

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



BEAUTY and religion were inseparable in the minds of medieval Englishmen, who showed their love for their Creator by worshipping him, with beautiful ceremonies, in beautiful places which they themselves had helped to create. There was an intense fervour in competition. Their church became to them not only a centre of religious fervour but also of parochial pride.

The church was the very centre of the community. Every single activity in any village or town was centred upon it. Early schooling, such as it was, took place here; parish armour, the parish coffin and bier, bridal outfits for poor girls and even parish fire-fighting equipment was stored at the church. Public meetings were held in the church porch, and even today it is the place for displaying public notices.

No other country in the world has so many venerable and interesting churches, so clearly reflecting the spirit of those who built them and lavished care and attention on them through the centuries. We have handed down to us a priceless heritage which demands effort from us if it is to pass on with its unique story to our successors.



Supporting the Trust

Become a Friend - Leave a Legacy - Give practical help

Contact

Gareth Lugar-Mawson | Chairman: lugarmawson@msn.com
Ruth Fitch | Friends Secretary: RuthFitch@hewitsons.com

Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust

Patron:	Her Majesty The Queen	
President:	David E Laing, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire	
Vice-Presidents:	The Rt Rev Donald Allister, The Bishop of Peterborough and The Rt Rev John Holbrooke, The Bishop of Brixworth	
Trustees:	David E Laing, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire The Rt Rev Donald Allister, The Bishop of Peterborough	
	Mrs H Aslett	B Bailey Esq
	J C Barker Esq	The Rt Rev John Holbrooke
	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
	Mrs B Lancaster	G Lugar-Mawson Esq
	J P Miller Esq	The Ven. Richard Ormston
	Mrs S Parkinson	The Ven. Gordon Steele
	J A White Esq	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 and Liz Doherty	

www.nhct.org.uk

Front Cover: St Michael, Wadenhoe – Previous Page: All Saints, Polebrook

Chairman's Report

I AM pleased to report that the Trust had an excellent year both in terms of funds raised and grants awarded.

Grants

In the year the Trust paid 32 grants, which along with pledges made in earlier years totalled £59,350, the details of which are set out later in this Annual Report. These grants were made possible by the truly excellent level of income generated by the annual Ride and Stride (about which I have more to say later) and by 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 give priority to those churches and chapels which have a history of participation in the Ride and Stride, which is the Trust's major source of income, and particularly to those churches which raise sponsorship money.

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

Annual Ride and Stride

The Ride and Stride raised £39,145, plus £6,141 from Gift Aid, resulting in a total of £45,286. This was the best yet for the Ride and Stride 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 our indomitable County Organisers, Richard and Val Hartley, and Liz Doherty, for their enthusiasm and the many hours they spent in planning and coordinating the event. The Trustees are equally grateful to Eddie Byland, the Trust's Treasurer, for dealing with the numerous individual payments involved and making the detailed Gift Aid claims to HMRC.

In mentioning Eddie, I would once again 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 and it is largely as a result of the monies raised by the Ride and Stride that the Trust is able to make grants to the County's churches and chapels.

Major Donation

I am pleased to report that the Constance Travis Charitable Trust made a most generous donation of £50,000 to the Trust in 2019. This was on the understanding that the Constance Travis Charitable Trust will refer all applications it receives from individual Northamptonshire churches to us for NHCT to deal with as part of our grant making process. The Trustees are most grateful to the Constance Travis Trust trustees for their generous and continuing support.



Celebration Evening

Each year representatives from the churches and chapels to which the Trust has made grants are invited by the Trustees to a Celebration Evening. These Evenings give the Trustees the chance to thank the people undertaking the hard work of looking after their churches and chapels. The representatives also have the opportunity of sharing their experiences and information. We hope 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.

In 2019 we held the Celebration Evening on 17th July in the gardens of Boxes Farm, Slapton by the kind invitation of James and Mary Miller. The Trustees are most grateful to Mary and James for making their delightful garden and library available for this event. It was a most enjoyable evening despite the rain which came half-way through the festivities.

Church Study Days and Sculpture Tours

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 and chapels. In this respect, we are very fortunate to have Bruce Bailey, a distinguished architectural historian, as one of our Trustees. On a Saturday in August in each of the past eighteen years, Bruce has taken us round Northamptonshire churches, sharing his great knowledge and enthusiasm with us. There is an account of the 2019 event, when we visited churches in the south of the County, later in this Report. We are most grateful to Bruce for organising these splendid Study Days.

James Miller, once again, organised a most successful Sculpture Tour in 2019, and the Trustees are most grateful to James for organising that.

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's work. I urge all who read this Report to consider becoming a Friend. An application form is at the back of this Report.

Roof Alarms

Regrettably, lead theft from churches continues to be a problem. We now have funding from Allchurches Trust Ltd of £50,000 to be expended in grants of up to £1,000 towards the installation of roof alarms in churches and chapels which do not have such systems. Details of the scheme and how to apply for a grant under it are in this Report.

National Churches Trust

Although the partnership scheme under which the National Churches Trust (NCT) delegated aspects of its grant making function to County Trusts, such as ours, concluded at the end of 2018, we maintain our links with NCT. It continues to operate at a national level in promoting 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.

Website

The website (www.nhct.org.uk) contains details of the Trust's activities. We are grateful to Mike Fulcher for helping us to administer it. We hope to modernise the website in the coming year. 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.

We have in Northamptonshire some of England's finest examples of church and ecclesiastical architecture and art, covering well over 900 years of Christian worship. We are very fortunate to be able to continue to enjoy these places of worship; but they carry with them the very great responsibility of looking after them. This is a 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, willingly and without reward, accept the great challenge and responsibility of caring for these beautiful buildings. We all have a duty to ensure that those who come after us can continue to enjoy and worship in them in the centuries to come.

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 express the Trust's thanks to our President, David Laing, H.M. Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, and to the Rt. Rev. Donald Allister, the Bishop of Peterborough, and the Rt. Rev. John Holbrooke, the Bishop of Brixworth for their continuing support and encouragement.

