

# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST



## ANNUAL REPORT 2021



FOR those of us concerned with churches, as for the rest of the country, 2021 has been a strange year. Taking us in and out of some form of lockdown from January to July, Covid has continued to affect both worship in churches and their maintenance and repair. In March 2021, the University of York published the results of a study into the effects of the total closure of church buildings during the first lockdown in 2020, which can be read on their website: <https://churchesandcovid.org/>. It makes interesting reading for anyone who cares about church buildings, for their spiritual as well as their heritage value. One interesting statistic was that 75% of non-churchgoers questioned felt the importance of access to church buildings as places for peace, thought and consolation: one non-member wrote: 'Quiet reflection and comfort at a time of crisis was the most important reason for me to use church buildings – but they were locked'. An historic church is a particularly special place, consecrated not only by its use as a place of worship, but also by the devotion of generations who have cared for it. The report is a reminder of the important work which the churchwardens, PCCs and clergy still do to maintain these buildings in our county, with Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust's help. They are not just buildings for the congregations who worship there, but are there for everyone.

*Eleanor Townsend and Brian Withington (editors)*



## Supporting the Trust

Become a Friend - Leave a Legacy - Give practical help

# Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust

Patron:	Her Majesty The Queen	
President:	James Saunders Watson Esq, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire	
Vice-Presidents:	The Rt Revd. Donald Allister, The Bishop of Peterborough; The Rt Revd. John Holbrook, The Bishop of Brixworth; David E Laing Esq.	
Trustees:	James Saunders Watson Esq, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire; The Rt Revd. Donald Allister, The Bishop of Peterborough	
	Mrs H Aslett	B Bailey Esq
	J C Barker Esq	E W Byland Esq
	Mrs E M Doherty	Revd. R Farmer
	Miss R Fitch	Dr S M Gaskell
	Mrs V E Hartley	Ms V Henley
	The Rt Revd. John Holbrook	Mrs B Lancaster
	G J Lugar-Mawson Esq	J P Miller Esq
	M Moore Esq	The Ven. Richard Ormston
	Mrs S Parkinson	Canon Andrew Presland
	Ms R Willatts	The Revd. Canon Brian Withington

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire and The Lord Bishop of Peterborough are trustees of the charity by virtue of their offices, and they appoint the remaining trustees. The number cannot exceed sixty, but cannot be less than four, and every trustee has one vote. These trustees administer the management of the charity.

Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust was constituted by a Trust Deed dated 10 March 1955.

Registered Charity Number: 1021632

Registered Address: Elgin House, Billing Road, Northampton, NN1 5AU

## Trust Officers

Chairman: Gareth Lugar-Mawson	Vice-Chairman: John Barker
Secretary: Ruth Fitch	Treasurer: Eddie Byland
Friends Secretary: Ruth Fitch	Grants Secretary: Michael Moore
County Ride and Stride Organisers:	Val Hartley and Liz Doherty

**[www.nhct.org.uk](http://www.nhct.org.uk)**

*Front cover: St John the Baptist, Cranford – Previous page: St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby*

# Chairman's Report

I AM pleased to report that despite all the problems caused by the ongoing Covid-19 epidemic, 2021 was a very successful year for the Trust, both in terms of funds raised and grants awarded.

## Grants

In 2021, the Trust awarded 32 grants with a total value of £55,850, the details of which are set out later in this Annual Report. These grants were made possible by the excellent level of income generated by the annual Ride and Stride and from donations, for which the Trust is most grateful.

The Trustees' policy is to draw on their reserves to meet current needs at current prices while keeping a core amount of £100,000 as a long-term reserve.

When making grants, the Trustees continue to give priority to those churches and chapels which have a history of participation in the Ride and Stride, particularly to those churches which raise sponsorship money.

The Trustees are grateful to Michael Moore for undertaking the role of Grants Secretary and to Eric Peplow, John Barker and Rosalind Willatts for visiting the applicant churches and chapels and reporting on their circumstances.

## Annual Ride and Stride

2021 despite the problems the epidemic caused, was our best Ride and Stride year yet. At the time of writing, it has raised £48,732, plus £7,640.50 from Gift Aid, a total of £56,372.50. This truly excellent result was reached in the most difficult of circumstances and reflects the sterling efforts of the Riders and Striders, the Area Organisers, the Church and Chapel Organisers and the Church and Chapel sitters. The Trustees are most grateful to them, as they are to the indefatigable County Organisers, Val Hartley and Liz Doherty, for their enthusiasm and the many hours they spent in planning and coordinating the event. Richard Hartley and Paul Stothard stepped down as County Organisers in 2020, but I know that Richard continues to offer strong support to Val and Liz from behind the scenes. The Trustees are equally grateful to Eddie Byland, the Trust's Treasurer, for dealing with the numerous individual payments involved and making the Gift Aid claims to HMRC.

In mentioning Eddie, I would like to record the Trust's thanks to him for the excellent and timely way in which he looks after the Trust's accounts.

The Ride and Stride support from the churches and chapels in Northamptonshire is the Trust's main fundraising source. It is largely from the monies raised by the Ride and Stride that we derive our funds to make grants to the County's churches and chapels.

There will be a 2022 Ride and Stride on 10th September, and Val and Liz will be sending out the entry form and details shortly. I hope that your church or chapel will take part in it.

## Donations

I am pleased to report that, once again, the Constance Travis Charitable Trust made a most generous donation of £50,000 to the Trust this year. We also received a donation of £10,000 from the George Cadbury Fund and £1,540 from the White family in memory of John White. The Trustees are most grateful to the Constance Travis Trust and the Cadbury Fund trustees, and John's family for their generous support.



