



# From the Chairman

**As regular attendees on our Church Tours (and also the Annual Conference) know only too well, the historic places of worship of Cambridgeshire are a visual delight, a never ending source of artistic satisfaction and full of architectural conundrums!**

They often reveal fascinating aspects of the history and development of the communities they serve and are especially interesting for the glimpses they give of the people who have worshipped in and cared for the buildings over the centuries, whether from an inscription on a memorial, from benefactors' boards or from an intriguing solution to a structural problem. The Trust is very grateful to the congregations who generously welcome us to their churches and who often add their own knowledge of the building to the expertise we bring. Come and join us for an afternoon of 'church crawling', as Sir John Betjeman so aptly called it!

Parish churches in particular have always been 'community' buildings, in that they exist for the benefit of all the people who live in that parish. The days are gone when the squire insisted on all his tenants attending

church and the many facets of modern life mean that fewer people regularly feel the need to attend church services. Nevertheless, a lot of us do still want the building and the spirituality it represents to be there when we need it. So the few can engage the many, if a development project is seen to be beneficial to the community or there is a real threat to the cherished fabric.

But those few need support and the Diocese of Ely and English Heritage have jointly funded Scilla Latham to work in the diocese for the next three years as the Church Buildings Support Officer. CHCT is also giving modest financial support to the project. Scilla will be based at the offices of Cambridgeshire ACRE in Littleport and will concentrate on encouraging new community projects within churches as well as helping

those congregations having difficulty maintaining their fabric. Look out for her contact details on the diocesan website and come to our Conference on May 21 to hear what she has to say. Our theme this year is 'renewal' and I hope that we will see how places of worship have been adapted to suit current needs – so Scilla's role can be seen as the continuation of a very long process that has kept our historic places of worship relevant to the people they serve.



• *Wisbech St Mary, visited by the Trust in May 2010.*

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.

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# NEWS & VIEWS

## What grants are available?



• *The repaired south porch front at Barton; £3000 WREN grant, £4500 CHCT loan*

CHCT offers grants up to £7000 and loans up to £20,000 for repairs to the fabric of historic churches (which do not have to be listed) including rewiring and heating projects. We do not offer grants for churchyards, tree work or redecoration. We also offer grants and loans for installing new facilities like lavatories and kitchens, but not liturgical re-ordering or new works of art. The size of our grant will be determined by the scale of your project, the shortfall you face and the size of your congregation and community. We aim to help those who are in most need of outside support.

CHCT will also offer 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.

We also have £3000 set aside each year for grants towards the repair of important monuments (including significant churchyard table tombs) that a PCC or Friends group are conserving.

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

Although WREN no longer allocates any funding to CHCT, they continue to offer some grants for major repair projects to grade I & II\* churches costing over £50,000 and with a funding gap of at least £20,000. There is no application process, but a list of projects is created by the National Churches Trust (among others) to which CHCT contributes. WREN continues to offer grants for community facilities and amenities, but places of worship will have to demonstrate that they are for the benefit of all and not just for congregational use. 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/](http://www.wren.org.uk/)

The Donarbon Community Fund covers the entire county, but only projects providing benefits to the whole community will be considered. [www.cambscf.org.uk/donarbon-fund](http://www.cambscf.org.uk/donarbon-fund)

Both [www.churchcare.co.uk/funding](http://www.churchcare.co.uk/funding) and [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/howgrant.html](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/howgrant.html) give information on their own grants and provide links to other national grant giving trusts.

## An important consultation

Government cuts have now forced English Heritage to withdraw its funding from what is now known as the Repairs Grant Scheme for listed places of worship, though its expertise and administrative support will continue. Thankfully, the Heritage Lottery Fund has agreed to increase its share to fully fund the scheme at £25 million per year until 2013, when post-Olympic lottery funding will enter a new phase. HLF is currently consulting on what its priorities should be 2013-2019 in spending the £300 million it will give out each year in grants. This is our chance to let the HLF Trustees know just how valuable their funding is to the survival of historic places of worship in Cambridgeshire. CHCT will be responding, but individual responses,

especially from congregations who have had a grant from them, will be even more influential. Please take the time to reply to their consultation on [www.hlf.org.uk/consultation2011](http://www.hlf.org.uk/consultation2011) before it closes on April 26th.



• *New ringing floor and tower screen at Great Paxton; £5000 CHCT grant, £10000 loan.*

## People

The Rt Rev'd Stephen Conway has been installed as the new Bishop of Ely and we all look forward to welcoming him soon at one of our events.

After many years on the Executive Council, Canon Chris Barber is retiring, but we will still benefit from his wisdom as a Trustee.

We are very pleased that Rev'd Annette Reed, vicar of the Paxtons with Diddington and Rural Dean of St Neots, has joined the Executive. Her wide experience of bringing mediaeval churches into the 21st century will be of great value to CHCT.

Andy Clarke has just become our new Grants Secretary, having managed the grant aided works at Horningsea and has already got stuck in with CHCT grants. We thank Kevin Doyle for stepping in when David Collingswood was taken ill.

