

# ANNUAL REPORT



2015-2016





# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I would like to open my first report as Chairman by taking the opportunity recognising the considerable contribution made by my predecessor, Mrs Sara Foster. Over the past 3 years Sara has guided the Trust through some busy changing times with great skill and as a result the Trust now has a strong base from which to develop. She has spent considerable time and energy in achieving this result and on behalf of all Trust members I would like to thank her, as well as personally for the comprehensive handover she gave me.

During the past reporting year the Trust awarded 56 new grants totalling £160,440 and gave support to 33 churches amounting to £160,011, with the total of grants offered but not yet disbursed coming to £209,733. These grants are detailed in note 9. Among the new grants the most significant were awarded to Barningham St Mary the Virgin; Brettenham St Andrew; Stow Bedon St Botolph and Welborne All Saints. Work has also continued on our leased churches. Considerable work has been carried out at both Cockthorpe All Saints and Corpusty St Peter and our other leased churches remain under constant review. As a result of a substantial legacy which has been left to the Trust we are now actively investigating carrying out much needed work on these over the next 2 to 3 years.

The Trust's investments overall had a bit of a disappointing year reflecting the general state of the stock markets, but recent recovery has improved the overall situation; and the income yield has remained at a good 3.67%. However due to the considerable legacy, the year end result is that the Trust's net assets have increased from £1,430,843 to £1,517,060.

Despite not having either a Stately Car Boot Sale or House by the Church event, due to the continued amazing efforts of all our fundraisers, over £50,000 was still raised over the year. As well as the continued annual programme of lectures there was a wonderfully memorable garden party at Elsing Hall, two superb operas at Holkham which raised an astonishing £34,000, and an innovative Secret Artists Auction led by Christopher Hartop which raised over £10,000. I am so grateful to all the organisers and their committees for all the time they commit as well as the lecturers and the generous owners, who so kindly open their houses to host us in the most delightful locations.

Our annual Bicycle Ride, held in September, raised just under £102,000 and this was shared with the participants' designated church. Charles Inglis and his team continue to introduce some exciting new initiatives. A very valuable link has been created with many schools throughout Norfolk and this year they are looking at expanding corporate involvement by trying to encourage a competition between businesses based in the County

whilst the photography competition has proved very popular as has the Prince of Wales's Certificate to the person who raises the greatest amount of money. I hope that you will get on your bicycles, in your cars or get out your walking shoes and support both the Trust and your church at this year's event on 10th September.

We further greatly appreciate the continuing support of South Norfolk District Council and the following Trusts: The Lady Hind & Charles Littlewood Hill Trusts, The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, The Paul Bassham Charitable Trust, The Philip & Elizabeth Rackham Charitable Trust, The John Jarrold Trust, The R C Snelling Charitable Trust, The Bedhampton Charitable Trust and the Archant Annual Charity Donation together with all those other trusts and individuals who so kindly assist us financially.

We also held a very moving service to dedicate a memorial to our founder, Lady Harrod, in Warham St Mary Magdalene led by the Rt Reverend Peter Nott, formerly Lord Bishop of Norwich.

The past year there has been another big change in the running of the Trust. Joy Woolston, our Administrative Assistant for 18 years, retired in October. I would like to pay tribute to her for all her unstinting support, hard work and advice over this time. Her role has been divided into two and she has been replaced by Alice Cattermole as Administrative Assistant and Helen Evans as Financial Assistant, both of whom we welcome to the Trust.

Mary Rudd, Sandra Starling and Laura Jamieson have all resigned from the Advisory Council and we would like to thank them for all their support whilst in post. I am delighted to welcome Alison Wakes-Miller, Tom Fitzalan-Howard, John Maddison and Michael Wingate to the Advisory Council.

General membership has remained strong with 1,201 active members of all categories together with 221 supporters. We are always looking to increase our numbers and are currently developing our corporate membership base.

I hope our annual review illustrates how the invaluable help and involvement we receive from so many people and organisations, in very different ways, enables us to continue to fulfil our obligations of assisting with the maintenance of the structure and artefacts of the Churches of this County and keeping them open for worship and visitors to enjoy. We are so grateful to all that support us in this aim in such diverse ways.

**IAN LONSDALE**  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**30 JULY 2016**



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY – NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST

Year ended 31 March 2016

## Summary Statement of Financial Activities

	2015-16	2014-15
	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	44,525	37,897
Local authority grants	8,000	8,000
Legacies	201,000	17,044
Subscriptions	43,525	37,795
Heritage Lottery Fund grants	210,942	20,800
Leased churches	912	1,411
Other trading activities		
Sponsored bicycle ride	101,897	103,819
Trust events	52,521	110,670
Sale of goods	1,947	717
Investment income	45,964	45,718
<b>Total income</b>	<b>711,233</b>	<b>383,871</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>		
Cost of generating funds		
Costs of generating voluntary income	(19,212)	(25,919)
Fundraising costs		
(incl. parish share of ride)	(65,380)	(87,201)
Charitable activities		
Grants offered	(160,440)	(101,269)
Expenditure on leased and other churches	(256,990)	(41,700)
Support costs	(41,726)	(45,866)
Governance costs	(7,144)	(10,619)
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>(550,892)</b>	<b>(312,574)</b>
<b>Net income for the year</b>	<b>160,341</b>	<b>71,297</b>
<b>Net (losses) gains on investment assets</b>	<b>(74,124)</b>	<b>46,451</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>86,217</b>	<b>117,748</b>
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>	<b>1,430,843</b>	<b>1,313,095</b>
<b>Fund balances carried forward at the end of the year</b>	<b>1,517,060</b>	<b>1,430,843</b>
<i>of which</i>		
Restricted funds:	7,013	7,013
Unrestricted funds:	1,510,047	1,423,830
	<b>1,517,060</b>	<b>1,430,843</b>

## Summary Balance Sheet

	31 March 2016	31 March 2015
	£	£
<b>Fixed asset investments</b>	<b>1,163,412</b>	<b>1,126,877</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>353,648</b>	<b>186,218</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,517,060</b>	<b>1,313,095</b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>		
Restricted	7,013	7,013
Unrestricted	1,510,047	1,423,830
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>1,517,060</b>	<b>1,430,843</b>

## TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of The Norfolk Churches Trust. For further information, the full audited annual accounts should be consulted. Copies are available from The Norfolk Churches Trust, Manor Farmhouse, Diss Road, Tibenham, Norfolk NR16 1QF.

