

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



TAKEN together, Britain's churches and chapels constitute one of the finest freely accessible collections of art and architecture in the world.

"Nowhere else in the world can you walk into a building that might contain a Saxon sculpture, a 13th century brass memorial, 15th century arches, 18th century box pews, 19th century stained glass designed by a famous pre-Raphaelite painter, and lovingly crafted kneelers made by today's parishioners."

"Some of these buildings and their contents are among the greatest works of art anywhere and from any time. But among these astonishing riches there are always objects that remind us that churches and chapels were built and used by ordinary people and that ordinary people often have thoughts other than holy. Humour and strangeness are often met in churches - perhaps in a carved misericord depicting a drunkard, or a couple at each other's throats on a carved bench-end."

(Exploring Britain's Churches and Chapels)

Every aspect of human life is reflected somewhere, somehow, in our churches and chapels. At the same time, they document more than a thousand years of styles, fashions, ways of worship and changing tastes in art and design.



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	The Revd. Canon G L Brockhouse
	E W Byland Esq	Mrs E M Doherty
	Miss R Fitch	Dr S M Gaskell
	R M Hartley Esq	Mrs V Hartley
	Ms V Henley	The Rt Revd. John Holbrook
	Mrs B Lancaster	G J Lugar-Mawson Esq
	J P Miller Esq	The Ven. Richard Ormston
	Mrs S Parkinson	The Ven. Gordon Steele
	P Stothard Esq	J A White Esq
	Ms R Willatts	The Revd. Canon B 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 60, 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:	Richard Hartley, Val Hartley Liz Doherty and Paul Stothard

www.nhct.org.uk

Front Cover: St John Baptist, Quinton – Previous Page: St John Baptist, Thorpe Mandeville

The President

THE Lord-Lieutenant of the County is a Trustee of NHCT by virtue of his office and serves as President. In March 2020, David Laing stepped down as Lord-Lieutenant on reaching the statutory retirement age. David had succeeded Lady Juliet Townsend as President of NHCT in 2014, and since then he has been regular in his attendance at Trustee meetings, and Mary and he have welcomed us to their home for Celebration Evenings.



David has consistently supported the Trust for its contribution in preserving our rich Northamptonshire heritage, and also its role in helping to maintain and enhance focal points of community life. He championed the importance both of conservation and of recognising the ongoing needs of churches as living and working buildings. He does not want our churches to survive just as historic monuments, but rather as places with a unique life and purpose.

At the same time, through his promotion of Northamptonshire Surprise, David expressed his belief that visiting our churches enhances people's appreciation and enjoyment of our county.

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WE welcome as President of the Trust the new Lord-Lieutenant, James Saunders Watson.

James was born in 1961 and moved to Rockingham Castle in 1971 when his father inherited the estate. He served with the Royal Navy, and subsequently had a varied career, primarily in the asset management industry. He is currently a partner in Warhorse Partners, a brand, communications and marketing consultancy.

James, with his wife Lizzie and their children, returned to Rockingham Castle in 1999. Together they manage the estate, which includes a portfolio of agricultural, commercial and residential property, an arable farming operation and the visitor attraction associated with the Castle and its Park.

He is a Board member of Historic Houses, a Trustee of the Country Land and Business Association Pension Fund, and a Council Member and Trustee of the White Ensign Association. He has previously been a Director of the Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership.

James was High Sheriff of the County in 2018-19.





Chairman's Report

I AM pleased to report that, despite all the problems that the Covid-19 pandemic caused, 2020 was another very successful year for the Trust, both in terms of funds raised and grants awarded.

A new President

You may be pleased to hear that I'm not referring to Joe Biden. Mr James Saunders Watson, who succeeded David Laing as HM Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, has accepted the office of the Trust's President. Under our governing document the Lord-Lieutenant of the County is one of the Trust's trustees by virtue of his office. David Laing has very kindly accepted appointment as a Vice-President of the Trust. I express my thanks to David and to his fellow Vice-Presidents, Bishop Donald Allister and Bishop John Holbrook, for their continuing support and encouragement.

Grants

In 2020 the Trust awarded 25 grants to a value of £47,500, the details of which are set out later in the Annual Report. These grants were made possible by the excellent level of income generated by the annual Ride and Stride, and by the 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.

In their grant-making role the Trustees continue to give priority to those churches and chapels which have a history of participation in Ride and Stride, and particularly to those 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 he for visiting the applicant churches and chapels and reporting on their circumstances.

