



Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust
Annual Report 2007/2008

Northamptonshire Historic Churches' Trust

Registered Charity Number:1021632

Report for 2007/8

Patron:	Her Majesty The Queen
President:	Lady Juliet Townsend LVO
Trustees:	John White (Chairman) The Ven. Christine Allsopp Bruce Bailey John Barker Mrs Mary Bland The Revd. Grant Brockhouse Peter Dunn Peter Haddon Mike Hawkins Mrs Barbara Lancaster Mrs Susan Parkinson Jim Shuttleworth D W White

Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for 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.

Cover picture: St Mary the Virgin, Whiston

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2008

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting the annual report for the year ended 31 December 2008

Objectives

Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust
7 Spencer Parade, Northampton NN1 5AB
is registered with the Charity Commissioners (Number 1021632)
and is constituted by a Trust Deed dated 10 March 1955

The object of the charity is to assist in the preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement, upkeep, beautification and reconstruction of churches in Northamptonshire and the monuments, fixtures and fittings, stained glass, furniture, ornaments and chattels in these churches. The Trustees may also at their discretion make transfers from the fund to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust for any similar charitable expenditure outside Northamptonshire

Review of the year

Grants totalling £24,150 have been made during the year. A very congenial party for representatives of churches that had received grants was held on 16 July 2008 at Wakefield Lodge, Potterspury, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Julian Richmond-Watson. Quite apart from the opportunity it gave members of the Trust to meet the representatives from the recipient churches, the recipients themselves were able to exchange experiences which, it seemed, encouraged them in the challenging task of fundraising. Letters of thanks had been received from the recipient churches.

Various applications had been received during the year that have been considered by the Grants Committee.

Richard and Val Hartley organised the annual Ride and Stride Day in September and we thank them for their time and effort in this considerable task. To date, £25,557 was raised of which the Trust will receive half.

In August, Bruce Bailey led a very successful Church Study Day around various churches in Northampton.

HOW THE GRANTS ARE MADE

The Trust considers grant applications from Churches of all denominations within the County.

In considering grant applications, the Trustees apply criteria which they have established over the years which encourage applications involving works on the structure of Churches.

The funds available for the grants are derived from the Trust's share of the proceeds from the annual Sponsored Ride and Stride. Because of this, the Trustees are very keen to see that Churches that make applications for grants have participated in the Ride and Stride; an element of self help. For this purpose, participation involves not only people cycling or walking but also having the Church open so that cyclists and walkers can register their visit to the Church.

Grants range from £250 to £3000 and in very particular cases may exceed the upper limit.

The Grants Committee of the Trust meets once a quarter to consider grants applications. A member of the Committee is likely to visit Churches from which applications are received.

