



# Chairman's Report

I was delighted to have been elected Chairman of the Trust in October particularly as my predecessors have been some of the most influential and hard-working fund-raisers in Norfolk. As a newcomer to the Trust one of my first actions was to appoint all previous Chairmen Vice Presidents along with some other important supporters. These include: Bolton Agnew, Charles Bingham Newland, Peter de Bunsen, Lady Egerton, Neil Foster, Sara Foster, Ian Lonsdale and Michael Sayer, who are all previous Chairmen, as well as Lady Leicester, Roger Last, Emma Bridgewater and Matthew Rice, who have contributed so much to the Trust. Their fund of experience, knowledge and wisdom are really useful to me as Chairman and to the Trust in general.

It is also a great pleasure to chair a charity which has been so well run and with enough assets to pay the costs of the administration of the charity which means that every penny of fund-raising goes directly to making grants to Norfolk churches.

This year I am delighted to report that our balance sheet ended the year even stronger than it had begun. Despite the fact that there was no car boot sale this year our

total income, boosted by substantial grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, was £541,907, little changed from the previous year (£542,938). As a result we were able to offer grants totalling £182,060 to 48 churches and substantially complete the restoration work on our leased church at Snetterton. Unsurprisingly in a year with no Stately Car Boot Sale and significant calls on our resources, our net expenditure exceeded our regular income by £18,305 but a stock market recovery during the year increased the value of our investments by £105,358 giving us a surplus after investment gains of £87,053 and increasing the value of our balance sheet to £1,871,754.

We received £193,680 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the repairs at Snetterton in the last financial year. The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme refunds eligible VAT spend and under this scheme the Trust claimed £5,726 on the Snetterton project and £7,590.96 on the Barmer Tower repair project, altogether these grants totalled £206,996.96. Donations totalling £47,202.75 were received including major donations from the John Jarrold Trust, J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust, the Bedhampton Charitable Trust, the Charles

Littlewood Hill Trust and the Lady Hind Trust. There was also a legacy of £5,000 from the estate of Richard Nunn as well as a number of collections made in memory of supporters of the Trust.

I have set up three sub-committees, which support the general working of the Trust:

**The Grants Committee** is chaired by Michael Sayer who has huge experience of Norfolk churches having been a founder member of the Trust. His committee includes Scilla Latham, John Maddison, Alison Wakes-Miller, Michael Wingate and Frederique van Till. The work that this committee does and the organisation and supervision of projects is outstanding and great thanks are due to our Secretary, Scilla Latham for her excellent management. This committee advises the Advisory Council and the Trustees after careful deliberation, the amounts to be awarded to churches applying for grants. This year grants were given to 48 churches totalling £182,060 including major grants to Harpley, North Tuddenham, Pulham St Mary and Sutton. We continue to give grants for lead roof repairs resulting from thefts in previous years: thankfully the Norfolk Roof Alarm scheme has virtually



Bishop Graham James and his wife Julie with Peter Sheppard, at the presentation of platters designed by Matthew Rice.

eliminated these incidents. Since the Trust was founded in 1976, approximately £6.4 million has been awarded to churches in Norfolk and the Diocese of Norwich, which makes it one of the most effective county trusts in the country.

**The Events Committee** which is chaired by Patrick Lines puts together an annual programme of events each of which is managed either by a sub-committee or an individual. It is this programme that not only raises money but also gives an incentive for people to join and pay a subscription.

Some events are not annual such as the Stately Car Boot Sale, which happens every three years and provides the largest amount of income. As this did not take place last year, the overall income from events was down, but this is to be expected.

The Annual Bike Ride co-ordinated and chaired by Charlie Inglis aims to get participants on bikes, or car or foot to visit as many Norfolk Churches as possible.



## Chairman's Report *continued*

The person who visits the most churches gets a certificate signed by the Prince of Wales. Prizes are given for the best photographs in three separate categories. Last year, despite poor weather £91,496 was raised, which was shared between the individual parishes and the Trust. This is an outstanding achievement and generates goodwill throughout the diocese for the Trust.

Last year one of the major fund-raising events was the House by the Church whose subcommittee was chaired by Lady Egerton. Members of the Trust visited 22 houses in North West Norfolk on a warm day in early May and were made incredibly welcome by the owners. This event raised £25,263.

Where else but in Norfolk could you go to a stately home on the scale of Holkham Hall to hear opera, drink champagne and support medieval churches? Lady Leicester continues to organise these very successful performances which last year were Die Fledermaus and The Abduction from the Seraglio, raising £23,950 for the Trust.

Lady Fraser's talks which she organises almost single-handedly, included some outstanding speakers including George Carter, Dr Xavier Bray and Allan Mallinson. In total £6,280 was raised.

**The Membership Committee** chaired by Scilla Landale has a difficult task with the new Data Protection legislation in that we cannot contact members and supporters unless they have given their express

permission. Most have but there are still some members and supporters who didn't respond to the letter and emails asking them to give us permission, which makes communicating very difficult and we get complaints that they are not being invited to events. We are entitled to send corporate communications such as the Annual Report because it does not come into the category of fund-raising but invitations to events are not permitted so please ensure you have given us permission. Currently, total membership stands at 1,483 which marks a steady increase over the past few years. However, we would like to substantially increase our membership and are looking into new ways of doing this using promotions and reciprocal relationships with other likeminded charities.

We are delighted that David Missen has taken over from Jonathan Ellis as the Hon Treasurer of the Trust and we were very pleased to welcome Helen Evans back as Financial Administrator after a year away from the Trust.

Peter de Bunsen and Clare Agnew have stood down from the Board: both have given exceptional service on the Board. As a former Chairman, Peter's experience, generosity and wise advice will be sadly missed. Clare coordinated the Trust's portfolio of fund-raising events for several years: under her watch the Stately Car Boot Sale has become phenomenally successful. Bridget Buxton and Dick

Barham have decided to stand down from the Advisory Council after many years: we are grateful to both of them for the many ways they have supported the work of the Trust.

