



**The NORFOLK
CHURCHES TRUST**



COMBINED ANNUAL REPORT

2012–2014

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year the Trust awarded 30 new grants and, with grants committed in earlier years, we gave support to 58 churches. These grants are detailed in note 9. Work has also continued on our leased churches. The first two phases of Cockthorpe All Saints are finished. We hope to complete the third phase this coming year. Our other twelve leased churches remain under constant review.

The Trust's investments made a good recovery in the latter part of the year. As a result the Trust's net assets have increased from £1,258,454 to £1,313,094. Exceptionally low interest rates continue to have a negative impact on the investment income, but equities continue to perform well.

Our largest single fund raising event is the Bicycle Ride held every year in September, now headed by Charles Inglis who kindly took over from Geoff Wortley in July. Charles and his committee, along with the bike ride co-ordinators across the county and of course the riders and now walkers, raised over £50,000 for the Trust, with a similar amount going to the chosen parishes. This is such an important day in our calendar and thank you all so much for taking part and I hope you will feel able to do so again this year.

Our other fund raising efforts raised a further £68,000. Clare Agnew took charge of the very successful House by the Church which this year was held in East Norfolk. Lady Leicester not only organised two operas at Holkham but also hosted a drinks party at Model Farm in September, where Kit and McConnell kindly performed for us. My thanks go not only to Lady Leicester but also to Christopher Hartop who organised the evening. Fiona Fraser initiated and single handedly organised five most interesting lectures. My thanks go to all the organisers and their committees who work so hard to produce such a diverse mixture of

events and thank you for your continuing support. Huge thanks also go to the speakers and all the generous owners who allow us to stage these events in such wonderful settings or have allowed access to their houses for the House by the Church.

We appreciate the continuing support from South Norfolk District and North Norfolk District Councils. Sadly no further councils felt able to help us this year due to financial constraints, so we are most grateful for these two grants.

We had two resignations from the Board this year. Our past Chairman, Bolton Agnew, and the Bicycle Ride co-ordinator, Geoff Wortley. I am delighted to welcome Christopher Hartop and Jamie Jamieson in their place. Another past Chairman, Charles Bingham Newland resigned from the Advisory Council after many years of service. I would like to thank them all for their combined contributions to The Trust.

On a sad note, we lost our past chairmen Piers Pratt and Theresa Courtauld. Both were huge supporters of the Trust and our thoughts are with their families. In December, Malcolm Fisher was taken very seriously ill and despite his extraordinary recovery I am very sorry to report that he has announced his retirement at the end of October. Many of us do not remember the Trust without Malcolm at the helm and his knowledge and expertise are second to none. His retirement is going to be a huge loss to the Trust.

We all want the heritage of our churches to be secured for future generations. With your support we will do our best to continue to help the extraordinarily important churches of this county.

SARA FOSTER
CHAIRMAN
4TH JULY 2014

FINANCIAL SUMMARY – NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST

Year ended 31 March 2014

Summary Statement of Financial Activities

	2013–14	2012–13
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	33,318	25,074
Local authority grants	10,000	21,200
Legacies	1,500	2,500
Subscriptions	29,265	30,066
Repair grant received	–	117,979
Leased churches	1,430	1,182
Activities for generating funds		
Sponsored bicycle ride	106,841	110,868
Trust events	68,248	70,169
Sale of goods	836	1,166
Investment income	44,480	44,137
Total incoming resources	295,918	424,341
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Cost of generating funds		
Costs of generating voluntary income	(21,650)	(26,519)
Fundraising costs (incl. parish share of bike ride)	(70,830)	(71,466)
Charitable activities		
Grants offered	(92,049)	(104,955)
Expenditure on leased and other churches	(26,692)	(190,997)
Support costs	(43,596)	(45,989)
Governance costs	(10,928)	(9,021)
Total resources expended	(265,745)	(448,947)
Net incoming resources for the year	30,173	(24,606)
Other recognised gains and losses		
Gains on investment assets	24,467	104,376
Net movement in funds	54,640	79,770
Fund balances brought forward	1,258,455	1,178,685
Fund balances carried forward at the end of the year	1,313,095	1,258,455
<i>of which</i>		
Restricted funds:	7,013	7,041
Unrestricted funds:	1,306,082	1,251,414
	1,313,095	1,258,455

Summary Balance Sheet

	31 March 2014	31 March 2013
	£	£
Fixed asset investments	1,126,877	1,087,037
Net current assets	186,218	171,417
Net assets	1,313,095	1,258,454
Funds		
Restricted	7,013	7,041
Unrestricted	1,306,082	1,251,413
Total funds	1,313,095	1,258,454

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, Sancroft Cottage, Laxfield, Suffolk IP13 8EQ.

The full accounts have been audited by Lovewell Blake and received an unqualified opinion. They were approved by the Trustees on 30 July 2014 and will be submitted to the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies.

JONATHAN ELLIS, HONORARY TREASURER

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' STATEMENT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST LIMITED

We have examined the summarised financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Auditor

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

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report.

We also read other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent mis-statements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of The Norfolk Churches Trust Limited for the year ended 31 March 2014.

LOVEWELL BLAKE LLP
Chartered Accountants
and Statutory Auditor

Bankside 300, Peachman Way
Broadland Business Park
Norwich
2 September 2014

GRANTS 2012–14

During the past 2 years, the Trust offered and paid grants from its General and WREN Funds to the following churches:

General Fund

Church	Grants outstanding pre 04/12	2012/2013		2013/2014		Outstanding at year end
		Offered	Paid in Year	Offered (released)	Paid in Year	
Aldbrough, St Mary				1000	1000	
Alderford, St John the Baptist	2000			(113)	1887	
Ashby, (Lothingland), St Mary		500	500			
Aylmerton, St John the Baptist		1500			1500	
Baconsthorpe, St Mary	5000				5000	
Barnham Broom, SS Peter & Paul	4000		4000			
Bawburgh, SS Mary & Walstan	2000				2000	
Beeston, St Lawrence	3000					3000
Beighton, All Saints		500			500	
Bircham Newton, All Saints		5000			5000	
Blickling, St Andrew		5000				5000
Blofield, SS Andrew & Peter	3000				3000	
Bodney, St Mary				6000		6000
Boughton, All Saints	700		700			
Bracon Ash, St Nicholas	3000		3000			
Brancaaster, St Mary	3000				3000	
Braydeston, St Michael	4000		4000			
Brettenham, St Andrew	6775		6775			
Brunstead, St Peter		5000	3095	1000	1905	1000
Burgh (Fleggburgh), St Margaret		1000	1000			
Burgh-next-Aylsham, St Mary the Virgin				5000	5000	
Burston, St Mary	482					482
Carleton Forehoe, St Mary		5000			5000	
Carleton St Peter, St Peter				1000		1000
Catfield. All Saints	4000					4000
Corton, St Bartholomew	1000		1000			
Crostwight, All Saints				3000	3000	
Croxton, All Saints	5000		5000			
Diss, St Mary	1000		1000			
East Rudham, St Mary	500		500			
East Tuddenham, All Saints				5000		5000
Elsing, St Mary				5000		5000
Flordon, St Michael		2000	2000			
Forncett, St Mary		6000				6000
Fritton, St Catherine	3000				3000	
Fulmodeston, Christ Church		5000			5000	
Fundenhall St Nicholas	4000		4000	5000		5000
Garboldisham, St John the Baptist		1000			1000	
Garvestone, St Margaret				6000		6000
Gayton, St Nicholas		5000				5000
Gayton Thorpe, St Mary	3000		3000			
Great Bircham, St Mary the Virgin		500				500
Great Cressingham, St Michael	5000		5000			
Great Ellingham, St James	4000		4000			
Great Hockham, Holy Trinity				3000		3000