The full accounts have been audited by Lovewell Blake and received an unqualified opinion. They were approved by the Trustees on 9 June 2016 and will be submitted to the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies.

**JONATHAN ELLIS, HONORARY TREASURER**

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' STATEMENT TO THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT OF THE NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST

We have examined the summarised financial statements of The Norfolk Churches Trust.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom law and the recommendations of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report. We also read other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

### Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of The Norfolk Churches Trust for the year ended 31 March 2016.

**MARK PROCTOR ACA DChA**  
(SENIOR STATUTORY AUDITOR)  
FOR AND ON BEHALF LOVEWELL BLAKE LLP,  
STATUTORY AUDITOR

**BANKSIDE 300, PEACHMAN WAY,**  
**BROADLAND BUSINESS PARK,**  
**NORWICH NR7 0LB**  
9 June 2016



# GRANTS 2015–16

During the past year, the Trust offered and paid grants from its General Fund to the following churches:

## General Fund

	Offered (released) in year £	Paid in the year £	Unpaid at year end £
Alburgh, All Saints	–	3,000	–
Alby, St Ethelbert	5,000	–	5,000
Appleton, St. Mary	2,000	2,000	–
Ashby, St. Mary	1,000	1,000	–
Barningham, St Mary the Virgin	10,000	–	10,000
Barton Turf, St Michael	1,000	–	1,000
Bawburgh, St Mary & St Walstan	1,000	–	1,000
Beachamwell, St Mary	–	2,000	–
Beeston, St Lawrence	–	–	3,000
Billockby, All Saints	3,000	3,000	–
Blofield, SS Andrew & Peter	–	–	1,000
Brandon Parva, All Saints	525	525	–
Braydeston, St. Michael	1,000	–	1,000
Bressingham, St John the Baptist	3,000	–	3,000
Brettenham, St. Andrew	10,000	10,000	–
Brisley, St Bartholomew	3,500	–	3,862
Burgh, St Margaret	1,000	–	1,000
Burnham Thorpe, All Saints	500	500	–
Burston, St Mary	2,000	–	2,482
Catfield, All Saints	–	–	4,000
Clippesby, St. Peter	1,200	–	1,200
Cockley Cley, All Saints	240	240	–
Colton, St. Andrew	5,000	–	5,000
Congham, St. Andrew	3,000	–	3,000
Corton, St Bartholomew	1,000	–	1,000
Crosthwaite, All Saints	2,500	–	2,500
Deopham, St. Andrew	1,000	–	1,000
East Dereham, Cowper Congregational	2,000	–	2,000
East Walton, St. Mary	900	300	600
East Winch, All Saints	–	2,000	–
Easton, St. Peter	1,000	1,000	–
Field Dalling, St Andrew	–	798	4,202
Framingham Pigott, St Andrew	–	2,000	–
Fundenhall, St. Nicholas	–	5,000	–
Gissing, St. Mary	5,000	–	5,000
Great Bircham, St Mary the Virgin	–	2,500	–
Great Hockham, Holy Trinity	–	–	3,000
Great Melton, All Saints	7,000	–	7,000
Great Plumstead, St Mary	–	–	1,000
Great Ryburgh, St. Andrew	5,000	–	5,000
Great Yarmouth, St Peter/St Spiridon	–	–	2,000
Grimston, St Botolph	1,000	3,000	–
Griston, Sts Peter & Paul	–	4,000	–
Honing, Sts Peter & Paul	5,000	–	5,000
Houghton next Harpley	5,000	–	5,000
Kings Lynn, St Margaret	–	–	5,000
Knapton, Sts. Peter & Paul	3,000	3,000	–
Longham, Sts. Andrew & Peter	2,000	–	2,000
Carried forward	95,365	45,363	97,346

	Offered (released) in year £	Paid in the year £	Unpaid at year end £
Brought forward	95,365	45,363	97,346
Marshall, All Saints	2,000	–	2,000
Merton, St Peter	1,300	–	1,300
Middleton, St. Mary	8,000	–	8,000
Morley, St Botolph	–	1,500	–
Mundham, St Peter	–	–	1,000
Narborough, All Saints	5,375	5,375	–
Narford, St Mary	–	2,500	–
Newton-by-Castleacre, St. Mary	1,500	–	1,500
Old Buckenham, All Saints	–	2,000	–
Oulton, Sts Peter & Paul	–	–	5,000
Outwell, St Clement	–	7,000	–
Reepham, St. Mary	1,500	–	1,500
Runhall, All Saints	2,000	1,122	878
Rushford, St John	–	7,000	–
Santon, All Saints	–	–	3,000
Southacre, St George	–	7,000	–
South Lynn, All Saints	1,000	–	1,000
South Pickenham, All Saints	1,000	–	1,000
Stanfield, St. Margaret	2,000	–	2,000
Stibbard, All Saints	–	–	3,000
Stow Bedon, St. Botolph	7,000	7,000	–
Swaffham, Sts Peter & Paul	–	2,000	–
Syderstone, St. Mary	4,000	4,000	–
Terrington, St Clement	–	–	6,000
Thornham, All Saints	1,000	1,000	–
Thrigby, St Mary	2,500	–	2,500
Thurne, St Edmund	–	–	10,000
Thurton, St Ethelbert	1,000	–	1,000
Thwaite, All Saints	2,000	–	2,000
Topcroft, St. Margaret	400	–	400
Upwell Methodists	1,000	1,000	–
Warham, St. Mary Magdalene	10,000	7,151	2,849
Weasenham, All Saints	–	–	10,000
Welborne, All Saints	10,000	–	20,000
Westfield, St Andrew	–	–	10,000
Whinburgh, St Mary	–	–	7,000
Wickhampton, St. Andrew	–	–	3,000
Wickmere, St Andrew	500	–	3,500
Wiggenhall, St Peter	–	–	2,000
Wighton, All Saints	–	5,000	–
Wood Rising, St Nicholas	–	–	1,000
General Fund total	160,440	106,011	209,773



# OUR GRANTS: MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

The table on the previous page setting out the grants offered and paid out over the year, as well as those yet to be paid, provides the headlines for where the funds raised at events run by the Trust throughout the year are being used. To get to the point of even applying for a grant frequently represents months, and sometime years, of planning and local fundraising. Every application has its own story.