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Bishop Graham after 19 years as Diocesan Bishop and one of our Vice-Patrons. He has always been supportive of the Trust's work, sometimes intervening directly on our behalf. The Trustees organised a candlelit farewell party on the Eve of Candlemass

and presented him with two plates beautifully designed by Matthew Rice and made and generously given by Emma Bridgewater which featured Norwich Cathedral surrounded by Norfolk country churches. However, we are looking forward to welcoming Bishop Graham Usher as the new Bishop of Norwich and hope that he will also take an active role within the Trust.

**Peter Sheppard**  
Chairman, 21 June 2019

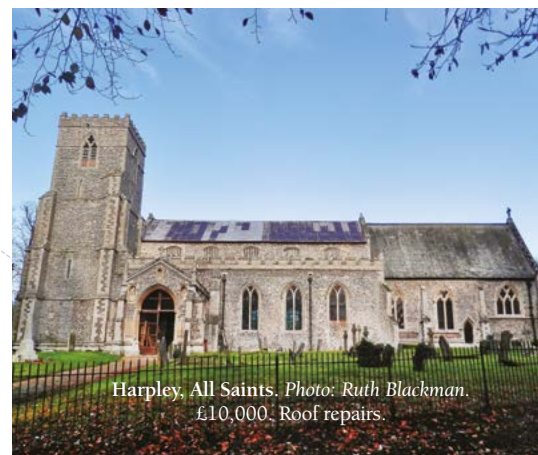
### Privacy Statement

*The preservation of your privacy is important to the Norfolk Churches Trust. We treat all the personal data you give us with great care and we are committed to letting you know how we use your personal information and only making responsible use of your data.*

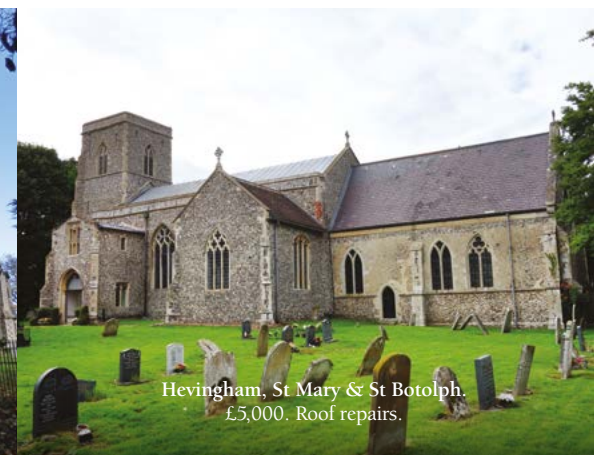
The Norfolk Churches Trust (NCT) complies with the General Data Protection Regulation by keeping personal data up to date; by storing and destroying it securely; by not collecting or retaining excessive amounts of data; by protecting personal data from loss, misuse, unauthorised access and disclosure, and by ensuring that appropriate technical measures are in place to protect personal data.

We use personal data for the administration of NCT membership records, promoting the work of the Trust; administering fund-raising events; the administration of grants to churches and the administration of subscriptions, donations and Gift Aid.

The full Privacy Policy Statement is available on our website: [www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk](http://www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk)



Harpley, All Saints. Photo: Ruth Blackman.  
£10,000. Roof repairs.



Hevingham, St Mary & St Botolph.  
£5,000. Roof repairs.

# Financial Summary

## Norfolk Churches Trust

Year ended 31 March 2019

### Summary Statement of Financial Activities

	2018-19 £	2017-18 £
<b>Income from:</b>		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	51,860	47,907
Legacies	5,000	166,113
Subscriptions	37,155	35,366
Heritage Lottery Fund grants	268,517	13,360
Leased churches	5,487	1,373
Other trading activities		
Sponsored bicycle ride	90,895	96,397
Trust events	67,866	131,622
Sale of goods	5,431	2,507
Investment income	49,696	48,293
<b>Total income</b>	<b>581,907</b>	<b>542,938</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>		
<b>Raising funds</b>		
Costs of generating voluntary income	(12,875)	(13,220)
Fundraising costs incl. parish share of ride)	(74,878)	(75,953)
Charitable activities		
Grants offered	(182,060)	(241,614)
Expenditure on leased and other churches	(272,191)	(130,008)
Support costs	(47,770)	(41,652)
Governance costs	(10,438)	(9,177)
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>(600,212)</b>	<b>(511,624)</b>
<b>Net (deficit)/income for the year</b>	<b>(18,305)</b>	<b>31,314</b>
<b>Net gains/(losses) on investment assets</b>	<b>105,358</b>	<b>(67,296)</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>87,053</b>	<b>(35,982)</b>
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>	<b>1,784,701</b>	<b>1,820,683</b>
<b>Fund balances carried forward at the end of the year</b>	<b>1,871,754</b>	<b>1,784,701</b>

### Summary Balance Sheet

	31 March 2019 £	31 March 2018 £
<b>Fixed asset investments</b>	1,434,687	1,337,900
<b>Net current assets</b>	437,067	446,801
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,871,754</b>	<b>1,784,701</b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>		
<b>Restricted</b>	—	—
<b>Unrestricted</b>	1,871,754	1,784,701
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>1,871,754</b>	<b>1,784,701</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 independently examined by MHA Larking Gowen and received an unqualified report. They were approved by the Trustees on 20 June 2019 and will be submitted to the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies.

David Missen - Hon Treasurer

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

I 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.

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

### Opinion

In my 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 2018.

