

**Northamptonshire  
Historic Churches Trust**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2010**

**Northamptonshire  
Historic Churches Trust**  
Registered Charity Number:1021632

**Patron:** Her Majesty The Queen  
**President:** Lady Juliet Townsend LVO

<b>Trustees:</b> (on 31/12/10)	The Lord Bishop of Peterborough John White (Chairman) The Ven. Christine Allsopp Bruce Bailey John Barker Mrs Mary Bland The Revd. Canon Grant Brockhouse	E W Byland Peter Haddon Mike Hawkins Mrs Barbara Lancaster Mrs Susan Parkinson Jim Shuttleworth David White
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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.

**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

**Objectives**

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.

Secretary	Chris Knight
Treasurer	Eddie Byland
Membership Secretary	Penny Pardoe
Report Editor	Hilary Aslett

***Cover picture; All Saints Church, Earls Barton (£2,000)***

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2010**

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting the annual report for the year ended 31 December 2010

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

I am pleased to report that the Trust has continued to make good progress in 2010.

#### **Grants**

The Trust was able to distribute grants of £31500 in 2010 details of which are set out later in the Annual Report to maintain a level of grant making established in recent years. It also made pledges of support to churches of £10000 to be paid when the projects are further advanced. This is all made possible by excellent level of income generated by the annual Ride and Stride event and by donations for which the Trust is most grateful. In addition, the Trustees have decided 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 recent years the Trustees have been rather disappointed at the number and quality of grant applications. 2010 saw a significant increase in the number and quality of applications. The Trustees publicise the funds available in the Trust but rely on architects, church officers et al to alert churches to the possibilities.

The Trustees continue to keep under review the priorities they apply in considering grant applications. They recognise the benefits which can flow from the creation of serveries and toilets in churches. These facilities may encourage the greater use of the church building, which in turn may bring more people in contact with the church, which in turn may lead to the generation of more money for the care of the church. But given the limited resources of the Trust, the Trustees regard it as their priority to make funds available for the preservation and restoration of the fabric of the churches.

#### **Celebration Evening**

Each year representatives from the churches to which the Trust has made grants are invited by the Trustees to a Celebration Evening. These Evenings give the Trustees the chance to talk to the people who are undertaking the hard work of looking after their churches. More importantly, the representatives have the opportunity of sharing experiences and information. We hope these occasions are not only enjoyable but also encouraging for those involved in the difficult and time consuming business of caring for churches. In 2010, we held the Celebration Evening at Litchborough Hall by the kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Robert Heygate – a most enjoyable evening.



Robert Heygate welcoming members



Barry Thompson of Byfield giving report of work at Holy Cross Church

## **The Annual Ride and Stride**

The 2010 Ride and Stride raised £33684 which represents a significant increase on the splendid sum of £31278 raised in 2009. This is especially encouraging bearing in mind the economic climate in which the event took place. The Trustees are most grateful to the riders and striders, the area organisers, the church and chapel organisers and the church and chapel sitters. They are particularly grateful to the County Organisers, Richard and Val Hartley, for their enthusiasm and for the many hours they spent in planning and co-ordinating the event and to Eddie Byland, the Trust's new Treasurer for dealing with the numerous individual payments involved and making the detailed Gift Aid claims to the Revenue.

## **Sculpture Tour**

James Miller took the splendid initiative of organising a Sculpture Tour in the County in May 2010. This included lectures and a reception at Boughton House by the kind invitation of the Duke of Buccleuch. The net funds generated of £8424 were divided equally between the Warkton Church Charity and the Trust for which the Trust is most grateful. We are most grateful to James and to Mrs Hopkinson at Boughton House for their efforts in making the Tour such a success. So much so that James is kindly organising another Tour in 2011.



Viewing the memorials at Stoke Doyle.

## **Church Study Days**

Although the Trust's major concern is the raising of funds and their distribution in the form of grants, it also encourages interest in the County's churches. In this respect, we are very fortunate to have Bruce Bailey, a most distinguished architectural historian, as one of our Trustees. On a Saturday in August in each of the past nine years, Bruce has taken us round churches in the County sharing his great knowledge and enthusiasm with us. What a great variety of churches we have seen – from the ancient at Brixworth and Earls Barton to the relatively modern at St Marys Wellingborough, from the imposing and

decorated at Higham Ferrers and Fotheringhay to the small and simple at Weston and from the rural at Cottesbrooke and Fawsley to the urban of All Saints Northampton. They are a great joy to visit in their different guises and even better, there are many more to be visited. We are most grateful to Bruce for organising these splendid Study Days.

