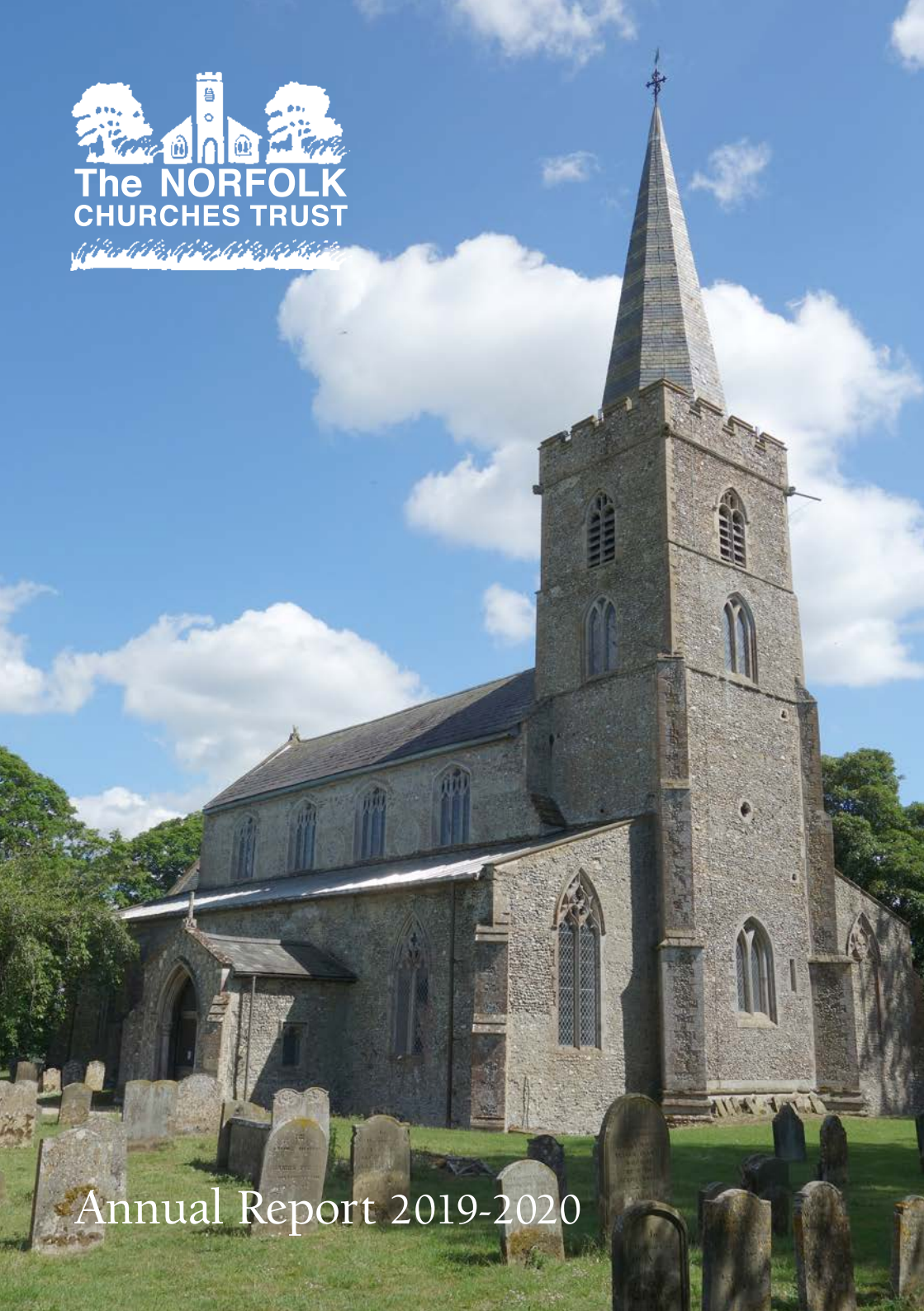




**The NORFOLK
CHURCHES TRUST**



Annual Report 2019-2020

Chairman's Report

The year began full of enthusiasm and excitement with a healthy balance sheet, plenty of church restoration projects and a full diary of events. It closed however with the shutting of all our churches, cancellation of the Stately Car Boot Sale and many other events due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Trustees and Advisory Committee were delighted to welcome Bishop Graham Usher as our new Bishop of Norwich at a reception at Wolterton Hall on the eve of Candlemass on 1st February. Bishop Graham has agreed to be our Vice-Patron and he took the time to meet everyone and we look forward to having a good relationship with him and the diocese in future years.

The major event of the year was the conference 'Faith and Place, a future for the isolated rural church' held in the Weston Room in Norwich Cathedral on the 16th October. This took the place of the annual conference which has been organised by the National Churches Trust in previous years. A keynote speech by Bishop John Inge began an exhilarating series of presentations. His wide-ranging talk is printed later in this report along with a review of the conference by Caroline Egerton who chaired the organising committee with her customary

diplomacy and good humour. Thanks also go to our Secretary, Scilla Latham and Helen Evans who administered the event with great efficiency. All involved produced a very professional and well run conference. Over 100 delegates from across the country and abroad including the USA attended a full day of presentations which ran like clockwork. The quality of the conference only enhanced the Norfolk Churches Trust's reputation for being the leading churches trust in this country.

A theme which came out of the conference was that with dwindling congregations and depopulated rural areas, it is not possible for small congregations to manage large and



Right to left: The Chairman, John Maddison and Stephen Heywood at the conference



Reception for Bishop Graham Usher at Wolterton Hall

important historic buildings without help from government or the National Lottery. Attention was drawn to the importance of maintaining churches which have structural defects which if not remedied turn into hugely expensive restoration projects.

The Trust derives its income from several sources: membership subscriptions, events, legacies, donations and its investment in the stock market. Our income from the stock market goes to support our administration and infrastructure, leaving all the other income to be used for grants to maintain historic churches.

Membership continues to increase from 1,483 in March 2019 to 1,541 in March 2020, a rise of 4%. The Trustees are considering a reduced rate annual subscription for the under 30s to encourage them to join us but are aware that we need to have the type of events which will appeal to students and young people. These may include walking tours of rural churches perhaps ending in a pub which will not necessarily be great money makers but are intended to introduce a new generation to the importance of maintaining our historic church buildings.

Making it easy to join the Trust is a key

priority with the ability to join online critical to increasing membership. A small committee under the chairmanship of Amelia Courtauld and with advice from Ashley Spooner and Jason Hubbard, is working on a new website which amongst other things will enable joining the Trust and paying subscriptions online. There will be a full diary of upcoming events as well as news about ongoing restoration projects. It should be interactive so that it will be possible to obtain details of location and details about all the churches that have received grants from the Trust.

There have been many fundraising events this year including House by the Church, talks and lectures organised by Fiona Fraser, the Bike Ride chaired by Charles Inglis and the Holkham Opera performances hosted by Sarah Leicester. Together these events raised over £154,000. (£85,685 net as 50% of Bike sponsorship goes to the nominated parish).

The House by the Church organised under a committee chaired by Mair McFadyen generates a huge amount of goodwill and money. Moving to a different part of the county each time, twenty interesting houses were opened by their owners

Chairman's Report *continued*

to NCT members who donate generously for the privilege of visiting them. Owners were incredibly hospitable often supplying refreshments at their own cost. The event raised £21,963. I hosted a party at Wolterton Hall, which was one of the opened houses, to reward house owners for their generosity.