GILES KERKHAM FCA DChA

For and on behalf of MHA LARKING GOWEN LLP  
King Street House, 15 Upper King Street, Norwich NR3 1RB  
20 June 2019

# Grants 2018-19

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 £
Ashwellthorpe, All Saints			10,000
Baconsthorpe, St Mary		6,000	-
Barford, St Botolph	1,500	1,500	-
Beachamwell, St Mary	500		500
Beighton, All Saints	8,500		8,500
Bracon Ash, St Nicholas			10,000
Bradfield, St Giles	5,000		5,000
Bradwell, St Nicholas	300		300
Brisley, St Bartholomew	4,000	4,000	362
Bunwell, St Michael		5,000	-
Burgh, St Margaret	-1,000		-
Burnham Deepdale, St Mary			4,000
Carleton, St Peter	5,000		5,000
Carleton Forehoe, St Mary			5,000
Carlton Rode, All Saints		4,000	-
Carlton Rode, Baptist Church		5,000	-
Caston, Holy Cross		2,000	-
Catfield, All Saints	4,000		4,000
Cawston, St Agnes	4,000		4,000
Clippesby, St Peter			1,200
Colton, St Andrew	3,000	8,000	-
Congham, St Andrew			3,000
Crostwight, All Saints		2,544	456
Deopham, St Andrew			1,000
Easton, St Peter	2,000		2,000
East Walton, St Mary		4,000	600
Edgefield Old Church		4,137.63	862
Felbrigg, St Margaret			3,000
Felthorpe, St Margaret			1,000
Fersfield, St Andrew		4,000	-
Field Dalling, St Andrew		9,202.18	-
Fornsett, St Mary			2,000
Gateley, St Helens	2,000	2,000	-
Great Yarmouth, St Peter & St Spiridon			2,000
Harpley, St Lawrence	10,000		10,000
Haveringland, St Peter	500		500
Hevingham, St Mary & St Botolph		5,000	-
Herringfleet, St Margaret		8,000	-
Hindringham, St Martin	3,000		3,000
Hoe, St Andrew	5,000		5,000
Honing, St Peter & St Paul		3,000	-
Houghton next Harpley			5,000
Hunstanton, St Edmund	1,000		1,000
Ingham Holy Trinity	700		700
Kirstead, St Margaret	5,000		5,000
Kings Lynn, St Margaret		5,000	-
Langham, St Andrew & St Mary		7,250	3
Lessingham, All Saints			4,000
Marlingford, Assumption of the BVM			2,000
Martham, St Mary	1,500		1,500
Merton, St Peter			1,300
Middleton, St Mary			8,000
<b>Carried forward</b>	<b>65,500</b>	<b>89,634</b>	<b>120,783</b>

<b>Brought forward</b>	<b>65,500</b>	<b>89,634</b>	<b>120,783</b>
Mundham, St Peter			1,000
Mutford, St Andrew		1,100	-
Narford, St Mary	3,750		8,750
Newton-by-Castleacre, St Mary	7,000		8,500
North Elmham, St Mary	5,000		5,000
Northrepps, St Mary the Virgin		4,000	-
North Tuddemham, St Mary	15,000		15,000
Norwich Heartease, St Francis	4,000	1,897	4,000
Old Buckenham, All Saints	7,000	7,000	-
Oxborough, St John		6,889.67	0
Pentney, St Mary Magdalene			6,000
Postwick, All Saints	500		500
Pulham St Mary	10,500	500	10,000
Runhall, All Saints	-188		-
Saxthorpe, St Andrew	2,000	2,000	-
Sea Palling, St Margaret	5,000	5,000	-
Scottow, All Saints	7,000		7,000
Sloley, St Bartolomew	5,000		5,000
South Raynham, St Martin		10,000	-
Starston, St Margaret		10,000	-
Stockton, St Michael	1,000		1,000
Strumpshaw, St Peter		3,000	-
Surlingham, St Mary	7,000		7,000
Sustead, St Peter & St Paul		10,000	-
Sutton, St Michael	10,000		10,000
Swannington, St Margaret		5,000	-
Swainsthorpe, St Peter	4,000	4,000	-
Tasburgh, St Mary			2,000
Thompson, St Martins		17,000	-
Threxton, All Saints	5,000		5,000
Thrigby, St Mary	2,000		2,348
Thurning, St Andrew			7,000
Thurton, St Ethelbert	-1,000		-
Topcroft, St Margaret			400
Tunstead, St Mary			5,000
Twyford, St Nicholas			8,000
Upper Sheringham, All Saints	1,000		1,000
Walcott, All Saints			500
Waterden, All Saints		10,000	-
Weasenham, St Peter	4000	4,000	-
Welborne, All Saints	-1,0000		-
Wells next the Sea, St Nicholas			5,000
West Bradenham, St Andrew	3,000		3,000
West Lexham, St Nicholas		7,000	-
West Somerton, St Mary	2,000		2,000
Whinburgh, St Mary			7,000
Whissonsett, St Mary	1,000		1,000
Wickhampton, St Andrew	3,000		3,000
Wickmere, St Andrew		3,000	500
Wiggenhall, St Peter	2,000		2,000
Wolferton, St Peter	5,000		5,000
Wood Norton, St Nicholas			2,000
Wood Rising, St Nicholas	1,000		1,000
Wreningham, All Saints	5,000		5,000
Subject to other grant applications			10,768
<b>General Fund total</b>	<b>182,062</b>	<b>201,021</b>	<b>288,049</b>

Some grants have been outstanding for more than 5 years. Where there appears little likelihood of the related repairs proceeding in the short term, the grant has been withdrawn and is shown in brackets. In addition a further £50,000 was given towards the Roof Alarm Initiative (2017 - £nil).





## Funding Matters

West Lexham, St Nicholas. £7,000. Extensive repairs to whole church.

Medieval rural churches that over the centuries have been altered to follow changing tastes and repaired with varying degrees of expertise are notoriously difficult to keep in good condition. The battle against damp penetration from leaking roofs, damaged rainwater goods and poor drainage is a continuing theme but every year grant applications to the Trust range through the entire spectrum of fabric and furnishings repairs. In many cases, the need for a repair will have been flagged up in advance so a parish can start fund-raising years before the work is actually started but all too often the unexpected deterioration is identified during a Quinquennial Inspection: this is every churchwarden's nightmare. Since the Trust was founded in 1976, it has provided grants approaching £6.5 million as well as advice and support when help is most needed in order to ease the daunting task of coping with urgent repair projects. In some cases this support

may continue for years until the repairs are finally achieved.