I hope you enjoy this Report. 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*

lugarmawson@msn.com

Tel: 01327 830219

Mob: 07452930801



All Saints, Barnwell

Report from the Grants Committee

THIS year has been one of the busiest in terms of the number of applications received from across the county. During the year the Committee received 52 applications from various churches and denominations.

The Grants Committee has been given a degree of discretion by the Trustees to make grants not exceeding £5,000, if a church has experienced a dramatic and urgent event, which we have used recently. The normal route is to fill in a simple application which requires details about the church, the project and the finances. The church is then visited by Eric Peplow and the Grants Secretary. This year, apart from a number of short trips to visit a couple of churches, we did two mammoth tours of the county, visiting eight or nine churches which had applied for a grant. They were tiring days, and we were grateful to those who offered a coffee and a chance to use their facilities. Prior to the Trust Board meeting the Grants Committee meets to review the project details and respective finances, following the visits made to the churches.

In considering the applications the Grants Committee takes into consideration all of the criteria laid down by the Trustees, as well as the history of past applications and, particularly, their contribution to Ride and Stride, which is our main source of income.

Again, it is sad to say that lead thefts continue to occur in the county, causing PCCs having to find considerable amounts of funding to cover the costs of the necessary repairs. In most cases this means that other projects suffer from the loss of funding

However, it is not only the theft of lead which is a problem, but also the need to protect the interior surfaces, paintings and organs etc. That also needs funding. The Trust has been fortunate to receive a great offer of £1,000 for each of the first 50 churches who wish to install a roof alarm. This



support is coming from the Allchurches Trust (ACT) and the offer expires on 31st December 2020. In addition to this, the NHCT continues to offer £500. Bearing in mind that, unless an alarm is installed, insurance companies will pay no more than £7,500 per theft, we ask you to do the maths and therefore consider installing an alarm.

You can see from the schedule below the Grants and Pledges made during the year, but in summary the Trust contributed as follows:

Building works	13
Roof installation	16
Roof alarm	13
Lighting installation	1
Heating system	2
Servery installations	1

Church	Work	Amount NHCT	Amount ACT
Aston-le-Walls Sacred Heart & Our Lady	Extend disabled access, add damp course and redecoration	£1,000	
Barby St Mary	Installation of roof alarm	£500	£1,000
Brigstock United Reform Chapel	Rebuilding wall and replacing window; adding safety rail	£500	

Broughton St Andrew	Installation of roof alarm	£500	£1,000
Church Brampton St Botolph	Roof alarm	£500	
Cranford St John	Replace lead roof	£3,000	
Croughton All Saints	Repairs to lead roof following the theft of lead. Prevention of damage to wall painting	£2,000	
Culworth St Mary	Replacement of stolen lead with terne-coated steel	£1,500	
Dodford St Mary	Repairs to roof, stonework, internal cracks and guttering.	£5,000	
Draughton St Catherine	Installation of an alarm	£500	£1,000
East Farndon St John Baptist	Replacement of lead roof	£3,000	
East Farndon St John Baptist	Installation of an alarm	£500	£1,000
Ecton St Mary Magdalene	Replacement of roof lead with terne-coated steel over chancel.	£2,000	
Flore All Saints	Stone repairs, re-leading, glazing and rain water repairs.	£4,000	
Great Cransley St Andrew	Installation of roof alarm		£1,000
Gretton Baptist Church	Installation of under floor heating	£1,500	
Higham Ferrers St Mary	Repairs to chantry chapel, rainwater pipes and improvements to stone work	£3,000	
Hunsbury St Benedict	Disabled access and parking. Reduction of need for heat curtain	£2,000	
Irchester St Katharine	Provision of roof alarm	£500	£1,000
Irchester St Katharine	Provision of a servery	£3,500	
Kilsby St Faith	Installation of roof alarm	£500	£1,000
Kilsby St Faith	Replacing lead roof	£2,000	
Kings Sutton St Peter and St Paul	Installation of roof alarm	£500	
Kingscliffe All Saints	Repairs to tower and clock owing to poor condition	£4,000	
Kislingbury St Peter and St Paul	Missionary work on tower	£4,000	
Loddington St Leonard	Urgent repairs to tower owing to health and safety issues	£4,000	
Middleton Cheney All Saints	Replacement of lead roof and replacement of rainwater goods	£4,000	

Nether Heyford St Peter and St Paul	Installation of roof alarm	£500	£1,000
Nether Heyford St Peter and St Paul	Repairs to roof in terne-coated steel, following lead theft	£1,500	
Newnham St Michael	Replacement of chancel roof in terne-coated steel	£ 3,000	
Newnham St Michael	Installation of alarm	£500	£1,000
Northampton Holy Trinity	Repairs to roof	£2,000	
Oundle St Peter	Structural changes to porch roof	£2,000	
Quinton St John Baptist	Installation of roof alarm	£500	£1,000
Ravensthorpe St Denys	Installation of disabled toilet	£2,000	
Slapton St Botolph	Replace lighting system	£2,000	
Staverton St Mary	Roof repairs following theft and replacing with stainless steel	£1,500	
Stoke Doyle St Rumbald	Repair and restoration of three Georgian windows	£4,000	
Sywell St Peter and St Paul	Application for grant towards roof alarm	£500	£1,000
Sywell St Peter and St Paul	Replacement of lead roof following theft	£2,000	
Watford St Peter and St Paul	Installation of roof alarm	£500	£1,000
Wellingborough St Barnabas	Refurbishment of tower and chapel roofs	£4,000	
Wollaston St Mary	Repair and renovation of spire. Replacement of old mesh with new stainless steel mesh	£1,000	
Woodford Halse St Mary	Replacement of old heating system with electric heaters	£2,000	
Yardley Hasrings St Andrew	Replacement of nave and north aisle roofs in terne-coated steel, and repairs to timbers and rainwater system	£3,000	

Until 2018 the Trustees were able also to recommend churches to the National Churches Trust (NCT) under the partnership agreement between the Trust and NCT, which allocated £15,000 to Northamptonshire. However, this scheme has unfortunately changed and we are no longer able to do this; but funds are available to those churches which apply directly to NCT.

