

Our Grants in 2012



• St. John, Little Wilbraham, offered a loan of £2000 and a grant of £2000 towards a heating system.

CHCT offers grants and loans towards repair and certain improvement projects on 'historic places of worship'. They don't need to be listed or over a certain age, but we aim to help buildings of some architectural and historic interest used for Christian worship.

The Trust's maximum grant is currently £3000 per project, which when linked with a loan to a maximum of £15000, means that the Trust's contribution to a major project gets fund raising off to a flying start or can meet the shortfall after other grants have been promised.

In the calendar year 2012 we offered a total of £30,000 in grants and £80,500 in loans to 15 applicants. These are lower figures than in previous years and we have seen a decline in the number of applications; indeed none were presented to the November Executive Committee meeting. This decline has also been seen in some other churches trusts and must partly be due to the general economic climate. On the other hand, as two recent national surveys have reported that the majority of churches are now in a good state of repair, congregations are taking a breather from big repair projects.

The focus may now be on making the watertight church more comfortable and useable. Of the fifteen projects we helped, seven were for repairs (and another dealt with a stolen roof), but four were for serveries and toilets, one for heating and two for re-wiring. Although we cannot help with small scale heating and electrical repairs and amendments, we will consider major new heating and electrical projects, especially if they help reduce the building's carbon footprint (see www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint).

In 2012 CHCT has also benefitted from a Partnership Grant from the National Churches Trust, which enabled two repair projects at Shudy Camps and Great Paxton to be offered a total of £7000.

CHCT also offers 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 set aside £3000 each year for grants towards the repair of important monuments, including significant churchyard table tombs. We do not offer grants for work in churchyards, redecoration, liturgical re-ordering or new works of art.

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

Grants from others

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has now taken over running the biggest grant scheme from English Heritage (EH). The Grants for Places of Worship scheme will now be run from the Cambridge HLF office at Terrington House, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1NL 01223 224870 eastofengland@hlf.org.uk.

Although this remains primarily a repairs scheme, other work such as toilets, kitchens, heating, electrical work and energy efficiency projects can be funded within the project, up to a maximum of 15% of the whole project cost. This is possible because HLF has a wider statutory responsibility to encourage the use and enjoyment of the heritage. EH architects will continue to provide technical advice, but all the administration will now be done by the HLF at their offices. Please read through the full guidance before applying:

www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/Grants_Places_Worship_England

The Amey-Cespa Community Fund continues to offer grants from landfill tax credits anywhere in Cambridgeshire for the repair, maintenance or restoration of a place of worship (Object E) and can help with kitchens and toilets that serve as a general public amenity (Object D). For the latter, it does have to be demonstrated that the general public and not just the congregation, benefit. Grants of up to £20,000 will be offered on projects costing up to £150,000 and grants up to £40,000 for projects over £150,000. A package of small items that arise from a quinquennial report can qualify, as will refurbishment of existing facilities and services. See www.cambscf.org.uk/AmeyCespa-fund.html for an application form.

Any landfill site operator can offer grants under these Objects, so if there is one near you – even over the county border – look at their website for details, especially www.wren.org.uk

The National Churches Trust (NCT) has re-organised its grants programmes, including an online application process. They put most money into repairs (Repairs Grants) but also help with toilets and kitchens (Community Grants). CHCT will again benefit from a Partnership Grant from them. NCT also advises WREN on their national Heritage Fund grants. Full details are at www.nationalchurchestrust.org/supporting-you/grants/welcome.

Scilla Latham's excellent Church Funding Fact Sheet is regularly updated. It is available at www.cambsacre.org.uk and on the diocese of Ely website as an Advice Paper, or in booklet form directly from Scilla on 01353 865043. Scilla will be running another training event at Over Conference Centre on Wednesday June 5th. For details contact her at scilla.latham@cambsacre.org.uk

The Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme effectively reimburses much of the VAT paid on church repair and improvement projects. After extensive campaigning last year, its future is assured until 2015 www.lpwsscheme.org.uk. However, claims under the new rules have yet to reach their expected level - not so surprising perhaps, after all the uncertainty and rule changes. Please keep claiming to show government how valuable this scheme is to churches or it will not be renewed next time!