This year the number of grants offered (48) increased slightly although the amount awarded (£182,002) was marginally down on last year. The £201,020 paid out to churches where repairs that had been awarded grants in previous years was exceptionally high and current outstanding grants totalling over £288,000 demonstrate why the Trust has to maintain a high level of reserves. Of the grants paid out, ten totalling £85,000 were to churches that had received substantial Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Grants for Places of Worship (GPOW) grants. It is still early days for the National Lottery Heritage Grants (NLHF), which have superseded the GPOW, so it is hard to tell the impact on church repair funding applications being considered under the same criteria of secular community projects. The good news is that a number of churches in the county have already been offered

NLHF grants: these include St Michael, Aslacton; All Saints, Old Buckenham, and St Peter, Merton (Illustrated on front cover). However there is no doubt that achieving the mandatory project outcomes are making the application process ever more challenging for remote rural churches with small or virtually no community.

This year has seen the completion of a number of large repair projects towards which the Trust awarded grants in the past, some of which have taken years to bring to fruition and were only made possible through HLF GPOW or the DCMS Roof Repair Fund. Notable amongst these are King's Lynn Minster (£5,000); St Andrew, Colton (£8,000); St Margaret, Herringfleet (£8,000); St Martin, South Raynham (£10,000); St Margaret, Starston (£10,000); St Peter & St Paul, Sustead (£10,000) and St Martin, Thompson (£17,000).

The Trust was pleased to offer grants towards the final shortfalls in several major repair projects this year which were amongst the last to receive HLF GPOW grants: these included All Saints, Beighton for re-thatching (£8,000); St Giles, Bradfield for widespread repairs (£5,000) and St Andrew, Threxton for tower repairs (£5,000).

As ever, the range of grant applications has been huge: both in terms of financial need and scale of the repairs to be undertaken. The headline-grabbing large grants may catch the eye but the smaller grants for urgent small-scale repairs identified in Quinquennial Inspection Reports (QIR) are equally important because if left unattended, these minor repairs will become the major repairs of the future. The inscription in the tower of All Saints Church, Carleton Rode

dated 1634 reminds us that keeping on top of church repairs is not a recent problem:

*This church was built in it God to adore,  
and ought to have been repaired long before,  
by which neglect we did great sums expend.  
Then let successors look in time to mend, for  
if decays they early don't prevent, they will  
like us when 'tis too late, repent.*

Churches awarded grants towards the cost of lists of fairly small but urgent repairs identified in QIRs included Carleton St Peter (£5,000), St Margaret, Kirstead (£5,000), St Andrew, West Bradenham (£3,000) and St Margaret, Sea Palling (£5,000).

Whilst lead thefts have been greatly reduced as a result of the Norfolk Roof Alarm scheme, which was partly funded by the Trust, many churches are still coping with the repairs resulting from thefts in previous years. It is good to report that St Peter, Merton where the lead was stolen for the second time in 2015 has been awarded a £100,000 NLHF grant towards replacing the roof with zinc and we anticipate a grant application from them in the coming months. During this year, the Trust has made grants towards lead theft repairs to St Lawrence, Harpley (£10,000); St Mary & St Botolph, Hevingham (£5,000); St John, Oxborough (£6,800); St Mary, Pulham St Mary (£10,000); St Bartholomew, Sloley (£5,000); St. Michael, Sutton (£10,000); and St. Peter, Weasenham (£4,000).

The number of parishes contacting the office for advice and support has risen this year, both as a result of unexpected events making part of a church unsafe and also the realisation that problems are getting visibly



worse and must be addressed. This year, two porches (Brisley and Ingham) required immediate repairs following partial collapse making access to the churches hazardous. On a very different scale is St Mary, North Tuddenham where funds were needed for a structural survey and remedial work on the tower which has extremely severe cracks requiring urgent attention: a grant of £15,000 was awarded.

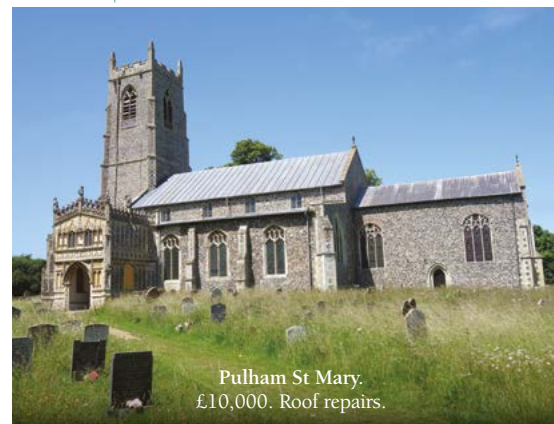
And finally, special mention must be given to St Nicholas, West Lexham which had been a cause for concern for many years. The tower was in a very poor condition; the roof, rainwater goods and drainage needed replacing to address the widespread penetration to the walls and interior. Total costs in excess of £300,000

were estimated but undaunted the parish kept on course and were successful in getting a £248,000 HLF GPOW grant in 2016. The Trust had been in touch with the parish from an early stage and awarded a grant of £7,000 in 2017 to help bridge the remaining shortfall. The repairs were completed in January 2019. The gleaming white lime-washed tower is the first thing that catches the eye but on closer inspection the whole church has been transformed. This outstanding repair project is one of the four finalists for the prestigious SPAB John Betjeman Award for excellence in the repair of places of worship of all denominations and faiths in England and Wales.

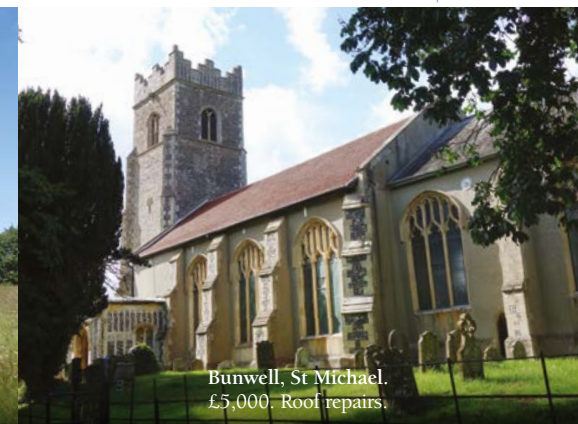
**Scilla Latham**, *Secretary of the Norfolk Churches Trust*