## **St. Bartholomew's church, Brisley: a Churchwarden's tale.**

*The task of looking after an ancient church is daunting as there is never enough money to do all the things necessary to keep it in good order. In our case at St Bartholomew, Brisley, we have had two major concerns within the last three or four years: the partial collapse of the sanctuary floor which saw one of our parishioners disappear into the crypt! and the deterioration of parts of the roof and water courses which caused rainwater to come into the church. Ours is a fine Grade 1 listed perpendicular medieval church which will cease to be so fine without appropriate funding for the repairs necessary. It isn't just the architecture but some very fine medieval wall paintings which could be damaged by rainwater.*

*We do all we can with our small rural congregation to raise funds for the church fabric and have now been given a grant by the Listed Places of Worship: Roof Repair Fund to help us achieve our aim. We had to demonstrate that we were raising money from our own or other resources in order to receive this grant and without the generous help of the Norfolk Churches Trust this would have been virtually impossible for us to achieve.*

Hugh Fawcett, Church Warden



Brisley, St Bartholomew: £3,500 towards roof & internal repairs.  
(photo: Ruth Blackman)

Only too often grant applications are the result of an unwelcome visit from a band of lead thieves who have struck in the hours of darkness leaving a community shocked by the violation of their precious church and at a loss of how to cope with the aftermath of the event.

The experience of St Mary's church, Narford stands out for particular mention. The Trust had offered £2,500 towards the cost of replacing lead stolen from the north aisle roof in 2014. The repairs were completed in April 2015 but within a week thieves struck twice removing the lead from both aisle roofs even before the Trust had issued the grant cheque. The aisles will now be repaired using an alternative material to reduce the likelihood of further thefts.

The collateral damage of lead theft is often as expensive as the repair of the roofs themselves: the most frequent being damage to roof woodwork and internal plaster due to water penetration. This was the case at St Botolph's church, Grimston, where the Trust gave a grant of £3,000 following lead theft. A roof alarm was fitted as part of the repair.



Narford, St Mary: aerial view of stripped roofs  
(photo: E-Bound AVX Ltd)



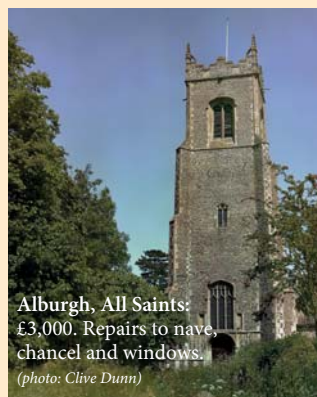
Grimston, St Botolph: south aisle roof following lead-theft.



Recent grant offers for lead roofs have been conditional on the installation of a roof alarm. Advice on installing and funding them is being provided by the Trust, the Diocese and other organisations involved in the care of church buildings.



The following photographs illustrate some of the churches that received grants from the Trust over the year. Many of these churches received very large grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund but without huge fundraising efforts within their own communities these repairs would not have been possible. Space does not permit every church to be included but I have tried to fit in all the churches that have received £3,000 or more.



**Alburgh, All Saints:** £3,000. Repairs to nave, chancel and windows. (photo: Clive Dunn)



**Billockby, All Saints:** £3,000. Re-thatching. (photo: Ruth Blackman)



**Brettenham, St John the Baptist:** £10,000. Extensive repairs to tower, windows and interior. (Photo: Clive Dunn)



**Narborough, All Saints:** £5,375. Match-funding to enable a WREN grant. (photo: Ruth Blackman)



**Fundenhall, St Nicholas:** £5,000. Roof & rainwater goods repairs. (photo: Ruth Blackman)



**Griston, St Peter & St Paul:** £4,000. Tower repairs (photo: Nicholas Warns)



**Knapton, St Peter & St Paul:** £3,000. Roof & rainwater goods repairs. (photo: Ruth Blackman)



**Outwell, St Clement:** £7,000. Roof, parapet, rainwater goods & rendering repairs. (photo: Richard Waite)



**Rushford, St John:** £7,000. Apse masonry and window repair (photo: Ruth Blackman)

Four more churches that received grants are illustrated on the back cover.

## Leased Churches

Thanks to the substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, urgent repairs at All Saints, Cockthorpe began in January. The repair of the nave, chancel and porch roofs, plus the installation of new rainwater goods and drains is the final phase of this long project. Of particular concern was the chancel roof, which had partially collapsed and has been supported by a temporary internal truss and external shoring against the north wall. The scaffold roof affording protection from the weather will be familiar to anyone passing by. The work is due to be completed by the end of August.

The nave and chancel roof repairs at St Peter's, Corpusty, made possible by a large grant from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund, were

completed in April. Whilst much remains to be done to return the interior of St Peter's to a condition where it can be used on a more regular basis, this is an important milestone in the restoration project, which began in 2009 when the Trust took on its care from the Friends of Friendless churches.

The east window of All Saints, Hargham has been repaired with support from the Allchurches Trust.