Details of the grants made in 2020 are given later in this Report.

Annual Ride and Stride

2020, despite all the problems the epidemic caused, was our best Ride and Stride year yet. At the time of writing it has raised £39,643 plus £5,978 from Gift Aid, a total of £45,621. This is a truly excellent result, reached in the most difficult and trying 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, Richard and Val Hartley, Liz Doherty and Paul Stothard, for their enthusiasm and for the many hours they spent in planning and co-ordinating the event. The Trustees are equally grateful to Eddie Byland, the Trust's Treasurer, for dealing with the numerous individual payments involved and for making the Gift Aid claims to HMRC.

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

The Ride and Stride support from the churches and chapels in Northamptonshire is the Trust's main fund raising 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.

Donations

I am pleased to report that the Constance Travis Charitable Trust, once again, made a most generous donation of £50,000 to the Trust this year. The Trustees are most grateful to the Constance Travis Trust trustees for their generous and continuing support. We also received two generous donations from other benefactors.

Celebration Evening

Unfortunately, the pandemic 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. Hopefully, we will be able to hold the Celebration Evening again in July 2021.

Annual General Meeting

The coronavirus lock-down led to the postponement of the Trust's 2020 Annual General Meeting in April; this was held by Zoom in October and proved very successful.

Church Study Day

For the same reason, we had to cancel the annual Church Study Day organised by Bruce Bailey, scheduled to be held in August. We hope to be able to hold a Study Day in August 2021.

Friends

As well as undertaking 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's work. Our aim is to continue to increase the number of Friends, both individual and corporate. We now have 109 individual Friends and 101 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 to be found at the end of 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 - fund raising, making grants, lobbying where appropriate, and acting as a focal point for the efforts of the individual county trusts of which the NHCT 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 for very many churches. Two 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 do not have such systems. This grant scheme was due to end in December 2020, however, because of the problems caused by the epidemic, Allchurches Trust has extended that to 31st December 2021. They have also confirmed that, in appropriate circumstances, grants may be made towards the cost of replacing obsolete roof alarm systems.

Details of the scheme and how to apply for a grant of up to £1,000 towards the cost of installation of an alarm can be found on the Trust's website. Applications for funding under this joint scheme should be made to Michael Moore, NHCT's Grants Secretary, at: michael_moore@breathe.com. Please, if your church needs a roof alarm, make an application as soon as possible. Funds are limited, and Allchurches Trust is unlikely to continue with the scheme past December 2021.

Website

The website contains details of the Trust's activities. We are grateful to Mike Fulcher for helping us keep it up-to-date over many years. Mike has now had to give up running the site, and we are currently looking for a website developer to redesign and run it for us. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for additional items or improvements to the site.

The Future

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, covering well over 900 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 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 900 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 for their strong support and friendship, and wish them well in the future.

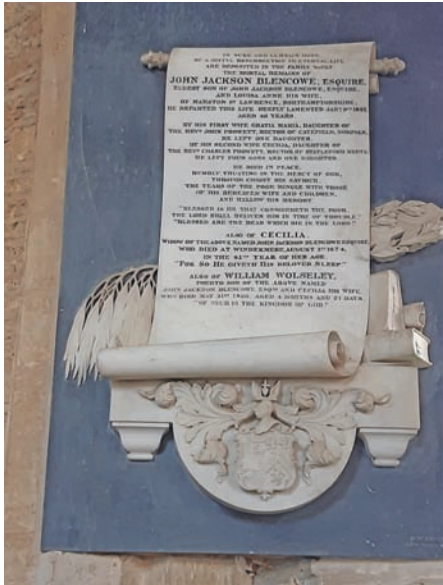
In conclusion

I hope you enjoy this Report, even though, because of the current circumstances, it is somewhat shorter than usual. The Trustees are grateful to its editor, Dr Martin Gaskell, for putting it together. If you have any comments or suggestions about it, please send them to Martin or me.

Gareth Lugar-Mawson *Chairman*

Contact: lugarmawson@msn.com.

Tel: 01327 830219. Mob: 07452930801



St Lawrence, Marston St Lawrence

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST .
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st 2020.**

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME .				
Ride and Stride :				
Year ended December 31st 2018	0		609	
Year ended December 31st 2019	609		38536	
Year ended December 31st 2020	39643		0	
		40252		39145
Income Tax Recovered		6427		6922
Friends' Subscriptions		3120		3661
Donations		52635		52798
Investment Income : Charinco	2061		2602	
: Bank & Building Society Interest	70		139	
		2131		2741
		<u>104565</u>		<u>105267</u>
EXPENDITURE .				
Grants Paid (Note 1 A) (Grants pledged but unpaid at the year end are shown in Note 1 B)	47500		59350	
Ride & Stride - Refunds to participating churches	19936		19250	
Administrative expenses including printing .	2423		2769	
		69859		81369
		<u>34706</u>		<u>23898</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR .				