The Bike Ride raised £94,257 in 2019, an increase of £3,362 on the previous year. Participants increased by 5% to 567 and the number of places of worship receiving cheques increased from 279 to 293. The funds raised are split between the participant's church of choice and the Trust's general funds. Over the past 35 years this Bike, Drive and Ride event has raised over £2.6m.

At Holkham Hall, by kind permission of the Earl of Leicester and hosted by Sarah, Countess of Leicester, Diva Opera performed Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* and Rossini's *Italian Girl in Algiers*. Set in the magnificent Marble Hall, the musicians and performers played to full houses over two evenings in July raising over £20,000

Lady Fraser organised many talks including ones by Sir David Cannadine, Tony Scotland, Julian Berkeley, Jeremy Musson and one entitled *Wild Fowl and Wild Places*, given by Kevin Thatcher: together they raised a total of £4,735 net. A Beethoven concert at South Creak church was also well attended. The annual tour of the Stanta churches in the battle training area in west Norfolk was completely sold out despite having two full coaches.



Madame Butterfly. Holkham Opera performance by Diva Opera

During the year we had several generous donations including from the Lady Hind Trust, the Charles Littlewood Hill Trust, the George Cadbury Fund, the Bolton Revenue Fund, the John Jarrold Trust, the Bedhampton Trust and the Antelope Trust with many smaller donations. We also benefitted from a number of generous legacies including one from Derek Fullerton to be spent on repairs to a church in North Norfolk, as well as those from Katherine Brookes, Professor David Burke and Kenneth Austin Smith. We are putting together an appeal for donations and legacies to try to make up for our lost revenue from events this year.

We gave a total of £171,825 of new grants to 41 churches. Grants of £135,589 previously awarded to 37 churches were paid out. The total of grants not yet dispersed is £292,953. Looking forward to this year, while we have awarded grants, the churches may not be in a position to carry out the work when they planned to, since they will have been affected by loss of income due to churches being closed and parish fundraising events being cancelled.

With regard to our leased churches: the major tower and other urgent structural repairs at All Saints, Snetterton are now finished. We are very grateful to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for their generous grant which made this possible. At All Saints, Rackheath, the urgent chancel roof repairs were completed. At St Peter's church in West Rudham, we are extremely grateful to two local people who generously offered to be the contacts for the roof alarm company so we could finally get the alarm installed on the south aisle roof and the area of stolen lead replaced. Other urgent repairs to roof, floor and windows were also carried out at St Peter's over the year.

And finally, a few thank-yous to longstanding Advisory Council and Board members who have stood down during the year notably Sara Foster who was a very successful Chairman and Trustee. I am pleased to report that Charles Inglis has agreed to become a Trustee in Sara's place. Special mention must go to Diana Don and

Tiggy Birkbeck who have been stalwarts of the Trust for many decades. Karen Knight's expertise in the management of churches is also impossible to replace. It is a pleasure to welcome James Hickman to the Advisory Council. Then towards the end of the year Fiona Fraser stepped down from the Board to move to London to be nearer her family. Fiona will be another hard act to follow as she arranged lectures in country houses which were almost always a sell-out. She cleverly escaped before the Covid-19 pandemic began so none of her events were affected.

This year we should have had the Stately Car Boot Sale which is a triennial event and last time attracted 8,000 people and raised nearly £100,000, but has been postponed until next May. Holkham Opera has been cancelled and the programme of talks is on hold but will restart as soon as it is allowed. However, we will at least have the Bike Ride on 12th September 2020.

We have had several concerned members frustrated that our churches are locked but we are looking forward to the hierarchy devising a protocol which means they can open again. It is encouraging that so many people have said how much they miss their churches being open; perhaps this means that more people in Norfolk will come to value their extraordinary heritage.

Peter Sheppard

Chairman, 19 June 2020

Financial Summary

Norfolk Churches Trust

Year ended 31 March 2020

Summary Statement of Financial Activities

	2019–20 £	2018–19 £
Income from:		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	50,439	51,860
Legacies	35,000	5,000
Subscriptions	41,185	37,155
Heritage Lottery Fund grants	13,667	268,517
Leased churches	2,067	5,487
Other trading activities		
Sponsored bicycle ride	94,257	90,895
Trust events	60,331	67,866
Sale of goods	4,001	5,431
Investment income	48,792	49,696
Total income	349,739	581,907
Expenditure on:		
Raising funds		
Costs of generating voluntary income	(12,267)	(12,875)
Fundraising costs (incl. parish share of ride)	(86,444)	(74,878)
Charitable activities		
Grants offered	(140,492)	(182,060)
Expenditure on leased and other churches	(150,194)	(272,191)
Support costs	(52,494)	(47,770)
Governance costs	(9,012)	(10,438)
Total expenditure	(450,903)	(600,212)
Net (deficit)/income for the year	(101,164)	(18,305)
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	(102,976)	105,358
Net movement in funds	(204,140)	87,053
Fund balances brought forward	1,871,754	1,784,701
Fund balances carried forward at the end of the year	1,667,614	1,871,754

Summary Balance Sheet

	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2019 £
Fixed asset investments	1,339,925	1,434,687
Net current assets	327,689	437,067
Net assets	1,667,614	1,871,754
The funds of the charity:		
Restricted	–	–
Unrestricted	1,667,614	1,871,754
Total funds	1,667,614	1,871,754

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 18 June 2020 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 2020.

GILES KERKHAM FCA DChA

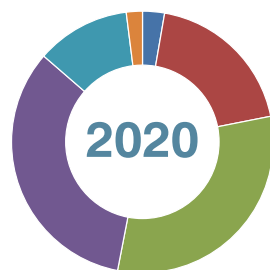
For and on behalf of MHA LARKING GOWEN LLP
King Street House, 15 Upper King Street, Norwich NR3 1RB
18 June 2020

Where does the money come from?



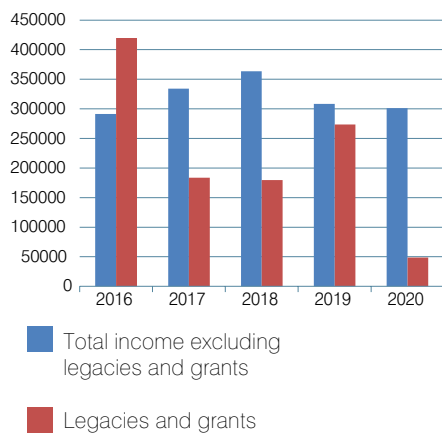
- Donations
- Legacies
- Subscriptions
- Heritage Lottery Fund grants
- Sponsored bicycle ride
- Trust events
- Sale of goods
- Investments

Where does the money go to?