*St Mary the Virgin, Titchmarsh*

## **Celebration Evening**

Unfortunately, the lockdowns caused by the Covid epidemic meant that we had to cancel the Celebration Evening due to be held at the home of David and Mary Laing on 16th July. This was a great pity as the Celebration Evening gives the trustees the opportunity to meet the representatives from the churches and chapels to which the Trust has made grants, and to thank them for their hard work in looking after their churches and chapels. The representatives also have the opportunity of sharing their experiences and information. These occasions are not only enjoyable, but also encouraging to those involved in the difficult and time-consuming business of caring for Northamptonshire's beautiful churches and chapels. We have recently confirmed that this year's Celebration Evening will be held on Wednesday 20th July, at the Laings' home in Grafton Underwood.

## **Annual General Meeting**

We were able to hold our 2021 Annual General Meeting by Zoom in April and our Ride & Stride Review Meeting in person at the offices of HRC Hewitsons in November.

## **Church Study Day**

In August, our annual Church Study Day was to the church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Higham Ferrers and its associated buildings of the Chantry Chapel and the Bede House, where we were made very welcome by the Revd. Michelle Dalliston and the twelve Bedesmen and the Bedeswoman (all in their ceremonial cloaks). 2021 marked the 600th anniversary of Archbishop Chichele's founding of the Chantry Chapel and the Bede House. To mark that event, Saint Mary's church has initiated the Saint Mary's 600 Appeal in which the church hopes to raise £600,000 towards the costs of preserving this important group of historic buildings. My thanks to Bruce Bailey for organising this visit and explaining the features of the buildings. We will be holding another Study Day on 13th August 2022, in which we will visit a few of the county's forgotten churches.

## **Friends**

As well as taking on the role of the Trust's Secretary, Ruth Fitch remains our Friends' Secretary. The Trustees are very grateful to Ruth for dealing with this aspect of the Trust. Our aim is to continue to increase the number of Friends, both individual and corporate. We now have 120 individual Friends and 105 Church Friends. New Friends do not just appear, they need to be recruited and that is an aspect with which we can all help. An application form is in this Report.

## **National Churches Trust**

We maintain our links with the National Churches Trust (NCT), which operates at a national level to promote the care of our heritage of England's wonderful churches – fundraising, making grants, lobbying where appropriate, and acting as a focal point for the efforts of the individual county trusts of which NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST is one. However, NCT no longer participates in a partnership scheme under which it delegates aspects of its grant-making functions to the county trusts.

## **Roof Alarms**

Lead theft remains an ongoing problem with all churches. Three years ago, we were fortunate to receive funding of £50,000 from Allchurches Trust Ltd to be expended in grants towards the installation of roof alarms in churches and chapels which did not have such systems. The scheme was due to end in December 2020 but, because of the problems caused by the epidemic, Allchurches Trust allowed it to be extended to 31st December 2021. It has now ended, and the unspent funds have been returned to Allchurches Trust. While the scheme was in being we were able to make grants of £1,000 each to twenty-six churches.

Allchurches Trust still make grants towards the installation of roof alarms, but the application must be made to them. Please direct any enquiries to the roof alarms page on Allchurches Trust's website: <https://www.allchurches.co.uk/what-we-fund/roof-alarm-grants/>. The Trust will still make grants towards the cost of installation of roof alarms from its own funds. Applications for these should be made to the Grants Secretary.

## **Website**

The website ([www.nhct.uk](http://www.nhct.uk)) contains details of the Trust's activities. We are still looking for a website developer to update it and run it for us. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for additional items or improvements to the site.

## **John White**

It was with great sadness that the trustees heard of the death, on 29 April 2021, of John White, our former Chairman and Secretary. John was an outstanding Chairman of the Trust and I am very grateful to him for the help and advice he gave to me when I took on the role. He will be sorely missed. A tribute to John is in this Report.

## **New Report Editors**

Dr Martin Gaskell, who edited this Report for many years, stood down from the role after the publication of the 2020 Annual Report. The Trustees are grateful to Martin for undertaking this arduous task for so many years. The Report's new editors are the Revd. Canon Brian Withington and Eleanor Townsend. We are grateful to them for volunteering to do the job and wish them well.

## **The Future**

As I have said in previous Reports, I continue to be impressed with the time and effort spent by what are often relatively small groups of people in maintaining the wonderful churches and chapels in our county.

In Northamptonshire we have some of England's finest examples of church and ecclesiastical architecture and memorials, covering well over 1,000 years of church building. We are fortunate to be able to continue to enjoy them, but they have to be looked after. This is a very great responsibility, which lies ultimately with local people, the parishioners and worshippers, as well as those who may have no strong faith, but who love and respect the Christian tradition in England. Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust endeavours to support those who care for these fine buildings in facing those considerable challenges and responsibilities. We do this in order that those who come after us can continue to enjoy and worship in them and play their part in ensuring that they, and the generations after them, may do so too; not only for the next 1,000 years, but for many centuries after that.

The small part Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust plays in achieving that object is the result of the efforts of the Trustees and Council Members and I thank them, with our President, James Saunders Watson, HM Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire, and our Vice-Presidents David Laing, Bishop Donald Allister, and Bishop John Holbrooke, for their strong continuing friendship, support and encouragement.

## **In Conclusion**

I hope you enjoy this Report. If you have any comments or suggestions about it, please send them to Brian, Eleanor or me.