In 2019 the Trust also paid £26,350 to churches to which it had previously made pledges and which had now complied with the conditions imposed by the Trustees.

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

Ride and Stride

A great day out discovering England's churches

As well as raising much needed funds to keep churches in good repair and active in our communities, 'Ride and Stride' is the perfect opportunity to discover England's beautiful and historic churches and chapels.

Date for your Diaries . . . Ride and Stride 2020 will be held on Saturday 12 September

Cyclists and walkers seek sponsorship for visiting churches. Half the money raised goes to the church nominated by the cyclist or walker and half to the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust. The Trust in turn makes grants to churches to help with their care and preservation. In this way the Trust is playing a part in preserving the wonderful heritage of the marvellous churches we enjoy in our County.

Churches are normally open from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. A list of those churches will be available on the Trust's website at www.nhct.org.uk as will contacts in neighbouring counties if you decide to go over the Northamptonshire borders. Each church's Local Organiser will also have the list in booklet form.

Ride and Stride – 14th September 2019

What a wonderful day – the sun shone, but not too warm and no wind to slow down the Riders. It was good to see so many families out with youngsters rushing into churches comparing the biscuit and sweet range – even bicycle biscuits in Cotterstock church, but you had to be there in good time to sample these.

The bright stickers on helmets and jackets are a really good way to spot fellow Riders and Striders, and, as ever, a very friendly welcome from the churches that are open. Innovative ways to encourage visitors include coffee mornings and open church with guides on hand to explain interesting features of the churches. Combining Ride and Stride day with Heritage Weekend helps to ensure that the church has someone to welcome visitors. It is, of course, difficult for churches that are away from cycle friendly roads and footpaths to entice cyclists and walkers, but we encourage them to be open with a drink and biscuits and a welcoming note.

Great Oxendon has some ideas . . .

Ways of increasing your number of visitors

For the past two years we have opened the church and churchyard to coincide with Ride and Stride, holding a Café in the Church, serving teas and coffees, scones and cakes.

We have also taken the opportunity to show anyone interested around the Churchyard to see how it is developing as part of Northamptonshire Churchyard Conservation Award Scheme. We received our Bronze Award in 2017 and are now working towards the Silver Award. This year we also had some live music during the day from our organist and a young 'cello student who lives in the village.

In previous years we have only had a few Riders and Striders visiting us as we are rather out of the way. However, this year I believe our final total was 29 – perhaps they'd heard about the cakes. We also had three people manning the church for the day. The whole day was great fun and very enjoyable.

Kath Stephens – St Helen, Great Oxendon

The open churches booklet is studied and distances calculated and a great deal of planning goes into choosing a route to take in the maximum churches with interesting points to consider. This year there were over 3,270 'visits' to churches! For the serious cyclists it is not the refreshments but the thrill of the chase that is important, with some like Sid Charlton from Glapthorn who hurtled into Stoke Doyle at 5.30 p.m., signed the register and grabbed a biscuit before off to four more churches before the 6pm deadline. Glapthorn, along with Stoke Doyle and Kings Cliffe, each raised over £1,000 and St Peter, Walgrave, a church that has supported NHCT faithfully for many years, raised nearly £1,000. Over £10,000 came from just 14 churches which each raised £500 or over.



The grand total to-date for 2019 was £45,286, including Gift Aid

As ever we would like to thank all those who work hard to make Ride and Stride in Northamptonshire the success that it is:

- Local Organisers work to publicise the day around their church and encourage Riders and Striders to take part. 336 churches took part this year and most of those were open with a real welcome to the participants.



- 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 per cent of the amount received in sponsorship to each church.

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

**Richard Hartley, Val Hartley and Liz Doherty
County Organisers**

The Reflections of a Local Organiser on Ride and Stride 2019

As the new Local Organiser of Ride and Stride at Castle Ashby, I would like to record my sincere thanks to the previous organiser, Pamela Dunn, for her help and encouragement up to and including the event. I was blest with an excellent team of church sitters, and congratulations go to Anne Pearson who walked to five of our Benefice churches raising the princely sum of over £300 in sponsorship.

During my hour of church sitting I found it an excellent time for reflection. It occurred to me that one does not have to dig for treasure. Across Northamptonshire we are particularly blessed with most towns and villages having their own churches standing as a living testament to the lives of generations since the time of Roman occupation. In Northamptonshire we are particularly rich in having examples spanning the whole range of ecclesiastical architecture.

In Brixworth church there is evidence of Roman tiles incorporated into the external structure. Earls Barton church tower is clearly of Saxon origin, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is one of only three round churches to be found in England. Moving on, All Saints in Northampton could well have been designed by Sir Christopher Wren, and St Matthew's church is a fine example of the Victorian Gothic revival. I am sure you could add many other outstanding examples to this list.

My thoughts turned to those people who laboured on building the medieval churches. How many lost their lives whilst working on their flimsy scaffolds? How did they react to working with stone masons importing their skills from the continent? They would not all be avid

church goers, yet I believe they were inspired by knowing that they were building something of significance, something that would endure beyond their surrounding homesteads.

On the day of Ride and Stride, it was interesting watching visitors to the church, how their demeanour changed once they entered the building. It was as if a feeling of great respect and reverence came over them as the stone work, timbers and stained-glass windows, steeped in the prayers of the faithful over the centuries, spoke silently to them as they stood there surrounded by the skills of those great, though humble, artificers of stone, wood, metal and glass.