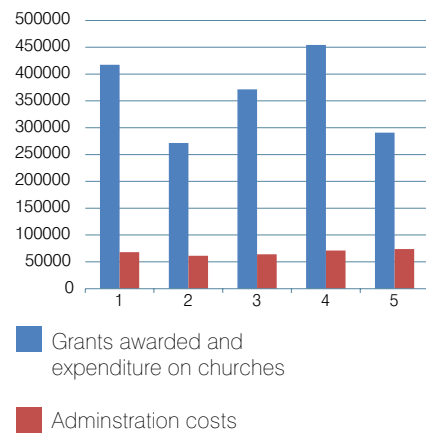


- Costs of generating voluntary income
- Fundraising costs (incl. parish share of ride)
- Grants offered
- Expenditure on leased and other churches
- Support costs
- Governance costs

Income 2016 - 2020



Expenditure 2016 - 2020

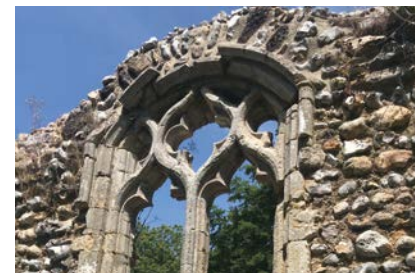


Raising Funds

The House by the Church Day



The Water Tower at Cawston

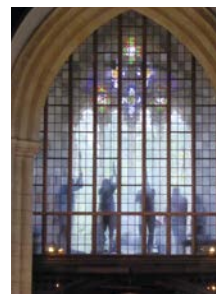


Window in the ruined church of St Mary, Mannington



Oulton Chapel

Bike Ride Photo Competition Winners



David Nice. Bell ringers at St Michael's Aylsham



Lorne Inglis. Stained glass reflection at St Mary's Burgh-next-Aylsham



Roger Peacock. Spectacular tea for the Bike Ride participants at Flordon church

Congratulations to the prize-winners whose photographs were published in the EDP and received a prize of £50

Grants 2019-20

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		10000	0
Acle, St. Edmund	3000		3000
Bacton, St. Andrew	1000	1000	0
Beachamwell, St. Mary		500	0
Beeston-next-Mileham, St. Mary	10000		10000
Beighton, All Saints		8500	0
Blickling, St. Andrew	10000		10000
Bracon Ash, St. Nicholas			10000
Bradfield, St. Giles			5000
Bradwell, St. Nicholas		300	0
Breckles, St. Margaret	4000		4000
Brisley, St. Bartholomew			0
Brockdish, St. Peter	5000		5000
Burnham Deepdale, St. Mary			4000
Carleton, St. Peter		5000	0
Carleton Forehoe, St. Mary			5000
Catfield, All Saints			0
Cawston, St. Agnes			4000
Clippesby, St. Peter			0
Congham, St. Andrew			3000
Crostwight, All Saints			456
Deopham, St. Andrew	7000		8000
Easton, St. Peter			2000
East Rudham, St. Mary	1000		1000
East Walton, St. Mary			600
Edgefield Old Church			862
Felbrigg, St. Margaret		3000	0
Felthorpe, St. Margaret			1000
Fornsett, St. Mary		2000	0
Fornsett, St. Peter	1000	1000	0
Great Cressingham, St. Michael	500	500	0
Great Ryburgh, St. Andrew	1000		1000
Great Yarmouth, St. Peter & St. Spiridon			2000
Haddiscoe, St. Mary	2000		2000
Harpley, St. Lawrence			10000
Haverlingland, St. Peter			500
Helhoughton, All Saints	1875		1875
Hethel, All Saints	1500		1500
Hickling, St. Mary	4000		4000
Hindringham, St. Martin			3000
Hoe, St. Andrew		5000	0
Houghton next Harpley, St. Martin		5000	0
Hunstanton, St. Edmund			1000
Ingham, Holy Trinity		700	0
Kirstead, St. Margaret			5000
Langham, St. Andrew & St. Mary			0
Lessingham, All Saints		4000	0
Little Cressingham, St. Andrew	10000		10000
Little Massingham, St. Andrew	2000		2000
Marlingford, Assumption of the BVM			2000
Martham, St. Mary		1500	0
Merton, St. Peter	8700		10000
Carried forward	73,575	48,000	132,793

Brought forward	73,575	48,000	132,793
Middleton, St. Mary			0
Morley, St. Botolph	2000	2000	0
Morston, All Saints	5000		5000
Mundham, St. Peter			0
Narford, St. Mary		8750	0
Newton-by-CaSt.leacre, St. Mary			8500
North Elmham, St. Mary	7000	5000	7000
North Tuddenham, St. Mary		6839	8162
North Walsham, Evangelical			0
North Wootton, All Saints	2000		2000
Norwich Heartease, St. Francis		4000	0
Norwich, St. John Sepulchre	2000	2000	0
Outwell, St. Clements	8000	8000	0
Pakefield, All Saints	3000	3000	0
Pentney, St. Mary Magdalene	1000	7000	0
Postwick, All Saints			500
Pulham, St. Mary			10000
Scotow, All Saints			7000
Sloley, St. Bartolomew			5000
South Lynn, All Saints	8000		8000
Stockton, St. Michael		1000	0
Surlingham, St. Mary			7000
Sutton, St. Michael		10000	0
Swaffham, BaptiSt.	500	500	0
Swaffham, St. Peter	5000		5000
Swanton, Abbott, St. Michael	2000		2000
Tacolneston, All Saints	750		750
Tasburgh, St. Mary			2000
Taverham, St. Edmund	500	500	0
Thetford, BaptiSt.	1000	1000	0
Threxton, All Saints		5000	0
Thrigby, St. Mary			2348
Thurning, St. Andrew			7000
Tilney All Saints	5000	5000	0
Tittleshall, St. Mary	7000		7000
Topcroft, St. Margaret			400
Tunstead, St. Mary			5000
Tuttington, St. Peter	10000		10000
Twyford, St. Nicholas			8000
Upper Sheringham, All Saints			1000
Walcott, All Saints			500
Wellingham, St. Andrew	8000		8000
Wells-next-the-Sea, St. Nicholas			5000
West Bradenham, St. Andrew		3000	0
West Somerton, St. Mary		2000	0
West Walton, St. Mary	9000		9000
Whinburgh, St. Mary		7000	0
Whissonsett, St. Mary		1000	0
Wickhampton, St. Andrew			0
Wickmere, St. Andrew	2500		3000
Wiggenhall, St. Peter			0
Wolferton, St. Peter		5000	0
Wood Norton, St. Nicholas			2000
Wood Rising, St. Nicholas			0
Woodton, All Saints	1000		1000
Wreningham, All Saints			5000
Wretton, All Saints	8000		8000
General Fund total	171,825	135,589	292,953

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.



Funding Matters

Wellingham, St Andrew. £8,000. Chancel roof & gable repairs

The final Grants Committee meeting of the financial year took place the week before the Covid-19 lockdown came into force and it is likely to be at least a year before we can consider offering a similar total (£65,325) in a single meeting again. The inevitable cancellation of all the Trust's fundraising events arranged for the spring and summer, which are the main source of funds for grants, is likely to have long-term consequences for the grants budget.

The year saw a 15% fall in the number of grants awarded compared to last year, although the decrease in the total value of grants awarded was less steep: 41 grants were offered, totalling £171,825 (48 grants, totalling £182,002 in 2018/19). The amount paid out to churches that had been awarded grants in previous years was considerably down at £135,589 (£201,020 in 2018/19). This year has seen more churches than usual not managing to raise enough funds to start repairs and consequently grants totalling £31,333 have been withdrawn. We will continue

to support these churches in developing their repair projects, concentrating on the most urgent work in order to prevent further deterioration to the structure. It is too early to tell if this is the beginning of a downward trend due to external financial circumstances effecting local and national fundraising.