Corpusty, St Peter

**ALLCHURCHES TRUST LIMITED**  
OWNERS OF ECCLESIASTICAL INSURANCE GROUP

**heritage lottery fund**  
LOTTERY FUNDED

**LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP**  
ROOF REPAIR FUND



## LEASED CHURCHES CARED FOR BY THE NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST

### **Bagthorpe, St Mary:**

PE31 6QY. (Open during daylight hours)

Local contact: Mr & Mrs Morton 01485 578528

### **Barmer, All Saints:**

PE31 8SP In middle of field off B1454 (Locked)

Keyholder: Mrs Mason 01485 578220

### **Cockthorpe, All Saints:**

NR23 1QS (Locked)

Keyholder: Mr & Mrs Case 01328 830202

### **Corpusty, St Peter:**

NR11 6QE off Norwich Road (Locked)

Keyholder: Richard Barham 01603 788721

### **Dunton, St Peter:**

NR21 7PG (open during daylight hours)

Local contact: Rev Robin Stapleford 01328 813226

### **Hargham, All Saints:**

NR16 2JW (Locked)

Keyholder: Mr & Mrs Amos 01953 455553

### **Illington, St Andrew:**

IP24 1RS Illington Road. Reached via a farm drive  
and grassy track. (Locked)

Keyholder: Mr & Mrs Wells 01953 498121

### **Lynford, Our Lady of Consolation & St Stephen:**

IP26 5EW Reached via forestry track 34,  
off West Tofts Road. Hidden in trees. (Locked)

Keyholder: Sally & Sheril Leich 01842 878246

### **Morton on the Hill, St Margaret:**

NR9 5JS Reached via farm drive from Ringland Road.  
Hidden in trees. (Locked)

Keyholder: Lady Prince Smith 01603 880165

### **Rackheath, All Saints:**

NR13 6QT. Brown heritage sign on Wroxham Road:  
continue down Swash Lane.  
(Open during daylight hours)

Local contact: Jeff Sandell 01603 782044

### **Snetterton, All Saints:**

NR16 2LR (Locked)

Keyholder: World Horse Welfare reception (office hours)  
01953 498329

### **West Bilney, St Cecilia:**

PE32 1XQ (Locked)

Keyholder: Nic Velzeboer 01760 337382

### **West Rudham, St Peter:**

PE31 8TE (Locked)

Keyholder: Mrs Rouse 01485 528376

*Some of these churches are fairly remote and the postcodes are for the nearest house, which may not be immediately by the church. In these cases and where the churches are reached by tracks and private drives, further directions are given.*

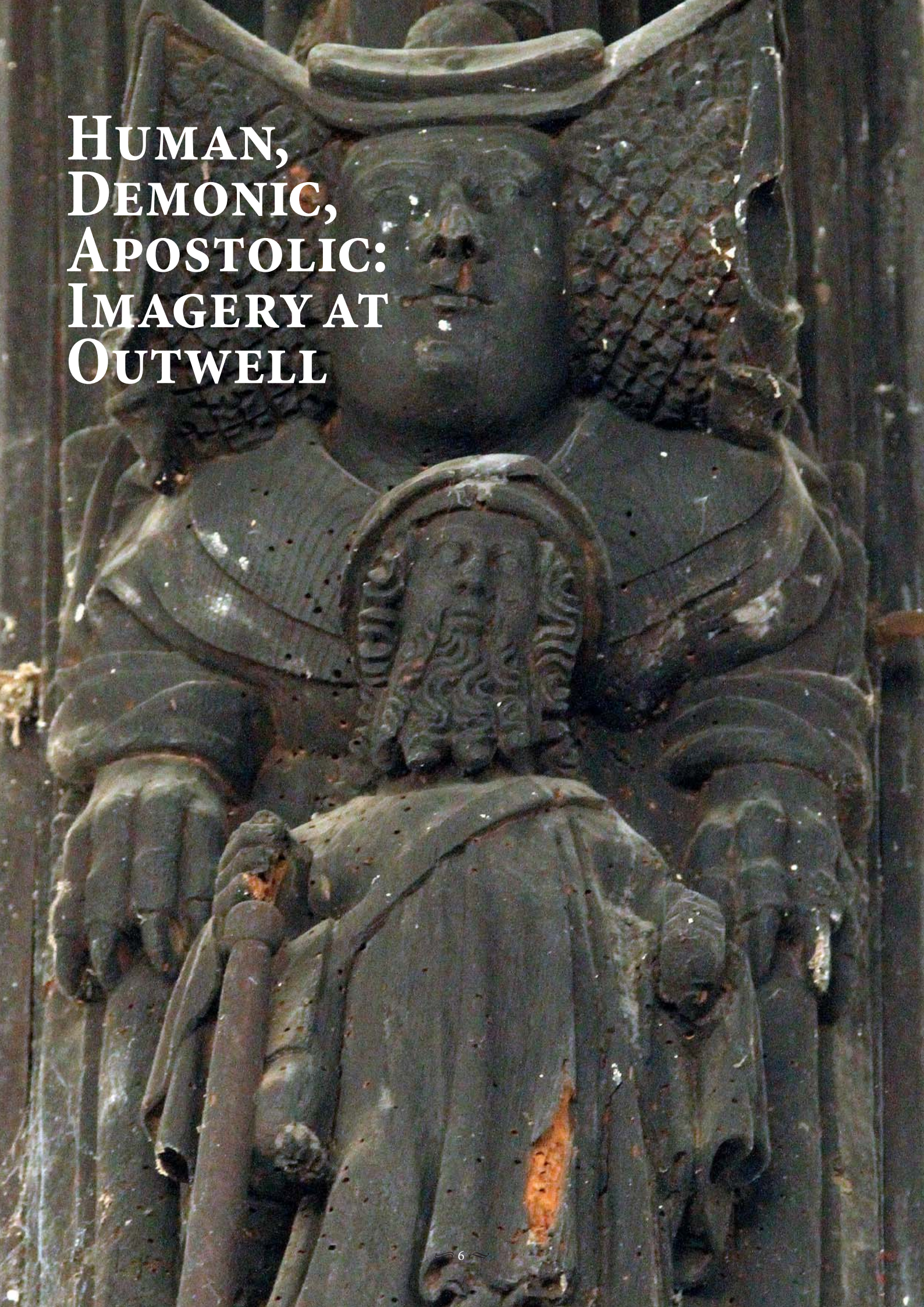
## BEQUEST OR LEGACY TO THE TRUST?