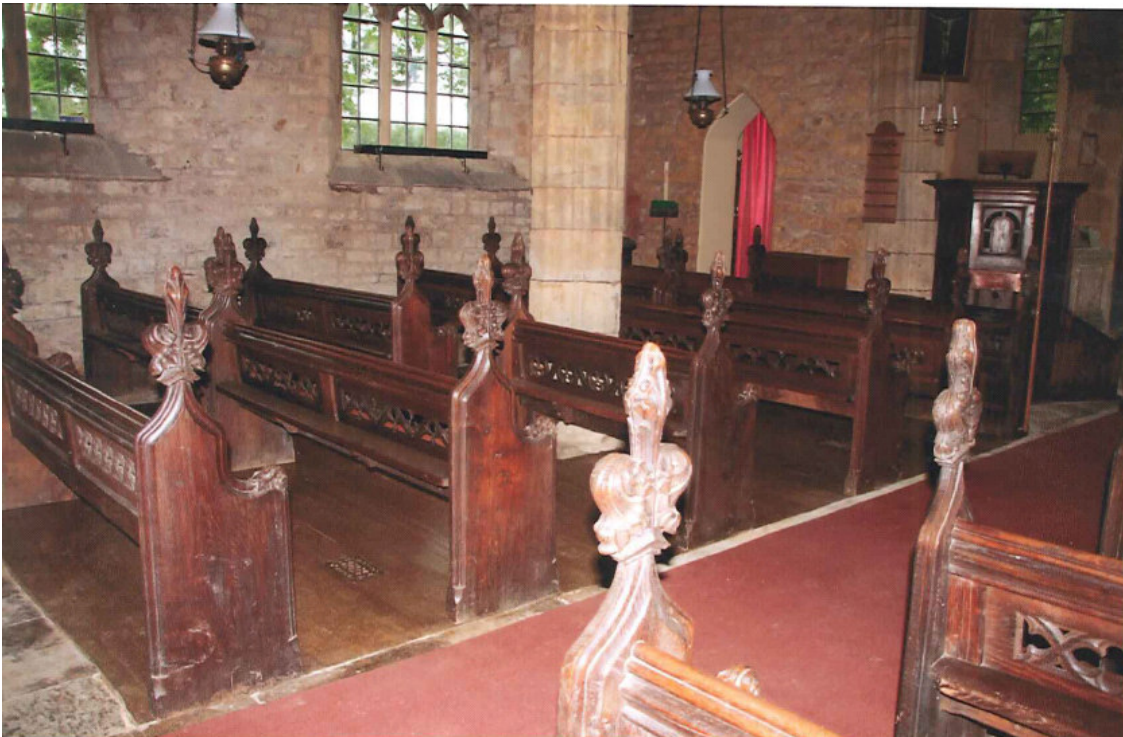
The Grants Committee also monitors the way in which the grant monies are applied by the recipient Churches.

Grants are normally presented at a Grant Presentation Evening held in July each year at a country house location where two representatives from each Church receiving a grant have the opportunity of meeting representatives from the other Churches receiving grants. They often find they are facing similar problems. The opportunity to exchange information and experiences is very valuable.

The grants made by the Trust may be only part of the solution faced by individual Churches. The Trustees hope, however, that the grants they make provide an encouragement to the people involved in raising funds and may in some circumstances help to prime the pump.

Enquiries about grants should be made initially to the Hon Secretary of the Trust, Chris Knight, 7 Spencer Parade, Northampton NN1 5AB (01604 233233. He will provide a grant application form for completion and the criteria to which the Trustees work. This information is also available on the Trust's website www.nhct.org.uk

Charwelton Pew Platforms before and after



REPORT FROM THE GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Committee meets quarterly to consider grant applications and to make recommendations to the Trustees. The Committee is given a degree of discretion to make grants not totalling £5,000 if there is some urgency involved in the case.

Applicants supply detailed information about their project by completing our application form. Eric Peplow, one of the members of the Committee, visits the applicant churches in cases in which the Committee does not have knowledge of the church and the works involved.

In considering applications, the Committee takes into account the Grant-making criteria laid down by the Trustees.

In 2007, the Trust made grants totalling £38,500 as follows:

Helmdon St Mary Magdalene	Repointing and restoration of windows	£4,000
Wellingborough All Hallows	General repairs	£5,000
Whiston St Mary the Virgin	Roof repairs	£10,000
Walgrave St Peter	Roof and stonework repairs	£2,500
East Farndon St John	Repairs to stonework	£2,500
Dodford St Mary the Virgin	Stonework	£5,000
Steane Park St Peter	Repairs to pinnacles	£1,000
Fawsley St Mary	Drainage works	£3,000
Earls Barton All Saints	Gate to west door	£2,000
Sywell St Peter	Repairs to stonework	£2,500
Blisworth St John the Baptist	Work on stonework	£1,000

The largest grants were made to St Mary the Virgin Whiston and St Mary the Virgin Dodford.