General Fund continued	Grants outstanding pre 04/12	2012/2013 Offered	Paid in Year	2013/2014 Offered (released)	Paid in Year	Outstanding at year end
Church						
Great Melton, All Saints	10000		5715		4285	
Great Plumstead, St Mary		1000				1000
Great Yarmouth St Mary (RC)				5000	5000	
Great Yarmouth, St Peter/St Spyridon (Greek Orthodox)				2000		2000
Griston St Peter & St Paul				4000		4000
Guestwick, St Peter		2000			2000	
Hainford, All Saints		3000			3000	
Hardwick, St Margaret				5000		5000
Hemblington, All Saints				1000	1000	
Hethersett, St Remegius				1500		1500
Hockering, St Michael				2000		2000
Holme Hale, St Andrew	5000		5000			
Holt, St Andrew		500	500			
Horsham St Faith, Sts Andrew & Mary				3000		3000
Ingham, Holy Trinity		5000			5000	
King's Lynn Minster (St Margaret)	5000					5000
Little Ellingham, St Peter	3000		3000			
Litcham, All Saints				5000	5000	
Lyng, St Margaret		3000			3000	
Martham, St Mary	5000		5000			
Merton, St Peter				5000		5000
Metton, St Andrew	6000		6000			
Mundham, St Peter	1000					1000
Newton-by-Castle Acre, St Mary & All Saints		5000			5000	
Northwold, St Andrew				2000		2000
Norwich, St George, Colegate	1000				1000	
Norwich, St George, Tombland		5000			5000	
Norwich, St Stephen	5000		5000			
Old Buckenham All Saints				2000		2000
Oxborough, St John the Evangelist	5000		5000			
Paston, St Margaret	176	5000			5176	
Potter Heigham, St Nicholas		5000	5000			
Pulham Market, St Mary Magdalene	4000		4000			
Scarning, Sts Peter & Paul				2000		2000
Scoulton, Holy Trinity	5000				5000	
Sea Palling, St Margaret	2564		2564			
Shereford, St Nicholas	3000	3000			6000	
Shipdham, All Saints		3000			3000	
South Acre St George		5000		2000		7000
South Burlingham, St Edmund	7000				7000	
Southburgh, St Andrew	2946				2946	
Stibbard, All Saints		3000				3000
Stockton, St Michael & All Angels	7000		7000			
Stow Bardolph, Holy Trinity	1000		1000			
Swainsthorpe, St Peter	7000		7000			
Swannington, St Margaret	1000		1000			
Swanton Morley, All Saints		1000			1000	
Tatterford, St Margaret				1000	1000	
Threxton, All Saints	7000				7000	
Thrigby St Mary	7568	955		125	4805	3843

General Fund continued		2012/2013		2013/2014		Outstanding at year end
Church	Grants outstanding pre 04/12	Offered	Paid in Year	Offered (released)	Paid in Year	
Thursford, St Andrew				2500	2500	
Thurton, St Ethelbert				2000		2000
Tittleshall, St Mary	3000		3000			
Tivetshall, St Margaret	4000		4000			
Upper Sheringham, All Saints				2000		2000
Upwell, St Peter	10000		10000			
Waxham, St John	4000			(2838)	1162	
Weasenham, All Saints	10000					10000
Welborne, All Saints	10000					10000
Westfield, St Andrew	10000					10000
West Tofts, St Mary				5000	5000	
Whinburgh, St Mary		7000				7000
Wickhampton, St Andrew	3000					3000
Wickmere, St Andrew	3000					3000
Wiggenhall St Peter				2000		2000
Winterton, Holy Trinity & All Saints		4000			4000	
Wood Rising, St Nicholas	1000					1000
Wortwell, United Reformed Church		2000	2000			
Wreningham, All Saints		1000	1000			
	226711	107455	131349	97125	141666	155325

WREN Fund		2012/2013		2013/2014		Outstanding at year end
Church	Grants outstanding pre 04/12	Offered	Paid in Year	Offered (released)	Paid in Year	
North Tuddenham, St Mary	5000		5000			
Walpole, St Peter	4000		4000			
	9000		9000			

A Prayer for The Norfolk Churches Trust

*Bless, O God, the work of The Norfolk Churches Trust in its concern for the parish churches and chapels of this County, that they may be preserved and enhanced as signs and channels of your abiding love and presence in every place, and serve as beacons of faith and hope to succeeding generations, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
Amen.*



Grants for Places of Worship – England

The Grants for Places of Worship programme is for projects that involve urgent structural repairs to public places of worship that are listed at Grade I, II or II*.

As part of a repair project, we can also fund work to encourage greater community use and engagement. Churches can apply for a grant from £10,000 to £250,000.

See website for details www.hlf.org.uk
and follow the links.

THE CONTINUING WORK OF THE TRUST IN 2012-14



Introduction

Norfolk features the largest cluster of medieval churches in the world representing an important built legacy for future generations – 659 flint churches survive of the 921 originally built. These beautiful buildings contain a wide range of rare works of art and craftsmanship including stained glass windows, painted screens, statuary and frescoes, carved woodwork, towers and bells. The Norfolk Churches Trust has succeeded in contributing towards the protection, repair and maintenance of the county's heritage of both ancient and modern churches plus religious monuments with well informed advice and guidance underpinned by financial aid. The Trust's grants have proved to be vital to the future of many churches, particularly during the recent economic recession and government budget cuts.

Grants

The Trust was established to help medieval churches remain open as places of worship at the heart of their communities by addressing specific threats of redundancy and demolition. Declining rural population and rising building costs, increased unemployment and rural hardship have resulted in the maintenance of many churches becoming extremely difficult for local

parishioners, a challenge which has increased in recent times. As a registered Charity (271176) and Limited Company (1247797) which is also registered as an Environmental Body (111076) administering WREN funding, the Trust has succeeded in helping local communities save ecclesiastical buildings and sacred artworks from loss and decay.

During 2012/14 the Trust worked in collaboration with Church Wardens and architects to award £194,580 grants to 66 churches. Recent grant funding includes: Bircham Newton, All Saints; Blickling, St Andrew; Bodney, St Mary; Brettenham, St Andrew; Brunstead, St Peter; Burgh-next-Aylsham, St Mary the Virgin; Carleton Forehoe, St Mary; Forncett, St Mary; Garbestone, St Margaret; Great Melton, All Saints; Great Yarmouth, St Mary (RC); Hardwick, St Margaret; Martham, St Mary; Northwold, St Andrew; Paston, St Margaret; Potter Heigham, St Nicholas; South Acre, St George; Stockton, St Michael & All Angels; Upwell, St Peter; Whinburgh, St Mary.