## Making the difference:

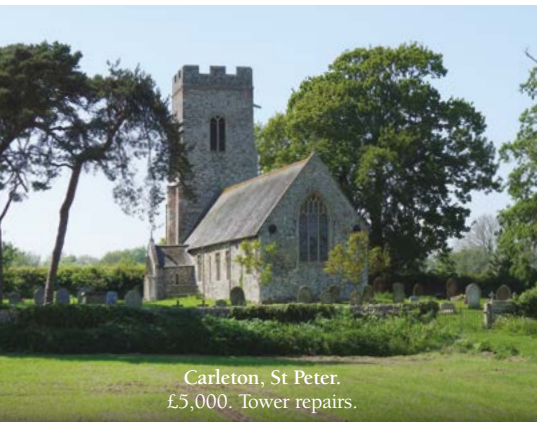
Churches that have received grants from the Trust in the past year are illustrated throughout the Report. More information is provided on the Grants page of the Trust website. [www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk](http://www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk)



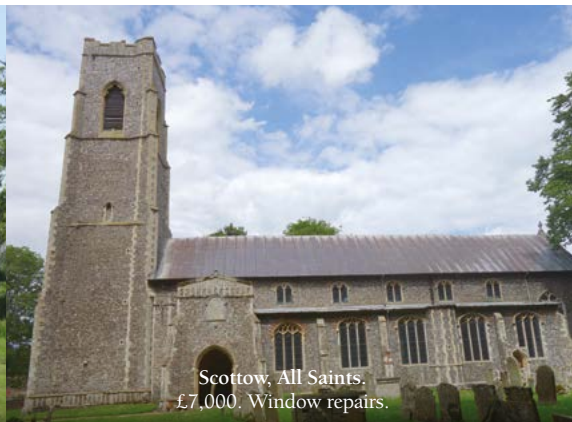
Pulham St Mary.  
£10,000. Roof repairs.



Bunwell, St Michael.  
£5,000. Roof repairs.



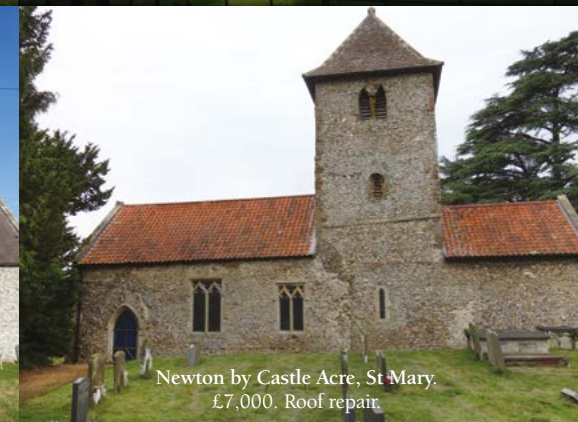
Carleton, St Peter.  
£5,000. Tower repairs.



Scottow, All Saints.  
£7,000. Window repairs.



Sea Palling, St Margaret.  
£5,000. Tower repairs.



Newton by Castle Acre, St Mary.  
£7,000. Roof repair.



North Tuddenham, St Mary.  
£15,000. Tower investigation and emergency repairs.



Wrenningham, All Saints.  
£5,000. Chancel roof repairs.



North Elmham St Mary.  
£5,000. Roof repairs.



Old Buckenham, All Saints.  
£7,000. Thatching.



# Leased Churches



All Saints', Snetterton.

This has been another busy year looking after the thirteen redundant churches, which the Trust leases from the Diocese of Norwich and the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia. In addition to routine maintenance and two major repair projects we have had to get over the trauma of lead theft from the south aisle roof at St Peter's Church, West Rudham and vandalism at All Saints' Church, Rackheath. The experience of coping with these shocking events has made my role supporting parishes that are faced with similar problems all the more focused and personal as I can now truly empathise with them.

The delivery stage of the Heritage Lottery Funded repairs to All Saints', Snetterton has dominated the year: we are most grateful to the HLF for the £248,000 Grants for Places of Worship grant which made this repair possible. The complex tower repairs proved to be even more challenging than expected and in some areas the full depth of the wall had to be replaced which required extreme measures to prop up the structure to prevent

partial collapse. Our structural surveyor, Stuart Armitage of the Morton Partnership was closely involved in tackling this delicate process. In addition to the tower, the north aisle roof was replaced and new rainwater goods and drainage installed. A well-attended Hard Hat day held in March enabled a group of members of the Trust and people from local community that included an A' level student considering a career in surveying to hear about the repairs and climb the tower scaffolding to see the repairs at close quarters. The repairs are due to be completed by the end of June 2019. Thanks go to our project architect Gethin Harvey of Nicholas Warns Architects and the main contractors, Medieval Masonry for bringing this complicated repair to a successful conclusion. We are looking forward to the return of the candlelit Carol Service with a supporting cast of donkeys, which is organised by the World Horse Carol Service.

In 2017, a structural



survey at All Saints' Church, Rackheath confirmed that the chancel roof and ceiling were in very poor condition and the ceiling had to be taken down as a precautionary measure, awaiting the full repair of the chancel roof and roof immediately to the west of the nave gable. The repairs began at the beginning of March 2019 and are expected to be completed by the end of July, depending on weather conditions. The Friends of All Saints' Rackheath who have arranged the services and kept the church immaculately clean and welcoming since the Trust took on the church in 1978 have sadly decided it is time to call it a day. We are very grateful to them for all they have done over the years to keep All Saints' looking as welcoming as many parish churches in regular use. Their careful husbandry of the Friends' accounts meant they were able



All Saints' Rackheath.

to transfer £4,000 towards the cost of the chancel repairs. The rest of the cost is being met by the Leased Churches Fund, which was set up as a result of a very generous legacy received in 2017. This fund enables us to undertake urgent repairs to the Leased Churches without affecting funds raised for grants to parish churches.

Scilla Latham, Secretary of the Norfolk Churches Trust

## Bike Ride Photo Competition winners



Rev Robin Stapleford. Winner of *people taking part*.



David Patrick. Winner of *your favourite church*.



David Nice. Winner of *the best photo of an architectural feature or item in a church*.