The Directors/Trustees would be extremely grateful to any member, or indeed non-member, who decided that the Trust would be a suitable recipient for a bequest. Any amount of cash or kind can be given to a registered charity before death or in a will without the payment of Inheritance Tax. Ask a lawyer to draw up the will, or a codicil to an existing will. For those who write their own wills, instructions are to be found on the official form available from any Law Stationers. Your bequest should be worded as follows:  
I give the following residual charitable legacy and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of the legatees shall be good and sufficient discharge to my executors therefore; To the Charity, The Norfolk Churches Trust (Registered No. 271176) of Manor Farmhouse, Diss road, Tibenham, Norwich NR16 1QF

## GIFT AID AND OTHER TAX MATTERS

Please note that any gifts and donations are available for Gift Aid (providing that you are a UK taxpayer). The response by donors and members to enable us to claim this tax continues to be most encouraging and beneficial to the Trust. There is a further method of donating to the Trust which might prove "painless". It is possible for those who have paid excess tax to HM Revenue and Customs to elect to have this excess donated and paid direct to The Norfolk Churches Trust with Gift Aid enhancement. Details are available from HM Revenue and Customs.



A large, dark, weathered wooden sculpture of a figure, possibly a saint or demon, with a halo and a sword. The figure is standing, wearing a long, flowing robe. The face is pale and somewhat featureless, with a serene expression. The halo is a simple, dark, circular shape. The figure holds a sword in its right hand, which is raised above its head. The sword has a long, straight blade and a simple hilt. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a stone or wood surface. The overall appearance is aged and somewhat decayed, with visible wood grain and some damage to the surface.

# HUMAN, DEMONIC, APOSTOLIC: IMAGERY AT OUTWELL



It's not unusual to go into a Norfolk parish church and see figures of angels on the roof, and sections of rood screens visible, either in their original location or in another but still performing some relevant function. Medieval glass might also be in evidence, whether in fragments or in heraldic formation, or in the shape of one or two figures. We might even find monumental brasses in whole or in part, and perhaps also stone tombs. And even if associated medieval iconography is challenging for a modern audience, all these aspects are relatively familiar.

Here I want to consider some medieval roof fittings that are not familiar, that confuse and confound and that might even have been created to confuse and confound. Fittingly, perhaps, they are on the edge of the county of Norfolk, on the border with Cambridgeshire and close to south Lincolnshire. On the edges of counties, they are on the edge of our understanding of medieval iconography, and perhaps also on the edge of what was acceptable.

And so to the place: the Church of St Clement, Outwell, in west Norfolk. The village lies about five miles from the town of Wisbech and some eighteen miles from the port of King's Lynn. The county town of Norwich is some fifty miles away; but the cathedral town of Ely is less than half that distance. This was a parish that had a hinterland of its own, perhaps different from that of many in Norfolk. Further, although it lay in the diocese of Norwich it was the bishop of Ely that appointed to the living.

The churches of St Clement Outwell and St Peter Upwell, one mile distant from each other, are both large and both bear testimony to the relative wealth of this part of the county in the late middle ages, particularly from the middle decades of the fifteenth century. Their proximity to Lynn and Wisbech, both prosperous places at that period, the fertility of the soil, and the presence of a number of yeoman families, is borne out in the rich decoration of these churches. Some of this has survived, not least exceptionally fine late-medieval stained glass in Outwell, and imagery on the roofs of both churches, both distinct and intriguing.

I mentioned angels earlier, and of these there are plenty in Outwell, from the early and later fifteenth century. Some of the most striking angel figures are on the nave roof, as at Upwell, almost flying out beneath the main structural beams, but they are barely visible. In the restoration of the 1860s the roof was covered with a protective stain: this has blackened, rendering most of the details of the roof carving almost invisible to the naked eye. Faculty documents associated with the restoration mention the figures of angels, the need to repair some of them and to provide protection. No mention is made of their high-level companions.



Up on the roof posts, just beneath the position of the angels, and on stone ledges constructed to hold them, are twelve sets of extraordinary figures. They are in pairs. Common to each pair is a figure of an apostle, approximately 90 centimetres in height. Although clothed in the same way, each is distinct from the other either in facial features or the tilt of the head or the attribute they are carrying, or the shape of the beard or the hair. They are a calm, benign, presence.

Bending over them, carved into the curve of the roof post, is another half-length figure, certainly not saintly and in one or two cases positively demonic.

The non-apostolic figures, are difficult to measure because of their shape, but a little larger than the apostles. There are men and women, demons and a wild man; there is a tonsured cleric and a cowled monk; two men with elaborate, bourgeois headgear; two women, one wearing simple headgear, the other an elaborate winged headdress and she has claws instead of hands; and in two cases beetle infestation has damaged figures beyond





recognition. The styles of headgear help us to date the figures to the period 1420-30 and it was probably in these decades that a clerestory was added to St Clement's and a new elaborate roof structure installed.

These sets of figures are unique. But the mixing of sacred and secular imagery is not, and certainly not in East Anglian churches, nor is the pairing of angels or apostles with other figures. An outstanding example of both phenomena can be found in the north aisle of St Mary's Mildenhall, Suffolk. There on the roof angels and demons are side by side, animals and birds both natural and fantastical can be found. In Norfolk, in a number of Marshland churches close to Outwell bench-end imagery mixes sacred and secular, grotesque and hybrid. Much closer to home the churches at Elm and Upwell display roof imagery that includes the juxtaposition of animal and angelic figures. At Fincham, some 15 miles to the east, there is a similar mix of angelic and demonic imagery, whilst at nearby Emneth the roof post is reserved for apostles. What is unique at Outwell is the deliberate pairing of the figures. We can get some idea of this uniqueness if we look at a more normal composition, again in Mildenhall and on a roof post in the north aisle. Here the graceful, full-length, figure of an angel bends protectively over a smaller figure of an apostle. The angelic and the saintly are on the roof, part of the church which, in the medieval mind was stretching up to heaven. In the writings of William Durandus, a thirteenth-century theologian and commentator on the significance of sacred architecture, the roof signified the supreme virtue of charity, above all and over all.

One can, then, begin to understand that to put on roof post - a place normally reserved for angels or apostles - the pairing of human and apostolic imagery in such strange variety as at Outwell must have been as shocking at the time as it is intriguing and puzzling now.

No written records have survived that might help us to understand the intentions of those who might have commissioned or carved the roof-post imagery at Outwell. We can conjecture from the examples given above that there was a fashion for, an interest in mixing the sacred and the secular and that Outwell was following a trend. It is also clear that there was a group of craftsmen working in the area - possibly from a workshop that originated in Bury St Edmunds and with knowledge of the latest trends from the near continent - who were very skilled and not afraid to demonstrate the range of their skill, and their wit.