Completed projects include: Beeston St Lawrence's ceiling and roof restoration is complete; Brandon Parva undertook major restoration to the tower; Cranwich's roof has been re-thatched; Foulsham has re-roofed the chancel; Fulmodeston Christchurch has replaced the roof plus new rainwater goods and repaired windows;

Great Yarmouth has repaired and restored West window and walls; restoration of Griston's tower is under way; re-thatching of the roof at Horsey is complete; Litcham All Saints has completed chancel roof repairs including accommodating bats; Newton-by-Castle-Acre St Mary & All Saints has repaired roof, wall and windows; Paston St Margaret has benefited from restored nave, buttresses and rainwater goods; Swainsthorpe St Peter has completed tower repairs.

Leased Churches

In addition, the Trust leases thirteen churches from the Diocese which are no longer in active service as parish churches. This group of churches are being restored and made weather proof with the help of appointed architects, contractors and local volunteers. During 2012/14 £217,689 was invested in Cockthorpe All Saints, Snetterton All Saints and Lynford Our Lady of Consolation and St Stephen, Rackheath All Saints, Corpusty St Peter along with the other eight churches leased by the Trust.

Last winter English Heritage added 10 buildings to their Heritage at Risk Register 2013. Of the 4 buildings identified for urgent attention in Norfolk, the Trust is already engaged in helping to protect and conserve one of these ancient churches. The Church of St Peter, Corpusty was adopted from the Friends of Friendless Churches as a leased church and has benefited from extensive conservation work by the Trust.

Cockthorpe All Saints near Wells attracted special media attention last summer when it was listed as one of the nation's favourite churches in a national survey. In total £365,500 has been invested by English Heritage together with the Trust over the last five years in repairing the church. £300,000 is being sought for restoration of the nave and chancel of this grade-I listed building.

Previous project work includes restoration completed at Bagthorpe, St Mary to windows and buttresses. Substantial cracks in the tower at Cockthorpe, All Saints required external strapping and a detailed investigation. Hargham, All Saints was re-roofed with assistance from English Heritage. Rackheath, All Saints had window guards and fenestration bars installed against vandalism. Corpusty, St Peter was adopted from the Friends of Friendless Churches. Lynford Roman Catholic chapel in Thetford Forest is now leased.

Events & Fundraising

The Trust manages a highly popular programme of seasonal events and lectures which help raise funds for the care and repair of churches, their spires and towers

across the county. Last September was the 30th anniversary of the annual sponsored Bicycle Ride which has raised around £2,600,000 since it began. Last year it attracted hundreds of keen cyclists on a tour of open churches and raised over £110,000. The added benefit of this event is it enables visitors to enjoy access to churches which are not normally open to the public.

The Countess of Leicester hosted two spectacular operatic evenings at Holkham Hall, Don Giovanni and Tales of Hoffman performed by the Diva Opera company. Guests enjoyed drinks and picnic suppers on the terrace. Once again these events were special highlights of the events programme and succeeded in raising substantial funds for the Trust's invaluable project work.

Membership & Legacies

Current figures for Friends/members of the Trust stands at 1,449. The number of supporters of the Trust has increased considerably over the last twenty years. This growth has been achieved by building positive relationships with both churches and individuals. This has been reflected in inter-linked growth in legacies.

Achievements

The Trust has developed project management, financial reporting and IT systems together with extensive archives which enable it to prioritise grant aided project work to be undertaken for its portfolio of 947 churches. We work in partnership with Church Wardens and conservation architects and take a strategic approach towards helping fund repair, maintenance and improvement works identified in the churches' quinquennials.

Where substantial capital works are required the Trust provides advice and guidance to individuals to help them secure funding from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and other viable sources. HLF grants application process changed significantly in 2013/14 and has resulted in higher levels of requests from Church Wardens for advice, guidance and support. The Trust has effectively met this rising demand for information and advisory services and where needed provided signposting to other expertise within the county.

As a corporate independent charitable trust one of its greatest strengths has been its ability to recognise the need for urgent restoration of church buildings to redress loss and decay.

REPORT BY MALCOLM FISHER
COMPANY SECRETARY & CHARITY ADMINISTRATOR

THE FIRST WORLD WAR ONE HUNDRED YEARS ON



This year we are very much aware of the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, commemorated inside or very near to so many of our Norfolk churches. But there is a huge contrast between the 'still small voice of calm' that Elijah heard on Mt. Sinai (in Whittier's hymn) and the terrible violence that caused the battlefield deaths of 888,246 British and Colonial soldiers in the First World War. We should not think of these armies or nations as faceless entities. All those 888,246 people who died were individuals created by God and loved by him – as were all those who fought on the other side. So war is not an anonymous tragedy: it is a collection of thousands or rather millions of individual tragedies. Each person who died was a son, a daughter, spouse, a loved one. In the Tower of London at present the moat is filled not with green grass (as you would expect) but rather with a sea of red, made up of 888,246 individual red glazed ceramic poppies, each one the size of a human heart.



Wars are started by Governments, but fought by individuals. Was God on our side? People often ask that, but it is the wrong question. God made and loved all the individual people who were affected by the Great War, including all those who died, whether friend or foe. The correct question is rather this: Are we on God's side – personally, as individuals? The important matter is our own individual relationship with God.

God made every single one of us human beings, and he wants each one of us to come into a personal relationship with him. It is said that there are no atheists in a foxhole. We can only surmise the anguish of many of those who lost their lives in the First World War. But we can know for certain that today, 100 years on in 2014, God through Jesus Christ

wants us to reach out and enter into an individual relationship with him. He wants us to kneel at the foot of his cross and commit ourselves to his service and to God who is our creator.

Jesus reminded us that the birds of the air and the lilies of the field (and, we might add, the poppies) teach us that we should strive first of all for the Kingdom of God and his righteousness. God wants individuals to walk in his peace and follow in the footsteps of Jesus. If we live a life with God, we shall experience what Paul describes in Romans 8 when he says 'we are more than conquerors through him who loved us'. Lives lived for God can change families, communities and nations. The change is brought about by individual persons.

It was never God's purpose for nations to fight against each other and invoke him to be on their side. Instead God wants each one of us to reach out to him on a personal basis. As Elijah discovered on Mount

Sinai, God speaks to us not through the earthquake, the wind or the fire, but rather through the still small voice of calm – something that, perhaps, we can hear as we reflect at the War Memorial on the village green or in the silence of one of our remarkable medieval Norfolk churches.

General the Lord Dannatt, former Chief of the General Staff Army and present Constable of the Tower of London, was the preacher at the morning service on BBC Radio 4 on 3 August 2014 – the eve of the centenary of the day when Britain declared war on Germany. The above is an adaptation of his remarks on that occasion.

PRESIDENT OF THE NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST

Wilby, All Saints – where time stood still



Proud and tall in the flat, agricultural lands south-west of Attleborough, in a curve in the road to Eccles and Snetterton, stands the church of All Saints, Wilby. From the outside it presents itself as a fine, well-proportioned and coherent building of the early fourteenth century with delicious flowing window tracery at east and west ends, with all the curves and cusps we associate with the late Decorated style. As such it makes a refreshing change from the dominant Perpendicular of the majority of our county's churches. Even though it lacks aisles and clerestory, the subtle massing of tower, nave and large chancel makes the church seem larger and taller than it is. Judging by the drip moulding on the east wall of the tower, the nave roof might have been taller still today but for the dramatic events of 1633.