We hope these Church Study Days provide something of interest for our members. They also encourage an increase in our membership. They are, however, becoming the victims of their own success. With increasing numbers of people wishing to attend, we have to monitor the numbers who can attend so early application is advised. There is a report on the 2010 Study Day later in this Annual Report.

## **Membership**

I am pleased to report that thanks to the efforts of membership secretary, Mrs Penny Pardoe we have identified our members and have brought their membership contributions up-to-date. We have increased the membership in 2010 as part of our plan to expand the membership to widen the interest in the Trust in the County.

We are hoping to organise trips from time to time to cathedrals within convenient distances if there is sufficient interest. Keith Thomas has kindly agreed to take on this task. If you are interested in taking part in such trips, please let me know.

## **Website**

The Trust has a website [www.nhct.org.uk](http://www.nhct.org.uk) which contains details of the Trust's activities. We are grateful to Mike Fulcher for helping us to keep it up-to-date. Please visit the site and if you have any suggestions for additional items or improvements, let me know. It includes a section on the arrangements made in Gayton for the creation of a Church Heritage Trust to widen the support for the care of the church beyond the church's congregation to the village as a whole.

## **National Churches Trust**

We maintain our links with the National Churches Trust which is working hard on a national level to promote the care of our heritage of wonderful churches – lobbying where appropriate and acting as a focal point for the efforts of the individual County Trusts of which the Northamptonshire Trust is one. In 2011 this Trust will be participating in a partnership scheme with the National Churches Trust in which the National Churches delegates an aspect of its grant making function to County Trusts such as ours.

## **Thanks**

I have already expressed the thanks of the Trust to various individuals but I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the work of the Trust in 2010. Your support is greatly appreciated. I mention specifically Mike Hawkins who had been our Treasurer

for over 20 years who retired early in 2010. Eddie Byland has taken over the role with enthusiasm for which the Trust is most grateful.

We congratulate the Rt Rev'd Donald Allister on his appointment as Bishop of Peterborough and thank him for his support of the Trust.

## **The Future**

My hope is that we can increase the income of the Trust from the Ride and Stride, from donations and legacies and from grants from grant making trusts. To this end, it will be necessary to increase both public awareness of the work of the Trust and the membership of the Trust.

We are very fortunate to have such a rich heritage of historic churches in this County. We have a great responsibility to make sure they are cared for and maintained for our descendants.

*John White*

Chairman

## **SUPPORTING THE TRUST**

### **Become a member**

This involves an annual payment of £10. You will swell the funds of the Trust thereby helping to preserve our rich heritage of churches. You will also receive an invitation to our Church Study Day. We have plans to organise lectures and trips to cathedrals with an occasional social event such as a quiz night. These activities become more feasible if our membership base increases.

Application forms can be downloaded from the Trust's website at [www.nhct.org](http://www.nhct.org) Otherwise our membership secretary, Mrs Penny Pardoe, will be pleased to send you the form. Her telephone number is 01327 358474.

### **Leave a legacy**

Please consider leaving a legacy or a share of the residue of your estate to the Trust. Your solicitor will be able to advise you on the wording to be included in your will or codicil. No inheritance tax will be payable on the amount of the gift. The name of the Trust is Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust (registered charity no. 1021632).

### **Give practical help**

Participate in the Ride and Stride. Richard and Val Hartley on 01327 831162 will be pleased to point you in the right direction. Seek grants for the Trust from grant-making trusts. Organise a lecture. Act as the Trust's Grant Secretary. If you think you can contribute in these or any other ways to the work of the Trust, please speak to the Chairman, John White, on 01604 423207.

## Report from the Grants Committee to the Trustees at the 2011 AGM

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 2010, the Trust made grants totalling £31500 and pledges totalling £10000 as follows:

Church	Works	Grant
Kingsthorpe Baptist Church	Fitting ventilation cupolas	£1,000
St Peter and St Paul Scaldwell	Repairs to gateway and installation of new boiler	£1,000
All Saints Yelvertoft	Stonework repairs, repointing and reglazing	£3,500
St Mary the Virgin Little Houghton	Restoration of west tower, creation of new access and replacement of boiler	£5,000
St Leonards Hardwick	Guttering, drainage and stonework repairs	£1000
St Leonards Aston-Le-Walls	Bell tower and roof restoration	£3000
All Saints Earls Barton	Repairs to stonework, roof and rainwater goods	£2000
St Marys Barby	Repair stonework	£5000
St Martin Welton	Repairs to chancel arch and tower	£750
St John the Baptist Quinton	Repointing and stonework restoration	£1000
St John the Baptist Harringworth	Heating system & electrical wiring	£1000
St John the Baptist Hartwell	Re-roofing	£3000
St Peter & St Paul Preston Capes	Church lighting system	£1000
St Peter & St Paul Abington	Repair sedilia	£750
St Peter Steane Park	Repairs to roof leadwork	£1000
All Saints Naseby	Repairs to spire	£1500
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£31,000</b>