The www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/funding-and-grants site gives further information on other national grant giving trusts.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

2013

Chairman's Report

As I write, it looks as though the worst of the winter is over, with longer days and bright bursts of colour from snowdrops and aconites that amazingly emerge at this most inhospitable time of the year. It has been a testing time for traditional buildings because long hard frosts set in on soaking wet walls. As the temperature rises and surfaces dry out, weakened masonry and mortar can fall away, so look out for bits of shattered brick and stone on the ground, as that will indicate the beginning of a problem to be tackled sooner rather than later.

This is the sort of practical tip to be learnt on the one day *Faith in Maintenance* course run by SPAB. Two of these have been run in the county, both much appreciated. The third will be run at Melbourn church on Friday April 19th. To book a free place contact Scilla Latham, the Diocese of Ely's Church Support Officer 01353 865043 or email scilla.latham@cambsacre.org.uk

Although mainly funded by the diocese and English Heritage, CHCT has made a modest financial contribution to Scilla's work, as we are very aware of the help congregations need with their building projects. Scilla's three year contract comes to an end in September. She has amply demonstrated the value of having

a semi-detached but committed and knowledgeable person come alongside to support a parish in meeting their aspirations to repair and improve their church. Scilla has established a small network of people who are willing and able to act as mentors, having managed a big project themselves.

Our own annual conference *Dissent!* will have taken place by the time this Newsletter reaches you, but our Sunday afternoon Church Tours start on May 12th (on page 3). We have added a fifth tour in October, which will be a walking tour of three churches in St Neots and will include a short Annual Meeting. All are welcome to come along as we consider these Tours to be part of the Trust's duty to make the



architectural and historic interest of the county's places of worship better known.

Ride and Stride Day is on 14th September this year and we are keen to make this as successful as possible because it gives us the funding we need to help churches (see overleaf). The paperwork and website are being revised to make it easier to take part, so please do what you can to make the Day a success.

The Trust only operates because of the dedication of its small band of officers and I warmly thank them for giving their time so willingly throughout 2012.

Richard Halsey

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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The bells ring out again at Lt Paxton

The twenty-ninth AGM was held in St James' Church, Little Paxton which is indeed a historic church dating back to the 12th century in places. Sitting in this ancient place, it struck me that preserving the fabric of these Churches also allows them a future and a present place within the community. Money from the Historic Churches Trust together with fund raising locally and the People's Million Grant raised some £400,000 which has given the Church new life for now and long into the future as beautiful building but arguably more importantly, as the hub of the community as it would have been in the 12th century.

Listening to the various reports at the AGM, many other Churches have benefitted from money to keep them for the future and will continue to do so as a result of the work of the Historic Churches Trust.

Some discussion was given to publicising the "Ride and Stride" more widely – it is to be hoped the success of the Olympic cycling has



• The new frame

encouraged more people to take to their wheels! A call for volunteers to help with this and with other work was also made.

Afterwards we looked round St James' and were even allowed into the bell tower to admire and learn the history of the bells.

Attending this AGM brought home to me the importance of the work of the Trust and the difference it can make not only to buildings but to a whole new community.

Liz Wright

Metal theft

Our thanks to all of you, including three Cambridgeshire MPs, who helped lobby Government on the huge problem of thieves stealing metal from church roofs. The national campaign has achieved major reforms in the trading of scrap metal through the Scrap Metal Dealers Act. This requires cashless trading, a licensing system, a national register of scrap yards and compulsory taking of identification at the point of sale. The police will have powers of entry to enforce the new regulations and to close yards where illegal activity is suspected.

Let us hope that the Act will consolidate the action already taken by police forces around the country

that has seen metal theft greatly reduce.

CHCT will continue to consider offering a grant of 50% (up to £1000) of the cost of installing an effective alarm that meets your insurance company's requirements or the cost of applying 'Smartwater'.

More information

The Churchcare website www.churchcare.co.uk includes advice notes on security and the latest advice on alternative roofing materials and links through to many useful initiatives.

Ecclesiastical also has much helpful advice on its website, www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmatters/churchguidance/churchsecurity/thefofmetal/index

Odds & Ends

Advice and Guidance

The largest advice site is the national ChurchCare site www.churchcare.co.uk

DAC Advice Papers are on the Home- Information section of the Diocese of Ely website www.ely.anglican.org

The Arthur Rank Centre has a great new Resource for Rural Places of Worship at www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk

Need paint?