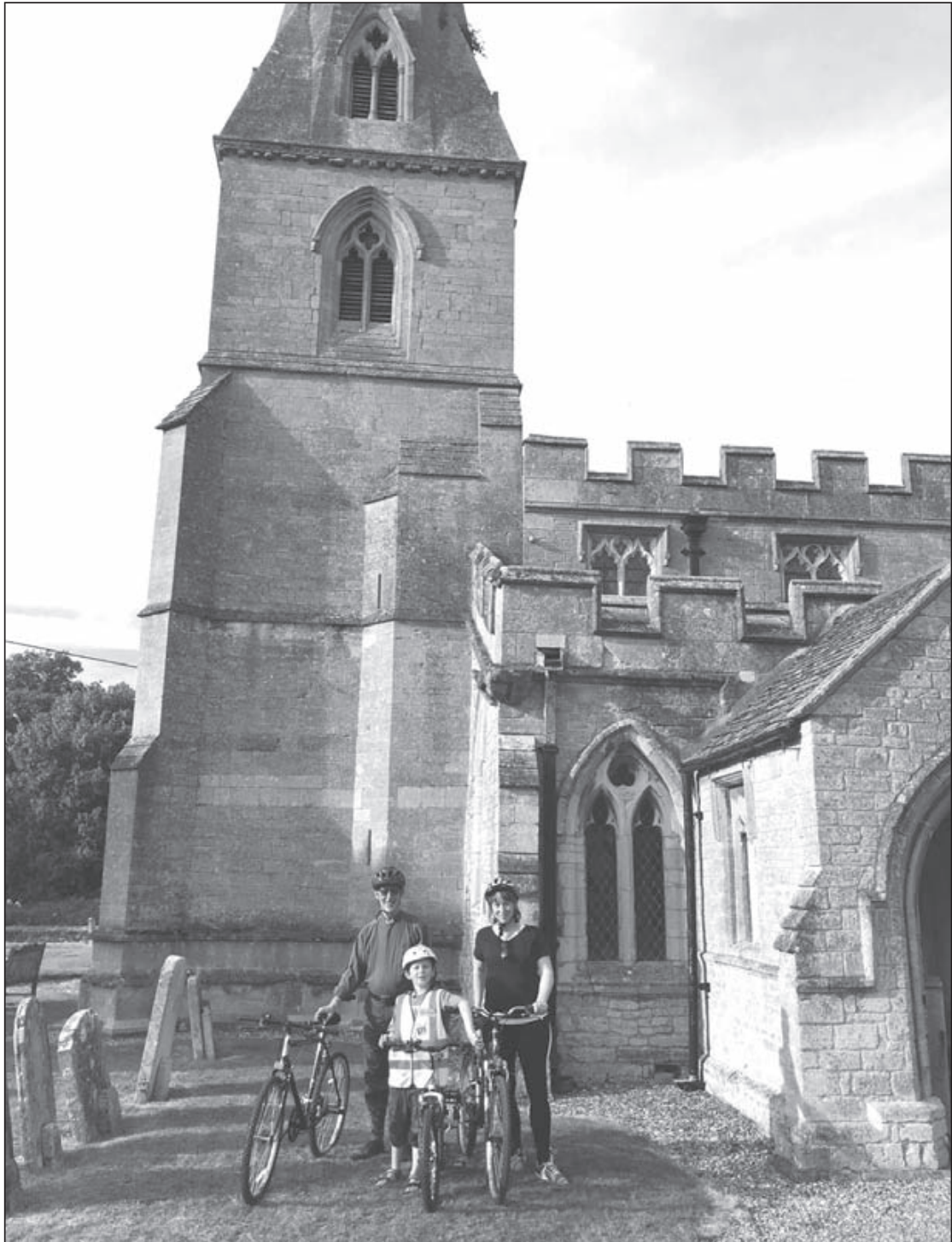
I was convinced that it behoves us to preserve these great monumental treasures for all future generations.

Stephen Meakins

St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby



St Mary, Wappenham



“The heating and lighting installation has made the church more welcoming and it is now becoming a popular venue for a variety of secular events. The generous grant from the NHCT has helped to make this possible. Thank you.”

Holy Cross, Pattishall

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST .
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st 2019.**

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME .				
Ride and Stride :				
Year ended December 31st 2017	0		590	
Year ended December 31st 2018	609		38156	
Year ended December 31st 2019	38536		0	
		<u>39145</u>		<u>38746</u>
Income Tax Recovered		6922		6340
Friends' Subscriptions		3661		3114
Donations		52798		17390
Investment Income : Charinco	2602		2602	
: Bank & Building Society Interest	139		46	
		<u>2741</u>		<u>2648</u>
		<u>105267</u>		<u>68238</u>
EXPENDITURE .				
Grants Paid (Note 1 A) (Grants pledged but unpaid at the year end are shown in Note 1 B)	59350		75500	
Less : Grant Returned	0		500	
		<u>59350</u>		<u>75000</u>
Ride & Stride - Refunds to participating churches	19250		19083	
Administrative expenses including printing .	2769		2633	
		<u>81369</u>		<u>96716</u>

SURPLUS / (2018 - DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR .

	23898	-28478
<hr/>		
ACCUMULATED FUND		
Balance brought forward January 1st 2019	218186	260355
Surplus (2018 - Deficit) for the year	23898	-28478
Increase (2018 - Decrease) in market value of Investments (Note 4)	25552	-13691
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance carried forward December 31st 2019	267636	218186

RESTRICTED FUND (ALLCHURCHES TRUST LTD. Re ALARM SYSTEMS)

(NOTE 3)

Advance : Allchurches Trust Ltd .	50000	0
Less: Grants to Churches (Note 2)	8000	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance carried forward December 31st 2019	42000	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	309636	218186

REPRESENTED BY :

Investments as schedule (Note 4) .

Bank : Current account	11220	1461
: Deposit account	54993	28891
Building Society account	55072	25035
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	121285	55387

E.W.Byland - Honorary Treasurer

20/01/2020

	309636	218186
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST .

**NOTES TO THE INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31st 2019 .**

1. GRANTS : ACCUMULATED FUND.

A) PAID : YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st 2019 .