**BROWN & CO**

Brown & Co kindly sponsored the Photographic Competition, providing a prize of £50 for each of the three categories. Congratulations to the winners whose photographs were published in the EDP.



# Bike Ride

Charles Inglis, Chairman of the  
Bike Ride Committee and his son.

I was looking forward to last year's Bike Ride even more than usual as I was taking my son with me and I wanted to introduce him to some of my favourite churches. I was rather hoping that I would travel effortlessly in his slipstream and therefore planned a longer than usual route. However, as he was eighteen, I hadn't factored on him being 400 yards in front me and as I puffed up to every church, he had recovered, and was ready to hit the lanes again. Nevertheless we both had a delightful day, seeing some fabulous churches. We met lots of other fellow cyclists and chatted to some lovely people who signed us in and told us about their churches. We finished up in a local pub and telephoned my wife to come and rescue us, but not to hurry!

I am hugely impressed by the people of Norfolk who cycled, walked, ran and drove to raise an amazing £91,496 for the Norfolk Churches Trust and the church or chapel of their choice. The Bike Ride is such an important fund-raising event and so I give sincere thanks to all those who took part in so many ways, from the parish co-ordinators who encourage people to

participate and arrange for the churches to be open and all those who help on the day, checking people in and handing out refreshments.

Last year was the first year of posting out the Bike Ride paperwork. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the area organisers who have worked so hard to

distribute packs in the past. Despite some teething problems last year, we believe that posting the packs on the 3rd of July will mean that we know when the packs will safely arrive in the parishes.

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 Bike Ride was supported by 541 participants last year making 2,808 visits to churches and chapels. This was a significant increase from the previous year of 528 and 2,683 visits.
- Paul Nicholls was the Winner of the **Prince of Wales Certificate** and filled out an amazing 15 pages of sponsor forms!
- Five fundraisers raised more than £8,848 between them.
- Reverend Stapleford, David Nice, and David Patrick won £50 for sending in **photographs** that Brown & Co judged to be their favourites and also had their pictures published in the EDP.
- The battle between Hempstead, All Saints and Burnham Thorpe, All Saints, to be the top church continued, with Hempstead reclaiming the title this year by raising £4,182.
- The number of churches recording visits by car continued to increase from 253 to 279.
- The top walker and cyclist on the **Wall of Fame** both visited 55 churches.
- Wendy and Ray Millard ran an extraordinary 15.56 miles to visit 10 churches.

Although we saw an increase in the number of participants last year, we saw a drop in the number of churches sending in sponsor forms and therefore receiving cheques. To give an incentive to churches and chapels to take part this year, the Norfolk Churches Trust are offering a **£1,000 prize** to the most **improved** church from last year. i.e. the church which manages to show the largest increase in fund-raising from last year's figures. This **£1,000 prize** potentially favours churches who did not take part last year.

The Bike Ride committee tries very hard to publicise the event with road signs, media, and contacting companies and organisations. We are also making a big push to keep people informed with our regular newsletters and using social media, so please do follow us on facebook and twitter ([www.facebook.com/NorfolkChurchesTrust/](http://www.facebook.com/NorfolkChurchesTrust/)). 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 **Saturday 14th September 2019**. Don't forget to send in your photographs of the day. The three we like best will receive £50 and the chance to get your picture published in the EDP. Please see the website for more details.

Charles Inglis, Chairman of the Bike Ride Committee



# Fund-raising Events

*Manor House, Great Cressingham*

I have been lucky enough to go on the visit to the Battle Area churches several times, and can highly recommend it to anyone who has not yet been on this fascinating outing. In April 2018, I organised this event so am well aware how quickly it sold out, even with an extra bus added. The trip itself is fabulous, interesting, thought provoking and a great privilege to see the combination of architecture – churches from medieval through to the 19th-century splendour of Pugin, to the 21st-century MOD prefab ‘Afghan’ training villages – and a landscape relatively untouched since the 1940s except for curious hints of the military’s presence. Historically we didn’t charge for this event, but now we do to cover the cost and add a little to the NCT coffers. Thank you to the military who gave us such a good welcome and acted as tour guides, along with the wonderful Ruth Blackman who showed us round the churches and who keeps such a good eye on them.

The ever popular House by the Church event took place on 12 May 2018: our thanks go to Caroline Egerton and her committee who between them organised the event. Those who signed up had an impressive array of houses to visit in west and north-west Norfolk, twenty-three in all, together with their nearby churches and, for the first time, four beautiful gardens. As always it was a wonderful day out and the variety of properties was a real treat. As I sit and write this in May 2019, in my head are the images of the intricate brickwork at Great Cressingham Manor House, and the elegant and beautifully restored Merchants House in the middle of King’s Lynn, the old roses at the Old Hall Castle Rising and, a little further east, looking out of great windows at Congham Lodge to the robot lawnmower doing his thing.

The Norfolk Churches Trust is deeply grateful to all those who so generously opened their

houses to our members and their friends who numbered 374 in all. It is impossible to get round more than a handful of the properties as inevitably there are questions to ask of the patient owners, tea and cake, merchandise to buy and friends to chat to, but what is striking is that the owners all say how much they too enjoyed the day. The result was a gratifying £23,600 for the Trust.

The fundraising events that took place between April 2017 and March 2018 all had the characteristic distinction and diversity that has been the hallmark over the years. George Carter on the legacy of Humphry Repton, at Model Farm Holkham, enthralled a capacity audience. The Horn Trio, at Burnham Westgate Hall, played to standing room only. Gerard Stamp, in St. Mary’s Church, South Creake, talked expertly on aspects of painting Norfolk churches. At Houghton Hall, the Director of the Wallace Collection, Dr Xavier Bray, gave a pre-exhibition and persuasive talk on



*STANTA churches tour: Langford, St Andrew*

Ribera. Again at Westgate Hall, at a sellout talk to commemorate the Armistice, Allan Mallinson discussed his book ‘Fight to the Finish’ underlining his well-researched views on WW1. Enormous thanks go to Fiona Fraser for all her hard work arranging the speakers, venues and taking the bookings for these talks. We are so lucky to have such exceptional speakers and much appreciate the monies raised.