The Trust has traditionally been the first port of call for many churches when they embark on fundraising for a major repair project and our grants are often seen as valuable seed funding which encourages other funders to award grants. Three, or in exceptional cases even four years can elapse between a grant being awarded, and work starting on the repairs. An example of the Trust offering a church a grant at the start of their journey towards raising funds for a large project is the £5,000 grant awarded to St Nicholas', Wells-next-the-Sea in July 2017. At that time they had a truly terrifying £288,989 shortfall but they were undaunted by the target and steadfastly kept going. It was wonderful news to hear just days before the Covid-19 lockdown that they had been awarded a large

National Lottery Heritage Fund grant and at last their long-planned project could get underway.

This year four churches were offered grants of £10,000. At St Mary's Beeston-next-Mileham and St Peter's Tuttington the main focus of the repairs is the tower, or in the case of St Mary's, its tower and spectacular spire which can be seen for miles around.

It is hoped the £10,000 grant towards the cost of repairs to the south aisle roof at St Andrew's Blickling, where the lead was stolen in 2016 will invigorate their



Blickling, St Andrew. £10,000.
South aisle roof repairs following lead theft.

fundraising efforts. The majority of the insurance money received has had to be spent on temporary roof coverings in an attempt to keep the interior dry. The fourth church awarded a £10,000 grant is St Andrew's Little Cressingham, which is on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register due to extensive damp penetration and which is threatening the entire structure.

Other large grants for structural repairs were awarded to St Mary's West Walton (£9,000): structural investigations and urgent repairs, St Peter's Merton (£8,700): roof repairs, All Saints Wretton (£8,000): tower pinnacle repairs, St Andrew's Wellingham (£8,000):

chancel roof repairs, St Mary's North Elmham (£7,000): repairs to the south transept roof, St Mary's Tittleshall (£7,000): renewing the nave pew platforms, St Andrew's Deopham (£7,000): widespread structural repairs, St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish (£5,000): chancel and window repairs, and St Mary's Hicking (£4,000): refurbishing rainwater goods and drainage.

There were grants for window repairs at St Clement's Outwell (£8,000), St Peter & St Paul, Swaffham (£5,000); St Andrew's Wickmere (£2,500); St Andrew's Little Massingham (£2,000) and All Saints North Wootton (£2,000).

We continue to award 'enabling' grants for structural surveys and for minor but very urgent repairs identified in QIRs. These included grants to All Saints, Helhoughton (£1,875) for a structural survey, and for urgent roof repairs at St Mary's Haddiscoe (£2,000), Fornsett St Peter (£1,000), and All Saints, Woodton (£1,000).

The Trust is most frequently associated with support for rural parish churches however urban churches feature in almost every Grants Committee meeting. All Saints, South Lynn is the earliest church in King's Lynn but now stands in an area of high deprivation and social need, and has been repeatedly subjected to vandalism. It was awarded an £8,000 grant for widespread repairs to external stonework to prevent the loose stonework from being used to break into the church. Swaffham Baptist church and Thetford King Street Baptist church, were both awarded small grants for repairs to windows and stonework.

The range of grants awarded grows wider every year. It is good to report the Trust's first grant to support the work of the Norwich Historic Churches Trust. The £2,000 grant for St John's Sepulchre, Ber Street contributed to the match funding required to secure a major grant for urgent repairs to the south transept and vestry from the Historic England Heritage at Risk grant scheme.

Another first was the £5,000 grant for the installation of the roof alarm at Tilney, All Saints where the lead on the north and south aisle roofs was stolen in the summer of 2019.

Unfortunately, the church had not been included in the first phase of the Norfolk Roof Alarm scheme.

This report only mentions a few of the grants offered during the year and should be read in conjunction with the table of grants offered, paid and still outstanding on the previous pages. The length of the list underlines the Trust's continuing commitment to supporting churches across Norfolk and the Diocese of Norwich.

Scilla Latham,
Secretary of the Norfolk Churches Trust

Making the Difference:

The following photographs illustrate some of the churches that have been awarded significant grants this year.



Tittleshall, St Mary. £7,000.
Nave pew platform repairs and replacement



Deopham, St Andrew. £7,000.
Widespread fabric repairs



Tuttington, St Peter & St Paul. £10,000.
Urgent tower repairs



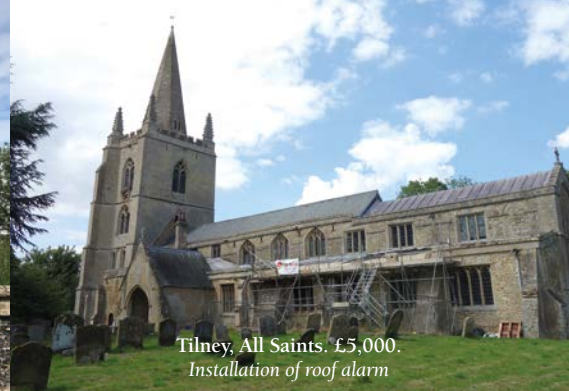
Hickling, St Mary. £4,000.
Rainwater goods & drainage repairs, plus window and roof repairs



Little Cressingham, St Andrew. £10,000.
Refurbish rainwater goods, roof and window repairs



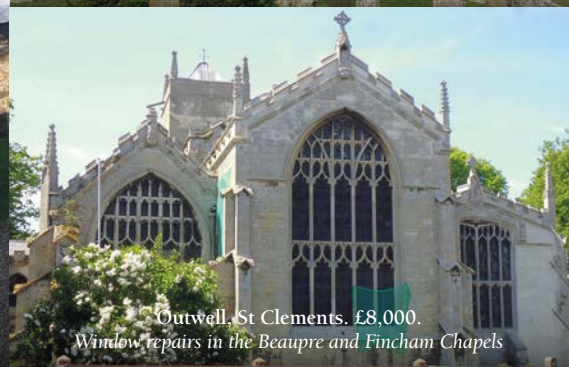
Wretton, All Saints. £8,000.
Removal and repair of three tower pinnacles



Tilney, All Saints. £5,000.
Installation of roof alarm



Acle, St Edmund. £3,000.
Re-thatching north slope of nave roof



Outwell, St Clements. £8,000.
Window repairs in the Beaupre and Fincham Chapels



Wells next the Sea.
Received NLHF grant in March 2020 for major repairs previously awarded a NCT grant



Brockdish, St Peter & St Paul. £5,000.
Chancel interior plastering and window repairs

County Trust Conference 2019, Norwich Cathedral

The annual County Trust Conference in 2019 came to Norfolk. This was to be the first conference to be completely organised and managed by a County Trust without the help and active participation of the National Churches Trust. After almost a year in the planning, it finally took place on 16 October 2019 in the Weston Room of Norwich Cathedral. We took as our title 'Faith and Place, A Future for the Isolated Rural Church'. Most County Trusts receive applications for grants from small rural churches, rich in heritage, whose villages have disappeared over the centuries and whose congregations are tiny. We thought it would be interesting to try to address this problem and seek solutions.

After welcoming remarks by the Dean and General the Lord Dannatt, President of the Norfolk Churches Trust, the Chairman Peter Sheppard introduced the Bishop of Worcester, the Rt Revd Dr John Inge who in his opening address reminded us of the importance of place in both the Old and New Testaments. He continued saying that 'if place in general is important then holy places (i.e. our churches) are vital to our spiritual health'. The Bishop's presentation is printed in full elsewhere in this report.