	£	Year of Pledge	£
Ss.Peter & Paul, Chacombe <>	500	2012 All Saints, Mears Ashby	1500
St.Botolph, Church Brampton <>	500	2014 St Mary, Staverton	4000
St.John the Baptist, Upper Boddington ##	4000	2015 St.Laurence, Stanwick	2000
St.Mary with St.John, Great Brington ##	4000	2015 St.Mary, Great Brington	1500
All Hallows, Wellingborough ##	3000	2015 St.Michael, Stowe Nine Churches	1000
Ringstead Baptist Chapel ##	1000	2015 St.Leonard, Aston le Walls	2500
St.Michael and All Angels, Bugbrooke ##	4000	2016 St.Mary, Grafton Regis	5000
St.John the Baptist, Quinton <>	500	2016 St.Catherine, Draughton	2000
St.Andrew, Yardley Hastings	3000	2017 St.Michael, Stowe Nine Churches	5000
All Saints, Flore	4000	2017 Ss.Peter & Paul, Weedon Bec	2500
St.Andrew, Wellingborough ##	3000	2017 St James, Gretton (incl £500 <>)	2000
St.Katherine, Irchester <>	500	2017 St.Leonard, Rockingham <>	500
All Saints, Middleton Cheney	4000	2017 St.Mary, Little Houghton	2000
St.Botolph, Slapton	2000	2017 St.John the Baptist, Blisworth	1500
Ss.Peter & Paul, Kings Sutton <>	500	2017 St.Nicholas, Islip (incl £ 500 <>)	4500
Ss.Peter & Paul, Sywell <>	500	2018 St.Nicholas, Great Doddington	500
St.Andrew, Harlestone ##	2000	2018 St.Mary, Barby - South Chapel	4000
St.Mary, Higham Ferrers	3000	2018 St.Mary, Barby - North Aisle etc.	5000
Ss.Peter & Paul, Watford <>	500	2018 All Saints, Dingley	2000
St.John the Baptist, East Farndon <>	500	2019 St.Mary, Staverton	1500

B) PLEDGED AND NOT YET PAID.

St.Andrew, Broughton <>	500	2019 St.Katherine, Irchester	3500
St.Faith. Kilsby <>	500	2019 Ss.Peter and Paul, Sywell	2000
St.Mary, Wollaston	1000	2019 St.Michael & All Saints, Newnham	3000
Ss.Peter & Paul, Nether Heyford <>	500	2019 St.Michael & All Saints, Newnham <>	500
St.Denys, Ravensthorpe	2000	2019 St.Faith. Kilsby	2000
St.Peter, Oundle	2000	2019 St.John the Baptist, Cranford	3000
St.Mary, Barby <>	500	2019 St.Barnabas, Wellingborough	4000
Ascote Methodist Chapel ##	350	2019 St.Catherine, Draughton <>	500
The Sacred Heart of Our Lady,Aston le Walls	1000	2019 St.Luke, Kissingbury	4000
St.Mary Magdalene, Ecton	2000	2019 All Saints & St.James, Kings Cliffe	4000
St.John the Baptist, East Farndon	3000	2019 St.Mary, Culworth	1500
Ss.Peter & Paul, Watford ##	5000	2019 St.Benedict, Hunsbury	2000
		2019 St.Mary, Woodford Halse	2000
## = pledged as at December 31st 2018	59350	2019 All Saints, Croughton	2000
<> = re: roof alarms		2019 Gretton Baptist Chapel	1500
		2019 St.Mary, Dodford	5000
2) GRANTS : RESTRICTED FUND. (ALLCHURCHES TRUST)		2019 Holy Trinity, Northampton	2000
St.John the Baptist, Quinton	1000	2019 St.Leonard, Loddington	4000
St.Katherine, Irchester	1000	2019 Brigstock United Reformed Church	500
Ss.Peter & Paul, Sywell	1000	2019 Ss.Peter & Paul, Nether Heyford	1500
Ss.Peter & Paul, Watford	1000	2019 St.Rumbald, Stoke Doyle	4000
St.John the Baptist, East Farndon	1000		
St.Mary, Barby	1000		
St.Andrew, Cransley	1000		
St.Andrew, Broughton	1000		
		The Trustees were advised that a grant	
		pledged to Yelvertoft Independent	
		Congregational Chapel was no longer required .	
	8000		
			103000

The Diocesan Advisory Committee

THE Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, or the DAC as it is generally known, has an important role in the planning process as it relates to church buildings and churchyards within the Church of England.

The nation recognises that some of its buildings are of particular architectural and historic interest and need to be protected in planning terms more closely than buildings in general. These buildings are listed. The very best are listed Grade 1, the next best are listed Grade 2* and the next group are listed Grade 2.

The Church of England has a large number of churches under its care – many of which are listed for planning purposes. In the Peterborough Diocese, there are 360 church buildings of which 90 per cent are listed. Of those, 80 per cent are Grade 1 or Grade 2*.

In the normal course of events, if the owner of a listed building wishes to change it in any way, he must obtain listed building consent from the local authority. This is a lengthy and demanding process.

As a special concession, the Church of England has been permitted under the 'Ecclesiastical Exemption' to look after its own affairs when it comes to the interior of church buildings and to a considerable extent to the exterior elements as well. As a result, it is exempted from the listed building consent and conservation area consent systems administered by local planning authorities.

Through Faculty jurisdiction, the Church of England is able to regulate works to church buildings, their contents and churchyards and, importantly, to take into account pastoral matters in the way the state system does not. It ensures that churches are cared for properly, and that whatever is done to them is considered in detail beforehand and carried out in the most appropriate way. The system recognises that churches are living buildings, many of which are of great historic significance but all of which exist for the worship of God and the mission of the Church. And as such it is important for the Church to continue to enjoy this Exemption. But to justify the continuation of the Exemption, Faculty jurisdiction must be rigorous and conducted to the same standard and on the same principles as the state system – a point not always appreciated by applicant churches.

In 2015, national lists of works of an uncontroversial nature were created which may be undertaken without permission (List A) and others, more complicated but still relatively straightforward, which may be carried out with an Archdeacon's permission rather than needing the full faculty process with the attendant requirement for notices (List B). This has proved very helpful in relation to a variety of matters including 'like for like' roof repairs and Quinquennial repairs, which can often now be dealt with under the List B procedure. This simplification of the faculty process has been a welcome addition to the system.

Applications which do not fall within List A or List B come to the DAC meetings.