ACCUMULATED FUND

Balance brought forward January 1st 2020	267636	218186
Surplus for the year	34706	23898
Decrease (2019 : Increase)in market value of Investments (Note 4)	-3401	25552
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance carried forward December 31st 2020	298941	267636

RESTRICTED FUND (ALLCHURCHES TRUST LTD. Re ALARM SYSTEMS)

(NOTE 3)		
Balance brought forward January 1st 2020	42000	0
Advance : Allchurches Trust Ltd .	0	50000
Less: Grants to Churches (Note 2)	9000	8000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance carried forward December 31st 2020	33000	42000

<hr/>	309636
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REPRESENTED BY :

Investments as schedule (Note 4) .

Bank : Current account	184950	188351
: Deposit account	11220	
Building Society account	54993	
	55072	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	146991	121285

<hr/>	309636
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E.W.Byland - Honorary Treasurer
01/02/2021

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST .

**NOTES TO THE INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31st 2020 .**

1. GRANTS : ACCUMULATED FUND.

A) PAID : YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st 2020 .

	£	Year of Pledge	£
St.Nicholas, Islip (incl £ 500 <>) ##	4500	2012 All Saints, Mears Ashby	1500
St.Michael & All Angels, Newnham <> ##	500	2014 St Mary, Staverton	4000
St.Lawrence, Towcester <>	500	2015 St.Laurence, Stanwick	2000
St.Luke, Kislingbury ##	4000	2015 St.Mary, Great Brington	1500
St.Mary, Woodford Halse ##	2000	2015 St.Michael, Stowe Nine Churches	1000
St.Nicholas, Great Doddington ##	500	2015 St.Leonard, Aston le Walls	2500
St.Mary, Everdon <>	500	2016 St.Mary, Grafton Regis	5000
All Saints, Croughton ##	2000	2016 St.Catherine, Draughton	2000
St.Nicholas, Twywell <>	500	2017 Ss.Peter & Paul, Weedon Bec	
St.Mary, Barby - South Chapel ##	4000	(roof repairs)	2500
Ss.Peter & Paul, Nether Heyford ##	1500	2017 St James, Gretton (incl £500 <>)	2000
St.Bartholomew, Greens Norton <>	500	2017 St.Mary, Little Houghton	2000
St.Peter, Greatworth <>	500	2017 St.John the Baptist, Blisworth	1500
St.Mary, Culworth ##	1500	2018 St.Mary, Barby - North Aisle etc.	5000
St.Michael, Stowe Nine Churches ##	5000	2018 All Saints, Dingley	2000
St.Michael & All Angels , Newnham ##	3000	2019 St.Mary, Staverton	1500
Brigstock United Reformed Church ##	500	2019 St.Katherine, Irchester	3500
St.Leonard, Loddington ##	4000	2019 St.John the Baptist, Cranford	3000
Holy Trinity, Northampton ##	2000	2019 St.Barnabas, Wellingborough	4000
St.James the Less, Sulgrave <>	500	2019 St.Catherine, Draughton <>	500

**B) PLEDGED AND NOT YET PAID AS AT
DECEMBER 31st 2020.**

Ss.Peter and Paul, Sywell <>	2000	2019 All Saints & St.James, Kings Cliffe	4000
St.Peter & St.James, Brackley	4000	2019 St.Benedict, Hunsbury	2000
Hope Methodist, Higham Ferrers	1000	2019 Gretton Baptist Chapel	1500
St.Faith. Kilsby ##	2000	2019 St.Mary, Dodford	5000
St.Nicholas, Potterspurpy <>	500	2019 St.Rumbald, Stoke Doyle	4000
		2020 St.John the Baptist, Plumpton	1000
		2020 St.Andrew, Barnwell	1500
	47500	2020 All Saints, Great Addington	5000
		2020 St.Mary, Little Houghton	1000
## = pledged as at December 31st 2019		2020 Ss.Peter & Paul, Weedon Bec	
<> = re: roof alarms		(electrical upgrade)	1500
		2020 St.Alban the Martyr, Northampton	500
2) GRANTS : RESTRICTED FUND. (ALLCHURCHES TRUST)		2020 St.John the Baptist, Abthorpe	4000
St.Nicholas, Islip	1000	2020 St.John the Baptist, Hellidon	1000
St.Michael & All Angels, Newnham	1000	2020 St.Mary, Badby	5000
St.Lawrence, Towcester	1000	2020 All Saints, Adstone	1000
St.Mary, Everdon	1000	2020 St.Denys, Cold Ashby	1500
St.Nicholas, Twywell	1000	2020 St.Peter, Aldwincle	350
St.Bartholomew, Greens Norton	1000	2020 St.Michael, Stowe Nine Churches	5000
St.Peter, Greatworth	1000	2020 St.Michael, Bradden	500
St.James the Less, Sulgrave	1000		
St.Nicholas, Potterspurpy	1000		
	9000		92350