Community RePaint recycles unwanted paint for use by community groups. Although it doesn't deal in traditional limewash, it has paint available for church halls or modern extensions. 0845 602 7144 email repaint@ccornn.org.uk or visit their website www.ccornn.org.uk

RCHME

The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments 1926 volume on Huntingdonshire is now available on line at www.british-history.ac.uk

Want a new guidebook?

www.churchguides.co.uk is a new organisation linking up volunteer writers with congregations wanting a new guidebook.



• A jolly lion corbel at the springing of the tower vault in St Bartholomew, Great Stukeley.

Church Tours

Sunday 12th May
Lolworth, All Saints
Conington, St Mary
Boxworth, All Saints

Sunday 9th June
Little Abington, St Mary
Pampisford, St John the Baptist
Stapleford, St Andrew

Sunday 14th July
Stanground, St John the Baptist
Farcet, St Mary
Yaxley, St Peter

Sunday 11th August
Bassingbourn, St Peter and St Paul
Steeple Morden, St Peter and St Paul
Guilden Morden, St Mary

Sunday 6th October
NB 1.30pm start
St Neots, United Reform Church and Annual Members Meeting
St Neots, St Mary
Eynesbury, St Mary

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, 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 the tours. The walking tour of St Neots churches in October will follow the Annual Members meeting at 1.30 to which all are welcome as there are no votes, just short reports and the opportunity to discuss the Trust's activities.



• Executive Committee member Rev. Lynn Broughton talking about the iconography of features visible in St Bartholomew, Great Stukeley in August 2012.

Ride and Stride



• St George Littleport, offered a loan of £15,000 towards tower repairs.

Ride and Stride Day is a national event and has become CHCT's main source for new funds. Participants are sponsored for every place of worship they visit by cycle, horse, bus or on foot during the Day (14 September 2013). The money raised is then split between the Trust and the place of worship they nominate. If the sponsorship is Gift-Aided, then the Trust can further benefit – by nearly £4000 in 2012.

We were delighted to raise £24,439.02 in 2012, only £90.06 short of last year's total and all the more remarkable as ten fewer churches and chapels participated this year. So on average, each of the 68 participating churches/chapels this year raised £359 as against £314 last year. This breaks down in the 14 Church of England deanery areas as follows:

Deanery	No of churches (2011 brackets)	Total raised £
Bourn	7 (7)	2154.00
Cambridge (N&S)	5 (3)	1871.00
Ely	3 (7)	1534.50
Fordham & Quy	7 (7)	1297.00
Granta	5 (5)	1876.00
Huntingdon	12 (15)	4145.92
March	3 (1)	568.00
North Stowe	7 (8)	4259.00
Peterborough	1 (1)	65.00
St Ives	3 (7)	1818.50
St Neots	4 (3)	1059.10
Shingay	9 (8)	3427.00
Wisbech	- (1)	-
Yaxley	2 (5)	324.00

Trustees are extremely grateful to all those who took part – as, no doubt, are the nominated congregations who between them received £11593. Thank you; it means we can continue to offer grants throughout the county.

The decline in participants and income is seen in other county trusts and has been discussed at a national meeting. The number of competing sponsored charity events seems to increase each year and as the average age of Church of England congregations is thought to be 61, it is not perhaps surprising that fewer church people now take part. With the increase in road traffic, cycling might not be quite as

pleasurable as it was, but there are ever more cycle routes and dedicated cycle lanes; maps and routes (that also mark parish churches) can be downloaded from www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cycling

One possibility is cycling (or walking) the twelve miles from St Ives to north Cambridge alongside the guided busway. This gives easy, safe access to at least ten parish churches en route, plus more churches in Cambridgeshire itself and various village chapels too.

One of the benefits of the day for participants is to visit other churches and chapels and Ride and Stride Day coincides with Heritage Open Days. Although we encourage as many places as possible to be open (and to provide a drink and biscuit to refresh their visitors), this is not always possible. We therefore ask that they make the signing-in page available for participants on a noticeboard or door and we take it on trust that people have been there!

Prizes!

As one means of encouraging greater participation, Trustees will offer modest cash prizes for the following

£25 for the largest amount of sponsorship raised by a person aged 16 or under on the day

£50 for the individual adult (17+) raising the most sponsorship money

£125 for the parish/chapel team raising the largest combined sum of money

Taking part in Ride and Stride is a healthy way of raising money for your church and CHCT which can also introduce you to new interesting churches. Please have a go!