The DAC is a statutory body which is central to the operation of the Faculty System. There is a DAC in each diocese of the Church of England. Its members are appointed by the Diocesan Bishop on advice. In the case of the Peterborough Diocese, it is made up of members of the clergy including the two archdeacons, church architects and surveyors, an archaeologist, lay people with heritage backgrounds and lay members with parish backgrounds – 16 in all. The DAC also consults a number of advisors on specialist aspects such as bells, lighting, organs, heating and clocks.

The DAC is supported in its work by the DAC Secretary and Assistant Secretary who are employed by the Diocese. They deal with the parishes and their applications, prepare the agendas and supporting papers for the DAC meetings, provide advice to the DAC and implement the decisions made by the DAC. The DAC meets eight times each year. The agenda for

each meeting includes between forty and sixty items, reflecting the high volume of detailed work which needs to be undertaken by the DAC Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

The DAC is required to offer formal advice to the Chancellor of the Diocese on faculty applications made by PCCs (or others) seeking to undertake works in church buildings and their curtilage or churchyards. In offering this advice, it is required to take into account the mission and ministry issues raised by the proposals.

As a result, the DAC has to reconcile what may be the conflicting demands for the conservation of the building and the pastoral needs of the Church; not an easy task.



St Mary, Canons Ashby

In addition, the DAC must consult Historic England, the Church Buildings Council, local planning authorities and the National Amenity Societies which include the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings, the Georgian Society and the Victorian Society, on proposals affecting a listed church which, in broad terms, are likely to affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest. A change of materials is an example of a proposal likely to affect the character of a church in these terms.

Parishes are required to supply details of the works they wish to undertake with a justification of why the works are necessary. This may involve requests for further particulars so that the DAC has sufficient information to consider the applications. In the case of more significant applications, members of the DAC and representatives of the amenity societies may visit the church to discuss the proposals with representatives of the church. In the course of this process of obtaining details of the proposals and their consideration, parishes benefit from the accumulated knowledge and experience of members of the DAC who give their time and expertise on a voluntary basis.

Having carefully considered the application and consulted on it as required, the DAC offers its formal advice to the Chancellor of the Diocese by issuing a Form 2. The applicant parish then petitions the Chancellor of the Diocese for a faculty for the works, because it is the Chancellor, in his capacity as the legal officer, who makes the decision. The proposal must then be advertised so that objections may be made, which may lead, very exceptionally, to a Consistory Court. The Chancellor then considers the application and, if all is in order, issues a faculty authorising the works.

There is therefore a relatively long process to be undertaken before a faculty can be issued which can, on occasions, be frustrating to applicant churches. However, it is important that the process is conducted rigorously so that the integrity of the faculty system is maintained and with it the Ecclesiastical Exemption. This preserves the very considerable advantages that flow from the Exemption. The alternative would leave our churches subject to the civil planning system with no consideration of pastoral factors.

On a personal note, I have been chairman of the Peterborough DAC for almost ten years and during that period I have been greatly impressed by the care and attention to detail given to the large number of applications considered by the DAC and its secretariat.

John White



St Rumbald, Stoke Doyle



St Denys, Cold Ashby

Changes in the Funding Landscape

The closure of the 'Grants for Places of Worship' programme in 2017 ended almost 40 years of major grant schemes dedicated to the repair of our churches.

SEVERAL years earlier, in 2010, English Heritage (now Historic England) withdrew from the Heritage Lottery Fund (now called the National Lottery Heritage Fund) in the face of significant government cuts to their core grant. Thankfully, the Lottery continued to wholly fund the scheme until 2012, at which point it became one of their own administered programmes. A number of churches in the Diocese were successful in securing much needed funding to repair leaking roofs, replace damaged stonework, and introduce new facilities to enable more people to use these wonderful buildings.

However, beyond the confusion borne out of recent rebranding, the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) continues to provide a funding route for our church buildings and communities. In response to their new funding framework alongside government findings and review of their performance, they have introduced a streamlined approach with one programme to cover all types of heritage project. Churches will still be able to apply to them for support, and engagement with a wider range of people will be one of the outcomes. The long-term sustainability of church buildings through new ways to use, understand and cherish them is an important part of the assessment process. As the largest potential funder of repair and conservation projects nationally, the NLHF continues to play a hugely influential role for anyone seeking grant aid towards major projects in particular.

Change can be seen elsewhere. The National Churches Trust (NCT), historically a key funder of church projects, relaunched their grant schemes in 2019 and will now offer funding between £250 and £50,000 across three core programmes. This is a positive move. Like the NLHF, they will be assessing applications carefully to ensure that key outcomes around similar themes of sustainability, heritage and support for projects are met. Securing partnership funding before applying (such as through other grant sources and local fundraising) and increasing public access to the church outside of worship are important criteria to consider.

While some grant schemes are set to change or be simplified, sadly others are no more. The government-sponsored Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund ran from 2015 to 2016. Though short lived, it enabled a number of churches in the Diocese to carry out urgent repairs to make them weathertight and safe. The similarly titled Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme continues to give grants to refund eligible VAT incurred on projects. This was due to end in March 2020, but thankfully will extend to March 2021.

Church projects: a realignment of support

There has been a clear shift away from the national levels of help seen previously. There is also a growing focus on better community engagement, learning opportunities and an emphasis on improving sustainability of church buildings. The latter is entirely sensible. As mentioned elsewhere, the NLHF continues to support eligible church repair projects where they can demonstrate meeting their other outcomes. However, it is evident that smaller, phased projects are preferable in some cases. This is where the role of the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust is vital and particularly welcomed. A carefully targeted and planned

fundraising campaign to a greater number of grant trusts is often very successful and, despite a greater number of applications, letters or emails, may not be as time-consuming compared to the requirements set out by the larger funders. Depending on the size of the project, several smaller grants may be sufficient. Equally, some trusts will offer grants up to but not exceeding a certain level or percentage, necessitating partnership funding to be in place (such as National Churches Trust, above). A combination of smaller awards including support from Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust might then help 'unlock' other grant sources, making their role absolutely essential to many projects.

Community Focus

As noted elsewhere, one of the more interesting changes seen in recent decades relates to a greater visibility of community-focused grant sources and the role they can play with the introduction of new facilities such as accessible toilets, serveries or flexible space in the church building. The National Lottery Community Fund (formerly the 'Big Lottery Fund') has been established for about fifteen years and remains a key player, albeit with similar eligibility requirements as the NLHF to satisfy.