Given the evidence from styles of dress and the likely date of the work at Outwell, and matching this with some evidence for work at Mildenhall, we can pinpoint the early years of the fifteenth





century. This was a time of relative international peace with the victories of Henry V in France, of some evidence of growing prosperity with the slow but steady growth of the population after episodes of plague, and of a growing yeoman class. Members of the latter might own land and property and they might also have family members training in the professions. It was also a time of orthodoxy in the church as a reaction to the challenge of the heretical views of Wycliffite clergy and laity and the more populist expression of heresy in the shape of Lollardy that had some success in parts of East Anglia. In any community there would have been evidence of challenge to the old ways and the desire to combat these challenges: and there is no doubt that some of those working as master carvers felt they had 'space' and some encouragement to reflect this new more mixed society.

One of the themes common to the pairings of figures in Outwell is the regularity of the apostles. They are individuals and, as mentioned above, each figure has distinguishing features, but they are definitely all part of one group, giving one message of harmony and saintly calm, dignity and dedication as symbolized by the attributes they are holding. By contrast the half-length figures bending over them have no common theme or shape. Another element is the positioning itself: apostles in front, standing tall and free; human and demonic figures behind, bending over, stooped over, bearing or borne down by the weight of the roof. Or so it seems when the figures are viewed from the ground. When viewed at eye level, close up on the roof, there is a completely different perspective, both figures – half-length and full-length – seem free of each other and less burdened. Did the carvers know of this dual effect? And what was its significance to them.

This dual aspect gives us, perhaps, some insight into the message behind these pairings. An initial examination might suggest a message of the contrast between good and evil, virtue and vice: the saintly apostles, versus the avaricious merchants/bourgeoisie, the lecherous woman with her fancy and suggestive clothing and claws to hook the unsuspecting, the devils with their tempting grins, and the Wildman outside the norms of civic society, or the monk and cleric who did not live up to their vows. These were all themes of writings at the time, some Lollard writings, but also orthodox pastoral literature, the church under pressure, individuals and society that needed reform.

But, quite possibly, it was all a little more simple. The nave was the part of the church that was the responsibility of the parish, and clearly in the early decades of the fifteenth century there had been a concerted effort at Outwell to raise funds and raise the roof line. This would have been a source of pride for the parish and particularly for the donors. Here on





the roof, coming close to the realm of heaven, there was an opportunity to display not only the piety of the parish but its individuality and its wealth. Bring in the best craftsmen and ask them to do their best work and to provide something special. We have the saintly figures of apostles, beautifully carved and alongside them what might be termed a cast of characters, the kind of individuals that might have been found in the locality – men and women, clergy and laity, with all their foibles, living alongside the devilish and alternative in life. One might also be reminded that there was good and evil in all humans, that each person has two aspects, and that only when one reaches the saintly state of the apostles does the one triumph over the other. What is certain is that these figures would have made their audience stop and think. The fact that this imagery was not repeated elsewhere suggests that it was too uncomfortable, too challenging, perhaps even scandalous: and for that it has remained unique. The figures are now in a parlous state: damp, beetle infestation, and the general decay of age has put them in grave danger. The parish as a whole, supported by the Friends of St Clement's, in particular are engaged in a serious struggle to raise funds to restore them. Please help if you can to preserve these very special Norfolk figures.

### **Dr Claire Daunton**

#### **List of organisations supporting us:**

Heritage Lottery Fund  
Norfolk Churches Trust  
English Heritage  
ChurchCare/The Wolfson Foundation  
Outwell Parish Council

*With special thanks to photographer, Mike Dixon*







# NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST SPONSORED BICYCLE RIDE AND WALK

I am pleased to announce that the Bike Ride raised an amazing £100,205 in 2015 so I would like to thank everybody who took part either cycling, walking, driving or manning the churches. We would have beaten last year if the same proportion of money had been 'gift aided', so I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate how important it is to fill in the sponsorship forms correctly.

I thought I would report a few statistics, highlights and results of the competitions that run alongside the bike ride from last year's event.

- The top fund raiser and Winner of the **Prince of Wales Certificate** raised £1,868.75
- The top cyclist visited 55 churches and will have his name on the 'Wall of Fame' on the website.
- The top walker visited 50 churches and will also have his name on the "Wall of Fame".
- Four People won prizes for the **Cheffins Photographic Competition** and had their photographs published in the EDP.
- Twelve out of twenty-two Areas managed to increase their figures from last year.
- Hempstead All Saints just pipped Burnham Thorpe as the top church (£3,475 v £3,222)



*The 2014 Prince of Wales' certificate is presented to Jeremy O'Sullivan by General Lord Dannatt GCB, CBE, MC, DL*





- The number of churches which recorded visits by car increased to 109.

On the day itself I had planned to meet up with my local Parish Organiser but foolishly I thought I would take in an extra church on the way and missed the time for our rendezvous. I was not overly concerned as I thought I would easily catch up. How wrong could I be as to my dismay I noticed, on reading the 'signing in' forms, that at each church the gap was widening. After half a dozen churches I admitted defeat and spent the rest of the day at my own pace enjoying the countryside and exploring each church. I was pleased that many of the people who were kindly manning the churches felt that there were more people taking part.

The Bike Ride Committee tried very hard to publicise the event with Road Signs, Media, and contacting Companies and Organisations. Last year we tried an

experiment of putting 5000 flyers in school bags and now that we have Bear Grylls as celebrity champion (Chief Scout, television presenter and author) we made a big push to the scouts to try and get them involved. However none of this effort beats friends persuading more friends to take part and enjoy the day together. So please do try and encourage more people to pump up their tyres, dust off their walking boots, pack a picnic and plan a route to visit as many of the most beautiful Churches in Norfolk as you can on the **10 September 2016**. Don't forget that Cheffins Fine Art Auctioneers are kindly sponsoring the Photographic Competition so there are three £100 prizes to be won and the chance to get your picture published in the EDP. Please see the website for more details.