According to Blomefield, writing one hundred years after the catastrophe, *"a fire broke out in the parsonage yard, occasioned by carrying a lighted stick through it, which burned down the barn, stable, gate-house, the roof and seats of the church, and chancel, and all the timber work of the steeple to £790 value"*. Disaster though this must have been at the time, the subsequent repair and

restoration, miraculously untouched by subsequent generations of church "improvers", provides us today with a detailed snapshot of an interior furnished for Prayer Book worship just ten years before the outbreak of the Civil War. The programme of repairs, funded and overseen by Robert Wilton of nearby Wilby Hall, must have begun immediately after the fire as the interior, much as we see it now, was complete by 1635. Details of the work and the costs involved are reproduced, framed and hanging by the door.

Enter the church today and you step back into another age. Time seems to have stood still for nearly four hundred years and the mellifluous phrases of the Book of Common Prayer and the metrical Psalter of Sternhold and Hopkins hang in the air like the specks of dust in the light of the clear windows.

*Except the Lord the house doth make,
and thereunto doth set his hand,
What men do build, it cannot stand;
likewise in vain men undertake
cities and holds to watch and ward,
except the Lord be their safeguard. [Psalm 127]*

The liturgical arrangement preserved in this beautiful interior perhaps needs some explanation, accustomed as we are to the “medievalising” restorations of our High Church Victorian ancestors. The best way to understand what we are seeing is to undertake a brief historical investigation beginning with the aftermath of the Reformation.

To the religious uncertainty that prevailed in England after the death of Queen Mary, Elizabeth, her successor, sought to bring some order and stability. Her own religious impulses were conservative. She saw herself as a Protestant but hankered after the reformed Catholicism of her father, Henry VIII. With regard to the interiors of the church buildings of her kingdom, she addressed instructions to her Commissioners for causes Ecclesiastical in October 1561: *“For the avoiding of much strife and contention that hath heretofore risen among the Queen's subjects in divers parts of the realm for the using or transposing of the rood lofts, fonts and steps within the quire and chancels in every parish church, it is thus decreed and ordained that . . . there remain a comly partition betwixt the chancel and the church that no alteration be otherwise attempted in them but be suffered in quiet. And where no partition is standing there to be one appointed.”* These regulations were reaffirmed by our own, Norwich-born, Archbishop Matthew Parker in his Advertisements of 1566. The result of this arrangement was to create (or preserve) a two-room church, the nave for the normal services of Morning and Evening Prayer and for preaching, and the chancel for Communion, as in some Calvinist churches on the Continent. This is the arrangement we see preserved at Wilby. Let us examine the ingredients:

The major Anglican contribution to post-Reformation church furnishing was the so-called ‘three-decker pulpit’. Here it stands against the north wall amidst the pews, a fine example retaining its back panel and sounding board. This structure comprises a top-stage pulpit for preaching and incorporated below a desk at mid-level from which the minister read the service and at the lowest deck a stall for the parish clerk, who led the congregational responses and sometimes the singing as well. This is the only example in Norfolk which remains in the position implied in Parker’s Advertisements, located so that the sermon could be audible to all. The surrounding pews and benches provide a glimpse of the social hierarchy of the time. Nearest the pulpit is the rectory pew with adjacent, rather cramped accommodation for the rectory servants. Opposite is the Wilby Hall pew with Robert Wilton’s family arms displayed on the wall above and relatives buried beneath with a separate area for their servants. Robert Wilton himself is buried in the sanctuary as befits a major benefactor. His elegant ledger slab tells us that he died in 1657 and bears his



arms together with those of his three wives. He is described as a 'faithful, patient and true lover of his country'. Beneath the pulpit there is another box pew for the inhabitants of Wilby House Farm. Unenclosed benches for the ordinary folk of the parish fill the remainder of the nave. They are graced with simple fleur-de-lys type bench-ends clearly made by a local carpenter with a memory of the medieval poppy-heads that went before.

The original medieval rood screen between nave and chancel was evidently lost in the fire and, in accordance with Royal and Archiepiscopal instructions, was replaced by a low partition with a pair of chancel gates simply but effectively ornamented with turned balusters matching those on the ringing-chamber gallery and supporting the communion rail. In his Advertisements Parker also made clear that the communion table was to be placed against the east wall of the chancel except at the time of celebration when it was to be moved further into the chancel and set north south. The Ten Commandments were to be set up over the table. Parker’s compromise scheme whereby the Communion Table was placed altar-wise at the east end when not in use but moved out into the chancel when required was soon found to be tiresome and by 1604 the Canons obliged the churchwardens to set it up permanently *“in so good sort, within the church or chancel, as thereby the minister may be more conveniently heard by the*



communicants in his prayer and ministration, and the communicants also more conveniently, and in more number, may communicate with the said minister."

The same Canons of 1604 also ordered *"that the same Tables shall from time to time be kept and repaired in sufficient and seemly manner, and covered, in time of Divine Service, with a carpet of silk or other decent stuff, thought meet by the Ordinary of the place, if any question be made of it, and with a fair linen cloth at the time of the Ministration, as becometh that Table."*

Over the chancel arch in Wilton's restoration would have been set the Royal Arms, replacing, some might think inappropriately, the great rood which dominated the building in the years before the Reformation. However, when the Royal Arms, together with the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, were set up before the people in this way, the whole scheme spoke to them of the duties incumbent upon them as members both of an earthly and a heavenly society. The magnificent Royal Arms of Charles I set up by Wilton somehow managed to survive the civil war and the Commonwealth and hangs now above the south door.

The 1604 Canons prescribed *"a Font of Stone for Baptism in every Church. According to a former Constitution, too much neglected in many places, we appoint, that there shall be a Font of Stone in every Church and Chapel where Baptism is to be ministered; the same to be set in the ancient usual places: in which only Font the Minister shall baptize publickly."* Here the elegant font is of the same age as the Decorated windows and survives in its "ancient usual place". It has fine architectural tracery designs around the bowl and a battlemented rim. Beyond the font, the tower is fitted up with a ringers' gallery with two tiers of balusters, dated 1637. The roof of the gallery, which forms the floor of the bell chamber, is robustly fashioned but curiously elegant in design. Indicative, perhaps of the priority given to restoring the bell ringing, the two earliest bells are dated 1634, just a year after the fire.

The poor box, like the hierarchical seating arrangement, speaks powerfully of social conditions in the early seventeenth century. It is on a curiously turned shaft and attached to the back pew. To quote once again the 1604 Canons: *"Church-wardens shall provide and have, within three months after the publishing of these Constitutions, a strong Chest; ' with a hole in the upper part thereof, to be provided at the charge of the parish, (if there be none such already provided,) having three keys; of which one shall remain in the custody of the Parson, Vicar, or Curate, and the other two in the custody of the Church-wardens for the time being: which Chest they shall set and fasten in the most convenient place, to the intent the Parishioners may put into it their alms for their poor neighbours."* Here the regulations are met by a square box, bearing the date 1638, bound with iron and having the required three locks.

I can think of no other church building in England which conjures up so eloquently the atmosphere of this fascinating period in the history of the Church of England. The instructions of Elizabeth I, the regulations of Archbishop Parker, and the Canons Ecclesiastical of 1604 are put into effect before our eyes in a building where worship is still faithfully offered today. It might have been different. Back in the early 1970s, the tower was badly in need of repair. Incapable, he felt, of raising the necessary funds and doubtful of the future of the building, the Rector of the time threw in the towel and applied for a redundancy order. This declaration of helplessness provoked a visitation from Lady Harrod who argued in her powerful and inimitable way against the advisability of redundancy. The parish was galvanised into action, the Norfolk Churches Trust was founded and All Saints, Wilby, survived as a parish church.