**Gareth Lugar-Mawson**

*Chairman*

Tel: 01327 830219; Mobile: 07452930801

Email: [lugarmawson@msn.com](mailto:lugarmawson@msn.com)

# Report from the Grant Committee

**Michael Moore**

LAST year I stated that 2020 was a nothing year, well, 2021 was even worse as far as activity went. The number of applications was considerably down, assumedly due to the lockdowns as churches were not keen on visits. I also suspect that funds for projects have not been coming through due to church closures. I am aware that quinquennial inspections are being carried out, but in many instances volunteers and professionals are not available to carry out the work, however we must keep on top of maintaining our historic buildings.

At the last Trustees' meeting it was agreed to place a time limit of three years on any grant that is pledged, in order that we do not sit on allocated funds that could be used by other churches. This recommendation is in line with other funding organisations, so please take this into consideration when applying for grants.

This year the Trustees were able to meet twice to consider applications for grants. They pledged £45,500 to 24 churches, out of the 31 applications received. We hope that 2022 will be a better year for applications. The Grant secretary is always available to discuss applications or questions you might have. The process to obtain a grant is relatively easy. Initially an application form is required, which can be found on the Trust website ([www.nhct.uk](http://www.nhct.uk)). Once you have filled in the form, which requires details about the church, the project, and finances, the church is then visited by members of the grant committee prior to the next meeting.

In 2018 the Trust was fortunate, with the support donated by the Allchurches Trust, to make a great offer of £1000 for the first 50 churches towards the installation of a roof alarm. The take-up of this offer continued to be slow: despite extending the offer to 31st December 2021, only 26 churches have taken up the offer. At the time of writing this report, we have returned the unused funds.

As we have stated in the past, when considering applications the Grant Committee takes into consideration all the criteria laid down by the Trustees, the history of past applications and, in particular, applicant contributions to Ride and Stride, which is our main source of income. We therefore encourage all churches to participate in this national event.



*Clock face at St John the Baptist, Hellidon, repaired with the help of an NHCT grant*

You can see from the schedules below the grants and pledges made during the year but in summary the Trust contributed as follows: -

Building works	6
Water installation	1
Porch work	2
Roof alarm	9
Roof works	2
Servery installations	3
Internal work	1

Town/Church	Works	Grant given by NHCT	Amount given by ACT
Achurch St John the Baptist	Installation of roof alarm	£500	£1,000
Adstone All Saints	Provision of external water supply (as council withdrew their offer) in order to clean the church, and prevent water from having to be brought in manually	£1,000	
Barnwell, St. Andrew's	Installation of roof alarm	£500	£1,000
Barnwell, All Saints	Installation of roof alarm	£500	£1,000
Brigstock, St. Andrew's	Repairs and redecoration to Lady Chapel	£1,000	
Castle Ashby, St. Mary Magdalene	Installation of servery	£2,000	
Collyweston, St. Andrew's	Installation of roof alarm	£500	£1,000
Cotterstock, St. Andrew's	Repairs to chancel roof, lead flashing, guttering, and repointing	£4,000	
Cranford, St. John	Installation of roof alarm		£1,000
Denford, Holy Trinity	Installation of roof alarm	£500	£1,000
Geddington, St. Mary Magdalene	Stabilisation and repointing stonework. Conservation work on reredos and panels	£3,000	
Higham Ferrers, St. Mary the Virgin	For the 600th anniversary, installation of a servery	£2,000	
Little Harrowden, St. Mary's	Installation of roof alarm	£500	£1,000
Pattishall, Holy Cross	Replacement of damaged stonework in belfry and replacement of louvre panels	£2,000	
Pittsford, All Saints	Installation of server and toilet	£5,000	
Plumpton, St. John the Baptist	Replacement of porch roof	£2,000	
Rockingham, St. Leonard's	Removal of vegetation and re-roofing	£4,000	
Spratton, St. Andrew's	Installation of new doors in north porch	£1,000	
Stowe Nine Churches, Church of St Michael	Installation of roof alarm	£500	£1,000
Tiffield, St. John the Baptist	Replacement of roof, and guttering	£5,000	



Welton, St. Martin's	Stonework repair to tower. H&S regs work for disabled access and roof repairs	£3,000	
Whitfield, St. John the Evangelist	Urgent tower maintenance	£3,000	
Woodford, St. Mary the Virgin	Replacement of parapet guttering, some timber repairs, repointing and tower work	£4,000	
Woodford, St. Mary the Virgin	Installation of roof alarm	£1,000	
		£45,500	£9,000

Until 2018 the Trustees were also able to commend churches to the National Churches Trust (NCT) under the partnership agreement between the Trust and NCT. This scheme has unfortunately changed, and we are no longer able to do this. The Trust continues to welcome applications and tries hard to publicise the availability of funds to make grants.

## NHCT Makes a Difference

### ST MARY MAGDALENE, CASTLE ASHBY

Following over four years of planning and fundraising, the team at Castle Ashby Parish Church was delighted recently to have completed work on their Servery and WC project. In the context of the Grade 1 listed building, it was obviously vital that the new facilities complemented the existing interior. Taking design cues from the vestry - itself originally the reading desk of the church's magnificent pulpit - the new cabinetry has been expertly crafted to blend with and enhance the interior, and it is pleasing to note how many visitors have no idea that it isn't in fact original.

The new facilities are already allowing much greater flexibility in the use of the church and the events it is able to host. Having been pleased to support the Trust's Ride and Stride event for many years, we were delighted to have been able to show Trustees our plans, and to receive a grant from the Trust towards the project.