Trevor Cooper, of the Historic Religious



Lord Dannatt & Peter Sheppard at the beginning of the event

Buildings Alliance spoke on 'The isolated rural church, problems and possibilities' producing some rather alarming statistics, including that our 15,700 churches cost about £100 million a year to run which had to be raised by a dwindling number of parishioners and without Government support. He also listed with the help of a Dave Walker cartoon, some ideas for wider use of our church buildings.

Three presentations followed given by Matthew McDade of the Norwich Diocesan Churches Trust, Rachael Morley of the Friends of Friendless Churches and Scilla Latham of the Norfolk Churches Trust. All three organisations care for redundant churches. The Diocesan Churches Trust is a relatively new initiative to take on churches that parishes find too much of a burden. Scilla Latham spoke about looking after the 13 churches currently in the Norfolk Churches Trust's care and the balancing act required between funding 'live' churches as opposed to the redundant, however architecturally important they may be. Rachael Morley spoke on the work of the Friends of Friendless Churches, a Charity which started life as part of what is now the

Churches Conservation Trust. Founded in 1957 it now cares for 64 churches all over the country.

John Goodall, the Architectural Editor of *Country Life*, rounded off the morning with a wonderful gallop through the Treasures within Norfolk's Churches, speaking without notes. His lecture was lavishly illustrated, and verbally and visually entertaining.

If the morning session concentrated on 'the current situation', the afternoon session was all about 'what can be done to help'. Diana Evans, Head of Places of Worship at Historic England, spoke on Rural Places of Worship and Public Value. She pointed out that the Places of Worship Sector is not as good at explaining why its buildings matter, as opposed to 'the very effective and longstanding advocacy of the natural environment, arts and museum sectors'. We need to get across to Government how Places of Worship improve a community's cultural, economic, social and environmental locality; how they address isolation and loneliness, especially in rural areas and how they improve the environment both as a physical refuge but also the value of the flora and fauna present in the churchyards.



John Goodall speaking at the event

Two distinguished Conservation Architects Ruth Blackman of Birdsall, Swash and Blackman, and Nicholas Wams of Nicholas Wams, Architects, spoke of the challenges faced by rural churches and described the work they are currently undertaking at North Tuddenham and Waterden respectively.

Holly Isted, the Church Building Support Officer for the Diocese of Ely spoke on 'Community Engagement for Rural Churches' and Laura Emmins on the 'Outcomes of the Taylor Review Pilot' which focussed on the sustainability of churches. The Support Officers provided a model for helping church groups to raise funds for repairs and extend community use.

Richard Halsey, an Architectural Historian, then wound up the Conference. With consummate skill, he drew together the common threads of the presentations. The perilous nature of the future of church buildings was brought into focus by the work now being done by caring for redundant churches. John Goodall has shown us that churches are treasure troves of works of art which, were the churches to be closed, would be in danger. He highlighted the need for Government funding if these treasures of our built heritage were to be saved.

Apart from the presentations, networking is an integral part of these gatherings where information is shared and ideas for the future considered between County Trusts from all over the country. We were delighted that so many delegates found their way to Norwich join us.

The venue for the next Conference, probably to be held in 2021, is not yet decided.

Caroline Egerton, Chairman of the Conference Committee

Faith and Place: a future for the isolated rural church

The keynote speech by Bishop
John Inge for the Norfolk
Churches Trust Conference,
held at Norwich Cathedral.
October 2019



Congratulations! You have more churches than any other diocese, with the exception of Oxford, which is much larger. You know the statistics but what I want to do is to congratulate the home team here on caring for them.

There is much to celebrate in terms of the health of our wonderful buildings up and down the land. A glance at eighteenth century prints makes clear the parlous state into which the majority had fallen at that time. Following all the restoration and building work of the nineteenth century, war consumed much energy during the first half of the twentieth century. Fortunately, much attention has been given to them in the last generation. Our churches are arguably in a better state as far as their fabric is concerned than has ever been the case, despite a lack of state funding. We are the least established church in Europe in terms of finance. And they are loved. They are the jewel in the crown of our built heritage.

They are more than that, though they are memory palaces: they are the repositories of the stories of communities, their parishes. Robert Harbison in 1992 described what he called a 'vast avalanche' of books on England's parish churches.¹ These are guides for church-spotters, of which John Betjeman's *English Parish Churches*² is still the paradigm. They often comment on the broader place of the parish church in the English natural and social landscape though the latter is only now being investigated more thoroughly.³

We live in a society which does not appreciate the significance of place. And it is not surprising, given how rootless most of us are. I am typical of my generation in that, if I am asked where I come from, I am thrown into confusion. I say that I was born in Kent and spent the first 13 years of my life there but that I've lived all over the place since then: Oxford, Durham, London, Sussex, Tyneside, Yorkshire,

Cambridgeshire, Worcester. And those of us who have moved for work, as many have done, are the fortunate ones. The twentieth century has been referred to by some as the century of the refugee – millions of people have been moved from their homes forcibly. This century is already worse. Whether we like it or not this rootlessness and lack of a sense of place is what millions of people experience – and it causes problems. The psychologist Paul Tournier found that a recurring theme in people's dreams was of not being able to find one's place. The French philosopher Michel Foucault went so far as to state that 'the anxiety of our era has to do fundamentally with space.'

Unfortunately, if rootlessness and lack of sense of place is problematic, the Church does not always do very well in helping people to address the problem. I often hear it said that the Church is about people and not about buildings. Well, that approach can be justified by scripture – we are told that we should worship in spirit and in truth, but to use this quote from Jesus in isolation is to ignore the thrust of scripture as a whole, which takes place very seriously. Where do the scriptures begin? In the Garden of Eden, a place. That is the image we are given of paradise as it existed before the fall. Adam and Eve rooted in this most glorious place. That image of paradise resonates, I believe, with our deepest displaced selves 'the laughter in the garden, echoed ecstasy', as T. S. Eliot has it. After the fall, God's relationship with his chosen people is still bound to place, the Promised Land. Through the Old Testament we see a threefold relationship between God, his chosen people and the Promised Land. All three were important. Moving right to

the end of the Bible, the consummation of all things is represented in the Book of Revelation by the descent of the heavenly Jerusalem, a place. It is, in fact, very difficult for us to imagine salvation except in terms of place: Jesus says, 'There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not I would have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you': not a nice group of holy people but a place. A little girl sitting next to her father behind me at a service recently said 'I want to go home.' I felt the same. Salvation is about going home as much as it is about anything else.

Walter Brueggemann's conclusion:

In the Old Testament there is no timeless space, but there is also no spaceless time. There is rather *storied place*, that is a place which has meaning because of the history lodged there. There are stories which have authority because they are located in a place. This means that biblical faith cannot be presented simply as an historical movement indifferent to place which could have happened in one setting as well as another, because it is undeniably fixed in this place with this meaning. And for all its apparent 'spiritualising', the New Testament does not escape this rootage.⁴

The Biblical witness recognises the importance of place and we need to attend to it in our own spirituality if we are to find that wholeness of life which God yearns to give us. Place and a sense of place are vital to the Christian scheme of things and to any spirituality that might flow from it for 'To speak of spirituality is to speak of that meeting of eternity with time, of heaven

with earth; it is to recover a sense of the holiness of matter, the sacredness of this world of space and time when it is known as the place of God's epiphany.'