**THE REVEREND CANON JEREMY HASELOCK, FSA
VICE-DEAN AND PRECENTOR, NORWICH CATHEDRAL
MEMBER OF NCT ADVISORY COUNCIL**



NCT SPONSORED BIKE RIDE AND WALK

Saturday 14th September 2013 threatened rain but turned out to be a lovely day for cycling or walking around the counties wonderful churches. This was the 30th year that the bike ride has been running and over 700 people had found sponsors along with a multitude of people who turned out to act as stewards in the churches signing off forms and handing out refreshments. The event raised over £110,000 including gift aid which was split between the church of the participants choice and the Norfolk Churches Trust. It can't be emphasised enough what an important fund raising event this is for the Trust and how much we appreciate the effort so many people put into it.

Although the Bike Ride has been a great success for so many years there is no room for complacency. The figures below show that the event peaked in 2008 and there has been a slow but steady drift downwards since then. There are many reasons why this has happened, not least, the economic crises that the country has been in and the massive increase in bicycle rides organised elsewhere throughout the year. Many people have been loyal supporters for most, or all, of the 30 years it has been running and we have not been getting enough 'fresh blood' to replace those that no longer feel able to jump on a bicycle or walk long distances.

This year we have tried to provide something for everyone. If people want to explore a new part of the county and take the opportunity of so many churches being open then they can now get sponsorship to drive round. If they wish to test their endurance then they can aim to be in the top ten for the number of churches visited, either walking of cycling, and we will post it on



the 'Wall of Fame' on the website. If they want a fun day out with the family then they can download some activity sheets from the website and take part in the photographic competition. Also, The Prince of Wales, who is patron of the Norfolk Churches Trust, has kindly agreed to sign a certificate that will be given to the individual who raises the most money in this year's Bike Ride. If getting sponsorship makes people feel uncomfortable then we suggest sponsoring oneself or using 'Just Giving' which makes it all much easier. (See the website for details).

Please encourage everyones family and friends to take part and be inventive about how they raise money. The more people who explore our wonderful churches the more they will appreciate them and want to save them for the future. Please visit the new updated website page for more information. www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/sponsored-bike-ride/

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Geoff Wortley who was the Trust's Bike Ride Co-ordinator and only passed on the mantle to me when he moved out of the county to be closer to his grandchildren. Just before he left he put together a committee to raise the profile of the bike ride and they have been an enormous help to me setting up this year's Sponsored Bike Ride which will be on the **13th of September 2014**. Please take part and have a enjoyable and rewarding day.

CHARLES INGLIS
BIKE RIDE CO-ORDINATOR





SALLE CHURCH – Beacon of Arts & Crafts Design

Salle Church is a spectacular medieval building whose appearance and fabric has been constantly evolving over time. Twenty-five years ago as a young Architect working for Feilden and Mawson, I attended a meeting at the Church to discuss solutions to the serious problem of damp in the walls. Recently I was pleased to review the completed works that have restored the building as a warm and welcoming place for peaceful contemplation and worship. This was achieved by replacing inadequate plastic drainage spouts around the roofline which were causing damage and damp in



the walls with our innovative gutter and drainage system, locally produced in lead and metal, designed to protect the church long term from extreme weather. The programme of project work included: replacement of lead on south transept; extensive window repairs; render repairs and limewashing; repair of the font and minor west end re-ordering; reinstated spouts on clerestory and downpipes; new drains; Statue of St James.

As a young scholar with the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, I studied the care and repair of historic buildings and developed a keen interest in the architecture and design of the Arts and Crafts Movement and its leading innovators. When I first came to the Church I realized its unique qualities and discovered it had already been an important SPAB case at the turn of the century when there were plans to 'restore' Salle in a similar manner to what had been achieved at nearby Booton. Prince Duleep Singh, who lived at Elveden Hall was a great supporter of SPAB and alerted the Society to the restoration proposals for Salle church. Together they persuaded the authorities to install their chosen Architect to oversee the sensitive repair of the building. Fortuitously the appointed Architect was the gifted Ernest Gimson, based near Stroud in Gloucestershire. Today he is mostly known for small domestic buildings such as Stoneywell Cottage and his range of furniture designs which he had manufactured by local craftsmen for sale by London retailers including Heales.

Gimson employed a young assistant Architect called Norman Jewson who had originally come from

Norwich. Gimson launched the extensive conservation project and installed Jewson to live nearby for a year to oversee the complete repair of the building. For example, he organized for the roof timbers and rafters to be carefully repaired by joining new sections of oak to the Mediaeval timbers thereby retaining their painted decoration. The roof is reported to have 'caved in' before these repairs took place.

The Church was embellished with a range of Gimson's furniture including bespoke pews. The vestry screens along the north aisle, the organ case and the Priest's chair all show the motif of hay cart chamfers, and the tenon joints are all secured with double cross wedges, the quality of the craftsmanship and the wood is superb. The Mediaeval poppy ends, box pews and pulpit have all been retained and repaired but were augmented by Gimson's design of a complementary range of hand crafted furniture. These days his work is very valuable and on display in museums around the world, including the V&A in London and Cheltenham Museum which houses a special collection of Arts and Crafts furniture. In Cheltenham Museum's archive I discovered sketches and some of the drawings for this work, including drawings for handmade oil lamps. The curator was not aware that Salle Church with its collection of unique handmade furniture actually existed.

Salle Church is a unique example of Arts & Crafts design and a testimony to William Morris's ethos promoting the careful skilled repair of our built heritage. Its Arts and Crafts lych gate with hay cart chamfers, the stone censing angels above the west door covered in feathers to ensure they can fly, the great east window and the misericords in the choir all merit protection and conservation for future generations. The church's qualities of quiet space and light combined with its cultural heritage continue to offer a beacon of hope and a haven for visitors and the local community.



WRITTEN BY NICHOLAS WARNS RIBA AABC
INSPECTING ARCHITECT FOR SALLE CHURCH

Where were we, Where are we now and Where are we going?

In parallel with my architectural career there has been a great rejuvenation of interest in historic buildings, their conservation and their contribution to our built environment. The effect that this has had on our rural parish churches has been unprecedented since the extensive restorations of the nineteenth century.

However the recent approach to preserve our churches has delivered more conservative repairs under current practice and procedures influenced by philosophies, such as those established by William Morris and the Society for the Protection for Ancient Buildings.

Other organisations have followed, including those responsible for authorising work and those offering financial assistance towards repairs, leading not only to an extensive programme of repairs but a sensitive approach that has retained our churches as we see them today.

The creation of the Register for Architects Accredited in Conservation, AABC, and other stringent requirements set out by the Diocese and others for ensuring that those responsible for specifying repair work are suitably qualified, has also affected the character of the repair projects that have been executed in recent years.

There has also been underlying and often never recognised support and personal involvement in projects particularly from those who have a passion, great fondness and love for our churches that make such a significant contribution to our countryside, villages, towns and cities.

The Diocesan Advisory Committee, consisting of an expert panel of advisors, a large proportion whom are

appointed by the Bishop, all offer their services on a voluntary basis and make an enormous contribution to the work carried out on churches.

