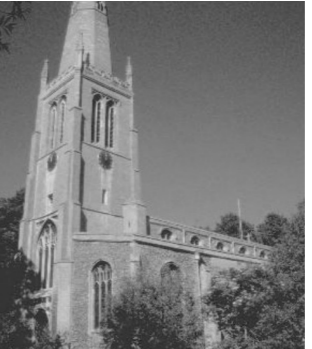
• Lincoln Cathedral



• Haslingfield All Saints



• Alwalton Saint Andrew



• St Ives All Saints



• Cheveley Saint Mary

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