If place in general is important then holy places are vital to our spiritual health. The churches you care for are places where worship has been offered over centuries and, as a result, 'where prayer has been valid', to use Eliot's phrase. They stand as a witness to the fact that this world is not a system closed upon itself and, as such can, pray God, help those who feel a bit rootless to find their true identity, as children of God. They contain multiple symbolic reminders of the fact that our most significant place of belonging should be to Christ in whom we are called to be built into a living temple to God's glory with Jesus himself the cornerstone. God willing churches will enable people in this generation recover their Christian roots.

Of course, we must beware of an idolatrous attitude to place – the temple in Jerusalem could not contain the Lord of Lords any more than any building can. But we need to recognise the scriptural truth that place is a fundamental category of human and spiritual experience and offer that insight to a rootless world. Our attitude to holy places should be a bit like our attitude to Sundays. It's not that Sundays and churches are nearer to God or more excellent: they are fractions, set apart to represent the truth that all time and space are God's. The part is consecrated, not instead of the whole, but on behalf of the whole. So, in the same way, places like this should help us to begin to be aware of God in all places. In this sense they should be sacramental. The language of sacrament bids us see through. As Herbert puts it:

A man that looks on glass
On it may stay his eye;
Or if he pleaseth, through it pass,
And then the heaven espy.

Through is the sacramental preposition and through the physical places of this world God speaks to us of his love, his truth and his grace.

The first Christian churches were *martyria*, built over the places where the martyrs met their death. The word martyr simply means 'witness'. That is what churches should do, bear witness to the faith for which they stand – we should see through them to the reality of the living God. They can do that during and outside worship – which is why it is so crucial that they should not be locked.

In the report produced in 2015 by the Group I chaired the emphasis was on greater community use, as it was in the Taylor report. They should, I would argue, symbolise both aspects of our Lord's summary of the law – loving the Lord our God through worship and loving our neighbours as ourselves. I fully recognise that this will not be possible with large numbers of the churches of this diocese. That is why I pressed consistently in both groups the point that whatever attempts may be made to enable churches to be self-sustaining there are many – particularly here and in Exeter and Lincoln dioceses – that need State assistance. They simply cannot be self-sustaining, but they are nevertheless really important.

Being more than historic monuments, which are still, wonderfully, being used for the purpose for which they were built,

they offer something unique and hard to define in addition to their architectural glory. Perhaps that additional 'something' is better captured by novelists and poets than by architects, theologians and historians. What the novelist Susan Hill writes of cathedrals, could be said of parish churches: 'Where else are such places, 'where the sense of all past, all present, is distilled into the eternal moment 'at the still point of the turning world?''⁵ She asks another rhetorical question which amplifies the point: 'But surely there are other places that will serve the purpose? To which people may come freely, to be alone among others? To pray, to reflect, to plead, gather strength, rest, summon up courage, to listen to solemn words. What are these other places? To which the pilgrim or the traveller, the seeker, the refugee, the petitioner or the thanksgiver may quietly come, anonymously, perhaps, without fear of comment or remark, question or disturbance.'⁶ She continues: 'To think of the world without these cathedrals, without all cathedrals, is like a bereavement. It is painful. The loss of the buildings themselves, the grandeur, the beauty, is

unimaginable – the mind veers away from it. But think of the world without the great palaces. Surely that is the same? We know, deeply, instinctively, that it is not. Destroy all the churches then. Is not that the same? We know that it is more. And that it is not merely a question of thunderbolts.'⁷

These building have a deep symbolic significance. As Sarah Coakley observes:

'The Church is not a building.' That is most certainly true. But buildings in which 'prayer has been valid' are more like people than stone or brick, because of their vibrant association with the folk we and others have loved. They are not so much haunted as 'thin' to another world in which past, present and future converge. And when, as in the parish system in England, each such building holds the memories of a particular geographical community, it is well to be aware of its remaining symbolic power – even if it now seems neglected, under-used or actively vandalised.'⁸

Endnotes

- ¹ R. Harbison, *The Shell Guide to England's Parish Churches* (London, Andre Deutche, 1992), 15.
- ² J. Betjeman, *Collins Guide to England's Parish Churches* (London: Collins, 19580)
- ³ See, for example, A. Davison and A. Millbank, *For the Parish* (London: SCM, 2010); A. Rumsey, *Parish: an Anglican Theology of Place*, Forthcoming
- ⁴ Brueggemann (1978), 187
- ⁵ Hill in Platten and Lewis (1998), 13
- ⁶ Hill in Platten and Lewis (1998), 4
- ⁷ S. Hill, 'At the Still Point of the Turning World. Cathedrals Experienced' in Platten and Lewis (1998), 8
- ⁸ S. Coakley in S. Wells and S. Coakley, *Praying for England. Priestly Presence in Contemporary Culture* (London: Continuum, 2008), 12



Leased Churches

West Rudham, St Peter



**HERITAGE
FUND**

This has been a year to celebrate the completion of repairs on three of the Leased Churches rather than embarking on new work. The repairs at All Saints Snetterton which were largely funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) were finally completed in July but it was not until the end of November that all the community engagement elements of the project were finished. Local interest gradually built up over the time the repairs were under way and now some local people are continuing the local history research, which was an essential part of the project, and others are helping to keep the church clean and welcoming for visitors. A capacity congregation took part in the ever-popular Christmas Carol Service with attendant donkeys, which is organised by the World Horse Welfare Trust. Other planned events at the church have had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 lockdown. I am delighted to report that two very kind

local people offered to be the key holders required for the roof alarm at St Peter's Church West Rudham. Without them we would not have been able to get the roof alarm installed and repair the section of



Judith James at work during the Icons exhibition week at St Peter's Corpusty, photo: Roger Last

the south aisle lead roof that was stolen in November 2018. Other work carried out at St Peter's this year included window repairs, roof repairs and re-laying an area of floor by the entrance door. The major repairs identified in the structural survey in 2016 are currently on hold until funds can be raised for what is becoming increasingly urgent work.

The chancel roof and ceiling repairs at All Saints church, Rackheath were finally completed in January this year. This work was largely funded from the Leased Churches Fund set up as a result of a very generous legacy received in 2017. Minor routine external repairs at All Saints Barmer, St Peter's Corpusty and St Peter's Dunton were also carried out.

The Petertide celebrations at St Peter's Corpusty were a tribute to the close ties the Trust has established with the local community. They began with a well-attended preview of a captivating exhibition of icons by Judith James a local artist, which attracted many visitors over the following days. Picnics in the churchyard before the Petertide service on a blazing hot day set the scene for a wonderfully atmospheric service in the church watched over by saints in the icons. Thanks to all who made this such a memorable week.

Scilla Latham,
Secretary of the Norfolk Churches Trust



Icons exhibition opening evening at St Peter's Corpusty

We are always in need of more people to support the work of the Trust by helping care for our set of 13 very special redundant churches leased from the Diocese of Norwich and the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia. Many of them have been in the care of the Norfolk Churches Trust for over 40 years, during which time the Trust has maintained and when necessary undertaken major repairs to keep them in good condition. Helping with these churches can take many forms, from opening and keeping the churches looking welcoming to visitors, to churchyard maintenance or carrying out research into their history. This is a wonderful way of meeting like-minded people and learning new skills, as well as having the satisfaction of playing a part in the preservation of our cultural heritage across the county. Each year a few people step forward to help us and we are immensely grateful to all of them. Could this be the year you take that step? If you think it is, please get in touch with me, by email: secretary@norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk, or phone 01379 677272.