*Richard Tapp*



*Discreetly designed WC facility at St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby*

### ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, CRANFORD

In early 2019 most of the lead was stripped from the roof of our church's south aisle confronting the Parochial Church Council with replacement costs estimated at over £23,000. With our insurers only covering 50%, finding the rest was not going to be an easy task, but a pledge of £3,000 by the Trust within weeks was a most encouraging start to our fundraising. With the generous help of Cranford villagers past and present,



and various grant-giving bodies, we were able to get work started in February 2021 to replace the temporary cover with terne-coated steel. We were then delighted to learn that the Trust would also help us to upgrade the alarm system to ensure that future roof-covering claims could be met in full; in due course we received a further grant of £1,000. In all our dealings with the Trust, the Grants Secretary and the Chairman went out of their way to help and we are hugely grateful for their support.

*John Ross*

### **ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, HELLIDON**

December 2020 was the centenary of the installation of the current clock at the church of St John the Baptist, Hellidon, so renovation plans were put in place, and a fundraising campaign commenced to get the clock working again. The picturesque church dates to the 1350s, the present building was largely refurbished in 1845 by William Butterfield.

The clock was open to the elements and tightly enclosed by a bell frame installed in the early 1990s making access for maintenance almost impossible. The plan was to relocate the clock a metre lower, place it on a stand and enclose it in a purpose-built cupboard. At the same time the clock dial would be restored and regilded. There was a £14,000 target to achieve, and the village rallied around over the following months to support the campaign and restore the clock and its chimes back in the heart of Hellidon.



*Clock at Hellidon dismantled for conservation*

The original timescales were impacted by the arrival of the pandemic; however, a Faculty was granted in April 2021. Thanks to some very generous donations and the Grant pledges, funds were healthy. Wayne Francis at Clockwise Restorations was commissioned to start dismantling the clock at the end of June 2021.

The dismantled clock was taken away for cleaning before being returned in early September and installed in its new wooden home. The next task was to restore the clock dial. Whilst Wayne was in Hellidon removing the dial he was interviewed for a feature on church clock restoration, for the Jeremy Vine show for Radio 2!

After being stripped, repaired and regilded, the clock face was reinstalled at the end of October 2021, just in time for a wonderful rededication service by Rev. Dave Battison, who had joined the Benefice earlier in the year. The bells have been ringing out to the village every hour since.

*Deborah Hirst*



*Porch at St John the Baptist, Plumpton*

completed before the winter sets in and not only is the porch now weatherproof but also the intriguing, sculpted head, which forms part of the keystone in the arch above the church door, is now protected.

Thank you, Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust.

*James Miller*

### **ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PLUMPTON**

Thanks to Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust we are now getting to the end of the repairs to the church of Plumpton. Whilst the trustees have been very generous, and money was raised by the annual musical picnic in the churchyard, the additional funds granted by Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust have literally been a godsend.

Having to renew the collapsing ceiling in the nave, entirely re-tile the chancel, and repair the louvres in the tower, we now had to turn our energies to sorting out the slipping porch roof. As is often the case, more rot was discovered once the decaying tiles had been removed, draining down the church's income. The good news is that the work has been

## ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WATFORD

We are very grateful for the £5000 grant we received from Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust which was part of a £340,000 project to restore the church – a huge undertaking for a small village church. The majority of the funding was from the Heritage Lottery Fund, but we also raised £51,500 from grant applications, donations, and community-supported church events. We couldn't have done this project without Linda Ariss from Watford village who gave her time to manage the project and coordinate the fundraising.

The following is a summary of what was achieved:

- New chancel and nave roofs of terne-coated steel (replacing the lead which was stolen)
- Repair & replacement of internal stonework around three of the stained-glass windows.
- A buttress support stone on the tower has been replaced.
- A brand new internal nave ceiling.
- New drainpipes and gutters, and the drainage wall rebuilt
- A new roof security alarm
- Village newsletters to provide updates on the project's progress
- Setting up a 'Friends of Watford Church' group to help with fundraising.
- A website and a range of visitor information booklets to enable people to engage with the church's heritage.

We celebrated the conclusion of the project with a photo exhibition in December 2019, and a Thanksgiving Service led by the Archdeacon, Ven Richard Ormston at the end of February 2020 – just a couple of weeks before lock-down.

The church has a stunning east window, and sunlight through yellow windows in the



chancel provides a wonderful glow evoking a sense of holiness. Do visit – the church is open on Wednesdays and Sundays.

*Revd Graham Collingridge*

*New roof at Watford*



**ACCUMULATED FUND**

Balance brought forward January 1st 2021	298941	267636
Surplus for the year	41642	34706
Increase (2020 : Decrease )in market value of Investments	12949	-3401
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance carried forward December 31st 2021	353532	298941

**RESTRICTED FUND (ALLCHURCHES TRUST LTD. Re ALARM SYSTEMS)**

Balance brought forward January 1st 2021	33000	42000
Less: Grants to Churches ( Note 2)	9000	9000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance carried forward December 31st 2021	24000	33000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	377532	331941
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**REPRESENTED BY :**

Investments	197899	184950
Bank : Current account		39856
: Deposit account		27030
Building Society account		80105
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	179633	146991
	<hr/>	<hr/>
E.W.Byland - Honorary Treasurer	377532	331941
	<hr/>	<hr/>