2A) RESTRICTED FUND GRANTS PLEDGED AND NOT PAID

£ 1,000 each : St.Faith, Kilsby ; St.Catherine, Draughton

Report from the Grants Committee

WELL, I guess that this will not be the only annual report saying 2020 has been a very difficult, nothing year. The number of applications was considerably down and, due to the lockdowns etc., churches were not keen on visits. As I am sure will be reported elsewhere, meetings were cancelled or postponed, so this year we only had one meeting to consider grants. We received 27 applications and we pledged a total of £33,850. We hope that 2021 will be a better year for applications, and the Grants Secretary is always available to discuss applications. Once you have filled in a simple application form which requires details about the church, the project and the finances, the church is then visited by members of the Grants Committee prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

In 2019 the Trust was fortunate, with the support donated by Allchurches Trust, to be able to make a great offer of £1,000 to the first 50 churches that came forward towards the cost of installing a roof alarm. Sadly the take-up of the offer was slow, and was due to expire on 31 December 2020. I am delighted to report that Allchurches Trust has left the offer open to 31st December 2021. In addition to this, the NHCT continues to make grants of £500 for this purpose. Bearing in mind that, unless an alarm is installed, insurance companies will pay no more than £7,500 per theft, I therefore ask you to do the maths and consider installing an alarm.

**Applications for funding under this joint scheme should be addressed to:
Michael Moore, NHCT's Grants Secretary – email: michael_moore@breathe.com**

As we have stated in the past, when addressing applications to NHCT, the Grants Committee takes into consideration all of the criteria laid down by the Trustees along with the history of past applications from an individual church, and, in particular, its contribution and commitment to Ride and Stride, which is our main source of income.

You can see from the schedule below the grants and pledges made during this past year. In summary the Trust contributed as follows:

Building works	2	Heating system	2	Roof alarm	9
Churchyard works	2	Servery installation	1	Roof installation	9
Development of new church	1	Lighting installation	1	Roof works	4

Church	Work	Amount NHCT	Amount ACT
Abthorpe St John Baptist	Installation of servery including a new stone floor, heating power, and provision of water.	£4,000	
Adstone All Saints	Replacement of heating system and new fuse board.	£1,000	
Aldwinkle St Peter	Repairs to leaking lead lights and repainting of wall.	£350	
Badby St Mary	Repairs to roof and guttering, and checking timbers.	£5,000	
Barnwell St Andrew	Repairs to collapsed churchyard wall.	£1,500	
Brackley St Peter	Urgent repairs to tiles in the north aisle.	£4,000	

Bradden St Michael	Building works to enable restoration of clock dial.	£500	
Cold Ashby St Denis	Repair of crumbling wall within the churchyard.	£1,500	
Daventry Holy Cross	Installation of roof alarm.	£500	£1,000
Everdon St Mary	Installation of roof alarm.	£500	£1,000
Great Addington All Saints	Installation of new roof.	£5,000	
Greatworth St Peter	Installation of roof alarm.	£500	£1,000
Green's Norton St Bartholomew	Installation of roof alarm.	£500	£1,000
Hellidon St John Baptist	Building works to enable restoration of clock face	£1,000	
Higham Ferrers Hope Methodist Church	Redevelopment of new church.	£1,000	
Little Houghton St Mary	Renewal of lighting scheme.	£1,000	
Northampton St Alban	Repairs to copper roof.	£500	
Plumpton St John Baptist	Roof repairs.	£1,000	
Stowe-Nine-Churches St Michael	Emergency repairs to stonework, leadwork and rainwater channels.	£5,000	
Sulgrave St James	Installation of roof alarm.	£500	£1,000
Towcester St Lawrence	Installation of roof alarm.	£500	£1,000
Twywell St Nicholas	Installation of roof alarm.	£500	£1,000
Weedon St Peter	Upgrading of the electrical components of heating system.	£1,500	

Until 2018 the Trustees were able also to make recommendations to the National Churches Trust (NCT) under the partnership agreement between the Northamptonshire Trust and NCT. However, this scheme has been removed, and unfortunately we are no longer able to make such recommendations.