## Pledges

All Saints Chancel Barnwell	£2500
St Andrew Barnwell	£5000
St Mary the Virgin Wilby	£1000
All Saints Naseby	£1500
Total	£10000

At meetings in March and early April, the Trustees considered further applications which are set out on the attached schedule with the recommendations of the Committee. The Committee identified that the applications from St Mary the Virgin, Maidwell and St Andrew, Cransley appeared to fall within the criteria laid down in the Partnership Agreement entered into by the Trust with the National Churches Trust and should be dealt with within the terms of that Agreement. If approved by the Trustees, the grants to be made by the National Churches Trust would total £9000 and those by the Trust, £16750.

At the 2010 AGM, the Trustees budgeted an expenditure of £38000 on grants in the twelve months to the 2011 AGM. Since the 2010 AGM, the Trustees have awarded grants of £20000 (the grants beginning with St Leonards Aston – Le -Walls in the list above) and if they accept the current recommendations of the Grants Committee to make grants of £16750, they will have made grants of £36750 in that period. In addition, the Trustees have made pledges of £10000 which the Trustees can pay from its capital funds.

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.

In the recent past, the Committee has been somewhat surprised that it had not received more applications in relation to substantial works. It publicised the availability of grants and is pleased to report that the number of applications relating to substantial works has increased significantly.

## Restoration work carried out with grants from the Trust in 2010/11

Photos John Barker



Tower base, failed rendering



East window, damaged stonework

### All Saints' Church, Earls Barton

#### All Saints, Yelvertoft



Extensive damage by masonry bees

#### SMV, Little Houghton



Severe erosion to stair turret

## St James' Church, Hartwell – Roof Project – Photos Carol Buck



The Old Roof



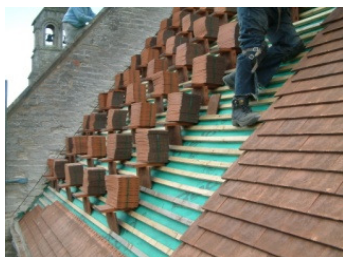
Removing the old tiles



The boiler chimney in need of repair



The boiler chimney being repaired



Working on the chancel roof



The New Roof

## **HOW THE GRANTS ARE MADE**

The Trust considers grant applications from Churches and Chapels 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 £5000 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 Chairman of the Trust: John White, 22 Thorburn Road, Weston Favell, Northampton, NN1 3DA (01604 413207). 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](http://www.nhct.org.uk)

**CHURCH STUDY DAY**  
**Saturday 14 August 2010**

For the past nine years, Bruce Bailey, an architectural historian and one of the Trust's trustees, has led an annual Church Study Day. These Days have taken us to various parts of the County and have demonstrated the rich variety of churches and chapels in Northamptonshire. Happily they are many in number and as a result, there are more to still to explore.

In the morning, we visited:

**St Lawrence Towcester** – a large medieval town church with an 18<sup>th</sup> century organ case and interesting monuments.

**St Mary Easton Neston** – set in delightful parkland – a medieval church with brasses and splendid monuments.

**St Bartholomew Greens Norton** – a medieval church which includes major Saxon work.

Lunch was provided most kindly by the parishioners of St Bartholomew Greens Norton in the church itself which had been altered very effectively to make such catering possible.

In the afternoon, we visited :

**St Mary Wappenham** - a medieval village church with interesting monuments.

**St Botolph Slapton** – another medieval church with especially fine wall paintings which were described to us by the artist, Peter Newcombe.

**St John the Baptist Blisworth** – an medieval church containing fine brass work relating to the Wake family.

The Day concluded most cogenially with tea in the delightful garden of The Old Rectory by the kind invitation of Mike Hawkins, our recently retired treasurer and his wife, June.