# EVENTS

## The Church Revived

### CHCT Conference

May 21st 2011 9.30 for 10.00-16.00  
Wolfson College, Cambridge

The modern history of Christianity in England is a sequence of revivals in spiritual life, liturgy and architecture. This year's conference looks at some of these revivals and their architectural and artistic consequences.

Professor Graham Parry of the University of York will talk about the C17th Laudian Revival.

Dr Christopher Wakeling (Keele University) will discuss the Wesleyan Revival and the architecture of Methodism.

Christopher Webster will speak on The Revival of church architecture and correct church arrangements; the work of the Cambridge Camden Society, 1839-1949.

The day ends with a presentation by Scilla Latham, the recently appointed Church Buildings Support Officer for Ely diocese, talking about her work in helping parishes find ways of maintaining and adapting their churches to meet the challenges of the new millennium.

Please book with the enclosed form (or download it from our website) or contact 01223 892430

## Ride and Stride

This year 86 congregations provided cyclists and raised £29,319 including Gift Aid. Although a little down on 2010, this was a wonderful achievement, not just for CHCT but also for all those places of worship that benefited – as each participant can donate 50% of their sponsorship to the church of their choice.

Orwell St Andrew raised the highest sum £1460 and so Shingay Deanery just pipped Huntingdon to raise the most of all the deaneries, £3582.

Not only can you cycle or ride a horse to get to the churches, but you can walk too. As this year the Ride and Stride is on Saturday 10 September which is also the weekend of Heritage Open Days, there are all sorts of extra events going on. By walking around central Cambridge this year, not only could you visit up to 18 churches and 22 college chapels, but some colleges had extra places open (like the Parker Library at Corpus Christi) and churches like St Clement's and St Bene't's served delicious teas.

We also warmly thank the people who man the churches to welcome cyclists or make sure the list is there to sign. They can be sponsored too! Plan your own route and for full details visit the Trust website.

## Church Tours Summer 2011

### Sunday 8th May

Thriplow, St George  
Fowlmere, St Mary  
Melbourn, All Saints

### Sunday 12th June

Offord Cluny, All Saints  
Offord D'Arcy, St Peter  
Yelling, Holy Cross

### Sunday 10th July

Landwade, St Nicholas\*  
Wicken, St Laurence  
Soham, St Andrew

### Sunday 14th August

Marholm, St Mary  
Upton, St John the Baptist  
Sutton, St Michael & All Angels

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, toilets are available and those who wish to can stay for a short service of Evening Prayer. There is no charge for participation in these tours, which are open to all, but please 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.

\*Dr Jean Wilson will talk about the monuments here.



• Soham is part of the church tours, 2011.



• Marholm received a £3,000 WREN grant.

# From the Secretary



• The new lighting and kitchen/toilet pod at Orton Waterville; £5000 WREN grant.

You will gather elsewhere in this newsletter that the Trust continues to pursue a full and lively programme of activity. This costs money, even though your office-holders and others give their time and effort freely. Many of you have responded generously to the introduction of the new membership subscription arrangements. However, quite a number of members have not yet increased their subscriptions to the new minimum levels or changed to the new payment date in January. The harsh financial climate is affecting all of us, but please remember that this includes the churches which the Trust exists to support. With the loss of the WREN block grant we now have considerably less money at our disposal to help churches meet the cost of vital building work so that they can remain in use for worship. Moreover we have to make sure, and satisfy the Charity Commission, that our income is used for this charitable trust objective and is not

consumed by the cost of providing a service to our members. That is why we have felt obliged to introduce the increase.

We appreciate that congregations in membership of the Trust, faced with rising costs for maintenance, insurance, parish share and other items, may find it especially hard to subscribe more. You may be aware of our new firm stipulation that churches receiving loans or grants from the Trust should subscribe for at least four years, and you may perhaps be tempted to suspend membership unless and until you have to seek our help with heavy repair bills and are obliged to re-join. But we hope that you will recognise corporate membership as a sort of mutual insurance against these occurrences and not only renew your membership but encourage other churches, which do not already belong, to join.

So we would appeal to those of you who are not yet doing so, to increase your subscriptions to at

least the new minima of £20 for individuals or couples and £50 for church congregations, and to pay these now rather than later in the year, and on 1<sup>st</sup> January in future years. As always it is helpful if you are prepared to pay by standing order, and also to provide a Gift Aid declaration, enabling the Trust to recover currently an extra 28p per pound subscribed, if you are a UK taxpayer. For those of you who have not yet brought your subscription into line with the new arrangements, a form for these purposes is again enclosed with this newsletter. If you are not sure whether you have already responded, please contact me and I will check our records.

If you have reluctantly decided that you are unable to subscribe at the new rate, please let me know so that we do not trouble you further. We understand the situation and remain extremely grateful for your past support for our work.

I have done my best to deal with the Trust's membership affairs since the death of our excellent and long-serving Membership Secretary Peter Hewitt in 2009. However, it is not satisfactory to combine this with the tasks of Hon Secretary. I am very pleased to report that Jenny Lowles has kindly agreed to take on the role of Membership Secretary. We have yet to settle the timing of the handover of responsibility, but meanwhile please continue to address communications to me, until in due course Jenny's contact details will appear on our website.

**David Stazicker**