The nave roof was causing problems for the parishioners at Whiston. This is a glorious church, perched above the Nene valley, a gem. St Mary the Virgin Dodford is a grade I church with Norman elements. It needed a considerable amount of restoration work

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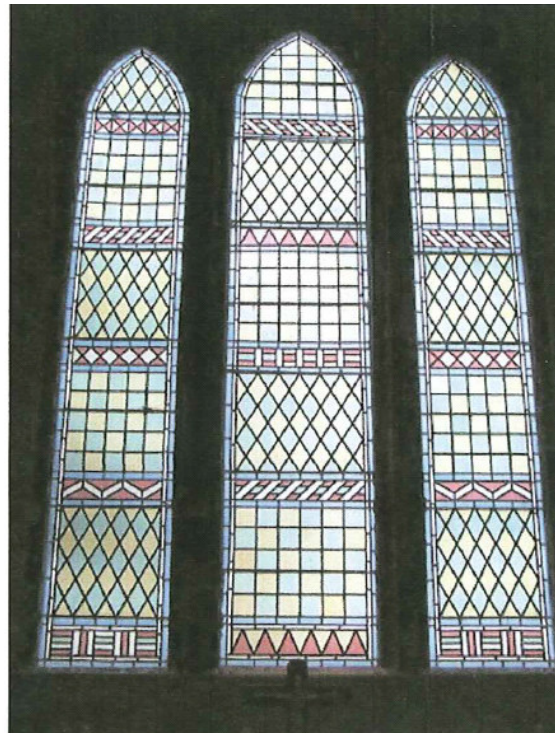
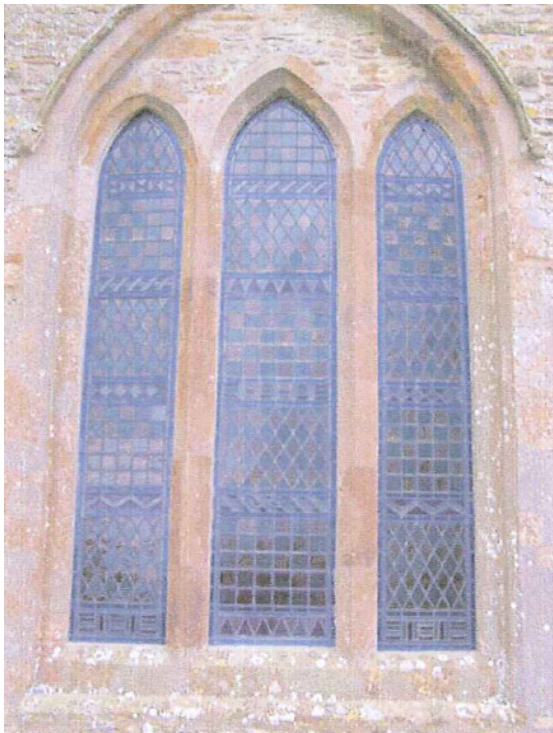
Great Harrowden - All Saints	Roof works following lead thefts	£2500
Greatworth St Peter	Restoration of windows	£2500
Ashton St Michael & All Angels	Restoration of effigies	£500
Weekley St Mary	Installation of electronic alarms after lead theft	£500
Charwelton Holy Trinity	Works on stonework, gutters and windows and on sinking floor	£2000
Piddington St John the Baptist	Nave roof problem	£1500
Loddington St Leonard	-Repair of stone flooring -External repointing -Work on internal walls	£1500
Great Brington St Mary	Renovation and releading of 2 south chancel windows	£1000
Easton Maudit SS Peter & Paul	Renewal of defective lead and aluminium roof and other works	£1000
Boddington St John the Baptist	Repairs to church tower	£3,000
Lowick St Peter	Roof repairs	£5,000
Newton Bromswold St Peter	Electrical rewiring	£3,000
Creaton St Michael & All Angels	Repair and conservation of painted altar triptych	£150

St Peter Lowick is one of Simon Preston's four-star churches and is featured on the back cover of his England's Thousand Best Churches.

The Committee wrestles with the dilemmas involved in applications for grants towards the costs of restoring bells and organs and of installing WCs and serveries. We try to help where we can. The creation of WCs and serveries may well result in the building being used more, which, in turn, may mean that more people are involved in the care of the church. Generally, however, we see the preservation and restoration of the structure of churches as being our primary concern, which includes windows and monuments.

