

# Ride and Stride CHCT Grants 2008/9

**This year's event is on 12th September.**

After almost thirty years as the county organiser of the annual bike ride, David Harrison has decided to retire. Successive Chairmen and Trustees have been enormously grateful for all he has done to promote our largest fund raising event and we wish him the very best for the future.

As I write, we have yet to appoint a successor, but Andrew Westwood-Bate will be printing and distributing the material in good time for this year's ride on September 12th. Don't forget that it is now 'Ride and Stride', so walkers as well as cyclists and horse riders can participate. Many churches and college chapels can be reached in only an hour in Cambridge, and in our smaller towns like March or Huntingdon, it is possible to get to half a dozen or so quite easily. We cannot expect all the county's places of worship to be manned, but as it is also Heritage Open Day weekend, many are likely to be open. Nearly all make a form available for you to sign in and some churches will be pursuing other activities (I nearly got roped into a churchyard working party last year!).

The 2008 Ride and Stride raised just over £26,500 (some £1,200 less than in 2007), half of which came to the Trust and half went to the 102 churches that took part. A further £3,800 is likely to be recovered from HM Revenue & Customs in respect of Gift Aid declarations. This is a real achievement for a small trust, but we think we should be able to do better! Whether you walk or ride, this is a very pleasant way to get to some different churches and also to see more of the countryside without using the car – so it has the added bonus of being healthy for you and the environment too. Go with a friend or as a family or a church group and make it a day to remember.

If there is anyone who would like to be the county organiser or to help with the paperwork in their local area, then do please contact the Chairman.

**Richard Halsey**  
email: [richard@rhalsey.co.uk](mailto:richard@rhalsey.co.uk)

**CHCT has paid out well over half a million pounds in WREN and CHCT grants in the 10 years since the inception of the WREN scheme. Adding the offers yet to be taken up nudges the figure to almost £600,000.**



*\* Work in progress at Stretham*

In the last twelve months we have awarded grants of £96,755 to 25 church projects, coming in virtually equal measure from WREN and CHCT funds. (In 2007, £69,000 was paid to 21 churches).

Our initiative to support ambitious new projects (inclusive of disabled toilets) announced in last year's Newsletter has been particularly successful: we have agreed to help fund 10 projects (£47,250 total grant value) in the last twelve months, including at Stretham.

Disappointingly, there has only been one application for financial support following on from the SmartWater initiative we also announced early last year. Trustees have set aside grant funding to cover up to 50% of the cost of SmartWater treatment up to £1000. We understand that Ecclesiastical Insurance Group are amending almost all church policies on renewal to limit cover to just 50% of work arising from the theft of metal from roofs where SmartWater has not been applied. Therefore, we urge congregations to

carefully consider whether they can afford not to apply this deterrent.

Additionally we would like to remind you that CHCT has for many years set aside a small fund solely for the restoration of historic churchyard monuments, such as table tombs.

We are here to help every historic church of a Christian denomination in Cambridgeshire and our emphasis in judging how we allocate grants will always be on the importance of the work involved and the individual financial circumstances of the applicants. We also wish to encourage congregations in their endeavours to become more welcoming places for their congregations and communities.

The Trust currently has money available so, if your circumstances dictate, please take that first step and apply by consulting our website

[www.cambshistoricchurchestrust.co.uk](http://www.cambshistoricchurchestrust.co.uk)

and clicking on "grants" - it really is that simple.

**Kevin Doyle**  
Grants Secretary



CAMBRIDGESHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

2009

## From the Chairman

**The 25th Anniversary year was a busy time for the Trust and we will not let up in 2009 as we help the diocese of Ely celebrate its 900th anniversary. Our focus will be the Garden Party from 6.00pm at the Bishop's House in Ely on Friday June 26th, by the kind invitation of Bishop Anthony. All members are invited and there is no charge but we will be asking for donations. We also hope to arrange some short guided tours of items of specific interest in the Cathedral. As we need to know numbers for catering, please register your intention to attend at the Conference on 25th April or by letting the Secretary know by the end of April.**

On our Church Tours this summer we will see fabric that witnessed the creation of the diocese in 1109. As many of those churches would have been built by local landholders, the change of diocese from Lincoln to Ely probably didn't have much of an impact at parish level. Then, as today, it was the congregation who were responsible for the day-to-day care of their parish church.