The Norfolk Churches Trust is also supported by a large number of Trustees, all happy to offer their time freely to these most wonderful and unique buildings, that Lady Harrod was so passionate about when she founded the Trust in 1975.

In their own way, English Heritage and their architects, surveyors and caseworkers, work beyond their call of duty, to ensure that a parish has the support required, particularly moral support that is so essential in this field of work.

Most importantly we must not overlook the enormous contribution made by those in the parishes who have a desire and passion to retain these buildings as a significant focal point of the parish. These are seen not only as a place of worship but also as a historical place of interest for those wishing to visit and more recently for concerts, exhibitions and centres for social gathering and interaction.

But the aspirations held by parishes are not without obstacles, and unbeknown to many, there are a tireless number of conditions, requirements and legal obligations that have to be fulfilled before any significant work can be carried out, and during its execution.

Work can take years to come to fruition and this can have a serious and detrimental effect on those individuals responsible for the work, often leaving them feeling isolated, frustrated, and helpless.

This in turn could have a negative effect on the condition of our churches because without the dedication of those individuals, working through the endless forms and reams of paperwork, endeavouring to meet deadlines, raise funds and secure permissions, these precious buildings will suffer irrespective of the funds that are available.

Repair work and improvements to churches to enhance public benefit will just not happen if no-one is willing to address matters that arise from a quinquennial inspection report, complete a form for grant aid, employ and instruct professional advisors, apply for a Faculty and co-ordinate work on site with all the financial control that this requires.

In the good old days, and excuse me for referring to these, but they might just be the reason that many of our churches are in the admirable condition we find them in today, an application to a significant national grant aiding body was as little as four pages asking for details of the work required, supported by the quinquennial inspection report, and an estimation of the cost. The application would then be reviewed and an offer made or the application rejected. A simple procedure, that parishes were willing to repeat and pursue until successful.

The Faculty procedure, although seen by some as particularly arduous, is robust in the protection it offers our churches, and one that is familiar due to it being a consistent and stable process, that has only just been revised.

The list of professional advisors, required to implement and carry out the work, was also considerably shorter, minimising the costs and therefore allowing a greater percentage of the funding to be allocated towards important and essential repairs to churches.

During the last 25 years costs to parishes have been increased due to changes in Local Government policy and legislation. We have seen services, previously carried out at no cost to a Parish, by the county archaeological team, now let to private archaeological contractors. To accommodate the possible presence of bats work is restricted to the Spring and Autumn, or rather April and September, and for significant roost sites, or variations to this timetable, it is necessary to employ an ecologist to advise on mitigation work, to avoid potential prosecution. Yes, a project on site has been reported by a member of the public to the Bat Conservation Trust who in turn asked the police to investigate. In 1994 a new professional adviser was

created, the Planning Supervisor, who has subsequently been re-named as the CDM Co-ordinator, a position that is currently under review again. These items alone have added considerable additional costs to projects.

The Listed Places of Worship (LPW) Scheme, while making a significant contribution towards church repairs, has not been without risk. A few years ago, when budgets were significantly reduced, parishes were without the grant aid expected when confirming their financial statement up to three years before. Yes, from the time an application is made it could be up to three years before final completion and the final application to the LPW Scheme.

Parishes are now having to consider, again, the impact of the LPW Scheme when it will be reviewed in March 2016, and although this is considered by some to be partnership funding, it is not guaranteed and a parish should make alternative financial arrangements in the event that this grant is not available at the time required.

Applications to the LPW Scheme are also scrutinized in more detail, raising more questions for the parish to respond to, and the recent transferral of the scheme from Liberata to Topmark Claims Management Ltd, is causing delays. The greatest impact is on those waiting patiently to be paid for the work that they have carried out.

On that note, we must not forget our contractors, many who have been working on churches for generations, providing them with the opportunity to train and encourage new tradesmen who are invaluable to the work that we do and will hopefully continue into the future to maintain the knowledge of traditional materials and techniques.

They too are prepared to wait patiently for payment and try to accommodate delays. The majority also share the passion and recognise the privilege to be working on our unique churches.

But where will our churches go from here? Some having failed to secure grant aid, or simply found application forms too confusing and complicated, have decided not to proceed. How frustrating this is, just as a Parish has found a willing volunteer, with the interest, time and commitment to oversee a repair project. The delay of work could place the building and its occupants at risk, lead to more extensive and expensive repairs in the future, leading to the destruction of more historic fabric, and unfortunately may lead to the loss of support from that very special and enormously

significant individual, whose impact on the church is rarely recognised or acknowledged.

In my opinion a radical and urgent review should take place under a consolidated and united body, to address the increasing burden that is placed on those responsible for repairing, caring for and maintaining our churches and keeping them safe, open and accessible for people, from all nations, today and for future generations. There are few historic buildings that can be visited free of charge and few with the peace, tranquillity and solitude that our churches, by their very presence, provide in a modern society.

New funding strategies, that have addressed the need to encompass a greater number and variety of people, are essential to attract a new generation in a world where the giving of personal time, patience, perseverance and commitment, key qualifications to repair a church, appear to be becoming difficult to find.

But if this is to be successful a review must take place from grass roots level. Those in the forefront, and dealing with the processes, such as fabric officers and their professional advisors, should be consulted otherwise it will have little benefit to those involved.

In recent years, and with individuals working hard behind the scenes, progress to assist parishes has been made. The Faculty procedure has recently been reviewed, additional funding for the LPW Scheme, in the short term, has been secured and ecological issues are being addressed. To those people we owe our thanks and gratitude and are greatly indebted.

We must also not forget the enormous amount of work that has been achieved in recent years, to save our churches, particularly with the support from the Norfolk Churches Trust and its members and Trustees, who aim to avoid closures and give not only financial support, but endless advice and guidance. One significant impact, which is often not recognised, is the enormous effect that a donation or a grant, no matter how small, will make to the morale, of a Parish, or churchwarden or fabric officer, sometimes working in isolation or under difficult circumstances. I have experienced, at first hand, the sheer delight of the recognition that 'somebody else also cares and will support me' really makes. This feeling often becomes contagious, encouraging others to offer their support.

In conclusion, the frustrations facing parishes must be addressed if our churches are to survive otherwise all the good works carried out in the past could be jeopardised. Those involved in church repair and re-ordering projects need to be consulted, arduous procedures and requirements must be addressed and simplified and those responsible for authorising work and providing financial assistance must understand each other and work together.

RUTH BLACKMAN

ARCHITECT

BIRDSALL SWASH AND BLACKMAN LTD



Lady Harrod

A memorial is being erected to our founder in St Mary Magdalene Church, Warham.

If you would like to contribute to the cost of this memorial please send a donation to the Trust Office.



NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST

THE NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST LTD was founded in 1976, a period when many medieval churches in East Anglia were being closed and sometimes demolished. The Trust gives repair grants to churches and chapels of all denominations in Norfolk, typically totalling some £150k per year.

In addition, and as a separate activity, the Trust has responsibility for thirteen churches, none of which is used for regular worship. It is this aspect of the Trust's work which is the focus of this article.

The Trust

The Trust has about 1400 members. It is a very active fund-raiser, to the tune of hundreds of thousands of pounds per year. Some of the fund raising methods are unusual – for example, a Stately Car Boot Sale, a Secret Houses event, an opera staged in a stately home, a classic car run, and a film evening with members of the cast attending.