Many thanks also to Sarah Leicester who once again organised the opera at Holkham Hall: last year audiences in the Marble Hall were treated to Die Fledermaus and The Abduction from The Seraglio. Both were spectacular performances, such a treat to the eye and ear; and how well the audience is looked after by the Leicesters. I was also reminded of the extraordinary setting of the Marble Hall by my son’s recent comment (he was junior waiter at a celebration there recently and is not known for noticing his surroundings, let alone commenting on them), “well the work was fine, I didn’t know anyone but that Marble Hall, it’s really amazing, just like you’re in Rome”. What a privilege we have to be able to experience such opera in such a spectacular setting.

Plans are afoot for another Stately Car Boot Sale in April/May 2020 – please keep an eye on the Trust website for further details.

**Clare Agnew**

## 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.



## Leased Churches Cared For by the Norfolk Churches Trust

Whenever possible all the churches are open during daylight hours in summer months and some are open throughout the year. Keyholder details are included in case a church has had to be locked. Some postcodes are for the nearest house and a few of the churches are down farm drives and grassy tracks so access is not always easy.

### **Bagthorpe, St Mary:** PE31 6QY

Local contact: Mr & Mrs Morton  
01485 578528

### **Barmer, All Saints:** PE31 8SP

In middle of field off B1454  
Keyholder: Mrs Mason 01485 578220

### **Cockthorpe, All Saints:** NR23 1QS

Keyholder: Mr & Mrs Case 01328 830202

### **Corpusty, St Peter:** NR11 6QE

Off Norwich Road. Open on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the year. On other days, the key can be borrowed from the village shop.  
Keyholder: Cathy Stern 01263 587014

### **Dunton, St Peter:** NR21 7PG

Local contact: Rev Robin Stapleford  
01328 853226

### **Hargham, All Saints:** NR16 2JW

Keyholder: Mr & Mrs Amos 01953 455553

### **Illington, St Andrew:** IP24 1RS Illington Road.

Reached via a farm drive and grassy track.  
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.  
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 please contact the keyholder)  
Keyholder: Lady Prince Smith 01603 880165

### **Rackheath, All Saints:** NR13 6QT

Brown heritage sign on Wroxham Road:  
continue down Swash Lane.  
Keyholder: Roger Lebbell 07858 370440

### **Snetterton, All Saints:** NR16 2LR

Keyholder: World Horse Welfare reception next door (office hours) 01953 498682  
and Geraint Ellis 07867 512084

### **West Bilney, St Cecilia:** PE32 1XQ

Keyholder: Nic Velzeboer 01760 337382

### **West Rudham, St Peter:** PE31 8TE

Keyholder: Mrs Rouse (Cherry Tree Cottage,  
Pockthorpe PE31 8TB) 01485 528376

## It is never too soon to consider leaving a legacy to the Norfolk Churches Trust

By leaving a legacy to the Norfolk Churches Trust in your Will, you will be investing in the long term future of Norfolk's churches and help to ensure the Trust can satisfy the continuing demand for grants for repairs to these precious buildings.

The Norfolk Churches Trust is a registered charity which means your gift will be exempt of inheritance tax. In the first instance we suggest you speak to a solicitor who can advise on the different types of legacy and the tax advantages of a charitable legacy.

We cannot afford to let down the work of previous generations and every penny you give will go towards grants that will help us protect our churches so they remain at the centre of their communities for future generations to enjoy.

## The Norfolk Churches Trust Limited

### **Patron**

HRH The Prince of Wales

### **Vice Patrons**

The Duke of Norfolk  
The Bishop of Norwich  
The Bishop of Ely

### **President**

General Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL

### **Vice Presidents**

Bolton Agnew  
Charles Bingham-Newland  
Peter de Bunsen  
Lady Egerton  
Neil Foster  
Mrs Sara Foster  
Ian Lonsdale  
Michael Sayer  
Sarah, Countess of Leicester  
Roger Last  
Emma Bridgewater  
Matthew Rice

### **Trustees**

Peter Sheppard  
(Chairman from October 2018)  
Ian Lonsdale TD  
(Chairman until October 2018)  
Jonathan Ellis  
(Hon Treasurer until September 2018)  
Michael Sayer  
(Chairman, Grants Committee)  
Lady Agnew  
(resigned September 2018)  
Mrs Amelia Courtauld  
Peter de Bunsen  
(resigned September 2018)  
Lady Egerton  
Mrs Sara Foster  
Lady Fraser

Mrs Holly Gold

Sarah, Countess of Leicester

Patrick Lines

### **Company Secretary**

Mrs Scilla Latham

### **Advisory Council**

The Trustees receive advice from the Advisory Council which comprises the Trustees and the following members:

David Missen (Hon Treasurer from Sept 2018)  
Lady Agnew  
Mrs Rosabelle Batt  
John Birkbeck  
Maurice de Bunsen  
Peter de Bunsen  
Mrs Diana Don  
Col. Tom Fitzalan Howard  
Fr Philip Gray (Hon Chaplain)  
Christopher Hartop  
Canon Jeremy Haselock (Hon Chaplain)  
Stephen Heywood  
Brian Iles  
Charles Inglis (Bike Ride Co-ordinator)  
Mrs Karen Knight  
Mrs Scilla Landale  
Mrs Jane Lane  
George Lynne  
Revd Canon Mair Mcfadyan  
(Hon Chaplain from September 2018)  
Dr John Maddison  
Michael Pollitt  
Matthew Rice  
Ashley Spooner  
Frederique Baroness van Till  
John Vigar  
Mrs Alison Wakes-Miller  
Revd Ian Whittle (Hon Chaplain)  
Michael Wingate

# The Norfolk Churches Trust Ltd.

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales.

Vice-Patrons: The Duke of Norfolk, The Bishop of Ely.