That continuing enthusiasm to maintain the life of the Church by keeping the building in good repair and worthy for the worship of God is what has really impressed me in my first year as Chairman. The Trust does what it can to support these congregations through our grants and loans, but we can only do that

because we too have volunteers raising and distributing our funds. CHCT can always do with more help, and this year we would particularly welcome more organisers and participants for the Ride and Stride on September 12th. For our AGM on October 24th we will revert to the usual format of including church visits after the formal business.

CHCT has another celebration, ten years of support from Waste Recycling Environmental Limited. Since 1999, we have offered almost half a million pounds in WREN grants and Trustees are most grateful for their continued support. Unfortunately, their generosity will inevitably decrease, as we all get better at recycling our rubbish and so

reduce the need for landfill sites. A sad fact for CHCT, but it is at least good news for the planet (and even more reason to 'ride' or 'stride' in September).

This Newsletter gives further details of our Conference, Church Tours and grants. I hope you find it interesting and more copies are available if you would like to give it to others with your recommendation to join CHCT!

**Richard Halsey**  
Chairman



*• Completed South Aisle roof and stonework at Easton*

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 Ltd (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.

**Secretary:** Our secretary is now David Stazicker, The Willows, Low Bank, Mepal, Ely, Cambs. CB6 2AU. Tel: 01353 778129  
Email: [secretary@cambshistoricchurchestrust.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cambshistoricchurchestrust.org.uk)

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# Free One Day Course How to Maintain your Church

Watch an old building with an anxious care; guard it as best you may, and at any cost, from every influence of dilapidation.

John Ruskin's words are as true today as they were in 1859. But where to start and what to look out for? The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) has launched Faith in Maintenance, a five year campaign to train churchwardens and fabric officers to look at their buildings with a critical eye and so spot problems before they turn into an expensive crisis. A free one day course is accompanied by an excellent, easy to use 'Good maintenance guide', a DVD that walks you around various types of churches spotting the potential for trouble and there are helplines too. See the website [www.spabfim.org.uk](http://www.spabfim.org.uk) for further details and to book a place on the Ely diocese event at St Mary's Ely, Saturday 16th May 2009. Or contact Kate Minnis, Project Administrator, SPAB Faith in Maintenance, 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY Tel: 0207 456 0913

Take proper care of your monuments and you will not need to restore them (Ruskin, 1859)

## Rainwater tax

You might have heard that changes in levying water rates could mean that places of worship (and other charity and community owned meeting places) will have to pay much bigger bills, particularly in relation to drainage charges.

The February General Synod passed a motion calling on the Government to act through Ofwat. The very informative briefing papers GS 904A and 904B, and a petition on the Prime Minister's website (open until 6th April 2009), can be found on [www.dontdrainus.org](http://www.dontdrainus.org) Perhaps the most discouraging part of it all is that churches which are not currently water customers, but which seek to provide community facilities such as a new kitchen or WC requiring a water supply, could become liable not just for the water they use, but also the new highway drainage charges that are based on water consumption.

# Lead theft – Secure your Churches

Despite a recent drop in global lead prices the church community is still suffering a large number of lead thefts.



• Lead Theft

The crime of lead theft saw a significant rise in 2007 and 2008. In that time Ecclesiastical received over 4,500 lead theft claims from Anglican churches, resulting in a total payout of £18.5m.

The Ely diocese alone suffered nearly a claim per week. The costs approached nearly £470k. By comparison, just a few years earlier in 2005, only one church in the diocese was affected. So the increase in the number of crimes in 2007 and 2008 is both dramatic and shocking.

The current economic climate has brought a rare sense of relief to the church community. The declining price of lead has resulted in a fall in lead thefts over the last few months. However, although metal prices and heightened awareness of the problem have caused this recent drop in claims, the problem is still far worse than it was only 2 years ago.