Bike Ride

Aylsham, St Michael by David Nice

As I sit at my desk in June 2020 to write this article we are hopefully seeing the dwindling of Covid-19 and a happier time with more freedom of movement on the horizon. Everyone at the Norfolk Churches Trust hopes that you, your family, friends and local community have remained well and have managed to stay positive in what has been a very difficult time.

Our local churches are still currently locked and so it will be a huge relief when they are open again for us to appreciate their architectural, historical and religious importance to this county. Like many charities and churches the Norfolk Churches Trust has lost out on many of its fundraising activities and so I hope that we can make this event a bumper year. Many people have been getting on their bikes or walking to take exercise which will be great training for this year's Bike Ride! We do ask that people keep an eye on the website and their emails for any last-minute instructions to comply with social distancing measures.

There was lots of good news to come out of last year's ride. The Bike Ride raised an amazing £95,037 in 2019, which was an increase of £3,541 on 2018. The number of people taking part increased by 5% to 567 and the number of places of worship receiving cheques increased from 279 to 312. We would like to pass on an **enormous thank you** to everybody who took part either cycling, walking, driving or manning the churches. You make a great contribution to the church of your choice and to the Trust.

This was the second year of posting our

packs and we felt that we had ironed out a lot of the initial teething problems. It gives us confidence that the packs will arrive safely in the parishes in July with plenty of time to prepare for the 12th of September.

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.

- William O'Brien was the winner of the Prince of Wales Certificate and raised £1,375.
- Mary Truman won £1,000 for her nominated church as it was the most improved on 2018.
- Michael and Paula were the top cyclists on their tandem and visited 62 churches.
- James Akehurst was the top walker and visited 51 churches.
- David Nice, Lorne Inglis and Roger Peacock won £50 cheques for their photographs and had their pictures published.
- Hempstead, All Saints raised £4,154 and was top church this year, and Burgh Castle, St Peter and Paul, came second as a result of another outstanding fundraising effort by Paul Nicholls.



Presentation of the Prince of Wales Certificate by Lady Agnew to Paul Nichols



Bike on a Boar at St Helen's Wroxham by Rebecca Hitchens

To give an incentive to churches and chapels to take part this year, the Norfolk Churches Trust are again 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 fundraising 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 (<https://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 the 12 September 2020. 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.

"My thanks to the Bike Ride Committee, the NCT administration and Rachael Dawson for processing all the Bike Ride returns"

Charles Inglis,
Chairman of the Bike Ride Committee



Report of the Events Committee 2019-2020

Mannington Hall.
House by the Church day

The period under review was somewhat overshadowed by the tumultuous final quarter of the period with the onset of Covid-19 wreaking havoc with the Trust's, and in fact almost all charities', fundraising activities. We should not, however, let that overshadow what a busy and successful year it was up to that point. The year kicked off with a tour of the STANTA battle area churches, efficiently organised by committee member Scilla Landale. The Ministry of Defence requisitioned this site during the Second World War and the residents were ordered out virtually overnight, abandoning their six villages and four churches. The MOD retains the land to this day for training and access to the four churches is only allowed on a very restricted basis; our thanks to Lt. Col. Tony Powell (who has since retired), Trustee Ian Lonsdale and the Diocese of Norwich for facilitating this visit. This event is always very over-booked as it was again this year. Future access is by no means guaranteed, so grab the chance if it comes around again. Unfortunately

the 2020 tour had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Trust extends its thanks to the MOD for permitting access and providing guides, to Ruth Blackman for talking so knowledgeably about each church and to Fr. Philip Gray for conducting the Evensong service in Saint Mary's Church, West Tofts.

Another highlight of the early part of the year was the ever popular House by the Church event, ably chaired by Canon Mair McFadyen. The area covered was a slice of the North Norfolk coast running roughly from Wells to Cromer in the North and from Fakenham to Aylsham in the South. The committee persuaded 24 very generous owners to open their private homes and/or gardens for the day. More than 370 members signed up for the event and over £20,000 was raised by the Trust. It is impossible to mention all the houses in the limited space available but they ranged from very grand Stately Homes, such as Wolterton Hall and Wiveton Hall, to extremely quirky houses, such as the delightfully converted water tower at Cawston,

as well as the wonderful "Fiddian's Follies" garden open for the first time. Really there was something for everyone. Plans are already afoot for a repeat event in 2021, so please keep an eye out for that. A reception was held to thank the house owners and other volunteers at Wolterton Hall in July.

The high point of the summer was, of course, the Holkham Operas organised yet again by Sarah, Countess of Leicester. This year it was L'Italiana in Algeri and the ever popular Madama Butterfly performed by Diva Opera in the incomparable Marble Hall at Holkham. The event, now in its 19th year, raised £20,100 bringing the total raised over the years to a staggering £400,000. What would we do without such energetic and generous volunteers!

As usual there was a wide-ranging set of talks and book launches covering a diverse range of topics. Some of my personal favourites included the talk by architectural historian, author and TV presenter Jeremy Musson on Robert Adam. The talk was arranged by NCT fundraising stalwart Lady Fraser and hosted by Mr and Mrs George Lynne at the wonderful Shropham Hall. Tony Scotland also gave a fascinating and amusing account of a road trip undertaken by Trust founder Lady ("Billa") Harrod, Lady (Freda) Berkeley and Lady Dorothy ("Coote") Herber-Percy to the Peloponnese to visit author Patrick Leigh Fermor and his wife, the photographer Joan Eyres Monsell. The talk was based on Tony's book *Joy Ride* and was followed by a discussion led by Julian Berkeley on *Gradual: A Renaissance Chant Book and its Role in the Counter Reformation*. The event was hosted by Trust Chair, Peter Sheppard, at his home Wolterton Hall. Also at Wolterton, the Trust steered into potentially controversial territory hosting an interesting and well received talk by

eminent historian Sir David Cannadine entitled "An Historian Tries to Look at Brexit". Other well received events included an exhibition of icons painted by Judith James at St Peter's church Corpusty and a book launch for Clive Dunn's *Landscape of Towers* relating to Norfolk's many lost and ruined churches held at St Nicholas' church, Fundenhall. On a note of sadness I must report that the Trust has lost the valuable volunteer services of Fiona Fraser who for many years has almost single handedly arranged an enormous number of talks and book launches and other interesting events in aid of the Trust. Alas, Fiona is heading for pastures new and is due to move to London in the near future. A vast debt of gratitude is owed to her. We wish her well.

In addition the Trust hosted the County Church Trusts' annual conference, coordinated by Lady Egerton, and the wonderful annual Bike Ride led by Charlie Inglis, both of which are the subject of reports elsewhere herein.

I should also extend a very special thank you to all the energetic volunteers who come up with creative ideas and organise events. People often don't realise how much work goes into the events and we certainly would not be able to put on anything like the quality and quantity of events without such enthusiastic helpers.

So it was an interesting and varied year for Trust events. Notwithstanding the current pandemic, plans are very much afoot for an interesting series of events as soon as conditions permit. These include, of course, the ever popular Stately Car Boot Sale that was a casualty of Covid-19. We now hope to stage this on Sunday 2 May, 2021.