28/01/2022

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST .**

**NOTES TO THE INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
DECEMBER 31st 2021 .**

**1. GRANTS : ACCUMULATED FUND.**

**A ) PAID : YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st 2021 .**

	£	Year of Pledge	£
All Saints & St.James, Kings Cliffe ##	4000	2012 All Saints, Mears Ashby	1500
St.John the Baptist, Achurch <>	500	2014 St Mary, Staverton	4000
St.Andrew, Collyweston <>	500	2015 St.Laurence, Stanwick	2000
St.Michael, Stowe Nine Churches ##	5000	2015 St.Michael, Stowe Nine Churches	1000
St.Michael, Stowe Nine Churches <>	500	2015 St.Leonard, Aston le Walls	2500
All Saints, Dingley ##	2000	2016 St.Mary, Grafton Regis	5000
St.Rumbald, Stoke Doyle ##	4000	2016 St.Catherine, Draughton	2000
Holy Trinity, Denford <>	500	2017 Ss.Peter & Paul, Weedon Bec (roof)	2500
St.Andrew, Barnwell <>	500	2017 St James, Gretton (incl £500 <>)	2000
All Saints, Barnwell <>	500	2017 St.Mary, Little Houghton	2000
St.John the Baptist, Cranford ##	3000	2018 St.Mary, Barby - North Aisle etc.	5000
St.Mary, Little Houghton ##	1000	2019 St.Mary, Staverton	1500
St.John the Baptist, Plumpton ( chancel roof ##)	1000	2019 St.Barnabas, Wellingborough	4000
St.John the Baptist, Plumpton (porch roof)	2000	2019 St.Catherine, Draughton <>	500
St.Katherine, Irchester ##	3500	2019 St.Benedict, Hunsbury	2000
St.John the Baptist, Blisworth ##	1500	2020 Gretton Baptist Chapel	1500
St.Andrew, Spratton	1000	2020 St.Mary, Dodford	5000
St.Mary, Great Brington ##	1500	2020 All Saints, Great Addington	5000
St.Alban the Martyr, Northampton ##	500	2020 St.John the Baptist, Abthorpe	4000
		2020 St.Mary, Badby	5000

St.Andrew, Brigstock	1000	2021 All Saints, Adstone ( water supply)	1000
St.Mary, Little Harrowden <>	500	2021 Emmanuel Church , Northampton	3000
St.Andrew, Cottesstock ##	4000	2021 St.Martin, Welton	3000
St.Mary, Woodford	4000	2021 St.Mary, Higham Ferrers	2000
St.Michael, Bradden ##	500	2021 St.Mary Magdalene, Geddington	3000
St.Peter, Aldwincle ##	350	2021 Holy Cross, Pattishall	2000
St.Leonard, Rockingham	4000	2021 All Saints, Pitsford	5000
Ss.Peter & Paul, Weedon Bec ##		2021 St.John the Evangelist, Whitfield	3000
( electrical upgrade )	1500	2021 St.John the Baptist, Tiffield	5000
St.Denys, Cold Ashby ##	1500		
St.John the Baptist, Hellidon ##	1000		
St.Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby	2000		
All Saints, Adstone ## ( heating and electrical work )	1000		
St.Andrew, Barnwell (churchyard wall) ##	1500		
	<hr/>		
	55850		
	<hr/>		
## = pledged as at December 31st 2020			
<> = re: roof alarms			
		<b>2) GRANTS : RESTRICTED FUND.</b>	
		<b>( ALLCHURCHES TRUST )</b>	
			£
		St.John the Baptist, Achurch	1000
		St.Andrew, Collyweston	1000
		St.Michael, Stowe Nine Churches	1000
		Holy Trinity, Denford	1000
		St.Andrew, Barnwell	1000
		All Saints, Barnwell	1000
		St.Mary, Little Harrowden	1000
		St.John the Baptist, Cranford	1000
		St.Mary, Woodford	1000
			<hr/>
			9000
			<hr/>



# Ride and Stride

## *A great day out discovering England's churches – Ride and Stride*

**Date for your diary - RIDE AND STRIDE 2022 will be held on Saturday 10th September**

**R**IDE and Stride is the foremost annual fun fundraising event to help preserve churches and chapels and keep them active in our communities. It was 'born' in Suffolk in 1982 as a sponsored cycle ride or walk and is held annually, in virtually every county in England. It is the main fundraising event for the county churches trusts and, in Northamptonshire, 50% of the money raised is retained by Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust and a cheque for 50% of the money raised is sent to the church chosen by each of the participants. The money raised, along with other funds, is used to give grants for preserving and restoring churches, chapels and meeting houses in Northamptonshire, which take part whether they are historic or not.

Some participants challenge themselves to visit as many churches as they can by their chosen mode of transport. Others prefer a more leisurely approach, visiting fewer churches and taking more time at each. Both approaches raise money to support the work of the Trust.

Churches are usually open from 10am to 6pm and a list of participating churches is produced and made available on our website at [www.nhct.org.uk](http://www.nhct.org.uk) as are contacts in neighbouring counties: Ride and Stride is a countrywide event always held on the second Saturday in September.

We were all hoping for a more 'normal' Ride and Stride Day, with some of the benefits of lessons learnt during 2020. We were not disappointed, and churches all tried very hard to rise to the challenge and show that we were back in business. On the day the weather was good and there were record numbers of Riders and Striders – not so many families as last year, now that Saturday activities are back, but noticeably more 'silver cyclists' on their e-bikes venturing further with the knowledge that they could find some extra 'umph' from their battery to tackle those hills. Riders come back year after year often riding as groups of friends from their local church or in families, sometimes with the element of competition to see who can raise the most money or visit the most churches.

332 churches took part in Northamptonshire and of them, around 200 were manned for at least part of the time; it does make such a difference to have a welcome face there, perhaps with information about interesting features in the church and directions to their next stop. It is sometimes a struggle for churches to find volunteers to sit in the church but we have always suggested that church sitters can be sponsored for manning the church and this



*Mary Watts at St Michael's tin church, Kettering*

year it has been great to have 'Pray and Stay' and 'Knit and Natter' as novel ways of solving the problem! Of course, free refreshments offered by the churches figure highly in the rating of their welcome. Coffee mornings and cream teas also raised the spirits and energy levels, and led to more visitors and welcome fundraising at the same time. Ride and Stride coincides with Heritage weekend and so some churches organise exhibitions for that as well as welcoming Riders and Striders.