Although the resources of the Trust are limited, the Committee is somewhat surprised that it does not receive more applications for substantial works. This may be good news but somehow, the Committee does not think so. Applications are therefore welcome, particularly if they relate to substantial works.

Greatworth – windows restoration – before and after



ANNUAL SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE 2ND SATURDAY IN SEPTEMBER

We took over as County Organisers from Sue Parkinson last year so have been finding our feet during the 2008 Ride and Stride.

The event involves a person or group of people planning a bike ride or walk (or horse ride), visiting as many or few churches as they wish, using as a guide a list of participating churches which we produce each year from information from Local Organisers (one per church) which is collected and sent to us by Area Organisers (approximately one per Deanery). A large number of churches are open and manned from 10am to 6pm on the day, quite a few providing refreshments for the visitors; others have a Register on the door for participants to sign. (St)riders obtain sponsorship from friends, colleagues, neighbours and family and after the event return both forms and sponsor money to their Local Organiser who sends them to the Treasurer of the Trust, together with the Register from their local church.

Thus, riding or striding can range from a gentle stroll to the next village with two churches visited by, say, a family with young children or an elderly person, to an eight hour bike ride visiting thirty churches by a fit and keen cyclist. Any church/chapel that displays and returns a Register is deemed to have taken part.

We are hoping that by receiving back all the Registers, we can, among other things, try to encourage visitors to those churches that have not received many visitors. The number of churches taking part has increased and looks to be even greater this year, which should enable (st)riders to visit more churches in a given mileage. A couple of churches not taking part can adversely affect visitor numbers to churches nearby.

None of this would be possible without our network of organisers, to whom we are most grateful, but ultimately success depends on everyone who is prepared to walk, cycle or ride on the day and who is also prepared to get sponsors; our heartfelt thanks to you all. Particular people we have heard about include Barry Curtis of Dodford who walked 21 miles and raised nearly £200 and Chris and Georgia from Warmington who rode their ponies and raised over £300! But any sum is helpful; ten people raising £10 each adds up to £100.

Any increase in our funds means that more churches and chapels are able to benefit from grants that help towards maintaining our beautiful buildings. If your place of worship takes part in the Ride and Stride (and we will know as we will have the Register) any application for refurbishment of buildings will be favourably considered.

Richard and Val Hartley
County Organisers

The following reports include a quite remarkable achievement by John Beale, Ben Reed, Digger Baker, Tom Parker and Damian

SUMMARY OF THE DAY

The goal of visiting 30 churches/chapels in the 8 hours allowed seemed daunting along a leisurely rural route.

The weather was almost perfect; bright, some sun, dry and no wind.

31 churches/chapels visited, 64 miles covered in the 8 hours.

<i>10:00 Walgrave - St Peter</i>	<i>13:55 Cold Ashby - St Denys</i>
<i>10:05 Walgrave - Baptist Chapel</i>	<i>14:15 Welford - St Mary the Virgin</i>
<i>10:10 Hannington - Ss Peter & Paul</i>	<i>14:22 Welford- Congregational Chapel</i>
<i>10:20 Holcot - St Mary</i>	<i>14:50 Sibbertoft - St Helen</i>
<i>10:28 Moulton - Carey Baptist Chapel</i>	<i>15:05 Clipston - All Saints</i>
<i>10:44 Boothville - Community Church</i>	<i>15:23 East Farndon – St John the Baptist</i>
<i>11:00 Boughton - St John</i>	<i>15:40 Great Oxendon - St Helen</i>
<i>11:14 Pitsford- All Saints</i>	<i>15:51 Arthingworth - St Andrew</i>
<i>11:35 Brixworth - All Saints</i>	<i>16:20 Haselbech - St Michael</i>
<i>12:00 Cottesbrooke - All Saints</i>	<i>16:50 Naseby - All Saints</i>
<i>12:25 Creaton - URC</i>	<i>17:00 Maidwell - St Mary</i>
<i>12:27 Creaton - St Michael and All Angels</i>	<i>17:15 Draughton - St Catherine</i>
<i>12:40 Spratton - St Andrew</i>	<i>17:25 Lamport - All Saints</i>
<i>12:55 Hollowell - St James</i>	<i>17:30 Scaldwell - Ss Peter & Paul</i>
<i>13:05 Guilsborough - St Ethelreda</i>	<i>17:55 Old - St Andrew</i>
<i>13:50 Thornby - St Helen</i>	<i>18:00 Walgrave - St Peter</i>

And by **8 year-old Justin Leatherland** of Northampton.