Patrick Lines, Chair of the Events Committee

Leased Churches Cared For by the Norfolk Churches Trust

Whenever possible the churches are kept open during daylight hours.
Keyholder details 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 01485 578528

Barmer, All Saints: PE31 8SR
In middle of field off B1454
Local contact and keyholder: 01485 578220

Cockthorpe, All Saints: NR23 1QS
Local contact and keyholder: 01328 830202

Corpusty, St Peter: NR11 6QE
off Norwich Road Open on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the year or by contacting the keyholder.
Key also available in village shop.
Local contact and keyholder: 01263 587014

Dunton, St Peter: NR21 7PG
Local contact: 01328 853226

Hargham, All Saints: NR16 2JW
Local contact and keyholder: 01953 455553

Illington, St Andrew: IP24 1RS
Illington Road. Reached via a farm drive and grassy track.
Local contact and keyholder: 01953 498121

Lynford, Our Lady of Consolation & St Stephen: IP26 5EL Reached via forestry track 34, off West Tofts Road. Hidden in trees.
Local contact and keyholder: 01842 878246

Morton on the Hill, St Margaret: NR9 5JS
Reached via farm drive from Ringland Road.
(Locked please contact the keyholder in advance)
Local contact and keyholder: 01603 880165

Rackheath, All Saints: NR13 6QT.
Brown heritage sign on Wroxham Road: continue to Swash Lane.
Lane to church currently gated and church locked.
For access please contact the keyholder, or Trust office for further information.
Local contact and keyholder: 07858 370400

Snetterton, All Saints: NR16 2LR
Keyholders: World Horse Welfare reception (office hours) 01953 498682
or local contact & keyholder: 07867 512084

West Bilney, St Cecilia: PE32 1XQ
Local contact and keyholder: 01760 337382

West Rudham, St Peter: PE31 8TE
Local contact and keyholder: 07584 122 346

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 Ltd.

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The Bishop of Norwich
The Bishop of Ely

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Jonathan Ellis
Mrs Sara Foster DL*
(resigned September 2019)
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(resigned December 2019)
Mrs Holly Gold JP, DL
Charles Inglis (Bike Ride Co-ordinator)
(appointed September 2019)
Sarah Countess of Leicester*
Patrick Lines
Ian Lonsdale TD*
Dr John Maddison
(appointed September 2019)

Advisory Council

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

Lady Agnew
Mrs Rosabelle Batt
Maurice de Bunsen
Peter de Bunsen*
Col. Tom Fitzalan Howard CBE
Fr Philip Gray (Hon Chaplain)
Christopher Hartop
Canon Jeremy Haselock (Hon Chaplain)
Stephen Heywood
James Hickman
Brian Iles
Mrs Scilla Landale
Mrs Jane Lane
George Lynne
Rev Canon Mair Mcfadyen
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*indicates Vice President
Company Secretary:
Mrs Scilla Latham

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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

The Norfolk Churches Trust Ltd.

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales

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

President: General the Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL

Chairman: Peter Sheppard

Secretary: Mrs Scilla Latham

Trust Office: Manor Farmhouse, Diss Road, Tibenham, Norwich NR16 1QF

44th Annual General Meeting

To be held on Wednesday 9th September 2020 at 5:30pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Presiding Chairman's opening remarks.
3. To confirm the Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting held at the parish church of St Andrew Saxthorpe on Thursday 12th September 2019.
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 31st March 2020.
8. Election of the Board of Directors/Trustees.
The following retire and seek re-election: Amelia Courtauld, Holly Gold and Ian Lonsdale.
The following seek election: Rosabelle Batt.
9. Election to the Advisory Council.
The following retire and seek re-election: Fr Philip Gray, Scilla Landale, Matthew Rice, Ashley Spooner, Frederique, Baroness van Till and John Vigar.
10. Propose the appointment of Larking Gowen as Independent Examiners and authorise the Trustees to agree their remuneration.
11. Any other business of which notice has been received of not less than two weeks before the meeting.

Due to the current uncertainty regarding public gatherings, we are unable to confirm the venue for the AGM, or if it may have to be held remotely. As soon as this becomes clearer, you will be notified of the arrangements.

Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting of The Norfolk Churches Trust Ltd

at St Andrew's Church, Saxthorpe on Thursday 12th September 2019 at 5:30pm

Present: General the Lord Dannat (President and Presiding Chairman), Peter Sheppard (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 Jonathan Ellis, Sara Foster, Holly Gold (Trustees); Peter de Bunsen, Tom Fitzalan Howard, Karen Knight, Scilla Landale, George Lynne, Rev Mair McFadyen (Advisory Councillors) and 52 Friends of the Trust.
2. **Presiding Chairman's opening remarks:** Lord Dannatt opened the meeting by thanking the rector and churchwardens of St Andrew's church for allowing the Trust to hold their AGM in their church. He commended the Trustees, Advisory Council and Scilla Latham for ensuring the Trust had another successful year. In particular he thanked all those involved in the fundraising events through the year: the talks organised by Fiona Fraser, the Bike Ride led by Charles Inglis, House by the Church, Chaired by Caroline Egerton and the operas at Holkham which through Sarah Leicester's tireless efforts raise significant sums for the Trust every year.
3. **The Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting** held at St Margaret's Church, Fleggburgh on Wednesday 12th September 2018 were confirmed by the meeting as being a correct record and signed by Lord Dannatt.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes:** There were no matters arising.
5. **To receive the Chairman of the Trust's Report:** Peter Sheppard began by expressing his delight at being elected Chairman of the Trust in October 2018. He thanked Michael Sayer, Scilla Latham, and the Grants Committee for the care they take in assessing all the grant applications. The hard work of everyone involved in organising the wide range of fundraising events had made it possible to award grants in excess of £180,000 over the year. He thanked Fiona Fraser for organising her talks that always attract capacity audiences. The House by the Church day had raised £21,000 but also did much to create goodwill towards the Trust and encourage new members. It is hoped to develop some low-cost events such as church tours aimed at attracting younger people to the Trust. A new website is planned which will enable joining online. Peter thanked Scilla for her work in ensuring the efficient administration of the Trust.
6. **To receive the Honorary Treasurer's Report:** David Missen presented his report and the summary of Financial Statements (circulated to the meeting in advance) and offered to answer any questions. There were no questions and Lord Dannatt thanked David for his work.
7. **To receive the Annual Accounts** for the year ending 31st March 2019. Proposed by Michael Sayer and seconded by Ian Lonsdale.
8. **Re-election and election of Directors/Trustees:** It was proposed by Peter Sheppard and seconded by Clare Agnew and unanimously agreed that Sarah, Countess of Leicester and Patrick Lines be re-elected as Trustees and that Charles Inglis and John Maddison be elected as Trustees.
9. **Re-election and election to the Advisory Council:** It was proposed by Patrick Lines and seconded by Clare Agnew and unanimously agreed that Rosabelle Batt, Christopher Hartop, Tom Fitzalan Howard, Stephen Heywood, George Lynne, Alison Wakes-Miller and Michael Wingate be re-elected to the Advisory Council and that James Hickman is elected to the Advisory Council.
12. **To propose the appointment of Larking Gowen as Independent Examiners and for the Trustees to agree their remuneration.** Proposed by Patrick Lines and seconded by Peter Sheppard.
13. **Any other business:** There were no items raised and Lord Dannatt thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 6pm.



Holkham Opera nights: L'italiana in Algeri performed by Diva Opera



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