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. And the sun shone again with just the odd sharp shower

Bruce is planning the next Church Study Day which will be held on Saturday 6th August 2011 and will involve visits to churches in the Brackley area. **Early application is recommended.**

## ANNUAL SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE DAY SEPT 11<sup>th</sup>

2010 saw yet another successful Ride and Stride on the second Saturday of September. The number of churches taking part was up and receipts from sponsorship increased for the third year running to £33,744. Grateful thanks to all who contributed in any way: by opening their church, welcoming visitors and providing refreshments, cycling or walking, approaching sponsors, and finally the sponsors themselves for their generosity. More income means more money is available to give as grants, and of course, the church raising the money receives a cheque for 50% of their total amount raised.

All this could not take place without our network of contacts. Thank you to all our Local Organisers, each representing a church or chapel. It is your enthusiasm that drives the whole event. The publicity you generate and your personal approaches to potential participants make all the difference. And every church that takes part, even if only has a Register displayed on the door for riders and striders to sign, is helping all the churches in the area. No-one wants to plan a route where there are large distances between churches to visit as other churches are not taking part. So if there is another church in your town or village, or even the next village, that does not take part, try approaching them and telling them how easy it is to become involved.

Thank you also to our Area Organisers. The task they have is important but not as daunting as it may seem. They have three spells of activity: sending out the initial yellow request forms, chasing up any not returned by mid April, then sending out the sponsor forms etc in June. We are hoping to double up with two organisers to each area, thus halving the amount of work each one does and providing a backup in case there are problems. The initial response has been disappointing, to say the least, except for the Methodists where we have had two volunteers! Thank you ladies!

One perennial problem is the reluctance of participants to cross boundaries resulting in churches near the edge of the county not receiving many, or any, visitors. The Open Churches List gives the contact details of people who can supply similar lists for adjacent counties and we can only suggest that these are made more use of. Similarly, our contact details are on lists issued by other counties.

*Richard and Val Hartley*

County Organisers April 2011

### **Ride and Stride at St John the Baptist Church, Wakerley**

The weather forecast for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010 was not good, but the morning proved warm and cloudy and the afternoon was breezily brilliant, with autumn sunshine. You can't really expect dozens of cyclists or walkers to make it to Wakerley. Tucked away at the very edge of Northants, especially as this was one of the alternate years in which Rutland doesn't take part in the national event. However, an intrepid family arrived from Wilbarston and there were 7 local riders from Laxton, Haringworth and Ketton. Four other visitors looked into the church, too. So including the four stewards from Wakerley, Barrowden and Haringworth a total of 17 people encountered the Green Man and the Crusader Knights carved into the chancel arch over eight centuries ago, gazing upwards at the medieval roof bosses carefully replaced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the roof was repaired, and could feel the layers of history and worship through the ages. The churchyard was softly green with 38 harebells in the grass, a red kite floated down almost to touching distance, and the views across the valley to the ridge carrying the A47 were great. There was a mystery, too, when a bike remained in the porch after some riders left. Suddenly one of them came charging back up the path, saying he'd borrowed the bike and just hadn't recognised it when he walked past! All was well, then!

*Linda Worrall* – Local Organiser



Ian & Jade Mansfield on their tandem at Upton Church during the Ride and Stride Day

# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST .

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st 2010.

	2010	2009
	£	£
<b>INCOME .</b>		
"Ride and Stride" :		
Year ended December 31st 2008	0	682
Year ended December 31st 2009	1155	30183
Year ended December 31st 2010	33203	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	34358	30865
Income Tax Recovered ( excluding on Sculpture Tour)	8300	10445
Share of Surplus - Northamptonshire Sculpture Tour	4212	0
Membership Subscriptions	1065	686
Donations	3169	8758
Investment income : Charinco	3252	3252
Bank Interest	12	14
Building Society Interest	1	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3265	3271
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	54369	54025
<b>EXPENDITURE .</b>		
"Ride & Stride" - Returns to participating churches	17158	15450
Grants	31500	22250
Administrative expenses .	3079	2248
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	51737	39948
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR .</b>	2632	14077
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>ASSETS &amp; LIABILITIES .</b>		
Accumulated Fund - brought forward January 1st 2010.	174205	149456
Surplus for the year	2632	14077
Change in market value of Investments	9910	10572
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated Fund - carried forward December 31st 2010	186747	174205
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Represented by :</b>		
Investments as schedule .	123220	113310
Bank : Current account	4548	32579
: Deposit account	52252	21590
Building Society account	6727	6726
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	63527	60895
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	186747	174205
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>EW.Byland - Honorary Treasurer</b> January 18th 2011		



St John the Baptist, Hartwell (£3,000)

All Saints, Yelvertoft (£3,500)



St Mary the Virgin, Little Houghton (£5000)