The fundraising is for the overall purposes of the Trust, and most of the expenditure is on grants, rather than on the thirteen churches looked after by the Trust. Since 1976, more than £5.5m has been awarded in grants, and over £1.25m spent on the Trust's churches, keeping them wind and watertight.

Churches looked after by the Trust

Twelve of the churches which the Trust looks after are medieval Church of England buildings leased from the Anglican diocese of Norwich, mostly on 99-year leases, the majority of which started some twenty or thirty years ago (Figs 1–6). Peppercorn rents are paid. It is only the buildings which are leased, the graveyards, some of which are still open, are not looked after by the Trust.

The Trust also leases one Roman Catholic building, Our Lady of Consolation and St Stephen, Lynford, from the diocese of East Anglia. This is a church of 1878, built for the convenience of the local landowner (and hidden in trees), charming in itself, and with a gilded altar and reredos by Pugin. Its acquisition in 2009 was opportunistic.

All of these churches are closed, in the sense that they are no longer part of the parish system. Thus the twelve mediaval Anglican churches have no Parochial Church Council, no routine Sunday services, and no clergy attached to them. However, although closed and removed from parochial life, these twelve buildings have not been through the final stage or stages of the formal Church of England redundancy process.

In many cases the churches have little or no population attached to them, as they tend to be in remote and tiny hamlets. The churches vary, but the great majority have no electricity or heating. About half of them had their pews removed before the Trust took responsibility for them. There are bats in most of the churches.

The Trust is not seeking new churches to look after, and there has in fact been little need to take on any buildings in recent years, as parish churches have not been closing. The Trust did acquire St Peter's, Corpusty in 2009 from the Friends of Friendless Churches, who had themselves acquired it in 1982, the church having been made redundant in 1965. The Trust has strongly resisted any new church redundancies, and the Bishop of Norwich has expressed satisfaction that none has been made redundant in the diocese during his tenure.

Looking after the churches

The leases vary in detail, but all of them make the Trust responsible for keeping the buildings wind and watertight. There is an annual maintenance programme for each church, carried out by contractors under the direction of the Trust's nominated architect, with an average cost of less than five hundred pounds per church. In addition, each church has a quinquennial inspection, leading, if necessary, to a planned programme of works. Except when major works are required, the total cost to the Trust of all thirteen of its churches is very approximately £25,000 per year, of which roughly £10,000 is the cost of insurance.

Two of the churches are officially 'at risk', and will require significant works at some stage. Major expenditure is usually supported both by the Trust's own funds and specific fund-raising, together with grants from the County Council (recently ceased), some District Councils, WREN (now ceased), and national

sources such as English Heritage (before it ceased to make grants). The investigative phase of a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund is currently underway for major repairs to the nave and chancel of Cockthorpe church.

Using the churches

The Trust is allowed to run a limited number of services each year, typically six or fewer in each church, with the permission of the Bishop. The aim of the Trust is to preserve these as buildings with a religious purpose, and hold occasional services in them, rather than to find new uses for them (which anyway, might conflict with the terms of the various leases).

Each church has one or more nominated keyholders, all of them volunteers. Most of the keyholders live close to the church, and some of them have done the job for many years. A list of these is published, but there is no attempt to publicise the churches as a separate group: to the passer by or visitor, there is nothing to make the churches stand out – for example, there is no sign in the

churchyard, though the church itself has a sign mentioning the Trust.

For the most part there is no active policy of encouraging Friends groups, not least because of the low levels of population around most of the churches.

Thus, no attempt is made to find new community uses for these buildings – a long-term sustainable community use might be difficult anyway, given their remoteness and distance from any substantial settlement. Broadly speaking, it is the Trust's current policy to regard these buildings as churches without a current regular congregation rather than spaces available for new purposes.

So the churches are used occasionally for services but otherwise serve no great instrumental purpose. In essence, the Trust – via the generosity of its members and donors – is repairing, maintaining and preserving these beautiful and historic buildings simply because they have value in themselves, and are loved.

TREVOR COOPER

CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL, THE ECCLESIOLOGICAL SOCIETY



MALCOLM FISHER

Malcolm Fisher retires this autumn as Secretary of the Trust after nineteen years in the post. He came to the Trust in 1995 after a career in Barclays Bank, succeeding Anthony Barnes, and rapidly familiarised himself with the many aspects of the job, something for which his long association with Ringland church had given him useful experience. Indeed, throughout his years with the Trust, his understanding of the dynamics of rural parishes and his willingness to give patient and pertinent advice, frequently on site, have helped give many small communities the confidence to initiate grant-aided repair schemes, typically running into hundreds of thousands of pounds, and then to see them through successfully, always with an appropriate contribution from the Trust. He has given the same attention to the thirteen churches leased to the Trust, liaising closely with their architects, and establishing and implementing staged repair programmes. In all this, his close relationship with the English Heritage team in Cambridge has been hugely beneficial to all parties, creating a positive atmosphere in

which over time even the most desperate cases could be managed through to a satisfactory outcome.

Malcolm's duties have gone way beyond this, extending to backing up those responsible for the Trust's many fundraising operations, seeing that the programme of services in the leased churches is maintained and arranging their insurance, maintaining a dialogue with archdeacons and DACs, and of course carrying out all the legal responsibilities of a company secretary, running the office, and producing the annual report. After moving to Laxfield in Suffolk, where he became churchwarden, his work for the Trust continued unabated, despite the loss of his much-loved wife Betty. Over the years, he has provided essential support, and wise guidance for the Trustees and Advisory Council in their own role, working closely on a weekly basis with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Chairman of the Grants Committee. He has deservedly become a recognised voice for Norfolk churches.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Fund Raising for Norfolk Churches Trust

Every year for about fifteen years, Diva Opera has performed two operas each summer in the Marble Hall at Holkham Hall, Norfolk. Since moving out of the house with my husband seven years ago, my stepson Viscount Coke has very kindly agreed to continue hosting the opera weekend, which has always been in aid of my favourite charity, The Norfolk Churches Trust. Diva Opera, led by Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Evans stage two excellent operas, to a very high standard. The audience wear black tie, and eat their picnics on the terraces at Holkham, during the hour long interval.

Opera the world over is expensive to stage; and without my extremely generous sponsors for these evenings, the operas would not take place. Although I publicly thank my sponsors, – and some wish to remain anonymous, I would like to put it in writing that I am forever grateful to them as they have, over the years, contributed over £250,000 to help repair some of our fabulous medieval churches. They give their support year after year, and I like to think that they, like me, are as passionate about our historic churches, which are so much part of the Norfolk landscape.

On the subject of fundraising – I would just like to mention there have been several members of the NCT committee who have retired recently who have been wonderful fund raisers. Firstly, Geoffrey Wortley who for eight years ran the Bike Ride. This is the most important fund raising event of the year for us. Geoff has helped to raise well over £1 million over the last eight years – a staggering sum! We miss his firm, wise and forthright views at our committee meetings.

Charles Bingham Newland has also retired after twenty years on the Committee. His help at the many Stately Car Boot sales held at Holkham and Houghton was invaluable – sometimes advising stall holders not to sell a piece of Faberge or Lalique for 50p! He was often seen wearing a white butcher's coat, collecting the car park money and parking the cars. Charles would turn his hand to anything – and his advice at committee meetings was a steady influence on the tiller.