Local authority funding has seen significant cuts in recent years. Smaller budgets specifically for fabric repairs suitable for historic churches and community improvement schemes may still exist, but the general trend of availability reflects the pressure on spending.

Developing a project

The cost of professional reports, surveys and investigations alongside those of heritage consultants, development officers and facilitators can often be prohibitive. Yet, the requirement to demonstrate 'need' and 'impact' on a church is necessary to help make the case for a grant for some funders alongside the consulting bodies. National levels of grant support to help develop projects in this way is severely lacking and more diversity in grant-eligible items would help our church volunteers to feel that they are fully supported. Grants for fabric repairs will always be welcomed, and clearly needed given the major changes noted elsewhere, but repairing a building alone does not make it sustainable. There may be a role for our historic church trusts to consider other means of support if we hope to maintain and cherish these wonderful buildings for future generations.

Jon Breckon

*Historic Churches Support Officer,
Diocese of Peterborough*



St Mary, Warmington

Northamptonshire Church Study Day

17 August 2019

ON a summer Saturday in each of the past eighteen years, Bruce Bailey has led a Church Study Day for the benefit of the Friends of Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust. He has taken the Friends to all parts of the County and on two occasions outside the County when we visited Rutland and the Soke of Peterborough. The Friends have seen churches which confirmed Sir John Betjeman's complimentary comments about the variety, originality and elegance of Northamptonshire churches. They also saw churches which met Sir John's test of churches of outstanding interest: churches which are worth cycling fifteen miles into the wind to visit - a lovely if somewhat dated concept.

This year the Day took us to a variety of churches to the south of Daventry: the remote at Charwelton, the typical village church at Badby, the grand and spacious at Everdon, the small village church at Farthingstone, and the ancient at Church Stowe with its splendid monuments.

We began at Holy Trinity Charwelton which we reached by a single-track gated road leading from the village of Charwelton. The church was left stranded in the fields with the former Manor House when the original village was moved to its present location in the fifteenth century. It is in a delightful setting. The church has splendid brasses relating to the Andrews family and a fine alabaster tomb with effigies of Sir Thomas Andrew and his first and second wives attributed to Thomas Parker of Burton upon Trent. There is also an outstanding mural monument of white stone with twelve figures in memory of Sir Thomas Andrew and his family attributed to the Hollemans workshop.

Then we moved on to St Mary Badby in its delightful village setting. The church is largely fourteenth century, but was the subject of restoration in 1880 by E F Law and Son. The west tower is 1707. There has been a recent successful reordering at the rear of the church.

St Mary Everdon is a surprisingly grand church with a particularly spacious interior. It was mostly built in the early fourteenth century. One can only speculate at the size of the local population which warranted the construction of such a large church. G G Scott carried out a restoration in 1862-63. There is a very high balcony at the west end over the tower arch and a fine tablet with Corinthian columns and many shields in memory of Thomas Spencer by Jasper Hollemans whose skill can also be seen in the Spencer chapel at Great Brington.

Then lunch at the Plough Inn Everdon – most enjoyable.

St Mary Farthingstone is a small, charming village church with just a nave – no aisles – although there is evidence that there was an aisle on the northern side at one time. The north doorway is c.1200 and the chancel is late thirteenth century. There are lots of poppy-head pews and further poppy-head stalls in the chancel which include delightful carvings of amusing animals playing musical instruments - possibly a comment by the carver on the introduction of a pipe organ into the church. There are two lovely windows by the firm of Morris & Co especially the larger of the two, each of which includes a delightful face.

The final church was St Michael Church Stowe. The church has a Saxon tower which is covered by a pebble rendering applied in 1775. It has three particularly fine monuments. The first is an effigy of a cross-legged knight in Purbeck marble reputed to be Sir Gerard de Lisle c.1287. The crossed legs do not indicate that the knight had been a crusader but rather are a constructional feature which adds to the stability of the monument.

The second is a large standing monument to Dr Thomas Turner, the President of Corpus Christi College Oxford, who died in 1714. He is one of two life size figures, the other representing Fate. It was created by Thomas Stayner and represents his major work.

The third monument is the finest of the three and a high point on which to conclude the Day. This is the effigy on a free-standing chest of Lady Elizabeth Carey by Nicholas Stone, 1617-20, in black-and white marble. The effigy unusually portrays the subject as an older woman. It shows Lady Elizabeth as if asleep wearing a beautifully represented dress with one of her slippers peeping from beneath it. The monument was erected in Lady Elizabeth's lifetime. It is, according to Bruce Bailey in his capacity as the author of the latest edition of the Northamptonshire volume of Pevsner's Buildings of England, one of the greatest masterpieces of its age.

And then to Sir Peter and Lady Ellwood's Boat House by the lake at Church Stowe for tea and delicious homemade cakes. A very happy conclusion to a lovely day.

The Friends are most grateful to Bruce for organising these Church Study Days and for sharing his erudition with us. Not only do they learn a great deal during these Days but they also have a very enjoyable day with the opportunity of meeting old friends.

John White



St Michael, Church Stowe



All Saints, Barnwell

Church Sculpture Tour 2020

Saturday 9 May

This year we return to the heartland of the county with visits to churches that contain memorials to some of the area's most significant landowners. Thus, the tour starts with the Ishams of Lamport with breakfast in the Hall followed by a visit to the Isham chapel in the church. We will then drive on to encounter the Buswells at Clipston, the Hanburys at Kelmars, and the Rokebys at Arthingworth before a short talk in Rockingham church on the Watson tombs and the creation of a 19th century mausoleum by Dr John Martin Robinson. Back into our cars and off to visit the Hattons at Gretton, the Palmers at East Carlton and the Brudenells at Deene. We will then pause for a picnic lunch in the stunningly restored private gardens at Blatherwycke Hall. Afterwards a short lute recital in the church there surrounded by the tombs to the Stafford O'Briens.