On September 12th the weather was sunny. I helped Dad get the bikes ready and made sure that we had some snack bars, sandwiches and water bottles for our ride. Dad helped me to plan a route around town. I rode about 8 miles, and I went to 12 churches. The bike ride was fun because it was like a treasure trail. I went with my Dad (to keep me safe and help me find the churches) and we collected signatures and photographs at each church.

The churches we visited were:

St. Giles	St. Matthews
All Saints	Kingsley Park
Castle Hill	Park Avenue
Holy Sepulchre	Christchurch
Queens Grove	Abington
St. Michaels	St Peter's Weston Favell

The churches were very interesting and in some churches we had a drink and a biscuit. I raised £200.00 for the Historic Churches fund, and half of this money will come to St Peter's Weston Favell. I had a lot of fun and I would like to do the ride again next year.

CHURCH STUDY DAY
Saturday 16 August 2008

For the past seven years, Bruce Bailey, who is one of the Trust's trustees, has led an annual Church Study Day. This has taken us to all parts of the County but until 2008, mainly to rural churches. In 2008, Bruce suggested that for a change we should look at some urban churches in **Northampton**.

The churches visited were various in style but each splendid in its own way. In the morning we looked at::

Holy Sepulchre - the famous "round" church of Norman origin which also contains important work by G G Scott.

All Saints - a fine Wren church with a splendid interior.

St Peter, Marefair - one of the finest Norman churches in the country with superb carvings.

In the afternoon, we visited :

St Peter & St Paul, Abington – in its parkland setting with interesting furnishing and monuments.

Abington Avenue United Reformed Church - with splendid glass by Frank Brangwyn and a most successful interior redesign.

St Matthew, Kingsley – a superb example of a late Victorian church with a sculpture by Henry Moore and a painting by Graham Sutherland.

Lunch and tea were provided most kindly by the ladies of St Matthews. Bruce Bailey was happy to share his great knowledge of the churches with us – not only architectural but also historical aspects – all of which made for a most successful and enjoyable day.

Bruce is planning the next Church Study Day which will be held on **Saturday 15 August 2009**

Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2008

Receipts and payments account

	2008		2007
	£	£	£
Receipts			
Membership subscriptions	211		460
Donations	466		5,562
Sundry income	345		282
Bank deposit interest	545		980
Building Society interest	174		191
Investment income - per schedule - gross	3,934		3,934
Sponsored Bicycle Ride 2007	942		3,267
Sponsored Bicycle Ride 2008	25,557		26,978
	<u>26,499</u>		<u>30,245</u>
	32,174		41,654
Less: Payments			
Sponsored Bicycle Ride - refunds to participating churches	13,209		15,342
Grants - per list	24,150		38,500
Stationery and advertising expenses	1,254		1,467
	<u>38,613</u>		<u>55,309</u>
Deficit for the year	<u>(6,439)</u>		<u>(13,655)</u>
Statement of assets and liabilities			
Accumulated fund:			
At 1 January 2008	174,150		183,967
Deficit for the year	(6,439)		(13,655)
Change in market value of investments	(18,255)		3,838
At 31 December 2008	<u>149,456</u>		<u>174,150</u>
This is represented by:			
Monetary assets			
Building society account	6,721		6,547
Bank balances			
- Deposit account	17,639		26,544
- Current account	22,458		7,766
Investment assets			
Investments per schedule	102,638		133,293
	<u>149,456</u>		<u>174,150</u>

M F Hawkins F.C.A.
Hon Treasurer
21 April 2009