There are very few Local Organisers now that are not on email, and it has been much easier to have an ongoing dialogue with them and responses are much quicker. So, no big printout and a big saving again on a printing bill with the only cost being the mailing out of the Annual Report with a covering letter. Sponsor forms, posters, registers and Open Churches booklets; everything was done by email and also posted on the website. Again, we encouraged Local Organisers to keep us up to date with local changes in decisions about church openings.

Publicity and promotion are always a challenge, and we are grateful to those who encouraged Riders and Striders via their parish magazines and websites. It would be good to find someone to help us with marketing and promoting Ride and Stride, particularly with social media.

The grand total to date for 2021 was £48,732, plus £7,640.50 from Gift Aid, a total of £56,372.50. A magnificent total and we are grateful to all those churches who helped reach this figure. The following churches raised over £1000 each: Hinton-in-the-Hedges, Kings Sutton, Marston Trussell, Oundle Holy Jesus RC, Stoke Doyle and Walgrave (C of E unless mentioned otherwise). A special thank you to them.

This is yet another record-breaking year and a real tribute to all those volunteers who work to make Ride and Stride in Northamptonshire the success that it is particularly in these difficult times.

#### *Particular thanks to:*

- The enthusiasm of Local Organisers who keep us informed of their church arrangements as they changed and persuaded folk to ride and stride and find sponsors
- Our team of Area Organisers, who each have a group of Local Organisers, work tirelessly, firstly in the spring collating information about which churches will be open, and then sending out all the information to the Local Organisers.
- Eddie Byland, our Treasurer who sends cheques for 50% of the amount received in sponsorship to each church And of course, thank you to all the Riders and Striders and all their sponsors. Without them, we would not have reached that record-breaking total!

Finally, as County Organisers we would like to acknowledge the role that Richard Hartley has played in the success of Ride and Stride. Richard, together with Val, started in 2008 and he brought the technology of Ride and Stride into the 21st century as the main designer of the online database. This has made the process so much more efficient and manageable. We are so grateful for all his support and encouragement and so hope that he will continue to be in the background to help us!

**Liz Doherty and Val Hartley** (*County Organisers*)



*Riders leaving St Peter's, Walgrave*

---

## Reports from Riders and Striders

### Alan Waller

**I**T TOOK me over five hours to visit twenty-one churches - and one pub. Half the churches were closed – and so was the pub! (But I did sneak in the back door, which had been left open!).

One of my early stops was at Great Cransley, which I thought was truly deserted until a couple suddenly shot out of the porch looking very flustered and embarrassed. They quickly explained that they had only just arrived, and that was why they were breathless! We then had a bit of a chat and having calmed down they then explained that it was fifty years to the hour and day since they had been married in that very church, and they had spontaneously engaged in a bit of a clinch in the privacy of the porch as the hour struck - DING-DONG! The chap asked me to take a photo of them, and he then offered to take a photo of me – with the blushing bride!

Half of the churches were in towns, and were mainly closed or had what seemed to be a reluctant volunteer to sign me in. The other half were in villages and were nearly all open and well-manned with chatty volunteers offering me cups of tea, cakes and sausage rolls etc.

But there was one town church stop that really impressed me, and that was the 'Tin Tabernacle' (St Michael in Garfield Street, Kettering). Made of corrugated iron and wood, I was told that these churches were built around the country with government grants (those were the days!) in the early twentieth century to provide for the expanding populations of towns like Kettering.

But what St Michael's lacked in classical church architecture was more than made up for by the tremendous atmosphere created by bustling groups of cheerful families. It was their fete! They forced me to have more than one cup of tea, and I had to reluctantly turn down a fourth piece of homemade cake! They explained that their community spirit was created by having the school next door, which most of the children attended. St Michael's atmosphere was in total contrast to that in all the other town churches, and my experience there was like one of being in one of the village churches I visited!

Cycling around Northamptonshire brought home to me not only the differences in community spirit between towns and villages, but also the contrasts in economic prosperity. We are very lucky to live in Orlingbury!

My tour included all five churches in our Benefice except Isham, which I was unable to reach before my body and bike gave up! And I was so late back that the Harrowdens and Orlingbury churches were closed by the time I came through on my last leg (and last legs!).



*Alan Waller outside St Andrew's, Great Cransley*

Anyway, my sponsorship collected to date is over £450 and should reach £500 when all the pledges are settled (a not-so-subtle hint if you still owe me!). All this and I had a **GRAND DAY OUT**.

Thanks again for your support for this worthwhile cause!

---

## **Canon Brian Withington**

**A**S RECTOR of the Seven Churches Benefice, the second Saturday in September has usually found me cycling around the benefice with my daughter and young grandson. Regardless of the weather, it has always been an enjoyable day, spending time with family, enjoying the local countryside and admiring the significant church buildings which feature so prominently in the landscape.

Alas COVID-19 caught up with my daughter and grandson this year and placed them in isolation, so I decided that, rather than cycle ride, I would stride the benefice instead. It proved a good decision and an excellent way of bidding farewell to the seven parishes just prior to my retirement.

Setting out from Aldwinckle mid-morning, I walked the fields and woods along the Nene, first to Wadenhoe and then on to Stoke Doyle. From Stoke Doyle I came back to Pilton before heading down to cross the river and wind my way up through the wood to Achurch. The five were completed by early afternoon before I set off on the long road to Clopton, and from there to Titchmarsh, where I decided to call it a day and phoned Jacky (my wife) for a lift back to the Rectory.