**CHARLES INGLIS**





# FUNDRAISING EVENTS

**Ferdinand Mount talk, 13<sup>th</sup> June, West Barsham Hall.** We were much entertained by Ferdinand Mount with his intelligent and funny description of some of the exploits of his family in India. His talk coincided with the publication of his book *The Tears of the Rajas* and several members of the audience were able to share their own family's (or maybe families') experiences in India with him. The wonderful position, garden and interiors of West Barsham Hall made the perfect setting (I rather enjoyed listening from the balcony – the talk being so popular). We are hugely grateful to the Jeremy and Susanna Soames for lending us their house and to all those who came or donated to the event, which raised over £2,500.

Soon after the West Barsham talk many of us enjoyed a fabulous evening in the amazing gardens of **Elsing Hall** (in photo above), by kind permission of Patrick Lines and Hang Yang Yap. It's hard to know what to pick out but I would probably have to chose the roses, the view of the weeping willow across the moat and the fantastic food (much of it donated by Frank Dale and Sons) produced with efficiency and verve by Elizabeth Hoare and her family. The evening raised nearly £4,000.

**Holkham opera 31 July, 1st August.** Lucia di Lammermoor and Marriage of Figaro. We gathered a few friends and had a wonderful evening, both watching Lucia di Lammermoor and having a picnic on the terrace overlooking the lake (Sarah Leicester is so good at this she even manages to make the evening weather work for us). A big thankyou here to not only the attendees, the Earl and Countess of Leicester for letting us use the Marble Hall, but also to the anonymous sponsors who fund the costs thereby allowing the income to raise £34,000 for NCT. We are all looking forward to Diva Opera returning with *Così fan Tutte* and *Don Pasquale* in July.

## **Secret Artists' Auction 18th November**

The Hostry at Norwich Cathedral was uncharacteristically at high octane buzz. The potential for Brits to find an opportunity to bargain hunt seemed much in evidence. Christopher Hartop, with his unerring taste and intelligence, had made a selection of fifty two high calibre works of art, which would have excelled

in any auction room. Where else, in an unassumingly small space, would the art lover find a Gerard Stamp side by side with a Maggi Hambling? No attributions given, no possible means of identity apparent. So the mystery lingered on, the quest for a bargain motivating the room, full to capacity. Solving whether the choice was David Cameron or Anthony Gormley was the quest and the atmosphere was intense. Young and old, people from all walks of life, craned to have the artist of their choice speak articulately from the work before their eyes. Doors had opened well in advance of the final decision making. The crowd, sustained by wine, canapes and animated conversation, continued until the eleventh hour to question, select, no hasty decisions, no divulging of their personal insights. Tension and a discreet withholding of commitment continued until Christopher announced the time had come for the serious part of the evening to begin. The event provided members with a good evening's entertainment.

But also an unusual way of raising funds for the inexhaustible demands of repairing and maintaining Norfolk's distinguished and unique Churches. This, the inspired idea of Christopher, whose meticulous choreography saw that the evening was an unparalleled success, raised £10,000.

I'm not writing about the Bike Ride as it is covered elsewhere in the report – except to say a big thankyou to Charlie Inglis and his team.

We didn't run a House by the Church event this year; it had got out of sync from the 2014 Stately Car Boot, but at the time of writing I've just been on the May 2016 one in west and north Norfolk. Fascinating as ever, lots of houses I had never seen – if only there were more hours on that day! We have decided not to do one in a year we do a Stately Car Boot and 2017 is the next Stately Car Boot. Please start sorting your attics and booking 1st May in your diaries. If you don't want to have a car boot but want to be involved please let us know ([statelycarboot@gmail.com](mailto:statelycarboot@gmail.com)) as we always need lots of volunteers on the day. Further details to follow in the autumn

**CLARE AGNEW**





# CHURCH TOURS

*All Saints, Thorpe Abbots.*

As we embark on the 47th season of Church Tours, it seems fitting to remember why they were started and how they have evolved. Initially Richard Butler-Stoney and Hugh Holbeach had the inspiration to encourage local people to visit and cherish the medieval buildings still standing in nearly every Parish in Norfolk. The first Church Tours began in the Brisley and Elmham Deanery in 1970. Nowadays they have radiated out to reach most parts of the County, so every year the plan is to take in some churches in the further regions, but also to re-visit those in the centre, on four Sunday afternoons each summer.

The legend is that it was an afternoon spent with Church Tours that moved Lady Harrod to found the Norfolk Churches Trust in 1975. She realised the wonderful treasures that we have with our Parish Churches and their contents, and the necessity to encourage people to visit them and help support them financially.

From the very beginning it was decided that a new Leaflet would be written for every church visited, at a

time when very few churches had any form of Guide. The Leaflets were simple folded sheets, illustrated with drawings and in an easily understood format, to be sold in the churches at a modest price. By the time he died in 2003, Richard had produced Leaflets for nearly 400 different churches, and over 200 have been done since, (though many of these are new writings for churches that originally had them done in the early days).



*St Peter's, West Rudham (one of the Trust's leased churches).*





Swannington, St Margaret's.



Billingford, St Leonard.



Attlebridge, St Andrew.

The Butler-Stoney Family are still involved, with Tom being responsible for the photography (no longer are there drawings!) and the printing on computer (no longer having to make up bulk orders to take to the printers in the nearest town!). Mark and Isabel are also drawn in, either folding Leaflets, helping with the car parking or whatever needs doing! Richard Barham and I do most of the organisation before, during and after the Tours, as well as actually acting as the Guides going around the churches.

Whilst the new Leaflets are available to purchase at the start of each Tour, everyone is most welcome to attend without there being any charge. The only request is that something should be placed in the offertory box at each and every church, to help the church funds. As ever, the Leaflets are then made available for the individual churches to purchase for ever more, should they wish to make use of them to interest in their buildings and generate funds.

There are many happy memories of Richard's wife Rosamond and his sister Mary Taylor putting on

wonderful teas in Village Halls. Now a more modest approach is to ask one of the churches of the afternoon if they would like to provide a cup of tea for the crowd of people, again with donations to the church funds. It is up to the kind folk concerned if they also provide a packet of biscuits or a selection of delicious cakes and/or sandwiches.