Malcolm Fisher is about to retire as Secretary to The Norfolk Churches Trust, a post he has held for 19 years. I am delighted to say that he has recovered completely from his brain haemorrhage last

Christmas, his driving license has been restored to him and therefore his freedom. For the past four months he has been working just as hard as he always has done.

It is because of Malcolm that the NCT has the reputation of being the 'best run trust', out of all the County Churches Trusts. His knowledge of our medieval churches is encyclopaedic – he appears to know every church in Norfolk – well! He cares so much for them. Malcolm liaises with architects, Church Wardens, English Heritage, and many other organisations to implement staged repair programmes. He works a seven day week – I have often telephoned him out of office hours and at weekends to ask him a question; he is always there to give advice. He has been a huge support in any fund raising activities I have been involved with – and attends every single fund raising event. We will all miss Malcolm, and I thank him personally for all the help he has given me over the years.

Finally, I urge everyone to spare a few minutes out of your busy lives and explore some of our beautiful churches in Norfolk. It is so rewarding. As a child I used to be taken, unwillingly, around Norfolk Churches by my Father. I am fairly certain I didn't much enjoy the experience at the time. (I remember my brothers used to mutter they would far prefer a pub crawl!) But those visits must have instilled a residual interest in, and affection for our churches. The parish church is perhaps the definitive icon of rural England, and it, together with the village green, the pub and the cricket field is the picture that so many, especially English expatriates abroad, carry with them and remember with nostalgia as quintessential England. I often visit churches when driving in Norfolk, some are remote and have lost their villages long ago – but it is always gratifying to see evidence that 'someone' loves the church – from the fresh flowers placed in it – and names and dates in the visitors book showing that people have visited – perhaps yesterday. It is always interesting to read the names of the incumbents over the centuries, and so important that our churches continue to be well cared for, so that one's successors are able to read a similar list with all its associations of continuity, stability and peace.

THE COUNTESS OF LEICESTER

In Memoriam

TERESA COURTAULD

(1943-2013)

A former High Sheriff of Norfolk and a campaigner for the county's rich heritage of churches. Teresa Courtauld sadly died aged 70. She also followed in her late father's footsteps in the largely ceremonial post, which dates back more than 1,000 years.

In March 2001 she took over from the current Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, Richard Jewson, when her name had been selected by the Queen at the ceremony of pricking a parchment with the names of the new High Sheriffs using a silver bodkin.

The oldest daughter of the former MP, diplomat and north Norfolk landowner, Sir Charles Mott-Radclyffe, who died in 1993, she also ran the family's estate for many years.

The family has been landowners at Barningham, near Holt, for about 400 years, as her son, Thomas, recalled in an address at her funeral.

A former chairman of the Norfolk Churches Trust, who served for two years until 2000, she remained a member of the Advisory Council.

Brought to Barningham, she returned to Norfolk in 1976 and lived at Baconsthorpe, where she became fully involved in the community.

A keen gardener and lover of the arts, she was widely regarded for her ability to get things done – whether fundraising or just driving local people to hospitals or the doctor's surgery if needed. She had a gift for fundraising and was involved, typically behind the scenes, in organising a number of events.

More recently she was persuading volunteers to take part in opening "Secret Houses" raising significant sums and she was always willing to enlist backing for unconventional car boot and plant sales – all to make money for charities and good causes. Hugely respected for organising and getting things done, quietly and without fuss, she never sought the limelight but was always welcoming and enthusiastic.

She was also appointed a tax commissioner and was probably one of the first women to hold the post in the former St Faith's district before it was later abolished by the Lord Chancellor.

Theresa is survived by a daughter, Diana and son, Thomas, and three grandchildren, Matilda, Charlie and Thomas.



BEQUEST OR LEGACY TO THE TRUST?

The Directors/Trustees would be extremely grateful to any member, or indeed non-member, who decided that the Trust would be a suitable recipient for a bequest. Any amount of cash or kind can be given to a registered charity before death or in a will without the payment of Inheritance Tax. Ask a lawyer to draw up the will, or a codicil to an existing will. For those who write their own wills, instructions are to be found on the official form available from any Law Stationers. Your bequest should be worded as follows: I give the following residual charitable legacy and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of the legatees shall be good and sufficient discharge to my executors therefore;

To the Charity, The Norfolk Churches Trust (Registered No. 271176) of
Sancroft Cottage, Laxfield, IP13 8EQ

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.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1984

Under the Act it is a requirement to inform supporters of the Trust that their details are held on a computer. No disclosures of the information will be made other than to Officers and Council Members of the Trust, and to HM Revenue and Customs in connection with the claims for repayment of tax deducted from contributions paid by Gift Aid.

You are entitled to request details of the information that is kept about you.

Written requests for this information should be sent to the Secretary.

Churches Leased to Norfolk Churches Trust

Bagthorpe	St Mary – Local Contact & Key – Mr. & Mrs. D. Morton, Bagthorpe Hall, PE31 6QY 01485 578528
Barmer	All Saints – Local Contact – Mr. L. Mason, Barmer Hall Farm, PE31 8SR, 01485 5782. Key – Fraser Clemence, 9 Barmer – 01485 576122 (or Mary Taylor has a chancel key).
Cockthorpe	All Saints – Local Contact & Key – Mr. & Mrs. M. Case, Manor Farm, NR23 1QS 01328 830202
Corpusty	St Peter – Local contact – Dick Barham, NCT
Dunton	St Peter – Local contact & Key – Jonathan Newell, 11 Digby Drive, Fakenham. NR28 9QZ 01328 853616 or Mr. & Mrs. Coley, Fieldings, The Patch, NR21 7PQ 01328 862808
Hargham	All Saints – Contact & Key – Mr. & Mrs. C. Amos, Soma House, Station Road, Attleborough 01953 455553
Illington	St Andrew – Local contact – Mrs D Wells, Serendip, Old Farm, Illington. IP24 1RP 01953 498121
Lynford	Our Lady of Consolation & St Stephen RC – Local contacts – Sally and Sheril Leich at the presbytery next door to the church
Morton-on-the-Hill	St Margaret – Local contact & Key – Lady Prince-Smith, Morton Hall, NR9 5JS 01603 880165
Rackheath	All Saints – Local contacts & Key – Jeff Sandell, Eastwood, 181a Norwich Rd, Wroxham NR12 8RZ 01603 782044. Secretary of Friends – Judy Bell, Barn Court, 6 Back Lane, Rackheath. NR13 6NN 01603782536
Snetterton	All Saints – Local contact – Mr. D Skinner, North End Farm, Attleborough NR16 2LD 01953498329 – Key – NLPH 01953498682
West Bilney	St Cecilia Local contact & Key – Mr. N Velzeboer, Manor Farm, PE32 01760 337382 – Key – Mr. D Curl, Tanglewood 337320
West Rudham	St Peter – Local contacts & Keys – Mrs. F M Tibbett, Massingham Road, Pockthorpe, PE318TB 01485 528870 and Malcolm Duffey, The Cottage, Pockthorpe PE31 8TD 01485 528395

The Norfolk Churches Trust Limited

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Vice Patrons

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The Bishop of Norwich
The Bishop of Ely

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**The NORFOLK
CHURCHES TRUST**

'Supporting Church Buildings'

Registered Office – Sancroft Cottage, Laxfield IP13 8EQ

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