



Winter Newsletter 2020

As the end of what has been a difficult and unprecedented year for us all approaches, the Trust would like to share with you some positive news from the last few months.

Bike Ride

This year's event has broken all records with the current total standing at just under £170,000. In a year that has seen the Trust's fundraising activities seriously curtailed by the Coronavirus



pandemic, this has been extremely heartening. This record figure is perhaps because of, rather than despite Covid-19 restrictions, as during lockdown many of us discovered or rediscovered the great outdoors either on bikes or walking, as part of our designated daily exercise. Not only will 281 Norfolk churches directly benefit from a share of the proceeds, this will also enable the Norfolk Churches Trust to fulfil its remit, *'to protect through financial aid and advice the many architecturally precious religious monuments of the county'*, by offering grants to those parishes in need. The Trust would like to express its thanks to those who have made this year's event such a success.

Above Bell Ringers St Michael's, Aylsham by David Nice one of the winners of the 2019 Bike Ride Photography winners.

Grants Awarded at the November Grants Committee Meeting

A total of £25,500 was shared between the following eight churches to assist with urgent repairs to roofs, floors, windows and ceilings.

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Beeston Regis, all Saints | £1,500 |
| Colkirk, St Mary | £2,000 |
| Elsing, St Mary | £1,000 |
| Gateley, St Helen | £2,000 |
| Reymerston, St Peter | £3,000 |
| Ringland, St Peter | £2,000 |
| Spixworth, St Peter | £7,000 |
| Wilby, All Saints | £7,000 |



Wilby, All Saints

Appointment of a new Honorary Chaplain

The Trust is delighted to welcome Revd. Canon David Longe, rector of the Matlaske Benefice, as a new Honorary Chaplain. He has always been very active in the promotion of the Sponsored Bike Ride, even being interviewed by Radio Norfolk this year. David also completed his own triathlon for the event by running to the sea in Sheringham, swimming to Beeston Regis and then cycling via as many churches as possible to finish at Matlaske. The Trust would like to stress that this was not part of the recruitment process!



Pre-Christmas Event – *Reimagining the Garden: Colour, Paintings and Plants*

As a break from the grey, damp weather that we are currently experiencing why not be transported to a world of sunshine and colour? You are invited to join a socially distanced gathering without leaving the warmth and comfort of your home. At 7pm on Monday 14th December, perhaps with a mulled wine and mince pie in hand, join Tom Duncan, as your host for an online talk which combines his passions for art, history, houses and gardens. Tom has generously donated his services for free. To register, for what is sure to be an engaging, witty and enlightening evening, please click on the link below – once you have kindly donated £20 towards the Trust’s work, the link to watch will be sent to your email inbox. Rest assured - if you are unable to make this time, the lecture will be kept online to watch.

https://ciceroni.webinarninja.com/live-webinars/591399/register?in_tok=034777d8-9e23-4294-bf93-bd177db9c7cb

Vandalism at St Peter’s Dunton

Sadly, there is not always good news to report as on the afternoon of 14th August St Peter’s Church in Dunton, was vandalised. Two Victorian stained-glass windows in the chancel were seriously damaged. The cost of repairs will be in excess of £25,000. Whilst this will largely be covered by our insurance the incident has really touched a nerve with the people of Norfolk and beyond. In your generosity, £800 has been donated to help restore these windows. The Trust would also like to thank the vigilant locals of Dunton who contacted the police and were instrumental in the perpetrators being caught.



All Saint’s, Rackheath: a thank you to our key-holders

During the evening of 25th November, a man climbed onto the south aisle roof of All Saints and proceeded to kick in one of the clerestory windows, his intention to gain access to rob the church. He fell into the building, breaking his leg in the process and remained on the floor of the church overnight until heard calling for help by a dog walker. The police forced entry and the air ambulance was also in attendance. The Trust is extremely grateful to the two local key holders who did a brilliant job assisting the emergency services until representatives of the Trust arrived. The chancel door and window are now boarded up awaiting repairs, it is anticipated that the damage will be covered by our insurance. The culprit has since been charged by police.



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Rackheath and Dunton are two of thirteen redundant churches that are in the direct care of the Norfolk Churches Trust. As far as possible these churches are open to visitors during daylight hours, so perhaps you would like to take the opportunity to visit sometime soon. You can find information on our churches at our website <https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/our-churches/>.

Bumper year for Christmas Cards sales



The sale of this year’s Christmas card has been a phenomenal success, selling out three times. So, thank you to everybody who purchased packs this year, the proceeds from which are reinvested into our grants fund. The card, depicting the Cherubim and Principalities panels from the Nine Orders of Angels, is from the 15th century rood screen at St Michael’s Church, Barton Turf. The design will be available in the new year as a blank greetings card, at norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/support-our-work/shop/

The Trustees and Administration Team of the Norfolk Churches Trust would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in what has been the most difficult of years. We wish you and your families a safe and peaceful festive season.

Looking forwards to 2021

Stately Car Boot Sale



Disappointingly, the Stately Car Boot sale had to be cancelled this year. The owners of Sennowe Park, Guist have agreed to a rescheduled date of Sunday 2nd May 2021, however this will be dependent on Coronavirus restrictions at the time. A decision will be made in January as to whether it will be viable for the event to go ahead. If restrictions are not lifted in time for the May date, there may be an option to put on the event at an alternative venue later in the year. Please check the Trust's website www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk for updates on this and any other Trust events.

An Evening aboard the Southern Comfort from Ranworth to St Benet's Abbey



The Trust is hoping to be able to offer members a relaxing evening on the Broads, combined with a visit to the atmospheric St Benet's Abbey on Wednesday 16th June from 4pm to 8pm. Your transport will be the iconic Mississippi paddle steamer, the Southern Comfort, more details to follow.

Supporting the work of the Trust

As ever, the Norfolk Churches Trust is indebted to you our members and supporters who do so much to help fund our work in supporting the churches of Norfolk, part of the county's rich cultural heritage. If you are able to, donations can be made via various platforms see the donations page www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/support-ourwork/donate-now/.

Finally, the Trust is very much looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in person in 2021 but until then our very best wishes for the New Year.

Other ways to find out about our work



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