The Trust continues to welcome applications and tries hard to publicise the availability of funds to make grants.

The Grants Secretary is Michael Moore who can be contacted at:
michael_moore@breathe.com



New servery and toilet facilities at St Denys, Ravensthorpe

NHCT Makes a Difference

ALL SAINTS, CROUGHTON

“In June 2018 most of the lead roof of our lovely historic church was stolen, sadly in the week before our roof alarms were due to be fitted! This left the church vulnerable to damp and put the medieval wall paintings at great risk.

By August 2018 we had managed to obtain promises of donations from local organisations and our own resources, including insurance . . . Then in November we heard that NHCT had awarded us a grant of £2,000 towards the shortfall. With the Archdeacon’s permission, this enabled us to book the contractors for early spring 2020, and the work was carried out just ahead of the pandemic.

Many thanks to NHCT for making it possible to complete the repairs so speedily.”



ST JOHN BAPTIST, PLUMPTON

“The trustees could not be more grateful for the grant of £1,000. That money, alongside funds they raised locally, will enable us to complete the unforeseen repairs to the chancel roof. After renewing the nave ceiling in 2019, which completely absorbed our funds, we were shocked to discover that the north side of chancel roof was unsafe. The trustees dug deep into their own pockets and managed to

replace it, but then were confronted by the need to do likewise on the south. . . . We are delighted that our plea for help was heard and thankful that over the years we have built up a good relationship with the Trust through Ride and Stride.”

ST ANDREW, HARLESTONE

“Our project was straightforward. The stonework around the windows was crumbling and some of the windows and their component parts were broken, rotten and in danger of falling out. Under consideration for some years, costs were constantly spiralling out of our reach, and we acknowledged that we could only afford to address the worst areas. Your grant [together with other fundraising] made this possible . . .



Being able to carry out this project has enabled us to plan to use the church building for a wider variety of activities (when the pandemic is over) because it is warmer (no broken window panes and crumbling frames), drier and less dirty. Events, particularly those involving children, can now take place in a more pleasant ambience . . .

We are grateful for all the support you have given us in recent years and assure you that our building has certainly benefitted from it."

ST MARY MAGDALENE, ECTON

"The quinquennial report in 2018 advised replacement of the lead roof over the chancel as it had reached the end of its life. The cost of the work escalated due to the need to replace more timber than originally anticipated and a structural beam being found to have a dry rot 'fruiting body' within it which also added significantly to the expenditure. The overall cost was well above £40,000. The lead was replaced with terne coated steel.

There are weekly services and frequent church events (in normal times), and the church is also regularly used for many other events as it is conveniently situated at the heart of the village. Now the chancel roof has been replaced we can safely use that area along with the rest of the building for any events we may hold.

Additionally, the chancel houses several valuable heritage features which are now fully protected from water ingress

Whilst the majority of funding came from the village residents, the grants, including that from NHCT, enabled us to complete the work without eating into dwindling reserves. We are very grateful to NHCT for supporting our church and the work within it."



ALL SAINTS, MIDDLETON CHENEY

"A Grade 1 listed medieval church with noted Pre-Raphaelite stained glass windows and a roof with an internal intricate design by William Morris. Regrettably the 1864 lead covering on the roof had begun to leak; in addition, the building had suffered three lead thefts, leading to water damage to this unique decorative scheme. It had become imperative to try to preserve it.

Even though the roof was alarmed, a permanent deterrent to metal theft had to be found. Historic England gave permission for the roof to be re-covered in terne-coated stainless steel, and the Heritage Lottery Fund provided a substantial grant. But this still left the parish having to raise the remaining £50,000. Other grants, including that from the NHCT, helped us achieve this target, and the building is watertight again. The new roof is weathering beautifully, developing a patina which makes it indistinguishable from one covered in lead, but now there is no longer any lead to steal. We look forward to the time when we can open the building again to visitors who come to view this great artistic heritage."