Striding was a good choice this year, for the slower pace gave me time to reflect on my ministry within the communities that make up the benefice, and I found myself particularly reflecting on the people I had met who are no longer with us. It was good to be able to acknowledge this as part of the Harvest Festival at Stoke Doyle the following day, as we recalled members of the Knight and Wallis families, all of whom are part of local farming families and now 'safely gathered in' as the harvest hymn reminds us.



Ride or Stride? They are both enjoyable ways of engaging with the Northants Historic Churches Trust fundraising day and well worth doing. Thank you to all who helped make my total sponsorship this year up to £240.

*St Michael and All Angels, Wadenhoe*

.....

## Daphne

WE LOVED it - excellent exercise on our bikes (30 miles and 15 churches) and a delicious picnic at Steeple Gidding church (over the border in Cambridgeshire) in the sun. We also met several very interesting people - Winwick was having a coffee morning and Hemington had the most delicious brownies! Everyone was so friendly and welcoming that we felt it was a really good day and we raised some money too!

.....

## Richard Lewis (All Saints', Kettering)

I HAVE long been our church's contact for the Ride and Stride organisers and this year decided that I would finally get round to doing something to raise funds for Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust and All Saints' Church.

Not owning a bike or a horse and not particularly good at walking long distances I opted to drive around the Kettering Deanery and visit all 26 C of E churches. A prize of £25 was offered to the person who guessed the mileage I would travel or got closest to it. The route was planned and at about 10am on Saturday 11th September I set off with my travelling companions (the wife and our friend Chris).

Warkton was first but we were too early to sign up to say we had visited. Off to Weekley where we were given a talk about the original Montague monuments. Geddington was crowded, not for our visit but there was a fundraising event being held around the village. Next to Grafton Underwood, with its memorial window to the USAF stationed down the road at the airfield, where new stained-glass windows have recently been installed. Twywell, Slipton, Cranford (both churches), Burton Latimer and Barton Seagrave followed in fairly quick succession. We visited four of the churches in Kettering before heading off to Broughton, Great Cransley, Thorpe Malsor and then Loddington and Rothwell. At Desborough, a London Red bus – there to transport wedding guests - blocked access to the church.

On to Braybrook, Dingley and Brampton Ash, where we enjoyed welcome refreshments. The bells of All Saints' Rushton greeted our arrival, we were on the homeward stretch – St Andrews in Kettering to visit before returning to All Saints.

It took 5 and a half hours to complete the circumnavigation of the deanery and we were warmly welcomed at all the manned churches, even if we did "interrupt" garden maintenance and cleaning duties on occasion. The total raised at the time of writing is £424 and I would like to thank everyone for their generous sponsorship.



*St Leonard's, Loddington*



*E-bike at Loddington*

## Rodney Adhemar

**M**Y SPONSORED cycle ride, through the county town of Oundle and surrounding villages, took me to 16 churches and chapels. Many churches are staffed by volunteers offering refreshments and conversation, but not all. You may enter an open, but silent village church. Welcomed by stillness and the

rhythmical ticking of a church clock, a powerful emotion of prayer may surround and envelope you.

In St Peter & St Paul, Hemington, I am greeted by two Tea Angels dispensing nourishment, conversation and sticky flapjacks to the weary traveller. Wonderful!

Keeping to the quiet back lanes between villages, and after the initial frenzy of "getting on with it", you adjust to the beauty of the natural world. People known to you but now departed may come strongly into your mind. At one moment I saw a cloud formation that stopped me in my tracks.

As in previous years, the journey between villages and churches becomes a spiritual pilgrimage through Northamptonshire.

# The choir stalls at St Nicholas's church, Twywell

**James Miller**

EACH YEAR I help to arrange a day out visiting different churches in the county, to discover aspects of our history through their monuments and memorials. Almost every parish church has something to offer as we discovered last year at Twywell: a village so tucked away off the beaten track that you would not know it existed as you speed along the A14 between Kettering and Thrapston.

Almost every parish church has something to offer as we discovered last year at Twywell: a village so tucked away off the beaten track that you would not know it existed as you speed along the A14 between Kettering and Thrapston.

Here deft carving skills are not deployed on a towering baroque marble masterpiece but rather a with chisel on wood to create choir stalls, worked as a memorial to the incumbent, Revd. Horace Walker (1835-1896). Fronting them, on the left African animals and birds process towards the altar, whilst on the right Africans in bonds walk to liberation through the efficacy of the Christian faith.

The remarkable compositions were devised by the nearby Stamford architect John Charles Traylen, but were carved further afield in Harry Hems' celebrated workshop Ecclesiastical Art Works in Exeter. The commission came from the Revd. Walker's English and African friends "specially to commemorate his labours for the Welfare of Africans". All his life, since hearing a speech by David Livingstone, Walker had been a champion of the movement to eradicate the internal African slave trade. Indeed in his early twenties he had joined the first University Mission to Central Africa (1861-2), under the leadership of the newly appointed Bishop of Africa, Charles Mackenzie. Whilst the bishop died of malaria on the Shire River (a tributary of the Zambezi), Walker returned to England, took orders and became vicar of Twywell. He continued his mission to improve the lot of Africans from this remote spot, attending conferences, writing pamphlets and remaining close to Livingstone whose biographer he became.

In the quiet of this small church, these choir stalls remain a constant reminder of the efforts so many British people made on behalf of the peoples of Africa in the nineteenth century. They also tell of the skill of those artisan craftsmen and women, who did so much to enrich the cultural heritage of our churches.