On to pay our respects to the Mildmays and Fanes at Apethorpe, royalty at Fotheringhay, the Montagus at Barnwell and the Reverend Gottwaltz at Thurning. Another short talk at Titchmarsh on Oliver Cromwell's chamberlain, Sir Gilbert Pickering, and his daughter, Mrs Creed, before calling on the Greenes and Mordaunts at Lowick and the Reverend Waller at Twywell. Finally, the Bridges at Barton Seagrave and the Dukes and Duchesses of Montagu at Warkton. Then a well-deserved drink at Boughton courtesy of Duke Richard.

I hope that some of you may be tempted to join this outing. For further information and to enrol (£60 per person) please contact me at jamesmiller.art@gmail.com.

Allchurches Trust and Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust

Roof Alarm Grant Scheme

ALLCHURCHES Trust Limited, the owner of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, has made funding of £50,000 available to Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust (NHCT) to make grants for the installation of roof alarm protection systems in churches within Northamptonshire.

This is to be distributed by NHCT on the basis of a grant of up to £1,000 to 50 individual churches in the county, which do not already have a roof alarm system. Allocations will be made on a 'first come, first served' basis.

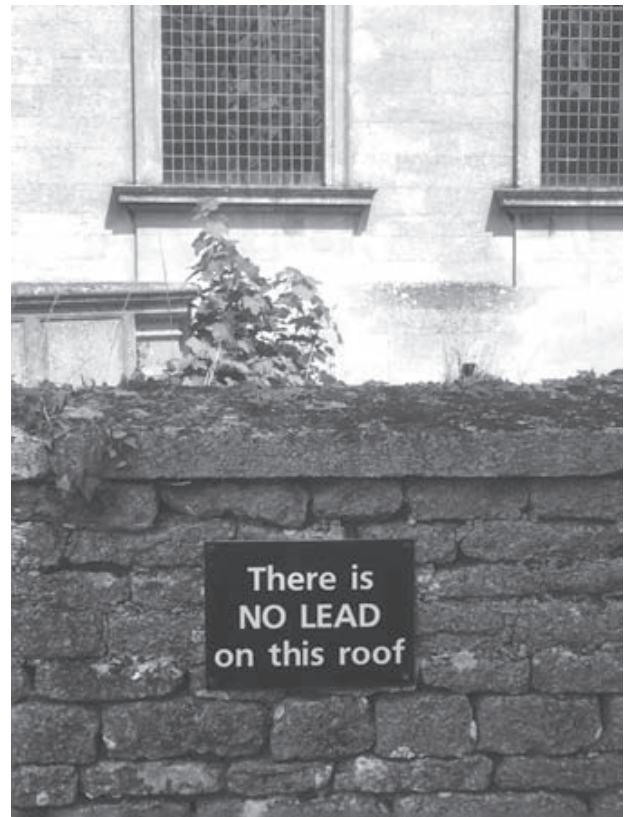
The conditions to the making of the grant are very straightforward, each church benefitting from the scheme must:

- i. not have already received a grant for a similar purpose directly from Allchurches Trust Ltd;
- ii. ensure that the system to be installed is one approved by its insurer;
- iii. obtain a faculty, or similar permission, for the installation of the system;
- iv. commit to maintaining the system at its own expense for a minimum of five years;
- v. agree to an end date by which the grant will be used, and;
- vi. return any residual amount to Allchurches Trust, via NHCT, shortly after that end date.

For churches within the Church of England, a faculty is not required for the installation of a roof alarm system. This only requires notice to the Archdeacon of the intention to install a roof alarm and his written consent to its installation.

Metal theft from churches is, regrettably, all too common. As well as damaging our beautiful and historic buildings, it causes expense, distress and frustration. Replacement and subsequent insurance can be costly. A roof alarm goes a long way towards deterring the thieves.

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



Celebration Evening, 2019

THIS year's Celebration Evening took place on 17 July at the home of James and Mary Miller in Slapton, where we were able to enjoy the garden, only briefly interrupted by summer showers. Many thanks for their warm welcome.

Earlier in the evening the church in Slapton, St Botolph's, had been open, allowing members to inspect the restored wall paintings from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, with the benefit of the newly installed lighting.

Some 60 members and guests attended the Evening.

Unfortunately, our President, the Lord Lieutenant, was unable to be present, and in his absence, Deputy Lieutenant, Martin Gaskell, made the presentations, and read a message from him. He wanted to convey how much he was aware, as he went around the county, just how precarious was the survival of many of



our churches, with dwindling congregations and diminishing finances. He said he was in awe of what many very small congregations and communities achieved, and he realised how vital a lifeline the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust provided. He did not want our churches to survive just as historic monuments, but rather as places with a unique life and purpose – sources of connection with the past and solace for



St Botolph, Slapton

the present. At the same time, they serve, as he said, as living monuments to our heritage and history, and he believed that visiting our churches enhances people's appreciation and enjoyment of our county. And so, he had asked to pass on his appreciation of all those who keep our churches and chapels safe, secure and accessible, and he sent his congratulations to all in NHCT who raise and distribute the funds in support of this essential endeavour.

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

b. have completed the banker's order below.

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 0560896

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

Dates for your Diary, 2020

Wednesday 15 July 2020 - CELEBRATION EVENING - By invitation
The Manor House, Grafton Underwood, by kind invite of David and Mary Laing

Saturday 8 or 15 August 2020 (to be confirmed) - CHURCH STUDY DAY
Betwixt Stamford and Oundle
Details from the Secretary: RuthFitch@hewitsons.com

Saturday 12 September 2020 - RIDE AND STRIDE
Details on website: www.nhct.org.uk



"The NHCT grant was a valuable contribution to our re-ordering project. It is now completed with the installation of some under-floor heating and the laying of new stone. Our enlarged space at the front of the nave gives us far more flexibility for worship and for community events. The response from those who see it is overwhelmingly positive. Thank you for the Trust's support."

Michael Thompson, Churchwarden, All Hallows, Wellingborough



St Mary, Canons Ashby

With thanks to all those who provided articles and photographs for this Report.

Designed and printed by Inkwell Printing.