President: General the Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL

Chairman: Peter Sheppard

Secretary: Mrs Scilla Latham, Manor Farmhouse, Diss Road, Tibenham, Norwich NR16 1QF

## 43rd Annual General Meeting

at the Parish Church of St Andrew, Saxthorpe on Thursday 12th September 2018 at 5:30pm.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Presiding Chairman's opening remarks.
3. To confirm the Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting held at the Parish Church of St Margaret, Fleggburgh on Wednesday 12th September 2018.
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 2019.
8. Election of the Board of Directors/Trustees.  
The following retire and seek re-election: Sarah, Countess of Leicester and Patrick Lines  
The following seek election: John Maddison
9. Election to the Advisory Council.  
The following retire and seek re-election: Stephen Heywood, Tom Fitzalan Howard, Charles Inglis, Alison Wakes-Miller, Michael Wingate  
The following seek election: James Hickman.
10. Propose the appointment of Larking Gowen as Independent Examiners.
11. Any other business of which notice has been received of not less than two weeks before the meeting.

*The AGM will be followed by an illustrated talk given by*

**Dr Clare Haynes FSA. "Sacred and Secular? The potential of the redundant church in the 21st century".**

Dr Haynes works on the HERILIGION project based at UEA, investigating the impact of heritage on religious sites. Clare is researching the history of St Peter Hungate, Norwich as church, museum & centre for medieval art.

*Light refreshments will be served after the talk.*

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

# Minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of The Norfolk Churches Trust Ltd

**at St Margaret's Church, Fleggburgh on Wednesday 12th September 2018 at 5:30pm**

**Present:** Ian Lonsdale (Chairman of the Board of Directors/Trustees), Scilla Latham (Company Secretary) and Directors/Trustees, Advisory Councillors and Friends of the Trust were also present.

**1. Apologies for absence** had been received from Bishop Graham, Lord Dannatt, Jonathan Ellis, Sara Foster (Trustees); Tiggy Birkbeck, Bridget Buxton, Diana Don, Tom Fitzalan Howard, Jane Lane, John Vigar (Advisory Councillors) and seventeen Friends of the Trust.

**2. Presiding Chairman's opening remarks:** Ian Lonsdale opened the meeting by thanking the vicar and church wardens of St Margaret's church for allowing the Trust to hold their AGM in their church. He also explained that he was standing in for our President Lord Dannatt who was taking part in a debate in the Lords on free entry to National Museums.

**3. The Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting** held at St Peter's Church, Matlaske on 12th September 2017 were confirmed by the meeting as being a correct record and signed by the Ian Lonsdale.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes:** There were no matters arising.

**5. To receive the Chairman of the Trust's Report:** Ian Lonsdale summarized fundraising events over the year, which raised a total of £228,019. He thanked the volunteers who helped make them possible. Legacies totalling over £166,000 were received. Grants totally over £181,000 were awarded to 44 churches during the year. The Trust contributed £50,000 to the Norfolk Churches Roof Alarm Scheme. The Trust is grateful to the HLF for a £248,000 grant for urgent tower repairs to All Saints' Church Snetterton. Peter de Bunsen and Clare Agnew are resigning from the Board: we are grateful for the many years distinguished service they have given to the Trust. Jonathan Ellis is resigning as Hon Treasurer after six years and is handing over to David Missen. Peter Sheppard will be joining the Board and has agreed to stand for election as Chairman at the Trustees meeting next month. Finally, particular thanks to the administration team led by Scilla who works tirelessly to keep the Trust running smoothly. Thanks to them, our preparations for GDPR went seamlessly and we had an excellent response from our numerous contacts agreeing to be kept in touch: we are confident that those who did not will quickly get in touch again.

**6. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's Report:** Ian Lonsdale presented the report and the summary of Financial Statements (circulated to the meeting in advance) on behalf of Jonathan Ellis.

**7. To receive the Annual Accounts** for the year ending 31st March 2018. Proposed by Holly Rawkins and seconded by Christopher Hartop.

**8. Re-election of Directors/Trustees:** It was proposed by Peter de Bunsen and seconded by Lady Leicester and unanimously agreed that Lady Egerton, Lady Fraser and Michael Sayer be re-elected as Trustees.

- **Election of Directors/Trustees:** It was proposed by Ian Lonsdale and seconded by Juliet Nusser and unanimously agree that Peter Sheppard be elected as a Trustee.

**9. Election to the Advisory Council:** It was proposed by Patrick Lines and seconded by Amelia Courtauld and unanimously agreed that Lady Agnew, Peter de Bunsen, The Revd Canon Mair McFadyen, David Missen and Michael Pollitt be elected to the Advisory Council.

- **Re-election to the Advisory Council:** It was proposed by Holly Rawkins and seconded by Scilla Landale and unanimously agreed that Maurice de Bunsen, George Lynne, Ashley Spooner and John Vigar be re-elected to the Advisory Council.

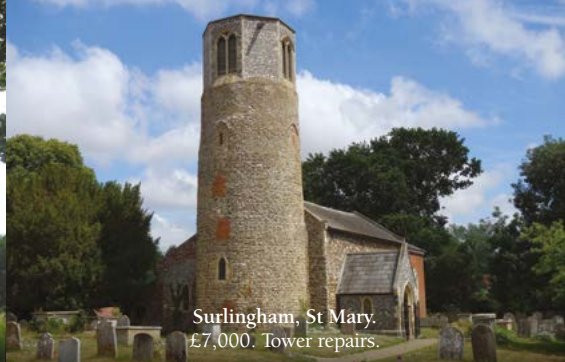
**10. To propose the appointment of Larking Gowen as Independent Examiners and for the Board to agree their remuneration:** Proposed by Lady Egerton and seconded by Graeme Johnston.

**13. Any other business:** There were no items raised and Ian Lonsdale thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 6:05 pm.





Bradfield, St Giles.  
£5,000. Roof and other widespread repairs.



Surlingham, St Mary.  
£7,000. Tower repairs.



Saxthorpe, St Andrew.  
£2,000. Aisle roof repairs.



Sutton, St Michael.  
£10,000. Roof repairs following lead theft.



**The NORFOLK  
CHURCHES TRUST**

'Supporting Church Buildings'

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Manor Farmhouse, Diss Road, Tibenham NR16 1QF · Telephone 01379 677272

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