*Choir stalls at St Nicholas's, Twywell*

# In Memory of John White

5th April 1944 - 29th April 2021



*John White (photo: John Barker)*



*John White with Richard Ormston*

IT WAS with great sadness that the trustees of Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust heard that our former Chairman, John White, had passed away on 29th April 2021. John was a lovely man who was devoted to his wife, Jane, and his daughters.

John was a graduate of Cambridge University, although he was offered – but turned down – a place at Magdalen College, Oxford by A. J. P. Taylor. After admission as a solicitor, he joined the law firm Becke Phipps in 1966. He negotiated that firm's merger with Wild Hewitson & Shaw in 1989 and retired from the practice in 2008.

As well as being a very good sportsman, spending time playing golf and tennis, John was once a major shareholder (on behalf of a client) in the Northampton Saints Rugby Club. He was very keen and knowledgeable about music and art and enjoyed many cycling holidays abroad.

John served as Secretary, and then Chairman, of Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust for over 27 years. He remained a trustee after retiring as Chairman in 2018 and continued to support the Trust.

John was kind, courteous, supportive and patient. He was an excellent lawyer and teacher, and mentor to his colleagues, and devout Christian, highly respected by everyone who knew him. He will be sadly missed by all his fellow Trustees.



# Church Study Day

Saturday 14th August 2021

St Mary the Virgin, Higham Ferrers,

Archbishop Henry Chichele's College and the Bede House

**A**BOUT THIRTY trust members gathered in the Bede House in Higham Ferrers churchyard, late on a Saturday morning in August, for the 2021 church study day.

In an introductory talk, Bruce Bailey reported that the town's castle had long since gone, having been in ruins by 1520. The Wingfield family is said to have taken some of the stone to use in building Kimbolton Castle. Ownership at Higham passed from the Pevril family to the Earls of Derby and then the Earls of Lancaster, John of Gaunt and the Duchy of Lancaster, who still play a role today. Until 1832, the town, as a 'rotten borough' had its own MP, one of whom was Sir Christopher Hatton.

Local lad Henry Chichele was born in about 1364. Although described as a 'pauper', he was well-bred, with his father having stood as Mayor of Higham. Henry studied both religious law and theology before having several livings – in England and Wales - and then becoming Bishop of St David's, exercising a diplomatic career before becoming Archbishop of Canterbury in 1414. He died in 1443 and is buried in a 'cadaver' tomb in Canterbury Cathedral, with his shrouded skeleton displayed under the tomb.



*Study day at St Mary the Virgin, Higham Ferrers*

Within Higham, he built the Bede House in the 1420s, to accommodate twelve men and a woman to look after them, as a form of social service. It included a chapel at the raised end of the building with a crypt underneath, accessible from a small outside door. What is now called Chichele College was also built in the 1420s, a secular institution providing another social service by providing training in music and grammar.

The building next to the church that is sometimes called a ‘grammar school’ was built as a chantry chapel at about the same time as the Bede House but was later used as a school until early in the 20th century.



*Study day at St Mary the Virgin, Higham Ferrers*

an informative and enjoyable day, and a welcome opportunity to gather again post-lockdown – taking care – face-to-face.

## **Andrew Presland**

Several local residents were present, including a few current Bedesmen and Mrs Marian Knott, a Bedeswoman, who told how Bedesmen were originally expected to pray five times each day, and benefited from a lunch with ale each St Thomas’ Day. The robes worn by the current Bedesmen were given about fifteen years ago by Lady Juliet Townsend.

Bruce then gave us a guided tour of the outside of the church building and the inside of the chapel, followed by an extended lunch break (to enable other parts of the town to be explored). A guided tour of the large interior of the church took place after lunch, followed by tea and cakes in the Bede House. They rounded off

# Friends of Northamptonshire Historic Churches

**From: Name(s)** .....

**Address:** .....

**Postcode:** .....

**E-mail (PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS):** .....

I/We would like to join the Friends of Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust.

I/We

- a. Have completed the Banker's Order below. (*preferred option for NHCT*)
- b. Enclose a cheque for £..... (payable to Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust)

## Gift Aid Declaration

If you are a UK taxpayer and able to donate under the Gift Aid Scheme, it will cost you nothing and will increase the value of your donation to the Trust by 25%. Depending on your circumstances, you may be able to offset any gift aid payment against your personal Income Tax.

I am a UK taxpayer and I will pay in the year an amount of Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax to be reclaimed by the Trust.

**Signed** ..... **Date:** .....202

The minimum donations requested are: £10 for individuals  
£20 for Churches / PCCs

Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust is registered with the Charity Commission No. 1021632

---

## Banker's Order

To (Bank/Building Society): .....

Bank Branch address: .....

Postcode: .....

Sort code: 

--	--	--

Account number: 

--

**Name:** .....

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** .....202

Please pay to: Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust

C/o NatWest Bank plc                      Sort code: 56-00-60    Acc No 05608961

On the ..... day of (month) ..... 202

The sum of £..... (words) .....

And the same sum annually until further notice.

Please send application form to:

Ruth Fitch Friends' Secretary (E-mail: [rfitch@hcrilaw.com](mailto:rfitch@hcrilaw.com))

Elgin House, Billing Road, Northampton NN1 5AU

Donations can also be made via our website: [www.nhct.org.uk](http://www.nhct.org.uk)

# Dates for your diary:

## **CELEBRATION EVENING:**

Wednesday 20th July 2022, at the home of David and Mary Laing in  
Grafton Underwood (by invitation)

## **CHURCH STUDY DAY (for Friends of NHCT):**

13th August 2022

## **RIDE AND STRIDE:**

10th September 2022



*St Andrew's, Barnwell*

With thanks to all those who contributed to this Report.