Churches are encouraged to secure church buildings against possible future thefts. Specialist insurer Ecclesiastical has continuously supported the protection of our church buildings by providing expert advice on the subject. Here are a few easy steps every church can take to tackle this issue:

Apply the free SmartWater kit and signage issued to you by Ecclesiastical to permanently security-mark the lead and other metals of the church building. Don't forget to register with SmartWater (see kit for details). Keep the church busy and ensure everyone in the local community keeps an eye on it. Inform the neighbours of any scheduled works for the church, so they can report anything out of the

ordinary immediately. Consider installing security lighting, CCTV or a security system. Ecclesiastical can give advice and guidance on this.

Visit Ecclesiastical's website ([www.ecclesiastical.com/metaltheft](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/metaltheft)) for more information and advice.

John Coates  
Direct Operations Manager  
Ecclesiastical Insurance

## Ely 900

On October 17th 1109, the feast of the Translation of St Etheldreda, King Henry I issued a charter at Nottingham establishing the diocese of Ely out of the vast diocese of Lincoln (that then stretched from the Humber to the Thames).

Abbot Hervey, the former Bishop of Bangor in north Wales, became the first Bishop of Ely and began to split the lands and income of the Benedictine abbey to fund the Bishop and diocese. The charters and letters in Book III of the Liber Eliensis (translation by Janet Fairweather, 2005) give us many fascinating details.

The diocese is celebrating the year with lots of activities listed at [www.ely.anglican.org/900](http://www.ely.anglican.org/900) and in the newsletter 900 News. Of particular interest is the Cambridge Antiquarian Society's conference on 28th March in Cambridge; Ely 1109-2009; celebrating 900 years.

CHCT will celebrate at an early evening Garden Party in Ely Bishop's House on Friday 26th June. We hope to include some guided trips to look at specific items of interest in the Cathedral. There is no charge but we will be asking for donations. We need to know numbers, so members are asked to register their intention to attend at the Conference or by letting the Secretary know by the end of April.

# Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust Annual Conference 2009

## 'Liturgy & Architecture'

On Saturday 25th April 2009 at Wolfson College, Cambridge

9.30	Registration	
10.00	Dr Allan Doig	Liturgy and Architecture from the Early Church to the Middle Ages
	<i>Fellow and chaplain to Lady Margaret Hall Oxford</i>	
11.00	Coffee	
11.45	Dr Bridget Nichols	The Reformation and Liturgy
	<i>Lay Chaplain to the Bishop of Ely</i>	
12.45	Buffet Lunch in the Lee Hall	
2.00	Dr James Garrard	The 19th Century: Revolution by Tradition(s): Ancient and Invented
	<i>Canon Precentor at Ely</i>	
3.00	Tea	
3.30	Richard Giles	New Liturgies and Adapting our Buildings for the 21st Century
	<i>Former Dean of Philadelphia and author of 'Re-pitching the Tent'</i>	
4.30	Depart	

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

Conference Fees:		
CHCT Members	(excluding Buffet)	£15.00
Non-members	(excluding Buffet)	£20.00

Due to a Wolfson College internal celebration the college dining hall is not available this year. Therefore we shall be arranging a special buffet served in the Lee Hall. Full details will be available in the Conference Booking Form.

## Church Tour Dates 2009

**Sunday 10th May:**  
Ely, St Mary  
Chettisham, St Michael  
Stretham, St James

**Sunday 14th June:**  
Glatton, St Nicholas  
Folkesworth, St Helen  
Stilton, St Mary

**Sunday 12th July:**  
Fen Ditton, St Mary  
Chesterton, St Mary  
Chesterton, St George

**Sunday 9th August:**  
Great Abington, St Mary  
Hadstock, St Botolph  
Linton, St Mary

Each tour begins at the first church at 2.30pm and ends with tea and evensong at the last church



• A.W.N. Pugin's vision



• Ely, Church of St Mary



• Fen Ditton, St Mary the Virgin