Finally the request is made for the last church of the day to provide some form of Evening Prayer. Sometimes it turns out to be full choral Evensong, sometimes a more informal Service, sometimes a quiet said Evening Prayer, but it does seem the right way to end a Sunday afternoon, much appreciated by the local congregation and those who choose to stay for the Service.

Throughout the years the number of people turning up for a Church Tour can be anywhere from 50 upwards, even to 75 or more. The time is approaching when more help will be needed. Is there anyone out there willing to join in and plan how the future of Church Tours will work out?

**LYN STILGOE**



# The Norfolk Churches Trust Limited

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# The Norfolk Churches Trust Ltd.

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales.

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President: General the Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL

Chairman: Ian Lonsdale, TD

Secretary: Mrs Scilla Latham

Manor Farmhouse, Diss Road, Tibenham, Norwich NR16 1QF

## 40th Annual General Meeting

at the Parish Church of Fornsett St Mary on Tuesday 27th September 2016 at 5:30pm.

## A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Presiding Chairman's opening remarks.
3. To confirm the Minutes of the Thirty-eighth Annual General Meeting held at the Parish Church of All Saints, Intwood on 10th September 2014.
4. Any matters arising from those Minutes.
5. To receive the Chairman's Report.
6. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's Report.
7. To receive the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2015
8. Election of the board of Directors/Trustees.
9. Election to the Advisory Council.
10. Propose the re-appointment of Lovewell Blake as Auditors.
11. Any other business of which notice has been received of not less than one week before the meeting.

to be followed by a talk by

**Graham Prior**

Churchwarden of St Mary's and driving force behind the restoration of the church.

The Friends of St Mary's received the Historic England Angel Award for

the best rescue or repair of an Historic Place of Worship in 2015

*Light refreshments will be available after the talk*

**Evensong will follow at approximately 7:00 p.m.**



# Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting of The Norfolk Churches Trust Ltd

**At All Saints church, Great Melton  
on Wednesday 9th September 2015**

**Present:** General Lord Dannatt (President and Presiding Chairman), Sara Foster (Chairman of Board of Directors/ Trustees), Scilla Latham (Company Secretary) and Directors/Trustees, Advisory Councillors and Members of the Trust were also present.

1. **Apologies for absence** had been received from Jonathan Ellis (Hon Treasurer), Ian Whittle (Advisory Council member) and 12 Members of the Trust.
2. **Presiding Chairman's opening remarks.** General Lord Dannatt opened the meeting by saying that it was almost exactly the moment when the Queen became the country's longest reigning monarch. He moved on to thank Sara Foster for the excellent way she had undertaken her duties throughout her term as Chairman of the Trust, and in particular for steering the Trust through the transition following Malcolm Fisher's decision to retire. He welcomed Ian Lonsdale as in-coming Chairman. Additionally, he paid tribute to the many members who give so much time and energy to organising fundraising events, which are key to the continuing success of the Trust.
3. The **Minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting** held at All Saints church, Intwood on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were confirmed by the meeting as being a correct record.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes.** There were no matters arising.
5. **To receive the Chairman's Report.** Sara Foster thanked everyone involved in the outstandingly successful fundraising events this year, which raised a record £110,000: the highlight being the Stately Car Boot Sale at Sennowe Park. The Bike Ride raised a further £103,000 to be shared with the parishes. Yet again, the Trust received generous donations from a wide range of Trusts as well as a grant from South Norfolk District Council. The Trust was able to provide much needed financial support to 46 churches. The first phase of the HLF funded roof repairs at All Saints church Cockthorpe has been completed. Malcolm Fisher retired after 19 years as Secretary and Scilla Latham who appointed in his place will already become familiar to many of you. Sara reported the deaths of three long-term supporters of the Trust: the Earl of Leicester, the Rev. Jonathan Peel and Mark Bailly.
6. **To receive the Honorary Treasurer's Report.** Unfortunately Jonathan Ellis was not present. Ian Lonsdale read a brief report on his behalf.
7. **To receive the Annual Accounts** for the year ending 31 March 2015. Caroline Egerton proposed and the Rev Jeremy Haselock seconded.
8. **Re-election of Directors/Trustees.** It was proposed by Sara Foster, seconded by Sarah Leicester and unanimously agreed that Peter de Bunsen, Caroline Egerton, Jonathan Ellis and Michael Sayer be re-elected as Trustees.
9. **To elect Fiona Fraser to the board of Directors/Trustees.** Proposed by Holly Rawkins, seconded by Ian Lonsdale.
10. **Re-election to the Advisory Council.** It was proposed by Sara Foster, seconded by Michael Sayer and unanimously agreed that the following be re-elected: Richard Barham, Bridget Buxton, Maurice de Bunsen, Fr Philip Gray, The Rev Canon Jeremy Haselock, Brian Iles, Karen Knight, George Lynne and Ashley Spooner.
11. **To elect Jane Lane and John Vigar to the Advisory Council.** Proposed by Holly Rawkins, seconded by Caroline Egerton.
12. **To propose the re-appointment of Lovewell Blake as Auditors.** Proposed by Ian Lonsdale, seconded by Sara Foster and unanimously agreed that Lovewell Blake be re-appointed to hold office until the conclusion of the next meeting at which accounts are laid before the Company.
13. **Any other business.** Since no items were raised, the President took the opportunity to congratulate Scilla Latham on getting to grips with the role of Secretary to the Trust so quickly and for establishing an easy working relationship with Trustees and members of the Advisory Council.

The meeting ended at 5:50pm.

The AGM was followed by a talk by The Rt Revd Graham James, Lord Bishop of Norwich





South Acre, St George: £7,000. Tower and roof repairs  
(photo: Ruth Blackman)



Stow Bedon, St Botolph: £7,000. Roof, rainwater goods, drainage plus extensive internal repairs. (photo: Nicholas Warns)



Syderstone, St Mary: £4,000. Chancel & tower repairs.  
(photo: Ruth Brennan)



Wighton, All Saints: £5,000. Nave & aisle roof repairs.  
(photo: Chris Codling)



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