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Ride and Stride

A great day out enjoying England's churches, towns and countryside

Ride and Stride - the foremost annual fun fund-raising event to help preserve churches and chapels, and keep them active in our communities.

Date for your diary - RIDE AND STRIDE 2021 will be held on Saturday 11th September.

RIDE and Stride is a sponsored event for cyclists, joggers, walkers and horse riders. Any mode of transport can be used as long as sponsors are happy; a couple of people have used vintage cars! 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. Money raised will help Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust to continue supporting our marvellous churches across the county with essential repairs and improvements. As usual, Ride and Stride is an opportunity to raise money not only for the Trust, but also for your own church, as we return 50 per cent of the money to individual churches where asked to do so.



Churches are usually open from 10.00am to 6.00pm, and a list of participating churches is produced and made available on our website at www.nhct.org.uk, as are contacts in neighbouring counties. Ride and Stride is a countryside event always held on the second Saturday in September.

Ride and Stride 2020 - *certainly a strange year!*

A very different Ride and Stride this year. There were lots of deliberations as to whether we should encourage churches to take part and riders to get on their bikes. We knew that there was even more of a need to raise money for the NHCT as, without normal fund-raising events, the need for grants for churches is even more needed. Also, many churches had not been able to have their own normal fund-raising events and so used the Ride and Stride as a source of extra income. This resulted in more churches than usual raising money. In the end it was all a great success, thanks to the determination and support of all those churches who did everything they could to support the event.

Most of the communication this year was by email and via the website, which meant that we could have much more of a dialogue with Local Organisers as restrictions changed and churches were allowed, or not allowed, to open. Everyone had to be flexible and riders were warned that the only thing we could guarantee was that there would be a church there! We are planning on using the internet more in 2021 and reducing the amount of paper produced, much of which is not used.

Participants were expecting many churches to be closed, but were delighted that so many found ways round it and still extended a warm welcome from their porches with generous refreshments outside. The sunny day meant that many churches took the opportunity to have socially distanced events in churchyards.

The grand total to-date for 2020 was £45,621 including Gift Aid.

As ever, we would like to thank all those who worked hard to make Ride and Stride in Northamptonshire the success that it is, particularly in this very difficult year:

- The enthusiasm of Local Organisers who kept 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 and who worked tirelessly, firstly in the spring collating information about which churches would be open, and then later sending out all the information to Local Organisers.
- Eddie Byland, our Treasurer, who sends cheques for 50 per cent of the amount received in sponsorship to each church.

Lastly, thank you to all the Riders and Striders and all their sponsors. Without them we would not have reached that record breaking total!

Richard Hartley, Val Hartley, Paul Stothard and Liz Doherty - *County Organisers.*



Mike Simpson's 21st Ride and Stride



“Having been the local organiser for Barnwell for the past nine years, I approached this year’s Ride and Stride with some trepidation, mainly due to the ongoing restrictions imposed and the uncertainty of the practical side of access to the churches. I had no need to worry, people and places responded accordingly and the churches visited were either manned and very welcoming or provided very good registration facilities. What a great day . . .”

Michael Burns



“Normally the Ride and Stride coincides with our annual fund raising church fete, but this year that had not been possible due to Covid.

We hope to be back next September when you will be most welcome to join us.

Please stay a while and take a walk around our newly installed Prayer Garden.

Thank you for visiting our little oasis.”

Notice on the door of the tin tabernacle, St Michael’s Church, Kettering

Friends of Northamptonshire Historic Churches

From: Name(s)

Address:

..... Postcode:.....

Email:.....

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

I/We

a. have completed the Banker's Order below.

b. enclose a cheque for £..... (payable to Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust)

Gift Aid Declaration

If you are a UK tax payer 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 off-set any gift aid payment against your personal income tax

I am a UK tax payer and 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 / /

The minimum annual donations are: Individuals: £10; PCCs: £20.

Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust has a registered Charity No. 1021632

Banker's Order

To.....

Bank Branch address

Sort code - - - Postcode.....

Name

Signed Date / /

Please pay to: Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust

c/o Natwest Bank Plc Sort code 56-00-60 Acc. No 05608961

On the..... day of..... 20.....

The sum of (words) £

And the same sum annually until further notice.

Please send completed application form to:

Ruth Fitch, Friends' Secretary

Elgin House, Billing Rd Northampton NN1 5AU

Tel. 01604 463325

Donations can also be made via our website: www.nhct.org.uk



St Mary, Bozeat

With thanks to all those who contributed to this Report.

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